

Fife Walking Club Newsletter

June 2026



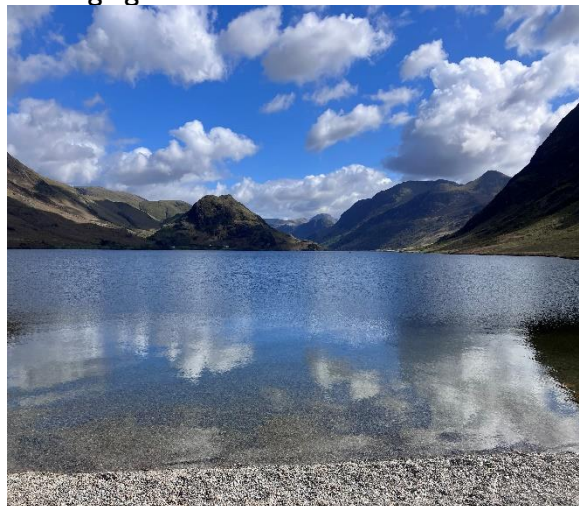
Committee 2026

Chair	Barbara Fotheringham
Treasurer	Clare Darling
Secretary	Angela Drennan
Walks Convenor	Mike Livesey
Membership Secretary	Alison Stewart
Webmaster	David Thomson
Newsletter Editor	Karin Laurie
Committee Members:	Margaret Cumming, Leslie Drennan, Emma Hulme, Lorna Thompson

Fife Walking Club is affiliated to HF Holidays

Welcome to the June newsletter!

As ever, the club has had a busy time since the last newsletter in March. We had a very successful week in the Lake District with great weather and great walks. Since I began attending the Keswick week 3 years ago, the weather has always been good. If we get any rain in future years, we are all going to be very disappointed. As ever, we extend our thanks to all the walk leaders and to Barbara for arranging the Threlkeld lunch and the dinner on Thursday evening.



Dates for Keswick 2027

To make sure you have the accommodation you wish, it's never too early to book for Keswick next year and the dates for 2027 are 17th to 24th April.

Please consider leading a walk in Keswick next year. If you would like any advice on this, please contact the club's email address and a committee member will reply to you to answer any questions you may have. The address is fifewalkingclub@gmail.com

Wooler Update

If you would like a club walking holiday before next April, Susan Laing is organising walking days in Wooler in September. The dates for this are 8-10 September and some people have already booked accommodation at Riverside Holiday Park in Wooler (www.verdantleisure.co.uk) Anyone interested in going should get in touch with Susan via the club's generic email address fifewalkingclub@gmail.com to make sure they receive all relevant information. Walkers can come for 1, 2 or all three days' walking.

Remember...

If you're lucky enough to be going on a walking holiday independently, remember to state that you're a member of The Fife Walking Club if you book with Ramblers' Holidays. The club receives a small payment, and you may receive a small discount too as Ramblers offers a reduction for first-time bookers.

Could you lead a walk?

Please consider leading a walk for the club as the club relies on members putting forward walks for the Walks Convener to collate.

If you would like help in recceing a walk, please ask for help from a committee member by contacting the generic Fife Walking Club email address: fifewalkingclub@gmail.com

Carrying out a recce with a pal is good fun and also keeps you safe. If you are walking on your own to check out a walk for the club, please do let friends and/or family know your route.



Are your details up to date?

Please let the club know if you move house or change contact numbers. Again, you can do this via the generic email address:

fifewalkingclub@gmail.com

We also need to know if you reach the wonderful age of 80 as your membership then becomes free, so please keep us informed.

Fitness First

When you look at the Walks' Programme, please consider your fitness for the level of walk offered. Whilst the club welcomes all members, the grading system will help you decide whether you can tackle the walk or not. The grading system is always sent out with the Walks' Programme, so please do check this before embarking on a walk.

Future Dates for your Diary

I am writing this in June, but we are looking ahead to our Christmas Lunch and the 2027 AGM.

