

Campsie Local History Group

EDC History Month

Historical Shopping Trail

March 2025

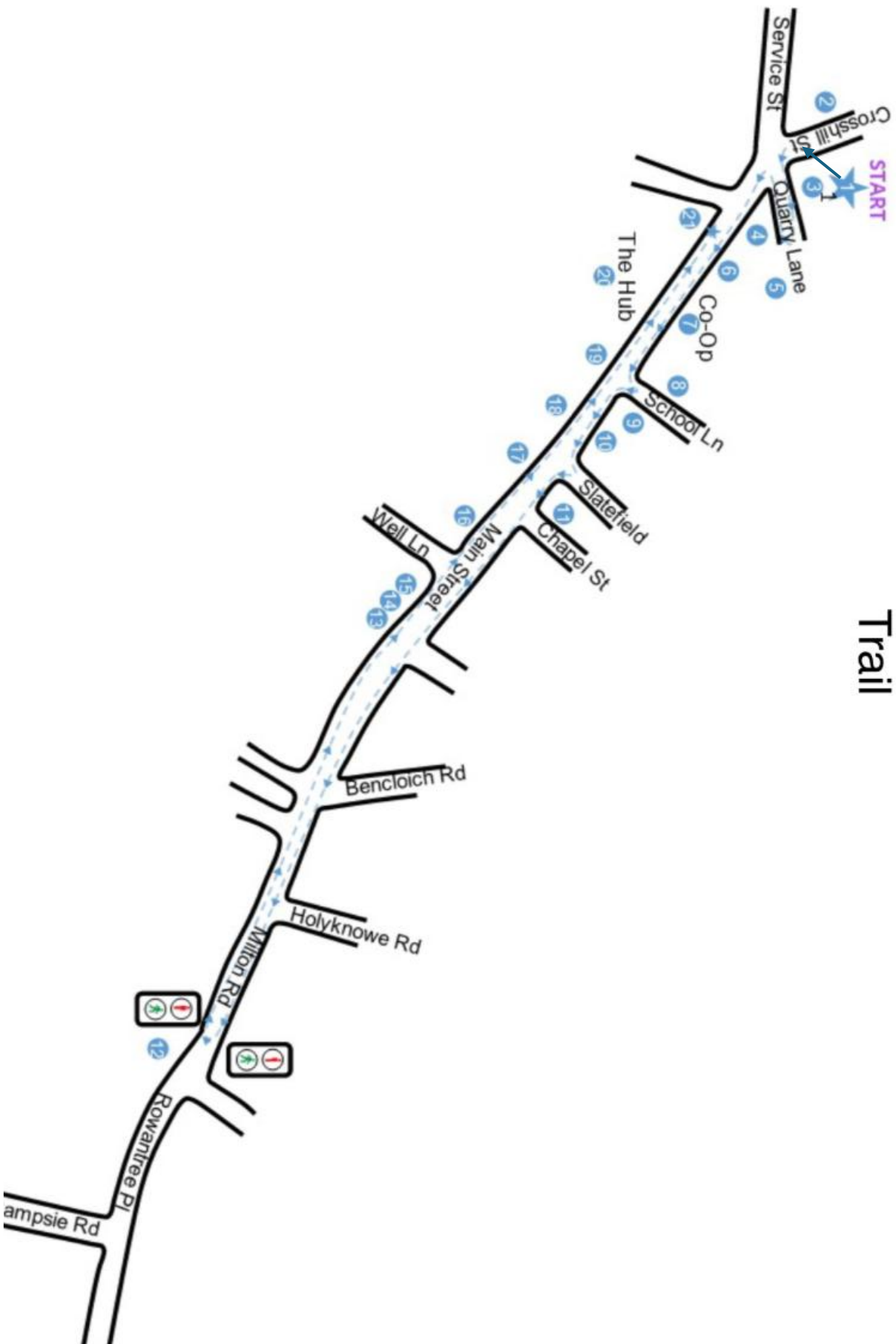
The start point for this trail is in Crosshill Street (the road opposite the Memorial Hall car park). If you start at this point it gives an easy walk down one side of the street and back up the other side.

You can of course start at any point – just flick or scroll through the trail until you find the right bit.

