

The Ramblers - St Andrews & N.E. Fife Group

Five hardy Ramblers defied Dennis hurtling in from the west when we met at the Fluthers in mid-February for a 7-mile walk at Meigle. Four of us already gathered there were beginning to think our expected fellow-walker had had second thoughts when, having been held up en route but determined not to be left behind, she caused us not a little amusement as she raced into the car park at the last minute and regaled us with a tale about a horsebox. In the event we arrived at our starting point in Meigle well before the appointed time; watching another walking group set off from the same place we waited with no expectation that anyone else from our group would be prepared to brave the elements – and in this we were proved correct. Emerging from the warmth of the car into the gusting wind we finally set off. After half an hour of mud and puddles – and the



2. Coffee stop

delightful sight of three deer darting away in the distance – we took shelter behind a wall for a brief coffee stop. Resuming our battle against the brisk wind we headed along an exposed stretch between fields towards the village of Ardlar. Our leader identified another (relatively) sheltered spot overlooking Kinloch House for a fairly swift lunch and then we walked on to join the A94 for a mile or so, before turning onto a much more peaceful side road leading towards Belmont Estate. We enjoyed a cultural tour through the grounds as we learned interesting facts about its history from our leader, with a little ‘poetry’ thrown in for good measure by his companions. Grateful that we had managed to complete the walk before the rain came on, we retired to a cosy café in the village. There our education continued as we explored the geography of the eastern United States over tea and generously-sized scones, though one was perhaps rather more ‘bijou’ than the others. A well-deserved reward for our efforts!



1. Belmont Castle

More mud and puddles awaited us the following Wednesday when 13 walkers set off on a dreich, blustery morning for our leisurely 5-mile circular walk at Loch Leven. After a short stretch beside the chilly shoreline we were glad when our path took us into the more



sheltered woodland and on to Burleigh Sands, where we stopped for a short but very welcome coffee break. Then it was back to bracing conditions again as we walked along the elevated route of the old railway line and into Kinross. The rain which had been threatening all morning started to come on just as we were returning to the car park – once again our leader had his timing down to perfection! Having defied the elements for the second time in a week we enjoyed a satisfying bowl of soup at a nearby café to complete our sociable day out.

Our next walk is tomorrow (Saturday) 29th February to Hopetoun Monument and back, Grade C+, 7.5 miles, following minor roads, farmland and woodland and climbing to the monument for great views. All of our walks are open to guests who would like to try out The Ramblers, and full details can be found on our website

www.standrewsnefiferamblers.com