

“House Names in Gatehouse (High St. & back streets)”

Start at the town car park

Opposite the main car park entrance is Rutherford Hall, which clearly was built as a church. Next come three houses, collectively known as **Laurelbank**, which were built c.1836. Presumably, at one time laurel bushes grew here. These three houses were built after the **Brewery Brae** street level was raised, so their main entrances lead to the middle floor of the houses.

Further up High Street is **Brewery Cottage** (the yellow one) which was part of the town brewery which was built in the late 1700s. Further up is **Bruachmore**, also part of the Brewery complex. Its name means ‘big slope’ or ‘steep slope’.

These houses also have their front doors ‘upstairs’.

From the car park walk up High Street towards the Angel Coffee House.

Look back at the **Galloway Lodge / Galloway Larder** building. This was originally built as a tannery in 1768. After the tannery closed in 1860, it became used as stables and later a garage run by the Campbell family. Although the Campbells were later to open a larger garage in Fleet Street (now Fleet Valley Care Home), this remained part of their business premises. The lower part (now Spar) was rented for garaging e.g. the post office delivery van was kept here. The back part of the upper area housed the taxis and other vehicles. The front part [now the entrance] was a house where the Campbell family lived – known as **Fleetvale**.



Look across the road.

The Red Steps

Part of the instructions to people buying the original feus from James Murray of Cally was that there had to be no long external flights of steps on the High Street. *So why are there steps here?*

Probably when the houses were built c.1700 they would have had only one or two steps up to each house. The hill (the Brewery Brae) was at that time much steeper. About a metre was removed from the top of the hill in 1810. The road at the foot of the hill, by the bridge, was raised with the spoil. The red sandstone steps were probably built about this time as the old front doors were now much higher than the new road level.

Very few houses in High Street have or had names, even though street numbers were not regularly used until after World War 2. Maybe this was because most of the houses had shops attached so would be known by that name e.g. Starks the Chemist or Market Cross Stores.

Continue walking up High Street.

60 High Street was the home of Willie McGaw and his wife Annie in the early 20th century. They named their house **Ellebana** - which was Annie's proper name Anabelle - spelt backwards.

62 High Street has a modern name **Buckle House**. This highlights the fact that the building was used by shoemakers for many years.

52 High Street was known as **Morva**. (Look at the glass pane above the front door)

This is a Cornish or Welsh name meaning 'by the sea'. We do not know why the house has this name but it was first used when members of the Hume family, William & Eleanor, lived here in the first half of the 20th century. The Humes were Gatehouse builders and are known to have also built 2 lighthouses (Little Ross at Kirkcudbright and Ardnamurchan in Argyllshire). Maybe they named it because of the family association with buildings by the sea. Also William Hume's wife Eleanor James was born in Wales. (Her father was an excise (customs) officer).

Continue up High Street to the Town Clock, cross the road, and walk along Castramont Road to the junction with Birtwhistle Street.

Both the large houses on Castramont Road (on either side of Birtwhistle Street) involved using some of the houses from the original Birtwhistle Street terraces.

East View now includes the old number 1 Birtwhistle Street. (The present side door would originally have been a front door for 1 Birtwhistle Street)

Woodlyn was built in 1877 and involved knocking down some Birtwhistle Street houses and reusing others as stables and stores. When Birtwhistle Gardens was built, these outhouses were demolished. Woodlyn was used as Girthon Manse between 1945 and 1977.



Junction of Castramont Road & Birtwhistle Street – left is **Woodlyn**, right is **East View**.

Across the road from Woodlyn is a modern house - **Ellfoot**.

In 1935 a visiting circus was using Market Hill to graze their animals. The circus elephant, Rosie, unexpectedly died and is buried on the site of this house. During construction part of its foot was found.