Everyone will have different memories of shopping in Lennoxtown depending on when they were born or when they moved into the village. We would invite you to view our display in the library and add your memories to our memory box. Don't forget to tell us the years you are talking about.

We would like to thank the staff in Lennoxtown Library and EDC Archives for all their help and assistance.

Historical Shopping Trail



Start your tour at the end of Crosshill Street closest to the Main Street.



bought part of Home Farm (where you are standing) and turned this into another garage. There was still nowhere to buy petrol that could be put straight in the car. Petrol had to be bought at the chemists in large cans. Alexander, keen to expand his business, bought another bit of home farm and installed the very first petrol pumps at his garage at 10, Crosshill Street in 1935. Over the years he added more petrol pumps and he and his son ran the garage together. The garage was eventually taken over by Hamish McEwan.

(1) The First Petrol Pumps

Today all we can see are houses but this spot is where the first petrol pumps appeared in Lennoxtown.

Alexander Jarvie originally ran a cycle shop on Main Street with his mother Elizabeth. In 1905 he expanded his business to include a workshop and, as more cars appeared, he turned his workshop into a garage. He also



Credit EDC Archives



Credit EDC Archives

(2) Across the road at number 23 Crosshill Street James G Kelly ran a grocer's shop.

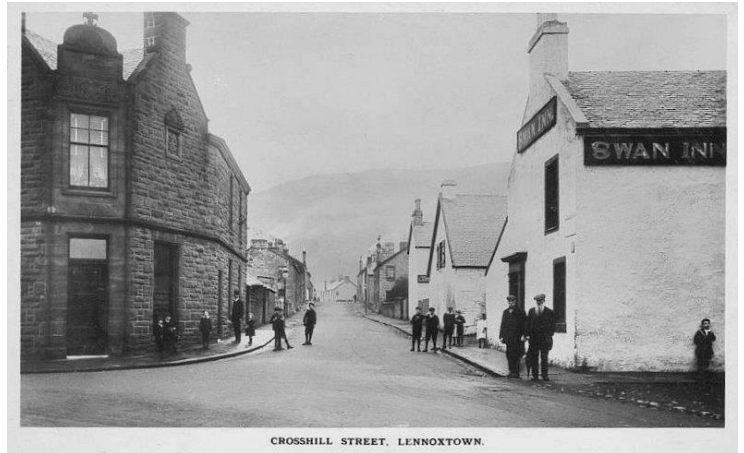


Credit EDC Archives

Walk down towards Main Street and on the corner, at the end of Quarry Lane, you will find what used to be the Swan Inn. **(3)**



This was built in 1787 as a Coaching Inn and toll house where you had to pay if you wanted to travel on the road over to Fintry. It is now flats.



Credit EDC Archives

Continue round into Main Street.

At numbers 1 and 3 we now have the Premier convenience store and Cuisine Kitchen. **(4)**



their homemade Italian ice cream

These two buildings used to be owned by the Arcari family and were run as tearooms and an ice cream shop where they sold



Credit EDC Archives

Walk just beyond Cuisine Kitchen and look back over the open ground (5).



Credit EDC Archives

Peeping out behind what was the Swan Inn is a small building. This was a wright's shop and was run for many years by John Bell Arthur. A wright did all things to do with wood from fixing broken wagon wheels to building or repairing window frames and chairs.

John was a time served joiner.



Credit May Taylor

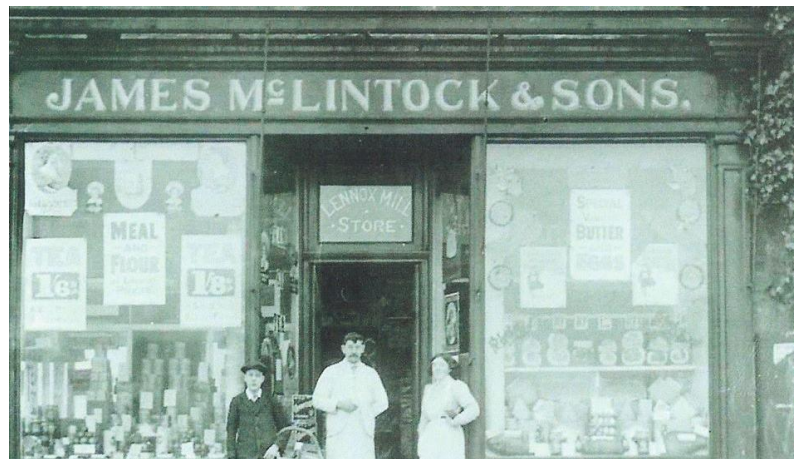
When the wrights shop closed it became a car body repair garage run by Trevor Taylor.

