



Kingussie Town Trail

Slighe Baile Cheann a' Ghiùthsaidh
www.kingussie.co.uk

History / Eachdraidh

Kingussie - Ceann a' Ghiùthsaidh, 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.

Railway


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 Ardvon Park.

Shinty

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, "Ronald", 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 / Bùithean



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 1st shelf". The small shop is part of Caberfeidh Horizons Bookshop. Wiseman's was where one of Kingussie's prominent residents spent his weekly 3rd 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.

Kingussie Town Trail

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."




The Courthouse, courtesy of Jane Adamson.

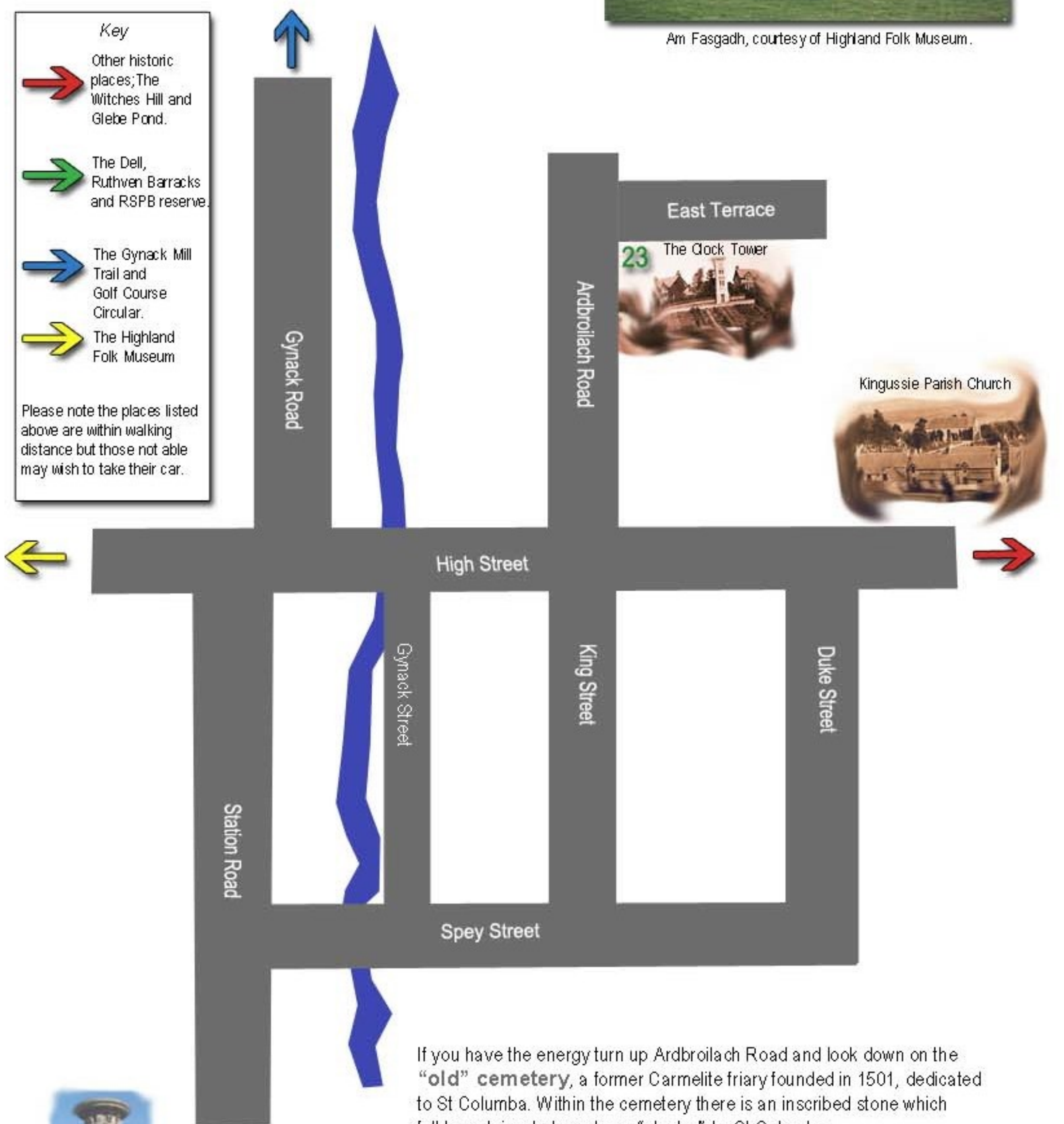
Next to the Courthouse was formerly McEwen's of Perth on the ground floor and the Temperance Waverley Hotel above. The entrance to the hotel was what is now the small window. Reputedly the stairs up were so steep that only the sober could cope.

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.

The Topsy 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!



Am Fasnadh, courtesy of Highland Folk Museum.



Key

- Other historic places, The Witches Hill and Glebe Pond.
- The Dell, Ruthven Barracks and RSPB reserve.
- The Gynack Mill Trail and Golf Course Circular.
- The Highland Folk Museum.


Please note the places listed above are within walking distance but those not able may wish to take their car.

The Fountain, 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.

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.


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!

Then



The Star Hotel, courtesy of Highland Folk Museum

Now



The Star Hotel, courtesy of Jane Adamson

Streets / Sràidean

1921

"Fire devastates the heart of Kingussie"

Last evening the High Street was the scene of a raging fire.....

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.

Duke Street - named after the 4th Duke of Gordon.

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 chaplain. He donated his Spey St properties to the town in 1960.

King St - named after "Mad King" George III.


Plan of Kingussie High Street in 1921

People / Daoine

Donal 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 Fasnadh which she filled with her own collections of artefacts from around the Highlands, now at the Highland Folk Museum.



Am Fasnadh, 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.




Stagecoach, courtesy of Highland Folk Museum.

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

Designed by Jilly Borwick

little sprout designs.



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Kingussie Town Trail

Map, with thanks to National Library of Scotland. Made possible by CNPA, KBF, KCDC.

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Borwick

Cairngorms NATIONAL PARK