

# ST ANDREWS LOCAL WALKS

**Colin Campbell and Edmund Robertson**

## **1. Ladebraes Walk**

From the North Haugh follow the path to David Russell Apartments.

From David Russell Apartments turn right along Buchanan Gardens and continue until Lawhead Road is reached on the left hand side. Proceed via Lawhead Road East or West until a main road (Hepburn Gardens) is reached. Turn right and 50 yards ahead take the track on the left hand side down through the trees leading to the Ladebraes. This is so named because the path follows the line of the Old Mill Lade which served several mills between here and the harbour, with a branch to the cathedral sewer (1250). The Lade is now enclosed in a pipe; the manholes for examining the pipe, and occasionally the tops of the joints of the pipe itself, can be seen all the way along the Lade Braes walk.

Straight ahead is the Law Mill (1757) on the south side of the burn. Crossing a fine old stone bridge, take the middle of the three paths ahead. The Law Mill is now passed on the left with an Oast House for drying grain; the mill pond on the right acted as a reservoir. Notice the old water-wheel of the Mill, and the small den of oak, Scots pine and beech trees. Follow the path with, on the left, the Cairnsmill burn and, on the right, through the hedge, the Bogward Housing estate.

The path leads to the junction of the Cairnsmill burn and the Lumbo burn. Turn right and follow the line of the trees until after only a few yards a 16th Century doocot (for encouraging pigeons to lay eggs for eating) is seen on the right. This doocot, built of stone and having three string-courses (which prevented rats climbing up to the bird entrances), dates from the time the Priory owned Cairnsmill farm which used to surround the doocot, but which has now been swallowed up by the housing development.

Return to the junction of the two burns and cross the Lumbo burn by the

wooden bridge. Follow the track by the burn until an old stone bridge crossing the Cairnsmill burn is reached. (A reservoir a third of a mile higher up the Cairnsmill burn used to supply all the water for St Andrews.)

After crossing the bridge turn left onto Hallow Hill. Hallow Hill was found to be a graveyard in the mid nineteenth century and in more recent times excavations have discovered about 150 graves dating from late Iron Age to early Christian times. The houses which now stand here were opposed by some environmentalists. Cross the grass until a grey metal bridge is reached. (Rather than turning left an alternative route is to turn right and follow the track until a road is reached. Turn left down this road (Canongate) and then first left, bearing right at the next fork until a gravel path is reached. This path now leads to the grey metal bridge.) After crossing the metal bridge turn right along the Lade Braes. After a third of a mile the *New Mill*, now a gardener's cottage, is reached ("New" being a relative term since the barn is dated 1658). Note the massive willows, and smaller growing hawthorns between the path and the Kinness burn; also the oak, sycamore, elm and occasional elders just below the path. Near the burn mallard and moorhen are often seen. The Ladebraes are also the habitat of the now rather rare native British red squirrel. Carry straight on at the Mill, then 75 yds further on there is a choice of paths, the higher following the level of the old Mill Lade, and the lower the Kinness burn. The upper path is lined with large trees - maple, red-leaved sycamore, wych elm, copper beech, Lombardy poplar, variegated sycamore, sorbus, ash, gean, lime and horse chestnut - planted between 1885 and 1892 by John Milne and John McIntosh, who are commemorated by memorials in this part of the walk. The lower path passes clumps of hawthorn, blackthorn and Austrian pine.

After a third of a mile from the New Mill, *Cockshaugh Park* is reached. This is now a children's playground. Note the red-leaved sycamore, maple and birch by the path, and the mixed conifer plantation (mainly Norway spruce) and the University Botanic Garden on the far side of the burn.

Turn left off the Lade Braes into a road leading into Hepburn Gardens. Turn right along Hepburn Gardens then, almost immediately, take the left fork down Double Dykes Road, turning left, again after a very short distance, down Kennedy Gardens. The North Haugh site is now directly ahead.

## 2. Scooniehill (Gregory's Pillar)

From the Mathematical Institute climb the steps to Kennedy Gardens. At the end of Kennedy Gardens turn right down Double Dykes Road, carry on for a few yards past the junction with Argyle Street then turn left, just beyond the garage, down a short road leading to the Lade Braes. Turn left along the Lade Braes and continue until Bridge Street is reached. Right down Bridge Street, then just after crossing *Maggie Murray's Bridge* turn left along Kinnessburn Road, and after 190 yards turn right along Pipeland Road.

