

A Historic Walk



Annan Town Hall
and War
Memorial



The Brus Stane

1 The Town Hall was built in 1878 by John Graham, an Annan stone mason. It replaced the earlier 1723 building which had in turn replaced the 16th century fortified tower house. The tower clock was gifted to the town in 1900 as the Chalmers bequest. The Brus Stane is fixed to the east wall of the Council Chamber. The inscription translates as:

"Robert de Brus Count of Carrick and Lord of Annandale"

The crudely carved date 1300, although accurate, would appear to be by the hand of an early graffiti artist.

Several paintings, including two oil colours by William Ewart Lockhart RSA RSW 1846 -1900, are also on display. Access to view the paintings and the Brus Stane is by appointment only at the Town Hall.



A timber castle and
motte as illustrated
by Solway Heritage



The Annan Motte as
it is today.



Lockhart family
Theodora and Marjorie
1885 by W.E. Lockhart

2 The motte and bailey is the site of a timber fortification /castle built at the time of the Bruce family in the 12/14 centuries. A sandstone plaque is set into the wall of an adjacent cottage in Bruce Street. This house was the childhood home of William Ewart Lockhart RSA RSW. His painting of his daughters Theodora and Marjorie was gifted to Annan.

3 The High Street with its Wynds, Closes, Places and Courts. Many of the buildings are built of local sandstone. Prior to the First World War this very fine Triassic sandstone was cut from quarries at Corsehill, Cove and several other sites. This material was used by local craftsmen and was also exported throughout the world. The Close by Walter Glendinning's shop at (106-109) High Street is thought to be where Edward Balliol was encamped with his



Annan High Street 2002

followers in 1332. He had been crowned as a puppet king of Scotland by Edward III. The story goes that when his army was attacked here he fled to Carlisle in his shirt-tail on a cart horse and saved his skin. His brother Henry and Lord Walter Comyn were slain and their followers routed.

The Close at Pagani's restaurant, 95 High Street, is the site of Provost Williamson's house. The wall plaque records that Burns when patrolling the shore on his Excise duties wrote the Deil's Awa Wi'th Exciseman while lodging here in 1792.

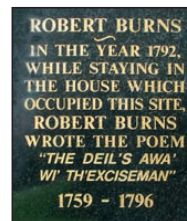
It is reputed that Hare's Den was where the grave robber Hare lodged when passing through Annan. Hare and his accomplice Burke had made a living in the 1820s supplying bodies for medical research. They also resorted to murder to meet the demand for fresh corpses. When arrested William Hare turned King's evidence and escaped the death sentence, but his companion was executed.

The Town's street markets are no longer held. The High Street had a Produce Market, a Pork Market and a Fish Market at the Fish Cross. Gas street lighting was installed in 1838. Piped drinking water was supplied in 1881. In 1882 the streets were laid with whinstone setts, and this is recorded by a plaque set into the road in front of the entrance to the Town Hall.



Queensberry Arms in the 1970s

4 Queensberry Arms Hotel. This was originally a coaching stop. It was one of the many licensed establishments taken over as a First World War emergency measure in 1916. The sale and drinking of alcohol were state controlled in order to increase the production of munitions at the Dornock factory. The dovecot or "doocot" at the rear of the hotel, which is dated 1690, and is reputed to be the town's oldest surviving building.



Burns plaque at Pagani's

5 The Bruce Restaurant was originally Gracie's Banking and was built as a state beer hall and entertainment centre for munition workers in 1916. The State Control Management system continued until 1971.

The Biddall family ran the Kinema here for about 50 years. The family were originally fairground showmen who produced the Biddall's Ghost Illusion. The other High Street public houses, the Blue Bell, the Commercial and the Auberge (Formerly the Buck Inn) still retain some of the atmosphere of earlier days.



Gracie's Banking in the 1920s

6 The Old Parish Church was built in 1790 with the spire and clock added later when funds became available.



Old Kirk

The tomb of Lieutenant General Dirom (1757-1830) of Mount Annan, one of the district's greatest benefactors, is in the churchyard. Edward Irving (1792-1834) was born in Butts



Edward Irving
1792-1834

Street. Irving, although a popular preacher, fell out of favour with the Church of Scotland and was branded a heretic. The Edward Irving statue was erected on the High Street in 1892; about sixty years later it was moved to its present site in the churchyard.

7 Annan Library is situated at the end of Charles Street. The library is a branch of the Dumfries & Galloway Library Service and gives access to a wide selection of local and historical references and the internet.



Annan Library interior



The Museum



Bank Street in 1900