The Christmas Lunch will be held at the Pitlessie Inn on 5 December and the AGM at the Lomond Centre on 16 January 2027. Whilst these dates are unlikely to change, they will be confirmed in the September issue of the newsletter. In the meantime, enjoy the sunshine and warmer (albeit also rainier!) days.



Committee Members

We can have 2 more people on our committee and would welcome anyone who would like to step forward. The committee meets around 4 – 6 times a year, usually by Zoom, so the time commitment is not huge, and your input would be much appreciated. Again, if you would like to become a committee member, please email the generic Fife Walking Club email address:

fifewalkingclub@gmail.com

Thank you to Frankie for all her hard work on the committee to date.

Club Membership

The club currently has 79 members – 17 of whom are life members. This is a healthy number, but we always welcome new people to the club.

Remember to look on Facebook for up-to-date photographs of recent walks and become a friend.

Congratulations...

To our Facebook Editor, Emma and her partner Steve, on the birth of their beautiful daughter Harper-Lily in May. The baby is thriving and Emma and Steve are enjoying parenthood.



It's Tick Season Again

It's that time of year when ticks come out to annoy walkers. Please be aware of the dangers of ticks. NHS Scotland gives excellent advice on their website which is copied below.

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/illnesses-and-conditions/injuries/skin-injuries/tick-bites/>

Please also ensure that you check that there are no ticks attached after a walk and have a tick "card". Several members have already had tick bites this year. The danger sign is a bullseye around the tick site. There can be long term consequences of not treating a tick as they can transmit Lyme disease.

Events in Fife in the summer

The weather may not have been too summery recently, but there are summer events on throughout Fife.

These can be found on What's On Fife's website:

www.whatsonfife.co.uk/events/nature/

and include such things as finding out more about moths, exhibitions and talks. On 18th July there is a talk on the geology of Maspie Den in Falkland and in August Charlie Bingham is in Waterstones in Kirkcaldy to promote her book The Life Affirming Magic of Birds on 25 August at 7pm.

We found a baby magpie in the garden in early June. Checking on the internet, baby magpies spend a few days on the ground before flying and this, of course, is a very dangerous time for them. It proved to be so in our garden as a seagull tried its best to grab it. As we weren't sure whether it was injured or not, we looked for advice again and the SSPCA advises taking injured birds to a vet, who will assess them and then pass them to the appropriate wildlife charity. I'm not sure Mr and Mrs Magpie were the best of parents!

Looking forward...



In 2030, the club will be 40 years old. To celebrate this milestone, the committee would welcome ideas from the membership about how to make this a memorable year. We have 4 years to think about this, so all ideas are welcome between now and 2030. Once again, please send any ideas to the generic email address:

fifewalkingclub@gmail.com

Book recommendations



Whether you're staying in Scotland or venturing further afield this summer, it's always good to have some book recommendations for summer reading. Club members have come forward with some excellent choices which are outlined below:



The Outrun by Amy Liptrot

This is a moving memoir about recovery from addiction set in Orkney and explains how the wild landscape and its inhabitants were healing for its author. The descriptions are breathtaking

and the author's raw and painful recovery is immaculately outlined. It is also a brilliant film with Saoirse Ronan in the title role.

How to End a Story by Helen Garner

This is a book of diary entries which cover the early stages of the author's career in Melbourne, publishing a novel whilst raising her daughter in the 1970s, a love affair in the 80s and the disintegration of a marriage in the 90s. The story is told with devastating honesty, sharp wit and reveals the inner life of a woman in love, a mother, a friend and a writer.



The Correspondent by Virginia Evans

This novel is not told by diary entries but rather by the letters which its main character, Sybil, sends to various people in her life. Sybil's character is accurately conveyed by her letters to friends and acquaintances. As sending letters becomes increasingly unfashionable, this novel may encourage many to put pen to paper and forgo email or text!

Happy reading and have a great summer!