Carry straight on passing Nelson Street, Livingstone Crescent, Chamberlain Street then crossing Lamond Drive. Fifty yards beyond Lamond Drive, Pipeland Walk leads off on the right by the electricity substation. Turning left after a few yards follow this walk, at first with the Health Centre on the left, then crossing Ton Morris Drive, carry straight on passing shops on the right hand side until Scooniehill Road is reached. Cross the road and take the untarmaced path slightly offset to the right of the metal fence. Follow this path which soon becomes a farm road. The road climbs steadily, affording increasingly fine views of St Andrews. After 150 yards Pipeland farm is reached.

The path continues to climb gradually at first, then more steeply at the edge of a fine avenue of trees. Beyond the trees the path continues between two fences and is somewhat overgrown. The summit (365 ft) is gained shortly after the trees have been passed; this affords a panoramic vista, stretching for miles, one of the finest views in Fife.

The path now descends between fields, joining, after 300 yards, a narrow road. Turn left down this road to Scooniehill which is a quarter of a mile away. Just beyond the farm at Scooniehill the road turns sharp right, then left again. Just before the last two houses on the left hand side are reached, cross the small open patch on the left; behind the red-brick outhouse *Gregory's Pillar* is seen.

James Gregory (1638-1675), a mathematician and astronomer of considerable repute, was the first to discuss rigorously the convergence and divergence of series; in particular series expansions of  $\pi$ . He

discovered the binomial theorem independently of Newton and in 1663 invented the Gregory reflecting telescope, although he never built such an instrument. From 1668 to 1674 Gregory was Professor of Mathematics at St Andrews, the first Regius Professor of Mathematics (the present Chair of Applied Mathematics is the Gregory Chair), and during his tenure of the Chair built and equipped an observatory - the first of its kind in Britain - "in the top of one of our Colleges". The location may have been the Long Gallery, now called the Upper Library Hall. Gregory later designed a separate observatory at the south end of West Burn Lane. This was duly built, but before its completion Gregory left to take a Chair at Edinburgh University. However, soon after leaving St Andrews Gregory became blind and died a year later. His successors at St Andrews abandoned the new observatory, it was dismantled in 1736, and the ruins of the building eventually cleared away in about 1860. Gregory's grandnephew, David Gregory, Professor of Mathematics at St Andrews 1739-64, equipped the Upper Library Hall as an observatory and in 1748 erected a wooden meridian pole at Scooniehill - replacing James Gregory's dating from eighty years before. The pole was replaced in 1775 by the present stone pillar, surmounted by a three-pronged iron bracket which was replaced in 1890. It is no longer possible to see this pillar from St Andrews because of the intervening belt of trees planted at Scooniehill at the turn of the century.

Shortly after leaving Scooniehill the road follows the edge of a field and soon passes a fine long avenue of trees leading north. The pleasantly wooded road leads in a quarter of a mile to the Grange Road.

Turn left towards St Andrews and follow the Grange Road down into the town, passing Mountvale House, the Grange Inn, and Easter Grange on the right then finally New Grange House and its Lodge on the left just before the built up area is reached.

Continue straight on, past the junction with Lamond Drive, down St Mary's Street, then crossing the *Bow* or *Shore Brig* across the Kinness burn at the inner end of the harbour. Bear left up Abbey Walk past the site of the old Cottage Hospital, Abbey Park and its beech trees, the Cosmos youth centre, and the Burgh School (1889, now used by the University) on the left. On the right the turrets of the abbey wall (lower part of wall about 1350, upper part 1516-30), and the Teinds Yett, with its large gate for wagons and small gate for pedestrians. Turn left at the top of the hill and

hence along Greenside Place and Queen's Terrace; a sycamore, an elm and a horse chestnut are in turn prominent to the right of the road. At the west end of Queen's Terrace turn left along the Ladebraes walk to "Melbourne Brae", the most northern stretch of Bridge Street. Notice along the walk the birch, lilac, hawthorn, cherry plum, copper beech, rowan, sycamore, Norway maple and Lombardy poplar trees. Monterey cypress, western red cedar and larch are seen in the gardens on the left. Follow the Ladebraes walk across Bridge Street, then turn right at Cockshaugh Park, returning to the North Haugh via Double Dykes Road and Kennedy Gardens.

