

Significant Dates in the Development of Gatehouse and District

When we were trying to arrange our old postcards into date order we needed to create a brief list of dates when certain buildings were constructed or demolished. This only affected the late 19th century onwards, but we thought that it might be useful to construct a more complete timeline which we include below. The source for many of these dates cannot necessarily be regarded as "official". They are provided as a general guide to the order of development, rather than an accurate catalogue.

If you are aware of errors, or think there are significant events that we have missed, please email us and we will be pleased to add them.

Date	Place
Late 6 th Century	Trusty's Hill Fort : destroyed by fire.
12 th Century	Mottes : Green Tower (near Boreland of Anwoth) built by Lord of Anwoth. Cally Motte built - possibly destroyed by fire in 1174.
Late 15 th Century	Castles : Rusko, Cally & Cardoness built. Rusko built in 1574, part of Lochinvar Estate owned by Sir Robert Gordon of Lochinvar.
1620	Churches : Possibly first church at Girthon Kirk (site used since 12th century).
1626	Anwoth Kirk built, possibly on the site of an earlier church
1640	Roads : Glen Bridge built (over Arkland Burn, on old road from Ferrytoun (of Cree) to Gatehouse).
1661	First Fleet Bridge built (wooden – washed away in 1721).
1685	Gravestone at Anwoth Kirk to Covenanter James Bell of Whiteside, killed 1685. Gravestone at Girthon Kirk to Covenanter Robeert Lennox of Irelandton, killed in 1685
Early 18 th Century	Mills : Waulk (wool) Mills constructed at Enrick & Skyreburn.
1720	Cardoness Chapel built. Rebuilt in 1786.
1729	First stone Fleet Bridge built (widened in 1779, 1811 & 1965).
1730's	Bleachfield, at edge of River Fleet, first used for bleaching cotton.
1736	First record of a school at Anwoth Clachan. Teacher was Samuel Gordon.
1755	General Roy's map : shows the 'Road from Portpatrick to Dumfries' via Corse of Slakes from Creetown, Glen Bridge, Anwoth Kirk, Woodend, ford over River Fleet, passing the Gaithous in Ann Street, Robber's Gate, Drumwall to Mark near Trostrie and on to Twynholm.
1756	James Murray of Cally sold his Kirkcudbright townhouse 'Broughton House'
1760 ish	King's Head Inn was built - maybe in 1768. (May have been known as the Angel Inn at first, then later became the Murray Arms).
1762	Ardwall House built (probably on larger site of existing building).
1763	Gatehouse : Work started on houses in High Street. Roads : Tarff Bridge to Newton Stewart section of the new Military Road built. From Twynholm via Muiryard, Townhead, Robber's Gate, into Gatehouse, right down new High Street, across Fleet Bridge, then right to Blackloch to join the old route to Anwoth Church, Corse of Slakes and Creetown.
1765	Cally House .
1766	The ruin of Cardoness Castle sold to James Murray of Broughton & Cally.
1768	Brewery Brae tannery leased.
1769	Brewery contract signed.
Late 18 th Century	Lint Mill constructed at Skyreburn. Bobbin Mills constructed e.g. Barlay (burnt down in 1867). Corn Mills e.g. Low Creoch, Fleuchlarg & Barlay (burnt down in 1837).
1772	Skyreburn Bridge built as part of the <i>new coast road</i> .
1780s	Kirkdale House built.
1779 ish	Temple built.
1784	Brewery built.
1785	Upper Birtwhistle Mill built (later became the Bobbin Mill, at that time it was roofless).
1786	Cardoness Chapel rebuilt.
1787	Lade system bringing water from Loch Whinyeon completed. (started in 1785).
1789	McWilliam's Mill built (between the Brewery and Birtwhistle Mills).

