



Fife Walking Club

October 2025



Committee 2025

Chair and Newsletter Editor	Barbara Fotheringham	Margaret Cumming
Treasurer	Clare Darling	Emma Hulme
Secretary	Angela Drennan	Karin Laurie
Walks Convenor	Mike Livesey	Leslie Drennan
Membership Secretary	Brian Clark	Frankie Johnston
Webmaster	David Thomson	Alison Stewart
		Lorna Thompson

Fife Walking Club is affiliated to HF Holidays



Welcome to the October newsletter!

After a wonderful long summer, we are now well and truly into autumn. Fortunately, the temperatures are still mild so we can continue to enjoy walking. Many thanks to our walks convenor Mike for our new programme which runs through until 27th December. Please note that the day of the week might vary. Mike provides plenty of location indicators to help us get to the start point, including OS grid reference, nearest post code and, new for this programme, its

what3words identifier. For instance, Janet's post-Christmas walk begins from the what3words location [///shield.page.only](#). You will find more about what3words by reading on ...

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Christmas Lunch Saturday 6 December

The committee met to discuss where to hold this year's lunch after considering alternatives and even lunching at a couple, we decided to again meet at the **Pitlessie Village Inn**. Its central location suits members from across Fife (and beyond!), along with the menu choices and general ambience.

The Christmas menu can be found below and is also on the Village Inn's Facebook page (Pitlessie Village Inn).

As usual, we need to order and pay in advance.

I suggest that everyone orders the senior citizen portions at £20.95 for 2 courses, or £25.95 for 3 courses. In the past, there has been no discernible difference in size, and on a practical level, service is easier if we all order the senior rate.

Starters

Scotch Broth

with crusty bread

Beetroot cured salmon

With dill crème fraîche, hazelnut, burnt orange

Fried duck egg

On toast with hazelnut, mushroom, Brussel sprout, bacon

Ham hock pot

With crusty bread, creamy cheese and potato

Mains

Roast turkey crown

Roast potatoes, stuffing, pigs in blankets, veg

Fillet of halibut

With mashed potatoes, leeks and seafood chowder

Venison casserole

Cranberry and cedar dumplings, mashed potatoes, carrots

Beetroot & butternut Wellington

With roast potatoes, sprouts, parsnips, carrot puree

Desserts

Christmas pudding

With crème anglaise and berry compote

Baileys and chocolate cheesecake

With vanilla ice cream

Hot toddy pavlova

With whisky and spiced pears, ice cream, caramel drizzle

Christmas crumble

With apples, pears, cranberries, custard

Please email your order to Barbara with your name and menu choices by **Thursday 27 November** barbara_fotheringham@hotmail.com or text 07904648693. **All dietary requirements must be noted at the time of ordering.** I will acknowledge all orders. If you don't hear back from me, I have not received your order!

Payment should be made direct to the FWC account: 80-16-84, account 00195346. The bank now charges us to pay in cheques, but if you are unable to pay into the account, please send a cheque to treasurer Clare at 57 Moray Park, Dalgety Bay KY11 9UJ.

We intend to run our usual optional Christmas raffle. Members kindly contribute prizes, gift-wrapped or not, then buy raffle tickets in the hope of winning a prize. Not many go home empty-handed! The money raised goes towards the club's charitable donations which are voted on at the AGM. Please bring along some cash for this and also for a staff tip. Service is not included in the meal price, so Clare will put an envelope on each table for staff tips.

The 36th Annual General Meeting of the Fife Walking Club will be held on Saturday 17 January 2026 at the Lomond Centre in Glenrothes. The meeting will begin at 10:15am in the Craft Room, where we were for our January 25 AGM.

The building opens at 10am and we would like to start the meeting at 10:15. We shall attempt to move smartly through the agenda to leave more time for the talk followed by Q&A.

Last year Secretary Angela arranged for Iwan Thomas of the Fife Coast and Countryside Trust to talk about the Fife Pilgrim Way; this was very well received, so Angela has invited a representative of the RSPB to speak to us about the organisation's work in Fife, principally at Loch Leven.

We hope you will join us at the Lomond Centre whether or not you currently walk with the club. It offers a good opportunity to participate in club business, to vote on the committee and to raise any club matters you'd like to discuss, and of course to meet socially with fellow members. We are unable to provide teas and coffees so you may want to bring a flask, something that all walkers own!

As in previous years, we hope to have lunch at the nearby Beijing Banquet. No pre-payment is required and we will let you know the cost of the buffet lunch in advance so that you can bring correct change. There will be a sign up sheet at the AGM

Welcome to new members

We are always delighted to welcome new members to our club:

The following have joined over the course of this year:

Jane and Paul Norman

Richard Anstey

Karin Piegsa

John Nicholson

Kate Clark

Simmy Telfer Irene Wallace
Douglas Richardson Carolyn Mailer

When you spot an unfamiliar face on your next club walk, do introduce yourself!

Keswick Week 2026: 18 - 25 April



View over Derwentwater from Catbells

For many, the walking week in Keswick is the highlight of the club year—and that is true even for those who choose not to walk every day, but might take time out to relax, to explore somewhere new, or just to be a tourist for the day.