Now look along the open area with Springvale Care Home set back from the Main Street and the bus stop at the front (6).



From here to the Memorial Gates there used to be a busy shopping hub in days gone by until all the buildings were demolished during the 1960s and 70s.

At number 11 was McIntock's. This was owned and run by James McIntock and his sons. They owned another shop at number 15. This was what was known as a general store which meant he sold a bit of everything. Above his door it says, "Lennox Mill Stores". This was one of the places that workers at Lennox Mill had to buy things. They were not allowed to buy things in other shops.



Credit EDC Archives



Credit EDC Archives

Beyond the two McIntock shops there was Mr McKinnon the butcher and Margaret Williamson's outfitter's shop where you could buy clothes. McIntock's became a Co-Op grocery shop (Number 5) and McKinnon's became the Co-Op chemist.



Credit EDC Archives

At 21 Main Street we would find Michael McCue and his hairdressing shop. Next door at numbers 23–25, James Kelly had his second, much larger, grocery shop. Annie Watson ran her draper's shop at number 29. Draper's shops sold fabric, sewing materials and clothes. Number 31 was George Macdonald's butcher's shop. The drapers became George Hunter's grocery store with George Paul, butcher, next door and then Mrs Bryson and Miss Lyndsay's wool shop.

At number 37 was Burn's Tavern, a public house which had been built around 1880. It was owned by Robert Jewett from the 1920s to the 1950s and was managed by his cousin David Craig who lived in the flat above with his family.



Credit EDC Archives



Credit EDC Archives

Just before the Memorial Gates, at number 43, there was Thomas Mathieson's stationery shop. Here you could buy pens, pencils and paper along with a new ink ribbon to put in your typewriter. This was later run by the Bradley family.

All these shops fitted in the bit between where Cuisine Kitchen is now and the Memorial Gates. Each kind of shop sold different things so instead of going to the supermarket as we do today, people visited different shops to buy what they needed.

After these shops were all knocked down, temporary shops were put in the space in portacabins. Even the library moved into a portacabin.



Credit EDC Archives

Walk on until you reach the Co-Op (7)

Beyond the Memorial Gates, where the Co-Op and garage are now, was the Lennox Arms Hotel. It was owned by the Lennox family and managed by the McAlpine family for many years. Before it became the Lennox Arms it was called the Tontine.



Credit EDC Archives



Walk on past the Co-Op and stop in front of the garage looking towards Pose (8).



Beyond the Lennox Arms at numbers 81-83 was Walter Kennedy's ironmonger's shop with John Craig's grocer's shop next door from where the smell of ground coffee wafted out over the village.



Credit EDC Archives

Now cross over School Lane (9)

Across School Lane at 95, Main Street, in the second cottage, was Mrs Martha McMeekin's newsagent shop. This later became Miss Wilson's newsagent shop.



Credit EDC Archives



Credit EDC Archives

Walk along Main Street until you find the Drookit Dug and look along this row of shops (10).

At number 101, Main Street was John Carlin's public house. Initially called the Glen Tavern it is now the Drookit Dug.

Alexander Shirley ran his boot repairing shop at 125, Main Street where Vanity Hair and Beauty is now and John Lang had his painter's shop next door. 131 and 133 Main Street were Arcari's confectionery shops.



Credit EDC Archives

Number 125 became a chemist then Vanity Hair and Beauty, 129 became the TSB bank and then a dentist and Arcari's became Thomaso's and eventually Farren the chemist.



Credit EDC Archives



Now walk along until you reach the car park in front of St Machan's. This is another bit that was demolished (11).

