Kingussi

History / Eachdraidh Kingussie - Ceann a' Ghiùthsaich, Gaelic for the head of the pine forest. Kingussie, a planned town, built by the 4th Duke of

Gordon, in the 1790's. "A new village at Kingussie in Badenoch" "There is a stream of water running close to the spot intended for the village, fit to.....turn machinery of every kind."

Extract from the advertisement placed by the Duke of Gordon in the Aberdeen Journal, 1799.

Kingussia

Town Trail

Slighe Baile Cheann a' Ghiùthsaich

www.kingussie.co.uk

Streets / Sraidean

"Fire devastates the

heart of Kingussie"

Last evening the High

Street was the scene of

Jonathan's Brae - one of Kingussie's esteemed residents

Jonathan MacDonald, who started his working life as a labourer

and ended his career as County Surveyor. He lived at the top of the brae.

Spey Street - inspirationally

named after the river that could be seen prior to the coming

of the railway. Originally houses were on the right and the land

opposite was used by the occupiers.

MacEdwards Court named after the Rev Lachie

MacEdward, town native and minister serving

most of his life as an army chaptain. He donated

his Spey St properties to the town in 1960.

King St - named after "Mad King" George III

Plan of Kingussic High Street in 1921

of Gordon

Duke Street - named after the

4th Duke

The coming of the railway hastened the commercialisation of Kingussie with the River Gynack playing a significant role. The river was channelled to supply water to the steam engines. The river also supported a woollen mill and tweed mill and the water was used by the Speyside Distillery, which was built in what is now Ardvonie Park.

The ancient game of shinty demands skill, speed, stamina and courage. The rules of shinty were written in 1893 in the Victoria Hall, now the Badenoch Centre.

The most prolific scorer is Ronald Ross MBE, "Ronaldo", with over 1000 goals in senior games. Kingussie were the first winners of the Camanachd Cup and have won numerous titles since.

"We start 'em young!"



Kingussie's primary team winning the MacKay cup 2011 courtesy of Alistair Michie.

Shops/Buithean



Behind the High Street were the Byres. All the cows had names, and after milking they would leave their stalls and make their own way to the common grazings, at the Dell, now the home of Kingussie Camanachd.

Commercial Centre

In the past the centre of Kingussie boasted Accountants, Solicitors, several Banks, as well as the Town Clerk's Office. Shops included MacPherson's, a renowned Kilt maker and Tailor; Sussex House, a furniture shop before becoming a tea room; Mackay the Grocers; E MacDonald's the Decorators, selling paint and wallpaper; Miss Munro's the Drapers and I & J Gunn - Outfitters. There were two barbers' shops: Ogg's and Treasurer's; Strachan the Bakers; Grant the Chemist; Kidd the Jewellers; Barron's the Fishmonger and Jimmy Croy, another Tailor's.





Photos of the Byres, High Street and King Street, courtesy of The Highland Folk Museum.

Robbie Mackintosh - the carter, liked standing at his door watching the comings and goings. Robbie's Cottage is next door to what is now the solicitor's office. It is a typical building of the "original" Kingussie.

Wiseman's - the sweetie shop, was the most popular! It had a very good "4 a 1d shelf". The small shop is part of Caberfeidh Horizons Bookshop. Wiseman's was where one of Kingussie's prominent residents spent his weekly 3^d pocket money!

Murchie's - the original buildings were demolished to allow a new shop set back from the street, but scandal ensued when the developers ran out of money and had to reduce the planned size of the "supermarket". Interestingly no alcohol was allowed to be sold on the premises.

People/Daoine

Donald Campbell - known as "The Kingussie Bard", wrote Guma slan do na Fearaibh, one of the most popular Gaelic songs which tells of Highlanders leaving their homeland.

Robert Louis Stevenson - visited as a young man in the 1880's and stayed in Spey Street.

Dr I F Grant - founder of Am Fasgadh which she filled with her own collections of artefacts from around the Highlands, now at the Highland Folk Museum.