Date	Place
1798	First record of a Girthon Parish school - though there was almost certainly one before this date.
1790	Lower Birtwhistle Mill built (now The Mill on the Fleet). Academy Chapel opened for Episcopal worshippers, part of the Parsonage and Academy. (on site of present day Cushat Wood) Closed and demolished c.1820 when Cross Cottage may have been used as a chapel until new chapel built at Cally House in 1837.
1790 ish	Scott's Mill at top of Ann Street first feued (to John McWilliam) in 1794 but the Gatehouse halfpenny, payable at Scott's Mill was dated 1793, so it was probably working before the first feu. Sold in 1812. Became Cally Estate sawmill in 1820s.
1791-2	Moravia built as a Mill for John Papple (now 29 Fleet Street).
1793	Soap works built beside Fleet Bridge.
1793	Fire at Kirkdale House. Later rebuilt.
1793	"Wings" added to Cally House.
1793	47 High Street built as a home for the Birtwhistles - the mill owners.
1794	Ship Inn built.
1794	72 Gatehouse people emigrated to America on 'The Gale'.
1795	Gatehouse became a Burgh of Barony. Gave the town the right to hold elections for a Town Council who could make decisions about the running of the town.
1796	Chapel at Cardoness shore rebuilt by David Maxwell II. Cally Academy opened (C.of E. School at Cushat Wood) – closed in 1820.
1790s	Work started on building houses in Fleet Street.
1797	Bridgend - name for Fleet St, Boatgreen etc (1797 James Murray will).
1797	Skyreburn lint mill closed. Area which is now Garries Park was feued to James Credie as a garden, orchard and nursery.
1799	James Murray of Cally & Broughton died. Cally Estate passed to his son Alexander, age 4.
1800	Original building at Angel Hotel. Re-built by James Wood c.1830 as the Angel Hotel.
1800ish	Scott's cotton mill in Ann Street closed down. Later converted to a saw mill for Messrs. Halliday & Spiers and later still the Cally Estate sawmill.
1805 ish	A Congregational Church operated in Gatehouse until 1836. Meeting place unknown.
1810	Birtwhistle Mills closed.
1812	Cally Boys School opened in Ann Street. Masonic Arms and St Stephen's Masonic Lodge. Neilson Square. McWilliam's Mill was sold to a consortium 'gatehouse Spinning Company'.
1816 ish	Lake School / Lady Anne's School for Girls opened.
1817	Girthon Kirk closed.
1818	Girthon Parish Church opened (date on gable end 1817- maybe built 1817, opened 1818).
1820	Cally Academy closed. (Cushat Wood) Enrick copper mine opened.
1820s	Birtwhistle mills, which had been closed for 20 years, leased by McDavid, McLean & Guthrie. The venture only lasted 10 years. Possible date of Girthon Parish School on Castramont Road. Famine in Ireland. Many of Alexander Murray's tenants on his Irish estate of Killibegs came to Gatehouse looking for work. Cally Lake formed by diverting water from the Bush Moss. Later also water from Enrick Waulk Mill Burn via the Ass House Strand.
1823	The Cut opened. Murray Arms Stables built. Rumour says stones came from demolished Cally Academy. House called Rosebank in Ann Street built - on the old road into Gatehouse via Ann Street (before the Cut opened)
1823 ish	Woodside Toll built to serve both the road into Gatehouse from the east & Lochenbreck Trust road to Laurieston. (Original house may have been 1790).
1824	Fleet Canal opened. Fleetbank built (house in Dromore Road).
1825	Anwoth Kirk closed. Boatgreen leased. Drawbridge opened.

