

## 6 OLD MILL AND NEW MILL

A mill pond once stood at this corner on the Shilling Hill to feed what was Cumnock Mylne, the principal mill in the barony of Cumnock. The McKnight family were millers here from the 16th century. They also kept an inn in their Old Mill farm and it was here on 10th January 1789, Robert Burns composed his 'Ode Sacred to the Memory of Mrs Oswald of Auchencruive'. In 1735 a New Mill was built across the road.

Sadly no traces remain of the mill or mill pond.

### Points of interest

Walk along the Dumfries road and cross at the Afton Bridge. Follow the path alongside the banks of the Afton Water to beyond the swimming pool where you will find the Wildlife Garden and information on our of local path networks.

## B CASTLE GREEN

Return to the path and make your way to the Castle Car Park. Across the stepping stones sits Castlemains farm, once the principal farm associated with

Cumnock Castle and the barons of Cumnock. Now continue to follow the path along the bank of the Afton Water to Pier Point.

## 7 COMUNN ACHADH

Known locally as Pier Point, the meeting of the Afton Water and River Nith may be the origin of the place-name Cumnock, from Gaelic *comunn achadh* 'meeting place'. Robert Burns celebrated both rivers in his *Sweet Afton* and *O Were I on Parnassus Hill*, the

latter also referring to Corsencon hill which can be seen in the distance.

Walk along the bank of the River Nith and meet up with the road at the Nith Bridge. Turn right towards the Railway station.

## A RAILWAY STATION

The Glasgow-Carlisle Railway line was finished in 1850 with the completion of the last two sections from Auchinleck to New Cumnock and then New Cumnock to Closeburn.

Please take time to check out the commemorative plaque on view at the station. Cross back over the bridge and make your way to Loch Park the home of Glenafton Athletic.

## 8 GLENATON ATHLETIC

The club was formed in 1930 and originally based in the miners rows at Connel Park before moving in 1960 to this purpose built ground at Loch Park. Winners of many honours the Glens 'finest hour' came in season 1992/93 winning the Scottish Junior Cup,

Ayrshire League Championship and Ayrshire Cup.

Continue your walk along the road and head up the castlehill to return to the beginning of the village heritage trail.



WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED YOUR VISIT  
AND LEARNED A LITTLE ABOUT OUR VILLAGE

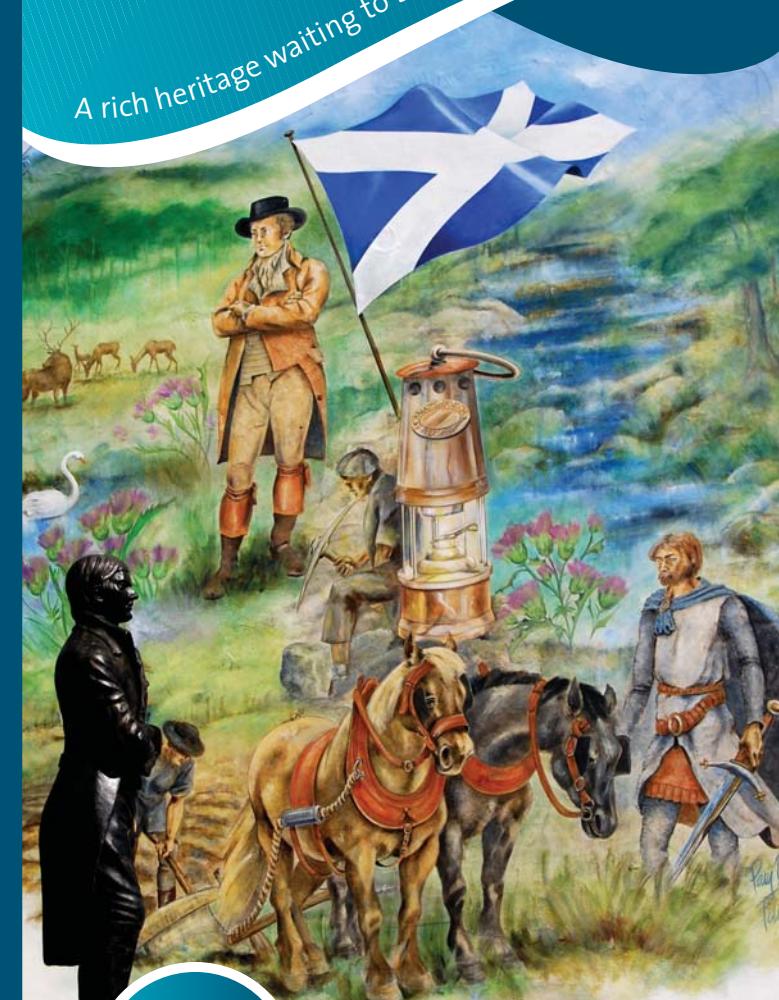
Why not continue your walk and visit the Knockshinnoch Lagoons and enjoy some of the other paths in the parish.



