

# Trails to the Home of Golf

## SUNDIAL TRAILS TO THE HOME OF GOLF



This sundial trail is actually two separate trails (direct and scenic) both ending in St. Andrews in Scotland, the home of golf, where a third sundial trail is available. St. Andrews now of course is almost as famous in some quarters for being the place where Prince William and Kate Middleton first met at the University in the town.

You can choose either trail on its own and optionally incorporate the St. Andrews trail at the same time, or if you are really keen, go to St. Andrews on one trail, do the St. Andrews trail and return via the other trail. Although in this case, you would obviously have to reverse the return leg.

However as an alternative if you are without a car, there is a regular bus service between Edinburgh and St. Andrews which takes around two and a half hours each way, so it is possible to go direct to St. Andrews by bus and view only the sundials there. St. Andrews is a compact town and all the sundials are easily accessible on foot and would take around two hours walking and viewing time.

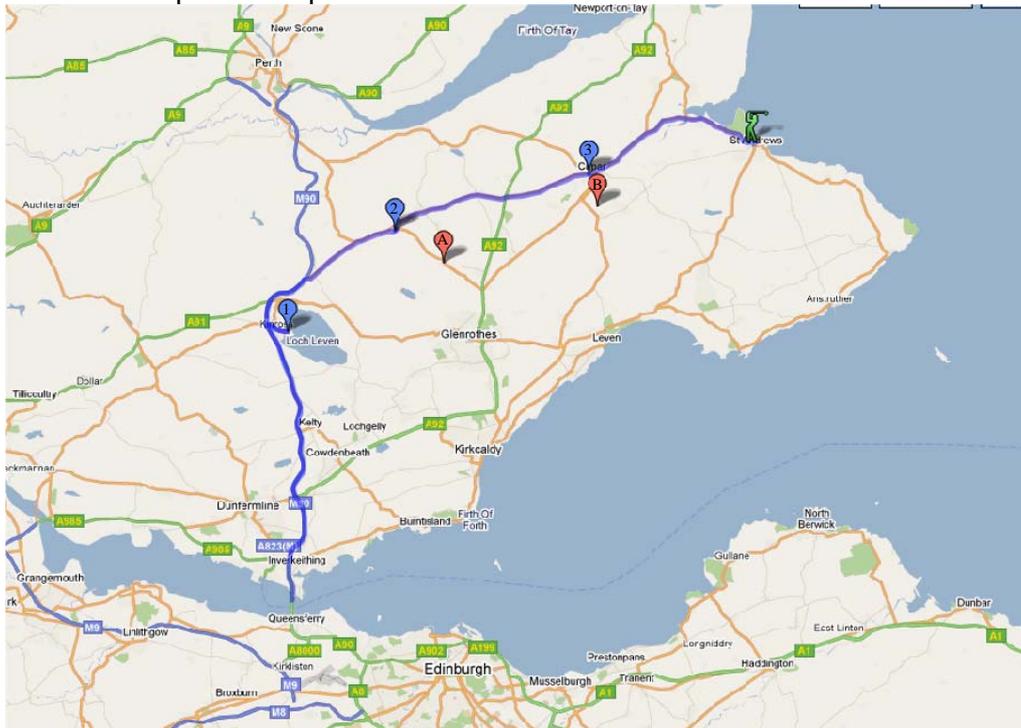
The direct and scenic trails both start from the Forth Road Bridge (the main A90 road from Edinburgh) which spans the River Forth between South Queensferry and North Queensferry and is only a few miles from Scotland's capital city. A car will be needed and a full day is required for either trail with the St. Andrews trail, unless you want a really long day where it would be possible to complete the three trails in the long daylight hours of early summer.

The first trail takes the most direct route going up the M90 motorway to Kinross, then via Strathmiglo and Cupar and on to St. Andrews. The second trail takes the scenic (and longer and much slower) coastal route to the East Neuk of Fife (neuk is an old Scots word for corner) via Inverkeithing, Aberdour, Burntisland, and the fishing villages of Elie and Crail before ending up at St. Andrews. Sundials can be seen in all of the places just mentioned. Deviations can be made from both of these trails to see other sundials in the vicinity and these options are identified in the text. The third trail covers six sundials in St. Andrews itself.