Date	Place
1826	Anwoth Parish Church and new Manse built. Bush O Bield demolished (Old Anwoth Manse).
1830s	Mines : Rusko lead mine. Anwoth Curling Club formed.
1831	Drawbridge : this date is inscribed on the seaward side of the north pier. We believe this may be a recent carving, but questions the accuracy of opening in 1825 as above.
1832	Birtwhistle Cotton Mills re-open, owned by James Davidson & Co. (after being closed for 22 years).
1832 ish	Belvedere Lodge built.
1836	David McAdam given permission to build Port McAdam
1837	Birtwhistle Mills let to James Davidson & Walker ?, cotton spinners. Mills had both spinners and weavers. Episcopalian Chapel added to Cally House.
1838	Boatgreen tannery closed.
1840	The 'Wee Kirk' in Dromore Road opened as the United Secessional Church. In 1845 this church joined with the Relief Church to form the United Presbyterian Church. It is now St Mary's Episcopal church. Upper Birtwhistle Mill destroyed by fire in October.
1840s	Copper mine at King's Laggan. (closed 1850 s).
1842	Rutherford Monument built.
1843	Girthon Curling Club formed.
1844	Upper Birtwhistle Mill back in production.
1845	United Free Church opened (later United Presbyterian Church, then Rutherford Hall). Rutherford Manse built ? Laggan School opened – closed 1872.
1847	Rutherford Monument struck by lightning and destroyed (rebuilt 1851). Gas Works opened in Fleet Street. Western Bank of Scotland opened at 47 High Street.
1850	RC Church at 10 Catherine Street – until 1971. Birtwhistle Cotton Mills closed again.
1850 ish	Lockenbreck Spa opened. Hill Cottage (now Lochlyoch) and Braeside both built on the Cut.
1852	Gas lighting installed in the streets.
1855	Bank of Scotland rented 1 High Street . They later bought the building in 1865.
1857	Library opened (at 65 High Street). Western Bank of Scotland sold to Union Bank of Scotland at 47 High Street.
1859	Bobbin Mill opened (Upper Birtwhistle Mill) by Thomas & William Helme, Dalbeattie timber merchants and bobbin makers . Lower Birtwhistle Mill used as bark mill. Lake School (near Cally Lake) closed – joined with Cally Boys School in Ann St.
1861	Big Water of Fleet Viaduct built.
1861	Railway - the Port Road - opened. Dromore Station.
1862	Quoiting Green at Boatgreen. First bridge over River Fleet at Rusko. Post Office opened at 11 High Street.
1864	New road to Dromore Station opened.
1860s	Boatgreen Tannery closed. Cally Avenue Lodges replaced old lodge.
1866	Bland Female School opened (later became Fleetside School). Was possibly a Free Church School.
1867	House called Ardmor on the Cut built.
1871	Clock Tower built.
1872	Skyreburn School opened on site of old lint & waulk mills.
1872	Laggan School closed. Pupils moved to new Skyreburn School.
1872	Anwoth Parish School at the Clachan closed. Pupils moved to new 'Fleetside School' at Dromore Road, making use of the old 'Bland Female School' building.
1874	Horatio Murray Stewart bought the Brewery.

Date	Place
1877	New Cally Chapel built at Cally House (High Episcopalian) for Cally residents and estate workers.
1877	Well installed in Garries Park.
1879	Anwoth Cottage Hospital opened.
1883	New waterworks opened on Laurieston Road near High Barlay.
1885	Town Hall opened.
1889	Cardoness House extended (work on original house may have begun in 1721).
1892	Fire at Barlay bobbin mill which was owned by the Bertram family.
1895	Jardine & Palmer, drapers High Street, given permission to erect window shades.
1896	Girthon Church Tower and porch added to building.
1900	United Presbyterian Church joined with the Free Church to form the United Free Church of Scotland, using the Free Church building (Rutherford Hall)
1900s	Lower Birtwhistle Mill re-roofed. (upper floor used for indoor bowling).
1901	Emergency wooden hospital built in Standingstone Field, next to Girthon Cemetery to treat a smallpox patient. Demolished soon afterwards.
1904	Horatio Murray Stewart of Cally died. Cally Estate passed to his cousin Col. James W. Baillie of Illston Grange, Leicestershire. Later known as Col. Murray Baillie. Sale of Horatio Murray Baillie's effects - cattle, sheep, carriages and household silver and art works
1904	Cally Boys School & Cally Girls School in Ann Street merged and known as Rusko School. Cally Chapel closed. Used again as a chapel during World War 2 by Cally House School.
1904	Sir William F. Maxwell of Cardoness bought old Cardoness Castle and gifted it to the government (Scottish Heritage).
1905	Cally House let by Col. Murray Baillie who lived at Cushat Wood.
1906	Knockbrex garage built - now Knockbrex Castle. Kirkandrews Chapel built. Both built by James Brown of Knockbrex Estate. Riverside built (house near western end of Fleet Street).
1907	Cricket Ground laid out. Victoria Inn closed (corner of Victoria Street and High Street).
1908	Col. J. Murray Baillie died. Cally Estate inherited by Major (later Colonel) Frederick Murray Baillie. He lived at Illstone Grange, Leicestershire & Cushat Wood. Cally House let.
1908	All Broughton lands sold by Cally Estate.
1909	'Wee Kirk' in Dromore Road became the Episcopal Church after Cally House Chapel closed.
1909	Enrick copper mine re opened. Closed again in 1910.
1910	United Free Church Manse built. Now called 'Rutherford'.
1910	William Crosbie introduced a horse drawn bus service to Kirkcudbright.
1911	Field by Cairnie's Corner became a park - Burgh Park. Also known as the 'Show Ground'. Brewery closed.
1912	Cast iron sewer attached to south side of Fleet Bridge. Part of new sewage scheme with treatment plant by Alder pool. (River Fleet).
1912	Dromore Railway Station renamed Gatehouse Station.
1913	Kirkdale School opened at Carsluith (attended by some children from Anwoth) – closed in 1964.
1913	Gatehouse Gas Company bought by Firth Blakely & Sons. Closed 1920. Electricity installed at Cally House.
1914	Guido Frullani given licence to sell ice cream. Rusko School closed.
1916	Part of Burgh Park given over to allotments as part of the war effort.
1918	Gatehouse gasworks closed
1919	Upper Birtwhistle Mill again destroyed by fire. (4th time it had been on fire)
1920	Upper Birtwhistle Mill – roof lowered & changed from bobbin mill to saw mill.
1921	Gatehouse Golf Course opened. War Memorial unveiled.
1923	St Mary's Episcopal Church joined with Grayfriars Church in Kirkcudbright to share a minister.