At 155, Main Street, John Trower ran the Union Bar.

At 157, at the corner of Main Street and Chapel Street was Harry Nock's newsagent shop.



Credit EDC Archives



Credit EDC Archives

The end of Chapel Street is now a car park but it used to have the Criterion Public House, Reynold's fruiterer and Mr Goldie's pawn shop.



Credit EDC Archives



Now walk along to the traffic lights and cross the main road to the other side. Look from the car park along the houses at Rowantree Place. They did not always look like this (12).

At the end of the village was The Taw Raw

Folk entering Lennoxtown from the east would meet what was then called the “taw raw houses” due to the pitched tar roof. This is now Rowantree Place.

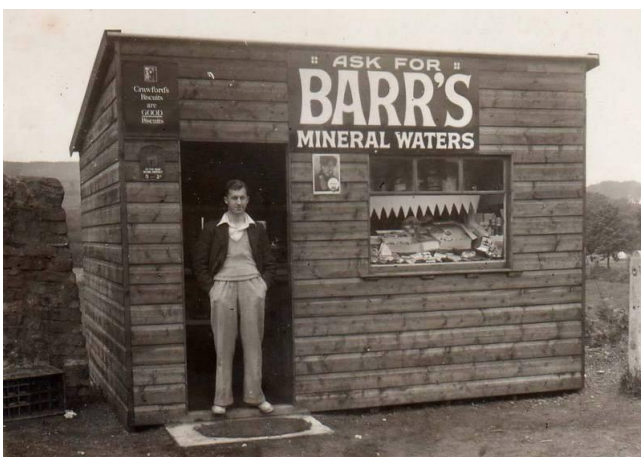


Credit EDC Archives



Credit EDC Archives

At the end of this row of houses was the smiddy/blacksmith owned by John Bryson. This is where horses would get new shoes, metal farm implements would be repaired and gates and railings would be made.



Thomas Dempsey in front of shop. Credit Raymond Carr

The 1940 valuation roll mentions a wooden shop owned by George MacDonald which sold confectionery and tobacco.



Today this area is a car park at the end of the houses.

Now walk towards Glazertbank Hotel (back towards the centre of the village) (13).

Beyond Glazertbank Hotel you will pass flats. There was a shop here at number 170 but this shop was unoccupied for a number of years before it was demolished. This photograph shows the beginning of the demolition of this area. Prior to the flats being built, there was a garage on this site which included a shop owned by John Forrest.



Credit EDC Archives

Continue on until you reach The Village Salon Hairdresser at number 160 (14).



Credit EDC Archives

At number 160, you can see what is now, The Village Salon Hairdressers. This was originally the site of The Lennoxtown Friendly Victualling Society, grocery shop. In the picture it is seen as Bryce and O'Neil joiners and glaziers



Credit Marion Donnachie



(15) 152 Main Street was MacElhinney's pub, commonly known as the Auld Hoose by the locals. The pub was demolished and replaced by the flats you can see today.



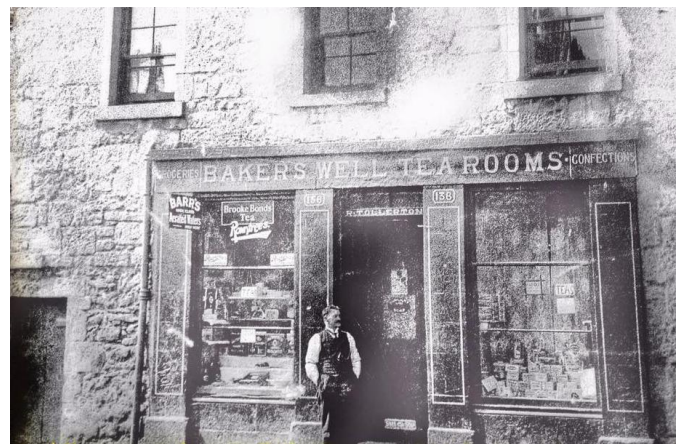
Credit EDC Archives



Credit EDC Archives

A delicatessen was next to the Auld Hoose pub. This was demolished at the same time as the Auld Hoose. This is now Margaret Court.

At 136 Main Street Rose Tollerton ran her tearoom and confectionery shop.