There are numerous options for meals or snacks in St. Andrews and the Anstruther Fish Bar on the Scenic Trail is highly recommended for either a sit-in or take-away meal.

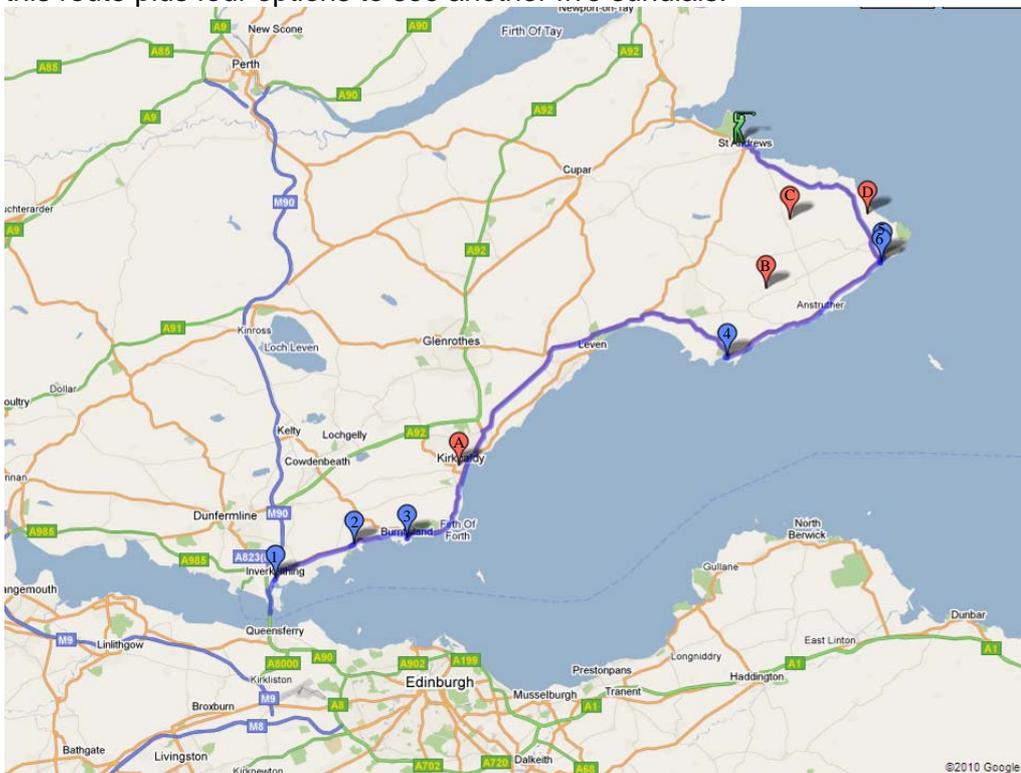
The maps on the following pages are from Google Maps.

**The Direct Route** – Approximately 45 miles and 1½ hours driving time from the Forth Road Bridge plus stopping and viewing time. There are seven sundials at three locations on this route plus two options to see another three sundials.