Date	Place
1924	Colonel Murray Baillie died. Cally estate inherited by his daughter Elizabeth Murray Baillie. She lived at Cushat Wood. Cally House continued to be let.
1924	Rusko estate bought by Commander Arthur Fitzgerald Cochrane. He built a small hydro-power scheme at Ornochenoch to provide electricity to Rusko House & Pulcree Farm in 1933.
1925	Drumaber built on site of 6 & 8 Garden Street.
1926	Gordon Heron applied to erect a wooden building on stilts in Campbell's Field to sell fish.
1927	Girthon & Anwoth Schools combined as Gatehouse School. New building, which is now the Community Centre, opened August 11th 1927.
1927	Start of strengthening work on Big Water of Fleet Viaduct. Work continued until 1945.
1927	Petrol pumps installed at Murray Arms garage (formerly posting stables), McMurray Bros. in High Street & at Anwoth Hotel. All water pumps in streets removed.
1927	First house built at Boreland Wood by Robert Davidson, fisherman, Lanefoot, Cardoness.
1928	Walker & Co. bobbin makers went bankrupt. A syndicate took over the business in 1929 but it was unsuccessful.
1929	Loch Corbie dammed. Dam burst 1930.
1929	Elizabeth Murray Baillie married Neil Usher in Girthon Church.
1929	The stables at Fleetvale (now Spar) converted to a garage.
1929	Street names and house numbers introduced. McMurray Bros. supplied the name plates.
1930	Dalbeattie Electric Light & Power Company installed a generator in a store at 13 Digby Street to supply the Town Clock, the Town Hall and street lights.
1930-32	Cally House let to Maharaja of Jind.
1930's	Drawbridge closed and also trade at Port Macadam.
1931	Mrs Murray Usher gave land on Castramont Road to built 8 semi detached "corporation" houses - Market Hill.
1931	First female member of the Town Council was elected. Miss Eva Huntley of 1 Catherine Street.
1932	Free Church of Scotland joined with Church of Scotland in 1929, but the union in Gatehouse was delayed until 1932, on the death of Free Church minister Rev McGlashan. Building renamed Rutherford Hall and it became a church hall for Girthon Parish Church.
1932	Cally Estate Office moved from Cally Stables to Ann Street. Telephone kiosk installed by Murray Arms Hotel.
1933	Cally House and policies sold to Forestry Commission. Catherine Street nos. 40 & 42 demolished. Digby Street nos. 12, 14, 16 demolished & 4 council houses built .
1933	Mrs Murray Usher and her husband Neil moved to Castramon House. Bobbin Mill opened as a brush factory.
1934	Cally House opened as Cally Palace Hotel. Catherine Street nos. 8,15,32 & 44 scheduled for demolition. Garden Street nos. 2 & 18 demolished. Two more houses built at Boreland Wood. 30 m.p.h. speed limit introduced in Gatehouse (Road Traffic Act).
1935	Plans submitted for Annfield, house on The Cut (now called Whitefield). Houses built at Drumwall (named Drumwalls) and Windywalls (formerly Upper Drumwall). South mill pond filled in Free Church building became Girthon Church Hall - known as Rutherford Hall. Castle Douglas added to the Gatehouse postal address.
1936	Houses at Back Neilson condemned. Many residents moved to the new Market Hill. Campbell's garage built by Mr Aitken on site of filled in mill pond. Garries Park was created on parts of the Cally Estate known as Academy Land and Cow Park. Fleet Farm lade in-filled at Market Hill. Crosbie's Garage built. Brush Mill in old bobbin mill closed. Electricity came to Gatehouse via pylons over Gatehouse Hill from Galloway Power Scheme.