Credit EDC Archives



Credit EDC Archives

128 Main Street was, and still is, The Commercial Inn. The picture shown here was taken circa 1935 and shows the proprietors Mr & Mrs Arthur Cotton.

The Commercial Inn shows from the valuation roll of 1865 when it was owned by John McLeod and run by Christopher Stockton. It may be much older.

(16) At 108 Main Street there was and still is a fish and chip shop currently called Olivia's.

It was run by Silvo Torricelli in the 1940s.



Credit EDC Archives

(17) At 100 Main Street, Margaret Russell ran her fishmonger's shop. This was later taken over by her son, Gavin. Many people may remember the fish sign on the outside wall to the left of the shop which was painted in a bright gold colour.

To the right of the fishmonger's shop you can see the hairdressers, Salon Style. The 1940 valuation roll shows this as a baker's shop run by Catherine McGregor.

(18) To the left of Gavin Russell was Cuthbert's, a general store which, in the 1960s, sold everything from clothing to fishing tackle.

Cuthbert's is now home to Erhan the barbers. The buildings housing the fishmonger's and hairdressers have since been demolished and a wall can be seen there now closing off the gap between the buildings.

Keep walking, going past what used to be the police station until you get to Glam and Glossy (19).



Credit Linda McIntosh

Number 80 was John and Jean Maxwell's shop. They sold fruit and vegetables on one side of their shop and sweeties on the other. It was very popular with the local children.

When they retired, the shop was taken over by Miss Wilson and run as a grocery store.

The original building burned down but was rebuilt. It is now Glam and Glossy and Bhajjis.



Credit EDC Archives



(20) Continue on until you reach the Hub. (Pop in and view our shop display.)

This photograph shows the view looking back along Main Street towards where Miss Wilson's shop was. The Co-Op boot repairer was at number 62, Margaret Eggleston's drapers shop at number 58 and Robert Macfarlane ran the post office at number 56. The Co-Op had a bakery at number 46 and a butcher's shop at number 40. William Rae eventually opened a bakery next to the post office and the individual Co-Op stores merged into a general store.



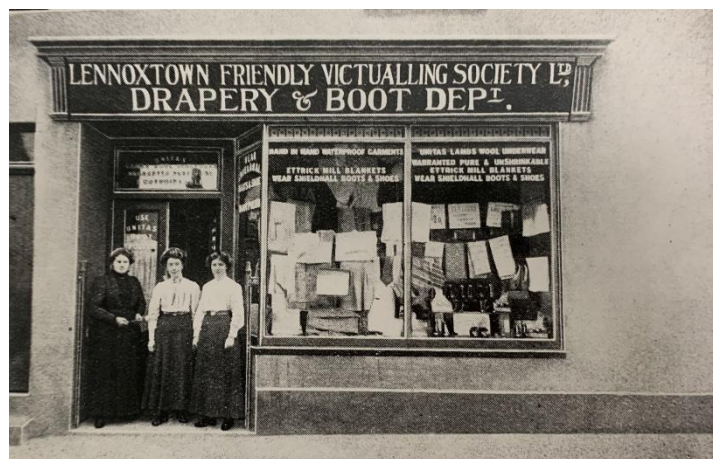
Credit EDC Archives



Credit EDC Archives



Credit EDC Archives



Credit EDC Archives

William Duffield ran his bootmaker's shop at number 32, Samuel Mackay ran a fruiter's shop at number 16 and Jean McColl ran her newsagent's shop at number 12.

(21) Following all the demolition of the original buildings and a long spell in portacabins, shopkeepers finally got to move into the newly constructed buildings.

These shops included The Royal Bank, VG, Annie Bradley's newsagent, Annie Bradley's fruit and vegetables, Brycon's outfitters and Kelly's drapers.



Credit EDC Archives



This row of shops and flats went through another upgrade when it was realised that flat roofs could not cope with Scottish weather!

The butcher's shop shown in the photograph is now Avtar's hardware shop.



William Rae ran a teasshop and bakery around the corner in Station Road.

Thank you for joining us on our walkthrough of the shops which were once in Lennoxtown.



Credit EDC Archives