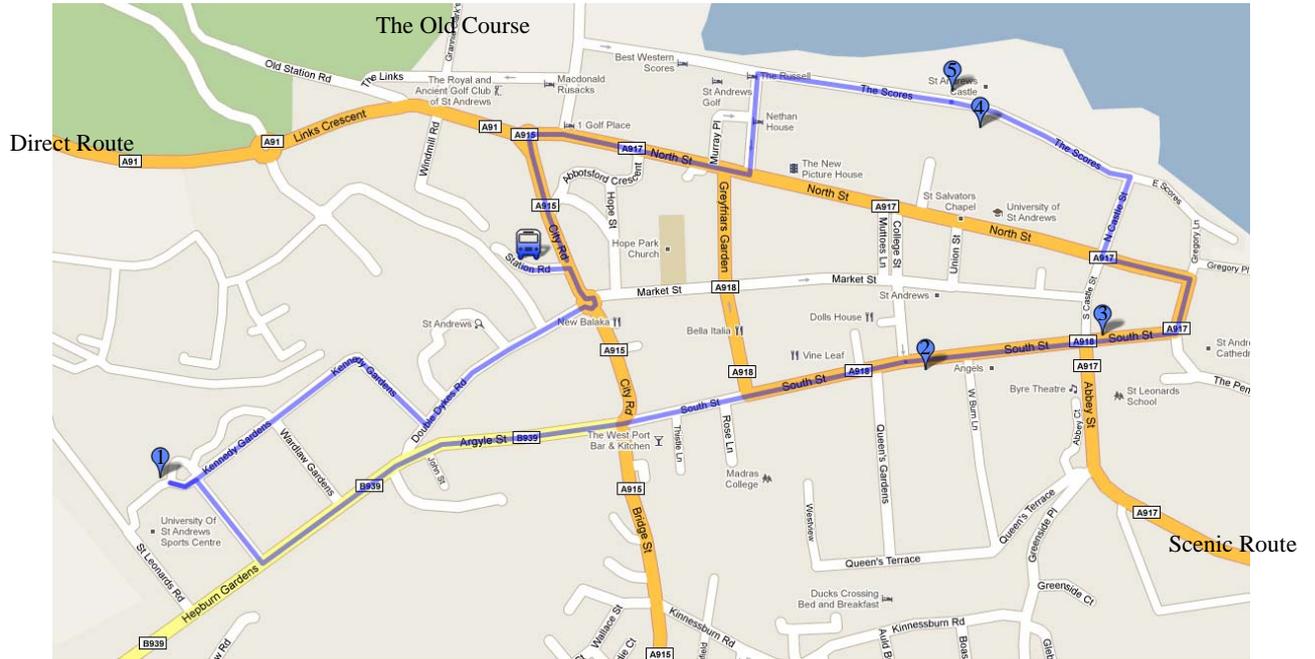
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**The Scenic Route** – Approximately 53 miles and 2½ hours driving time from the Forth Road Bridge plus stopping and viewing time. There are eight sundials at six locations on this route plus four options to see another five sundials.



[http://maps.google.co.uk/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&msa=0&msid=110052020879419928295.00049290cddedd60d7fb6&ll=56.344136\\_-2.803059&spn=0.017362,0.055661&z=15](http://maps.google.co.uk/maps/ms?hl=en&ie=UTF8&msa=0&msid=110052020879419928295.00049290cddedd60d7fb6&ll=56.344136_-2.803059&spn=0.017362,0.055661&z=15)

**The St Andrews Sundial Trail** – Approximately two hours walking and viewing time.  
There are six sundials at five locations to be seen on this route.



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## **DIRECT ROUTE SUNDIAL TRAIL TO ST ANDREWS**

With reference to the appropriate map at the beginning of this document, head north up the A90 from the Forth Road Bridge continuing on to the M90 motorway to Junction 6 to **Kinross**. Follow the road signs into Kinross and turn right at the "T" junction. After 100 yards, turn left to Kinross House. The following two sundials can be seen from the car parking area.

**No 1 - A fine pair of cube sundials can be seen mounted high on the wall, one at each side of the house. These dials each have four octagonal faces and were made by John Hamilton in about 1686. All of the four gnomons on each cube are still in place and according to the handyman, are quite "soft".**



Go into the gardens of the house. There is an honesty box into which you should place the £3 entrance fee (in 2010) to the gardens. Immediately on entering the garden, turn to your left. At the corner of the garden turn left again and this will take you into a small enclosed hedged garden where you will see the next sundial.

**This sundial is a heliochronometer made by Pilkington Gibbs in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. These dials are extremely accurate and take the equation of time into account. This one has Roman numerals and so is an early model. These sundials were designed by Gibbs and backed financially by Pilkington. They were made until about 1914.**



Before leaving, walk to the bottom of the garden and look over Loch Leven to the castle on the island where Mary, Queen of Scots was imprisoned between 1567 and 1568 until she escaped, before being recaptured and eventually beheaded in 1587 on the orders of her cousin, Queen Elizabeth I of England. Head back to the M90 motorway and continue your journey north. Take the next exit (junction 8 – there is no exit at junction 7) on to the A91 signposted to St. Andrews. After 5 miles turn right on to an unclassified road signposted to **Strathmiglo**. This leads straight on to the High Street where the next sundial is located on the Town House, which with its tall steeple is easily seen on your left.

