

# Cupar and District u3a Swallows 3 Walking Group

Walks we have completed in the last year are as follows:

## **December 2024**

Crawford Priory. On this circular walk we heard the history of the much restored and then neglected Crawford Priory estate house. This house which now lies in ruins was the home of the Lindsay Crawford family and we stood to muse on the sad life of Lady Mary Lindsay Crawford who after carrying out a great restoration of the house ended her days as a virtual recluse in the house and surrounding woods. The walk was followed by an excellent lunch at Cupar Golf course

## **January 2025**

Swallows 3 planning lunch at the Pitlessie Village Inn

In the quiet days of January we take the opportunity for members to get together over a social lunch when we can plan for the coming year with suggestions for walks and other activities.

## **February**

Markinch heritage trail and Balbirnie park taking in the history of Stob Cross and Balbirnie House, this walk was followed by a wonderful lunch at Laurel Bank Hotel. Standing to gaze at the drifts of snow drops in Balbirnie park provided us with a wonderful moment of reflection on the wonders of nature

## **March**

Hill of Tarvit Mansion. We are fortunate to have a Tarvit Mansion House guide in our group who led us round the estate through drifts of daffodils. Whilst on our travels the walk leader was piecing together the history of the House and the Sharp family who occupied the house in its heyday The walk was followed by lunch at the Pitlessie Village Inn

## **April**

Annfield Muir, Kettle Hill and Burnturk. This circular walk took us across farmland and footpaths around this small tight-knit community. We heard the history of the villages including the long-standing putting course and its pavilion. Members were surprised to hear from the walk leader about the vibrant coal mining which took place in earlier times. We were once again grateful to the Village Inn at Pitlessie for providing a wonderful lunch

## **May**

It is traditional for the group to have their way day picnic in May when we again travelled to Kinclaven Bluebell woods. This delightful Perthshire woodland is a treat at any time of year but to stand amongst the bluebells in mid-May must be recognised as one of life's greatest pleasure. It is food for the soul just to be in the woods but to share the experience with friends from the u3a makes the day very special.

## **June**

Keil's Den. This walk followed footpaths and tracks around the ancient woodland in a loop around Keil's Den taking in the fading remnants of bluebells and wild garlic. The walk was followed by lunch at the Upper Largo Hotel

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## September

Abernethy village walk. This first walk back of the new season started at the Round Tower in Abernethy and continued around the village taking in the history and sights of this historic place. A place most people just drive through on their way to Perth but such was the wealth of knowledge provided by the walk leader that we have saved the second part of the walk for a later day. Lunch was at the Nook Café in Abernethy

## October

Monimail Tower. A farmland and footpaths walk around this historic landmark which was once the Palace of the Bishops of St Andrews. The walk leader was accompanied by her daughter in putting together a historic narrative of this most interesting site. Now the location for the assembly of a local commune. Monimail tower has a wonderful if overgrown garden and orchard which the walk leader had gained permission to visit. A very nice lunch at the Ladybank golf course followed an excellent morning's walking.