We all make our own arrangements for travel and accommodation (B&B, house share, holiday cabin or even a campervan). Our meeting point for walks is usually at the Moot Hall in the middle of Keswick or at the bus station. Whether for one day or the full week, we would love to see you there. Every year we enjoy a group meal at our favourite Asaya Thai restaurant in Keswick.

We generally include the much-loved Threlkeld walk along either the railway path, or up Latrigg, or even the bus, with lunch at the Horse and Farrier instead of carrying a packed lunch.

One of the new walks on offer in April 25 took us along the appropriately named Stoneyfield Way, along a beautiful valley lined with a small river that had carved out a deep pool in the rocks.

You can see in this photo what lovely weather we enjoyed that week, and the temperatures remained mild.



Each programme repeats a couple of favourite walks but adds several new ones. Some walk leaders are already on the case and have recced new walks. Any member interested in more details about joining Keswick 2026 should get in touch with me or another committee member for further information. Keswick is such a popular destination, particularly since covid, that we recommend booking accommodation as early as possible

It's great fun with excellent walking, and in late April we have often enjoyed remarkable weather.

Melrose September Break

Bill and Alison again organised a mid week break in Melrose which was very well attended. They, along with Donald, each offered a walk ranging between 7.5 to 10 miles. For Alison's walk, the group took the bus to Lauder and walked back to Melrose along the Southern Upland Way.

The following (windy) day, Bill took us up the Eildon Hills for excellent views across the Borders and then we dropped down to the River Tweed on the return to Melrose.

That evening our 20-strong group enjoyed an excellent Italian meal at the Monte Cassino restaurant (thanks, Clare, for organising this).

On the last walk, Donald led us through Rhymers Glen to Cauldshields Loch. From there, we followed the Borders Abbeys Way to Abbotsford where we took advantage of the picnic tables next to the visitors' centre for our pack lunches. Up till that point we had stayed dry, but as we set off on the return leg, the heavens opened. We got thoroughly soaked but at least it wasn't cold, and we were on the last stretch.

All the participants were grateful to Bill, Alison and Donald for making this break possible.

What3words

As mentioned above, Mike now includes this location-finding tool in starting point information on the current walks programme.

Three unrelated words are used to identify a very specific location and can be used for general purposes or for emergencies where someone needs to be found quickly. The words are easier to relay than a 6-figure grid reference and do not depend on the use of a physical map.

Walkers along the Fife Coastal Path will notice marker posts, installed by RNLI and the FCCT; these can be used by any emergency service. The technology is remarkable and divides the map into 3-metre squares which each have a unique combination of three words. The system is now used daily in 193 countries

The app is free and can be downloaded from your usual app store. For more information, consult the website what3words.com

What talented members we have!

At least 5 FWC members are also active in choirs. Angela, Clare and Jennifer are in Sing in the City and this year were honoured to be singing at the Edinburgh Tattoo; then accompanying Skipinnish at the OVO Hydro in Glasgow; also singing at the Usher Hall. Margaret Cumming sings with the Edinburgh Festival Chorus, performing with international orchestras during August. Karin Laurie sings with The Notables and has even performed abroad. Perhaps other members are also accomplished musicians, including ukele player Janice T. We have embroiderers, knitters, crafters, gardeners, croquet players, linguists, photographers, Archers aficionados, readers, cyclists, historians public speakers, and the list goes on! No wonder there are endless discussions to keep the chat going on our walks.

A Mast Year

Everyone who has been out in the countryside will be aware of the abundance of nuts, seeds, acorns, rosehips and fungi this year. After a dry and warm spring, trees over-produce in synchronicity with other trees, ensuring that the supply of nuts, fruit and seeds will exceed the consumption by wildlife and therefore allow more seeds to germinate. However, the following year, there is likely to be a poor harvest.

For the beloved native red squirrel, this is such a boost to the species that they may have two breeding seasons. Because they are diminutive creatures, they prefer smaller seeds such as pine nuts, hawthorn and hazelnuts to chestnuts or acorns.



Of course, a bumper crop of acorns mean that the invasive grey squirrel also benefits.

But red squirrels are holding their own From the Isle of Wight to the north of Scotland, there are pockets of increasing numbers. One was even spotted recently in Aberdeen!

Planning a Holiday?

If making a booking for a Ramblers Worldwide Holiday, the Fife Walking Club can earn £10 per person booked on a UK. holiday, £20 per person on a flight-inclusive short haul trip, or £30 per person on a flight-inclusive long-haul break.

It won't cost you a penny more but helps club funds. Just specify that you are a member of Fife Walking Club.

I have written the newsletter for over 7 years since taking over from Eileen Yardley. Would someone else like to volunteer for this role?

Or do we still need a newsletter now that we use email so much and the club FaceBook page gets information out so efficiently? Please let me know your thoughts.
barbara_fotheringham@hotmail.com

Reminders

- **Christmas lunch orders by 27 November to Barbara**
- **Payment for Christmas Lunch to FWC account / Clare**
- **AGM 17 January 2026**