**No 2 - The town house was built in 1734, but it is thought that this well weathered sundial with three faces may have originally been on the market cross and may pre-date the town house itself. The dial does look out of place in its present position and on closer inspection, a fourth face may be found facing the building. As this face never could get the sun, it would confirm that this was not its original intended position.**



Continue on the High Street to the “T” junction.



**OPTION A** – Turn right at the “T” junction on to the A912 and go on to Falkland (signposted) for the armillary globe in the Palace gardens (a National Trust for Scotland property). There is an entrance fee to pay, but the globe can be seen through a gate in the wall of the gardens in East Port.

Otherwise turn left at the “T” junction on to the A912 and after 100 metres, turn right at the “T” junction back on to the A91 towards St. Andrews again.

Carry straight on, crossing straight over all roundabouts until the outskirts of **Cupar** are reached (about 10 miles). Look out for Preston Lodge at 95 Bonnygate, a few hundred

yards after the Police Station on your left. This large house is located right on the roadside. If you reach Cupar town centre, you have missed it and you need to turn round.

**No 3 - Preston Lodge is the second oldest building in Cupar and at one time was completely covered in ivy, but thankfully this has now been removed exposing the sundials. There are three wall sundials located on this house which was built in 1623 and it is thought that the sundials are contemporary with the house. There are two sundials on the south face, at either side of the house, and one on the east face of the building, but unfortunately they are all quite high up between the first and second floors. The one on the east face has been disfigured by pipes protruding from the wall just above the dial. Gnomons are missing on two of the dials but the other one remains in place.**



**OPTION B** - From Cupar you can take an optional visit to the National Trust for Scotland's property at the Hill of Tarvit. There are two sundials on view here, one is a large wall dial on the south side of house itself, and the other is a cube dial in the gardens behind the house. The Hill of Tarvit is about three miles away and is signposted from Cupar. (There is a fee to pay only if you tour the house.)



From Cupar, continue on the A91 towards St. Andrews. St. Andrews is a very busy town due to both its status as the home of golf and its world famous university, which is the oldest in Scotland and the third oldest in the English speaking world. Six sundials can be seen in the St. Andrews trail.

## **SCENIC ROUTE SUNDIAL TRAIL TO ST ANDREWS**

With reference to the appropriate map at the beginning of this document, head north up the A90 from the Forth Road Bridge and leave at the first junction after the bridge on to the B981 to Inverkeithing. Head into **Inverkeithing** and park in the car park on the left hand side just before the town centre. Walk towards the town centre.

**No 1 - The sundial is on the market cross on your right at the junction of Bank Street and the High Street. The market cross (known as mercat cross in Scotland) was erected in around 1400, although the unicorn finial incorporating the sundial was not added until 1688.**



Drive through Inverkeithing and turn right at the roundabout on to the A921 towards Aberdour. Drive through Aberdour and park in the Railway Station car park. You may wish to take a look at the Railway Station – it is one of the most beautiful in the country and has won several awards. There is a footway at the far end of this car park direct to **Aberdour Castle** where the next three sundials can be seen.

**No 2 - The first sundial is a square stone dial situated in a niche in a projecting corner in the south face of the castle. It is dated 1635, although the date is no longer visible after its recent refurbishment. The initials WM and ACM are for William, Earl of Morton and Ann, Countess of Morton.**



The second sundial is located in the lawn in front of the castle and immediately in front of the previous sundial. It is a square stone carved dial face on top of a square ornamented pedestal, resting on four large balls, all sitting upon a raised circular pavement. It has an eight point compass inside a numbered scale and was originally at Aberdour House nearby. Unfortunately, the gnomon is broken.



The third sundial at Aberdour Castle is in the walled garden to the east of the castle. This is a cube dial with a truncated pyramid top resulting in eight dials surmounted by a ball finial with a rod gnomon passing through it. It includes an equation of time on one face. The dial is early 17<sup>th</sup> century resting on a 19<sup>th</sup> century column and was originally at Castle Wigg in Kirkcudbrightshire before being moved to Aberdour in 1972.