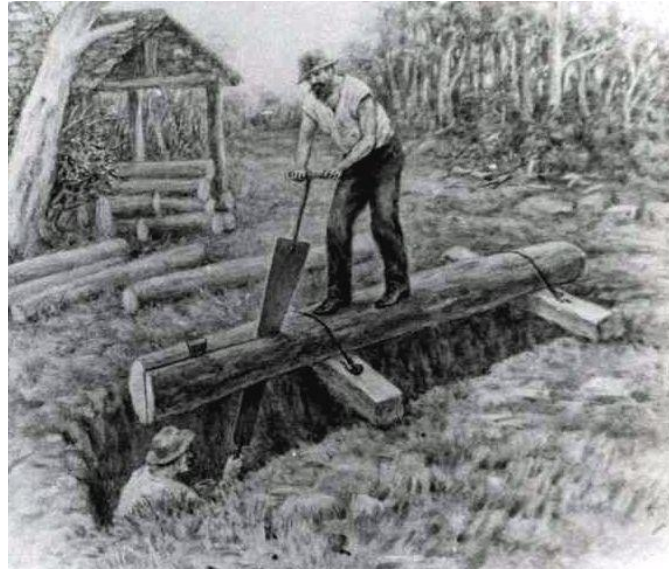
Walk down Birtwhistle Street to the end of the right-hand terrace.

West View involved demolishing several Birtwhistle Street houses and incorporating another into **West View**. This house now faces westward.

The gateway beyond West View leads to **Bleachfield**. This house was originally built as a youth hostel in 1950. The field in which it was built was at one time used to lay out woven cotton to bleach in the sun.

Continue along Swan Street & Roseberry Terrace and into Digby Street.

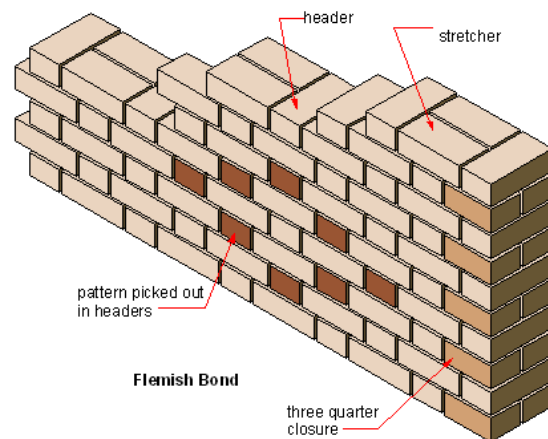
Glenavon (meaning Avon valley) is the old house on the left. It is thought that at one time the River Fleet may have been called the River Avon. 'Avon' in Gaelic means a river or watercourse. This name was later changed to Fleet by the Vikings, and has the same meaning. *(On the way to Girthon Cemetery there is a house called **Garthavon** - thought to be an old word for Girthon Parish, which might have a similar derivation)*



Fleetview is opposite Glenavon. The old name for the cottage is **Sa' Pit Hoose** (Saw Pit House). At one time in the field next to the cottage was a saw pit - an old way of cutting long pieces of timber before mechanisation.

Walk to the junction of Catherine Street.

The house on the left (**37 Catherine Street**) is known locally as **Hornsby Ha'** (**Hornsby Hall**). The Hornsby family built many of the houses in Gatehouse. They came from Northern England and were skilled bricklayers. The family lived here for many years and some of the brickwork on the house is of a typically English style known as Flemish bond. (see diagram)



Turn right into Catherine Street and walk round the corner into Victoria Street.

Bobbin Cottage is a modern name for what was at some point, 2 separate houses. It seems that in the mid 1800s this building may have been called **Covent Garden**. The 1855 O.S. map shows a house with a long garden stretching down to the river. It was very overcrowded.

In 1861 6 families lived in Covent Garden. 26 people, with 2 other parts of the building being unoccupied.

Halfway along on the right is **The Smithy**. This was the site of one of the blacksmith's workshops. On the opposite side of the road there was an earlier smithy - known colloquially as **The Brass Works** although the name has not appeared on any documentation. (Brass was used on some of the spinning machines.)



The old blacksmith's shop
(The Smithy)
Note the greenhouses behind

The old
Fire Station

The old Police Station

Bobbin Cottage.

The old Brassworks

Victoria Street - 1958

Continue along Victoria Street to High Street and return to the car park.