### **3. Kinkell Braes, Rock and Spindle, and Kittock's Den**

Leave the North Haugh site by the main road, turning right towards St Andrews. Turn left down Grannie Clark's Wynd just after the junction with Gibson Place, then 25 yds further on, turn right up Links Road. The Old Course is on the left as is the Royal and Ancient Clubhouse (1853). When Golf Place is reached turn left, then, after 25 yds, turn right along the Scores. Beyond the Castle the path skirts the Cathedral wall, reaching Kirk Hill where the remains of the 12th C. Culdee Church are visible. Descend Kirk Hill to the harbour (the Pier rebuilt with stones from the Castle 1656), then cross the footbridge between the inner and outer harbours and follow the footpath along the shore with the East Bents putting green on the right. Continue following this footpath passing the Gatty Marine Laboratory on the right, then crossing the track leading past St Nicholas Farm, seen on the right. Note the various species of seaweed and, in particular, the red, green and brown types. Notice that different types of seaweed are to be found at different levels of the beach.

At the end of the East Sands the official coastal walk from St Andrews to Crail begins. Throughout this walk many types of birds can be seen. Note the different habitats over the sea, over the cliffs and inland. Species to be seen include Terns over the sea and Sedge-Warblers along the cliffs. Kestrels, Eiders, Herons and Yellow-hammers may also be seen. The path ascends steeply to the Kinkell Braes caravan park. There are fine retrospective views of St Andrews from here. Just beyond the far end of the caravan park an upper and lower path may be taken. On the lower path, 150 yards further on, the *Maiden Rock* is prominent on the rocky beach; this is a sandstone shore-stack left after softer surrounding rock had been eroded away. The lower path climbs to meet the upper path at a boundary

fence (superb retrospective views). The path follows the fence for about 350 yards. A small but delightfully secluded sandy beach is seen below. The path descends steeply then crosses a pebbly beach traversed by a tiny stream, and then ascends slightly, crossing another tiny stream. Follow the path left down to Kinkell 'harbour', a small bay - once a real harbour - with remarkable rock formations. Walk over the rocky beach and view the tallest rock, called the *Rock and Spindle*, best viewed from some way off on the far (east) side. It appears like a huge spinning wheel, the tall pillar representing the distaff or rock, the wheel-shaped projection representing the spindle. The wheel has probably originated from basalt cooling within a cavity. The whole structure admirably displays the internal architecture of a volcano of Lower Carboniferous age. [A shorter version of this walk is to leave the described route after viewing the Rock and Spindle. Follow the cart-track up the hill until the Crail-St Andrews road, A918, is reached.]

Continue across the rocky beach, then along the slightly sloping rock-face and across some sand to the east. The path is soon regained and a grassy promontory crossed. Across the next beach it is again best to clamber over the rocks. Shortly after there is a drop of a few feet over large rocks. 85 yards beyond this drop, and 70 yards outwards from the cliff edge, there is the *Craigduff Dome* - the most perfect miniature dome in British strata - caused by folding in Lower Carboniferous sediments; this dome is best viewed from halfway up the cliffs. After crossing a beach, an easy path leads on across a grassy patch. Cross a stream and after a short while the path leaves the beach and another stream in a ravine is reached. Keeping to the path there is a stretch of 15 yards along a ledge. This could, of course, be circumvented by descending to the shore. Beyond the ledge an easy path over marshy grassland follows, and soon a large solitary rock is seen on the left. The view of St Andrews from around here is rather strange, only the towers and spires being visible. Keep to the beach until a stone wall and fence are seen on the right. Cross the stream and turn right along the well-defined path up the east side of *Kittock's Den*. This fine ravine is of such depth and extent that it must have been carved out by a very much larger burn than that now flowing.

Either retrace the same path back to St Andrews or to return to St Andrews by bus continue up the ravine. Just less than half a mile from the shore, the path emerges from the trees and runs along the edge of a field. At the end a

gate leads into an old cart-track alongside which there is fencing and a ditch. Soon to the right can be seen Boarhills Church. The road through the village of Boarhills is reached in 400 yards. Turn right along this road, which shortly bears left past the Post Office and Store (left), and then right again, soon joining the Crail-St Andrews road, A918.

St Andrews is 4.25 miles from here. Buses, route 95, pass at hourly intervals (less frequently on Sundays). The bus station is a few minutes walk from the North Haugh.