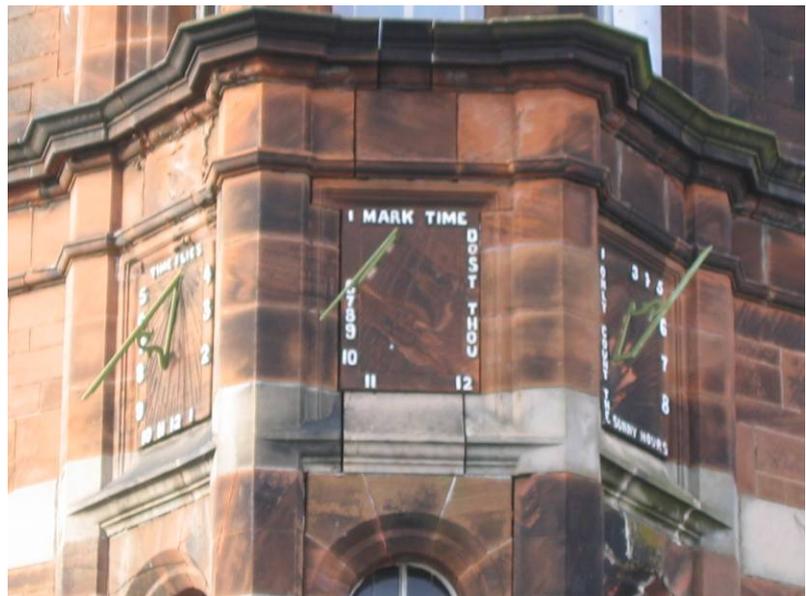


Return to the A921 heading east again, this time to **Burntisland**. Head for the town centre and park in the large car park that is in front of you as you continue down Cromwell Road at the bottom of the hill, from where the photos below were taken. The three faced sundial will be seen in front of you on the red sandstone building on the corner of the High Street and Rose Street.

**No 3 - These three huge rectangular sandstone attached dials, complete with gnomons, above the windows at 1st floor level form an original and essential part of the corner of this rather fine red sandstone Victorian building built in 1899. The mottos on the dials are East Face - "I count only the sunny hours", South East Face - "I mark time, dost thou" and South Face - "Time flies".**



Continue on the A921 once again, heading towards Kirkcaldy and passing the wonderful sands of Pettycur Bay on your way, where sand yachts can often be seen when the tide is out.



**OPTION A** - A detour can be made to see the horizontal sundial in the War Memorial Gardens in Bennoch Road in Kirkcaldy. The modern octagonal dial plate replaced the original in 1991. Then head east on Victoria Road (B925) eventually meeting up with the A921 again.

Follow the A921 yet again. Stay on the A921 as you pass through Kirkcaldy and look out for the roundabout where the A915 branches right towards Leven and take this road. If you reach the major roundabout with the A92 dual carriageway, you have missed the A915 and need to go right round the roundabout and retrace your steps back to the first roundabout, which is the A915. Take the A915, this time to the left. Follow the A915 until the A917 is reached

after Lundin Links. Follow the A917 to Elie. As you enter **Elie**, the main road turns sharply left. Ignore this turning and go straight on down School Wynd. At the "T" junction, turn right into South Street and this is the location of the next sundial.

**No 4 - The sundial will be seen above the doorway a short distance down the street on your right. The " Muckle Yett " was a fine old Scottish house in Elie, which, as it projected some ten or twelve feet into the street, had to be taken down in about 1860. On the projecting part there was an elaborate doorway which contained a curious sundial. The dial and doorway are still preserved in their new position on this house in South Street. On the doorway is the date 1682, and the initials of Alexander Gillespie, and his wife, Christian Small. There are two angled dials with three cup hollows above giving five faces in total. Only two gnomons of the original five remain in place.**



Return to the A917 again and head towards Crail. You will pass some lovely old fishing villages such as Saint Monance and Pittenweem on the way, which are well worth a detour to the harbour areas.