## NEW CUMNOCK

# AULD KIRK AND VILLAGE HERITAGE TRAIL

A rich heritage waiting to be discovered and enjoyed...



# NEW CUMNOCK AULD KIRK AND VILLAGE HERITAGE TRAIL

## WELCOME TO NEW CUMNOCK ANCIENT GATEWAY TO AYRSHIRE

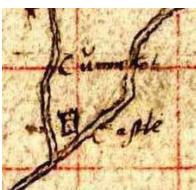
In 1205, William the Lion, King of Scots established a royal burgh at Ayr. On doing so he also set up toll and customs point at key entry points into the sheriffdom of Ayr, including one at Corsencon in the lands of what was then barony of Cumnock.

The collected tolls were secured at Cumnock Castle, the ancient seat of the barons of Cumnock which stood on the castle-hill overlooking the confluence of the Afton Water and the River Nith.

In 1650 the parish of Cumnock was divided into the two new parishes of Old Cumnock and New Cumnock, with the church for New Cumnock built on the castle-hill.

So, today visitors from the south are still greeted by the glorious Corsencon hill overlooking the River Nith as they enter what is now Ayrshire and the parish of New Cumnock.

Welcome to our Parish. We hope through our Village Heritage Trail we can reveal and share some of our rich history for you to enjoy and to better understand New Cumnock's place in Scotland.



Cumnock Castle



Auld Kirk  
and Kirkyard



Miners  
Memorial



### 1 CUMNOCK CASTLE

The ancient seat of the Barons of Cumnock, (the first of whom were the Earls of Dunbar) once stood on this hill, overlooking the confluence of the Afton Water and River Nith.

Edwards I and II of England visited the castle during the Wars of Independence in their respective struggles against Sir William Wallace and Robert the Bruce, King of Scots

### 2 THE PARISH OF NEW CUMNOCK

In 1650 the original parish of Cumnock was sub-divided into the new parishes of Old Cumnock and New Cumnock. The existing or 'old'

church served the parish of Old Cumnock while a 'new' church was built to serve the parish of New Cumnock.

### 3 AULD KIRK AND KIRKYARD

The new church for New Cumnock was erected here in 1659 and it would serve the parish for over 170 years. The ruins are now known affectionately as the Auld Kirk.

**Can you find '1659' carved in two of the lintel stones?**

To enhance your visit to the kirkyard Trail leaflets are available mapping out family lairs where 'Ministers' and 'Soldiers' are either buried or remembered. A 'Discovery Trail' has also been created by pupils from New Cumnock Primary School challenging the visitor to find a number of family lairs of parishioners that help to tell to the story of New Cumnock.

**Points of interest**  
Travel back down the castle-hill towards the main street and on the left you will pass the disused Arthur Memorial United Free Church (1913) with its special octagonal tower.

Turn right along the main street (Castle) and look out for the Robert Burns Memorial plaques at the entrance to the kirkport and on the Castle Hotel. At the far gable end of that building is the Mary Morrison Memorial Garden, where stands a statue of the bard and the magnificent New Cumnock Mural. Cross the road to reveal the story the mural tells.

### 4 NEW CUMNOCK MURAL AND MINERS' MEMORIAL LAMP

The mural depicts Sir William Wallace clutching his mighty claymore. His father Alan Wallace was a crown tenant in Ayrshire and Blind Harry identifies these lands as Blackcraig (Black Rok) at the head of Glen Afton where Wallace held a 'royal house'.

*"And Wallace past in  
Cumno with blith will,  
At the Black Rok,  
quhar he was wont to be,  
Apon that sted a ryall hous  
held he."*

Robert Burns features prominently on the mural. He was a regular visitor to the village during his journeys back and forth between Mauchline and Ellisland. The farmer and the coal-miner celebrate our agricultural and mining heritage and the backdrop of glorious Glen Afton our natural heritage.

The Miners Memorial Lamp Memorial stands here to honour the memory of all those miners that lost their lives in the course of their duties and left behind grieving families.

### 5 MERCHANTS

As the parish of New Cumnock developed the Castle attracted merchants of all shapes and sizes and the process of trading and selling took root. Family businesses such as those of Kirkland, Hunter, McKechnie and Trotter became well established.

John Hunter was fondly remembered at the 'elder statesman of the town's merchants' when he passed away in 1930 at the age of 82 years. His great grandson Tom Hunter was knighted in 2005 for his 'services to Philanthropy and Entrepreneurship in Scotland'.

**Points of interest**  
Continue your journey along to our beloved New Cumnock Outdoor Swimming Pool. Cross the road to the Town Hall (1888) and its neighbour the elegant New Cumnock Parish Church (1833).

Continue your walk towards the Old Mill and across the road you will see our recently refurbished New Cumnock Primary School, it was here in 1872 the Town's first public school was built.