#### **4. Cameron Reservoir**

A walk round Cameron reservoir provides a country walk. The reservoir lies 4.5 miles south of St Andrews. From the A915 Cameron reservoir is signposted. Follow the track, which turns left after about half a mile alongside trees, to the car park. There are two walks along the north side, either keeping close to the water or following a farm track about 100 yards from the water. A hide is passed after about half a mile. There is excellent viewing of the birds on the reservoir from here. At the west end of the reservoir the two paths join and turn south across the top of the dam. Fishermen on the banks and in boats are a common sight, the reservoir being famed for brown trout. At the southern end of the dam follow the stream until a wooden bridge is reached. Cross the bridge and return to the car park by walking alongside the south side of the reservoir. In places trees have fallen across the path making this slightly more difficult (and more interesting) than the walk along the north bank. Several other walks are possible in this area. In particular where the track from the A915 to the car park turns left by the trees it is possible to turn right at a broken down iron gate and follow this track for about two miles until the road at the foot of Drumcarrow Hill is reached.

#### **5. Round the Old Course**

It is hoped that the following notes may prove interesting either to someone playing a round on the Old Course or to anyone walking round the course on Sunday. Note that no golf is played on the Old Course on Sunday and one is entitled to walk over the course.

The course is inhabited by lots of brown hares, rabbits and Carrion crows although rabbits are not quite the problem today that they have been in the past, towards the end of the 18th Century a firm bought the Course to exploit the rabbits commercially! One may also see larks, swallows and yellowhammers. When walking around the course it is interesting to stand at the different tees (which are generally at different heights) and see how the perspective changes. Note also the small hills in front of the tees which punish all those with low drives.

## **History**

Golf began to be played around 1420 shortly after the foundation of the University. Before 1764 St Andrews had 12 holes. One teed up near the first (and final) hole and played to the second hole etc. On completing the outward journey, one then played back, using the same fairways and holes, so playing a round of 22 holes. In 1764 the first 4 holes were made into 2 so as to give 18 holes in total. In 1767 James Durham of Largo set a course record of 94 and this record stood until 1853. In 1832 18 separate holes were created all on double greens except the 9th and 18th holes. All the changes to the course since then have made it easier to play.

## **The Course**

### **1st (Burn Hole)**

When the Royal and Ancient Clubhouse was completed in 1854 the first was quite different from the hole we see today since it shared the 17th green. The present green was made in 1870. The fairway used to be narrow with the sea a hazard on the right. However, reclamation of land from the sea was begun in 1830 and completed when the Bruce Embankment putting green opened in 1913. The road running across the fairway (130 yards from the tee) is Grannie Clark's Wynd.

There are now no bunkers on this hole although a large bunker known as Halket's Bunker used to be on the right hand side of the fairway beyond the road. The Swilken burn is now the main hazard.

### **2nd (Dyke Hole)**



There are a number of bunkers on this hole. A long hook will end up in Cheape's Bunker (Mr Cheape of Strathtyrum owned the area of the Links prior to 1893) while three shallow bunkers will catch a slice. Two bunkers are set into the green itself, the one on the far side being called Wig. The green is untypical in lying in a hollow.

### **3rd (Cartgate)**

Again plenty of bunkers on this hole but two of them (Tam's Coo and the Calf) were filled in about 100 years ago. There is still a grassy hollow where Tam's Coo lay. The course now seen on the right is the New Course, designed by Old Tom Morris, and opened in 1895.

### **4th (Ginger Beer)**

So named as it was the practice in the 1840's to drink ginger beer (fortified with brandy) at this hole. The large bunker on the left is Cottage Bunker (from which Bobby Jones holed out for an eagle two in 1930). Among the named bunkers is the shallow Students Bunker near the green on the left and two Ginger Beer Bunkers beyond the green where Daw Anderson used to dispense the ginger beer.

### **5th (Hole of Cross)**

Originally this green had no turf, only shells! By 1887 the hole had reached its present "easy" state, many bunkers having been filled in after 1840.

### **6th (Heathery)**

In 1821 it was known as Muir Hole and in 1836 Hole of Shell as the green was merely earth, heather and shells! The line at this hole is the end of the trees of Tentsmuir forest across the Eden estuary. A ball hit directly towards the flag will surely end up in one of five bunkers set into the rough on the right.

### **7th (High Hole)**

The line is the red flag of the 11th hole set in the same green as the 7th.