**OPTION B - From Pittenweem, a short detour can be taken to Kellie Castle where two sundials can be seen. There is an armillary sundial in the walled garden and an old cube dial on top of the doocot. Kellie Castle is three miles from Pittenweem and is signposted.**



Back on the A917, it is well worthwhile stopping in Anstruther where the Anstruther Fish Bar can be found opposite the harbour at 42 Shore Road. This restaurant won the UK Fish and Chip Shop of the Year in 2008/09 and has won the Scottish award several times. Many dignitaries have eaten there including Tom Hanks and Prince William. Due to its popularity a queue often extends into the street, but it is well worth the wait.

**OPTION C** - From Anstruther, a detour can be made to Dunino Churchyard by taking the B9131 road for about four miles to see the ancient sculptured stone which had been converted to a sundial in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, but unfortunately it is hardly recognisable as such now. Only the remains of the gnomon give it away.



Continue on the A917 to Crail where a further two sundials can be seen. In **Crail**, just after the town centre, as the main road turn sharply left, go straight on into Marketgate and park there. The first sundial is in Marketgate on the left around 100 yards from the junction with the main road.

**No 5** - This is a square dial with cut away corners mounted on the corner of a house on the north side of Marketgate. The gnomon comes out of a sun's face at the top of the dial. The house has been recently renovated but thankfully the dial has been left intact. There is a motto in Latin, but the whole inscription is difficult to read.



For the next sundial walk down to the harbour and take the old footpath that climbs eastwards from the harbour. The sundial is located on the bend of the path.

**No 6 - This 17<sup>th</sup> century horizontal dial on a circular moulded shaft is in a serious state of disrepair and it is a wonder that it has survived at all in this extremely exposed position. It was originally sited at the harbour from where it was removed in 1833. It was relettered in 1890 but the gnomon surprisingly is about the only recognisable survivor now.**



**OPTION D** - Continue on the A917 towards St. Andrews passing Cambo Gardens on your right in about three miles. Entry to the gardens is normally via an honesty box (£4 in 2010) and there was a sundial here in the walled garden until 2007 when it was stolen, leaving only the pedestal in place. The Victorian walled garden is well worth seeing, as are the snowdrops with over 300 different varieties on display during February and early March. If you walk down through the woods you will emerge by the seashore at the wonderful Kingsbarns golf course.



Continue on the A917 to St Andrews. St. Andrews is a very busy town due to both its status as the home of golf and its world famous university, which is the oldest in Scotland and the third oldest in the English speaking world. Six sundials can be seen in the St. Andrews trail.

## **THE ST. ANDREWS SUNDIAL TRAIL**

There are six sundials in this St. Andrews trail. If travelling to St Andrews by bus, then use the following directions with reference to the appropriate map at the beginning of this document. If travelling by car, it may be best to park in Kennedy Gardens near sundial number 1, then drive to North Street and park there for the other sundials. However St. Andrews can be very busy at times and parking may be difficult. You may prefer to find a parking space wherever you can, and with reference to the map, pick up the trail at the most convenient point.

Leave the bus station and turn right along City Road to the first roundabout. Turn right along Double Dykes Road. Take the fourth right into Kennedy Gardens. Go along to the end of the road and proceed through the gates to the old wing of University Hall.

**No 1 – This fine single face dial is probably from 1911, there is a wind vane above bearing that date. The dial is inscribed with “LAT 56'20.7"N and LONG 11'12"W”. Both the hour lines and half hour lines are marked.**

University Hall was the first residence for female students in Scotland and has undergone many changes since it was opened in 1896 and extended in 1911. The residence has three buildings. Old Wing is the original. Lumsden is more recent and is connected to Old Wing and Wardlaw is a separate building of imposing Scots baronial style



Head towards the next sundial by turning right out of the gates where you entered previously, and go down Donaldson Gardens. At the “T” junction, turn left along Hepburn Gardens and continue along Argyle Street. Go straight over the main junction at City

Road and continue along South Street. The third street on the left is Church Street. Just 20 yards further along South Street on the opposite side of the road is the entrance to St. Mary's Quadrangle. (It may only be open during term time, but if so, you can still see the sundial in the distance through the locked gate to the quadrangle.)