Am Fasgadh, courtesy of Highland Folk Museum.

Ackie Dunbar - one of Kingussie's international businessmen. Renowned for his famous parrot, we would like to tell you more but it's censored!

Sandy Bennett MBE, for outstanding service to the community, and whilst the town's Traffic Warden booked Sean Connery for illegal parking.

Tom Wade DFM, the last Provost of Kingussie who was awarded the Freedom of Kingussie in 2011 for outstanding service to the community.

Photo of Tom Wade, courtesy of The Highland Council.



The Kingussie Town Trail is just one of a network of local paths in and around Kingussie. Why not follow the sign posted walks, and enjoy the town's beautiful scenery, fresh air and history.



This leaflet has been developed by Kingussie and Vicinity Community Council, Kingussie Community Development Company and Kingussie Business Forum. Thanks to the Duke of Gordon Hotel, the Highland Folk Museum, Mrs Isobel Harling and Tom Wade.





Leaflet possible thanks to





Kingussie the Planned Town

The Courthouse - built by public subscription in 1865, designed by Mathews and Laurie. Looking at the Courthouse: the police sergeant's house was on the right with the cells on the left. Court hearings were still held in the upstairs Court Room until 2006. Embossed in the pavement is the Kingussie emblem. The motto translates as "Follow closely the fame of your forefathers."

Next to the Courthouse was formerly McEwen's of Perth on the ground floor and the Temperance Waverley Hotel above. The entrance to the hotel was what is now the small window. Reputedly the stairs up were so steep that only the sober could cope.

Up the alley the Old Parish Church and Graveyard, built in 1624 and used until 1795. There is little to see now although grass covered foundations indicate the outline and size of the Church.

Glebe Pond.

The Dell,

Ruthven Barracks

Trail and

Circular.

Please note the places listed

above are within walking distance but those not able

may wish to take their car.

courtesy of

Shelagh Stirling.

Cairngorms

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The Gynack Mill

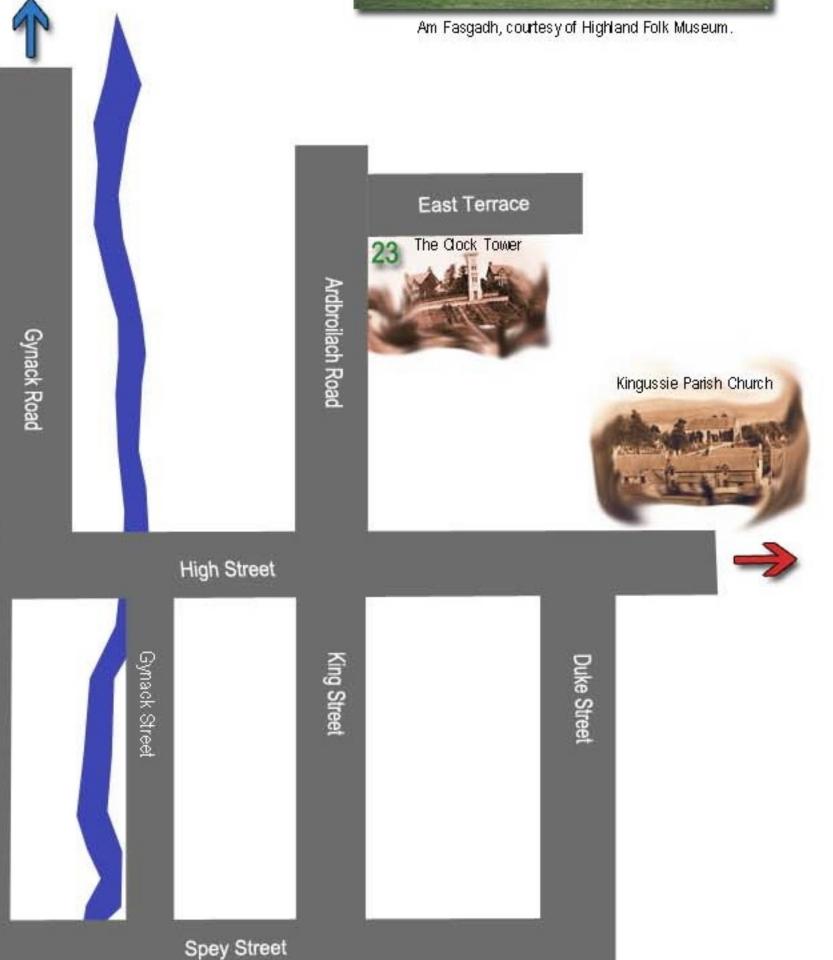
The Tipsy Laird, once the same size as adjacent Robbie's cottage. An extension was added and the upstairs floor strengthened to house a Snooker Hall holding 2 full sized tables. It later became Wade's Tea Room, whose delicious homebaking is sadly missed!