The large bunker guarding the green is Shell Bunker. On seeing the sea as he approached this green Scott Lang, the Regius Professor of Mathematics, exclaimed "Thalassa!" (the cry of Xenophon's Greeks when they first saw the Black Sea). His caddie remarked "A dinna see onie lassies".

### **8th (Short Hole Out)**

In 1821 this hole was known as the Hole o' Turn for now one is facing back towards the town - the ruins of the Castle and Cathedral are prominent as is the College Tower a bit to the right of the flag. Playing short on this hole gives one a difficult second shot from the thick rough.

### **9th (End Hole)**

In 1840 there was no fairway only heather. There's still plenty of heather on the left but the fairway was turfed about 100 years ago and bunkers created at this time were topically called Kruger and Mrs Kruger.

### **10th (Bobby Jones)**

This hole is the most recent to be given a name. It is relatively easy provided the whins on the left are avoided.

### **11th (High Hole In)**

This is a hard hole, the green being very difficult. Peter Thomson took 4 putts here from only a couple of yards. The bunker below the green is called Strath while the one on the left is Hill Bunker. Bobby Jones playing at St Andrews for the first time in the Open of 1921 tore up his card on his third round after a couple of failed attempts to get his ball out of Hill Bunker. Always think of Peter Thomson when playing this hole and leave a putt up the hill, never down.

### **12th (Heathery Hole In)**

Standing on the tee, this hole appears to be bunkerless but six bunkers lie hidden leaving only a narrow safe path down the left hand side or wide to the right. The largest of the hidden bunkers is Stroke Bunker directly on the line of the flag. The course seen to the right is the Eden Course which

was opened in 1914 although the particular holes one sees here (5th and 6th) were not completed until 1915.

### **13th (Hole o' Cross In)**

A hook on this hole will almost certainly end up in one of seven bunkers down the left, the first one being Nicks and then three Coffins. The ridge has two bunkers, the Cat's Trap on the near side at the left and Walkinshaw's Grave on the far side at the right. Near the green is the Lion's Mouth on the left and on the right by the green is the Hole o' Cross Bunker.

### **14th (Long Hole In)**

From near the tee stretches a long flat area of grass called the Elysian Fields. The first group of four bunkers on the left are the Beardies, further on is Dunny and then Kitchen Bunkers. The Elysian Fields end at the largest bunker on the course called Hell Bunker while beyond is the Grave. The Ginger Beer bunkers beyond the 4th flag also come into play at this hole. The reason one comes to Hell before the Grave is that prior to 1832 the same fairways were used in both directions.

### **15th (Cartgate Hole In)**

The whins on the right should be avoided by aiming just to the right of the big Cottage Bunker on the 4th fairway.

### **16th (Corner of the Dyke Hole)**

The track-bed of the old railway (1854-1968) is on the right and there is only a narrow gap to the Principal's Nose bunkers. The best line is the left hand edge of the Old Course Hotel. Bunkers beyond the Principal's Nose are Deacon Sime, then Grants and finally the Wig cutting into the green on the left.

### **17th (Road Hole or the Stationmaster's Garden Hole)**

The old black railway sheds used to stand immediately in front of the 17th tee and when they were demolished to build the Old Course Hotel the

silhouette was preserved with nets. For the 1984 Open a replica of the sheds was built to replace the nets. This hole proved to be the turning point in the 1984 Open. Bunkers down the left are Cheape's Bunker, the Scholar's Bunker and the Progressing Bunker. The road behind the green used to be frightening, the green ending in a vertical drop to the road. Recently however this hazard has been reduced by grassing over the bank, making it less steep and constructing a sandy strip before the hard road surface begins. One is still advised to play short of the green.

### **18th (Tom Morris)**

This hole used to be called Hole o' Hill but the hill has been reduced considerably, all that remains being the Valley of Sin immediately before the green. The 18th green is very difficult to read for it has a most awkward slope even though it looks deceptively flat. In the 1970 Open Doug Sanders failed to get down in two putts to win the Championship, missing the second putt from within three feet. Bobby Locke was involved in a close finish in the 1957 Open on this green. His winning pitch aimed far right at the Woollen Mill floated in to end a couple of yards short. Peter Thomson protested when Locke replaced his ball on a wrong mark on the green. Despite marking his ball incorrectly the R & A ruled that Locke had derived no advantage so giving him his 4th Open victory.