

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

Twelve St Andrews and North East Fife Ramblers met at the Scottish Deer Centre on Saturday 29th February to start our walk up to the Hopetoun Monument. The initial weather forecast was not good, but once again we dodged the rain as it turned out fine and sunny,



in parts, on the day. After crossing the busy A914, the walk took us through part of the Rankeilour Estate to join the minor road to the monument. After a brief coffee stop, it was slightly uphill until we reached the designated path to the monument. Here we encountered the now familiar mud and puddles. Despite all the practice we'd had in negotiating these in recent weeks our leader, having decided to bypass a particularly bad patch, promptly fell over. Fortunately, only his pride was injured – and someone even

remarked that he fell elegantly. As the path became even wetter and muddier there was another slip, but the impressively swift reactions of our gallant back marker helped to provide a soft landing. To ensure no further mishaps we took the final, steep section up to the monument slowly and very carefully. Lunch was had at the monument, some taking respite from the wind while others decided to sit in the chilly sunshine, but with splendid views all around. From there it was a different and, thankfully, slightly drier route down the hill to rejoin our previous path and the road back to the Deer Centre. There we enjoyed our usual refreshments in the busy café before making our short journey home.



Our next walk is tomorrow (Saturday) 14th March as listed on our website. 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