Kingussie Town Trail

The Courthouse, courtesy of Jane Adamson





folklore claims to have been "planted" by St Columba.

The Clock Tower, gifted to the town in 1921 by J C McGruer, a resident of Invercargill, New Zealand (but educated in Kingussie) and who presented the Dux Medal to the school.

If you have the energy turn up Ardbroilach Road and look down on the

to St Columba. Within the cemetery there is an inscribed stone which

"old" cemetery, a former Carmelite friary founded in 1501, dedicated

The final place on this tour is The Star Hotel. Originally only the upper floors were the hotel, the ground floor being Provost George Crerar's general store!



The Star Hotel, courtesy of Highland Folk Museum

The Star Hotel, courtesy of Jane Adamson

Crossing Duke Street, you see fine examples of villas built as part of the planned town.

Flanking the Parish Church entrance, is the formerly named Chapel House and the Drill Hall. See the board for more information.

Double back and turn down Duke Street. MacRobert House, originally named Church Hill, renamed when money was given by the MacRobert Trust to buy the house as part of the Highland Folk Museum.

Am Fasgadh - Gaelic for the "refuge." Built in 1790 as the Factor's House by the Duke of Gordon. It was acquired by Dr I F Grant in 1943 to house what was to become the Highland Folk Museum.

Iona Gallery - hosts both local and national exhibitions. Details on their notice board.

Site of Caledonian Bank - on the corner is the site of Maggie MacLennan's fruit shop and the current building displays the town emblem.

Talla Nan Ròs- formerly St Andrew's Church, was acquired and renovated by the community in 2004. Renamed in Gaelic "Talla Nan Ròs" after the beautiful rose window in the main hall. Look at the "dormered" cottages, which are typical of the original Kingussie.

Badenoch Centre - back on Spey Street. The original Victoria Hall was burned down when being used for internal shots for the iconic TV series "Monarch of the Glen." Many of the local residents worked as extras. St Columba Episcopal Church forms the other part of the centre.

Bowling Club, est. 1877 - further information can be found on the display board.

The Fountain was donated by Peter Mackenzie, Count de Sierra Largo in 1911, a Kingussie man who travelled to South America, married a countess and made his fortune with the Singer company of sewing machine fame.

Railway Station. Details of the fascinating story on the

Double back and through the gates to the Memorial Gardens - see the boards for information.

Look over to the Free Church and Manse, the old church being demolished stone by stone in 2003.

Look over towards The Primary School, which once had a secondary department. Pupils not only came from all over Badenoch, but from throughout the Highlands and Islands, and they boarded in Kingussie.

Ahead is the Duke of Gordon Hotel. There has been an inn on this site for many centuries. The present building with many later additions was erected in 1906. It is said that Queen Victoria visited the hotel in 1861. See board outside the hotel.



Turn left down the Newtonmore Road to find the Catholic Church of our Lady of Loreto and St Columba. A little further on is a unique wooden cottage, formerly the office of local architect Colonel Cattanach.

Double back along the High Street. Amongst the present day shops note the much admired architectural feature of our original curved shop fronts