**No 2 - Go through the grey archway in South Street to St Mary's Quadrangle. A cube dial dated 1664 with four vertical dials on a tall cylindrical shaft with a moulded finial is situated in front of you. It is inscribed DWC 1664. (DWC = Dr Walter Comrie, one time Principal of St Mary's College).**



Head back to South Street and continue to the right. The next sundial is located a few hundred yards further on, on the opposite side of the road just past South Castle Street at number 19 South Street.

**No. 3 - A stone cube dial with three faces surmounted with a head, above a doorway with the name "John Gillespie" inscribed on the facing dial. This house once belonged to Prof. Adam Ferguson, one of the Enlightenment's great figures. He taught at the University of Edinburgh, and it was at his house in Edinburgh that**



**Scottish poet and writer Robert Burns and Walter Scott respectively met for the first and only time, when Scott was an adolescent. The Professor eventually retired back to St. Andrews to this house.**

Although with reference to the map, a shorter route to the next sundial can be taken, it is recommended to carry on along South Street to the "T" junction where you should turn left along the A917 trunk road. Follow this round to the left and take the first right up North

Castle Street. Go to the end of the road and turn left along The Scores. The next sundial is through the entrance to St. Salvators at number 8. Go into the grassed square and the sundial will be seen on your left adjacent to the building.

**No 4 – This is an 18<sup>th</sup> century square horizontal dial plate mounted on a later stone shaft. It came originally from Cults Manse in Fife.**

**Unfortunately the gnomon is broken.**

St Salvator's College was founded in 1450 by Bishop James Kennedy. Several of the original medieval buildings survive, including the college chapel, tower, tenement building (adjoining to the west of tower, actually older than the adjoining tower, but much restored) and the Hebdomadar's building.

In 1528, the protestant martyr, Patrick Hamilton, was burned alive outside the college.

Return to The Scores and turn left. The location of the last two sundials is twenty yards further on, on the other side of the road at number 7. This is the Museum of the University of St. Andrews (MUSA). The museum (free) is open from noon onwards.



**No 5 – Go into the museum and go up the stairs and exit on to the roof terrace. The modern combination of a horizontal and an equatorial dial on a large cube will be seen in front of you. Made by Tim Chalk of Edinburgh, it has scales for British Summer Time as well as Greenwich Mean Time.**

**It has the motto "Neither can the wave that has passed be recalled - nor the hour that has passed return again."**

There is also a telescope on the roof of this excellent vantage point and this can be used to look at the surrounding seashore and the town of St. Andrews itself.

Return down the stairs and turn to the right. An octagonal double horizontal dial of the William Oughtred type by Hilkieah Bedord of London and made between 1660 to 1680 will be seen on display. It was William Oughtred, an English mathematician, who first made use of the x as a multiplication sign. This sundial was originally at St. Mary's College and was blown off its pedestal by a German bomb in 1940 during the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. It was known to have been re-erected on a window ledge in the Library in 1948, but luckily it has eventually made its way to this museum – a much safer location!



Having visited St. Andrews it would be a shame not to visit the home of golf itself. Continue down The Scores and this will lead directly to both the 18<sup>th</sup> green and the 1<sup>st</sup> tee of the Old Course. The Old Course is a public course and you can play a round of golf if:

- a) you are successful in the ballot for a tee;
- b) you can afford and are willing to pay the green fees of up to £140 (in 2011).

If you are unsuccessful with a) and b) above, you can still stand at the roadside right beside the final fairway and green and watch the lucky ones, or have a go at the putting green. You can always say that you have played St. Andrews! You can also walk over the famous Swilcan Bridge, or take a walk along the West Sands where scenes from the multi Oscar winning film "Chariots of Fire" were filmed in the 1980s. The Botanic Gardens and Castle are also well worth a visit.

To return to the bus station from the museum, continue down The Scores from the museum to the first street on your left (Murray Park). Continue down Murray Park and turn right at the "T" junction to North Street. Continue down North Street to the roundabout with City Road where you should turn left. The bus station is one hundred yards or so further on, on your right.

If these trails have wetted your appetite and you would like to look at details and photographs of other sundials, then visit my website at [www.sundialsofscotland.co.uk](http://www.sundialsofscotland.co.uk).