Date	Place
1937	Compulsory purchase 1,3, 5 & 7 Catherine Street. Territorial Army took over old Girthon School as a Drill Hall. Top floor of lower Birtwhistle mill used by carpet bowling club.
1938	Bobbin Mill closed as a Saw Mill.
1939	Bowling Green opened at its current site (moved from Murray Arms grounds). New entrance to Garries Park & bowling club from Ann Street. 3rd Sept. 1939 World War II declared. Cally House School opened for Glasgow evacuees (in what is now Cally Palace Hotel). School closed 1944.
1940	Slates taken off Rusko Tower to save paying rates. Local Defence Volunteers formed. Later known as Home Guard.
1942-44	Catherine Street nos. 1 - 7 demolished.
1940s	Garden Street Hostel built for agricultural workers. By 1944 used by Women's Land Army. Carrick - first holiday huts built. Saw mill built at Burgh Park (David Gray Ltd.) Field at edge of River Fleet, owned by St Mary's Episcopal Church, let and developed as a garden by owners of Ship Inn.
1944	Cally House School closed.
1945	Cally Palace Hotel reopened.
1945 ish	Kedah built. Now named Clermiston (next to Murray Arms Hotel).
1947	New classes added at Gatehouse School (pre-fabricated huts + dining room).
1948	8 Memory Lane houses built + those at corner of Catherine Street [preformed Cruden houses] as council houses. Seats placed at War Memorial instead of memorial garden.
1949 ish	Riverbank first houses built (56 built in total).
1950	Youth Hostel built (became a house 'Bleachfield' in 1970).
1950s	Football pavilion erected behind Angel Hotel (old Kirkcudbright Academy classroom).
1951	Riverbank - top end built. 4 houses at Market Hill. 4 more houses at Riverbank (Dromore Road side).
1951	A piggery built on site of Back Neilson. Belonged to P.H. Thomas, Fleet Farm.
1952	Planetree Park built - now Gatehouse Manse. Was first house on the hill built for Dr Christie (home + surgery).
1954	Cally Chapel wing converted into small bedrooms. The wing was demolished in 1990.
1955	Cally - glazed dining room & lift tower added.
1956	Mrs Murray Usher bought Murray Arms.
1957	Scout Hall in Digby Street opened.
1958	Drill Hall closed.
1958	4 poultry houses built on site of Gray's Sawmill at Burgh Park.
1959 - 60	Cardoness House reduced in size to approximate size it was in 1721.
1960	TV relay aerial on Gatehouse Hill installed to improve TV signal.
1961	PO moved to 61 High Street.
1962	Bank of Scotland branch closed (ex Union Bank, now Bank O Fleet). Laurieston Road houses – first planning applications submitted.
1963	Skyreburn School closed – pupils moved to Gatehouse School.
1964	Gatehouse Secondary School opened - now Gatehouse Primary School. Old Fleetside School buildings, huts and dining room demolished.
1965	Fleet Bridge widened to include footpaths on either side.
1965	Planned visit of H.R.H. Elizabeth II & Duke of Edinburgh cancelled as Queen was ill. The Duke of Edinburgh drove through Gatehouse.
1966	Baker's Dozen & Ramsay Wood houses approved.
1967	Riverbank - 5 single storey <i>old people's</i> houses. New Doctor's Surgery in Garden Street. Rebuilt in 2008.
1967	Dumfries & Galloway Tourist Association opened an office in Gatehouse beside the Posting Stables.
1968	Anwoth Manse burned down. Rebuilt in 1970.
1968	Railway lines lifted on 'Port Road'.

Date	Place
1968	Cobbled pavements in Catherine Street replaced.
1968	8 houses built on Market Hill - Market Hill Terrace.
1969	Murray Forestry Information Centre and carpark opened in Cally Woods. In 2019 hut moved to Mill on the Fleet to be used as the Men's Shed.
1970	New sewage works opened on Cally side of River Fleet.
1970	Petition for a Gatehouse bypass.
1970	Planetree Park bought as manse for Anwoth Church. Half the garden sold to Dr McCreath for his new house. (Southerton)
1970	House called Hillfoot built on the Cut.
1971	Church of the Resurrection (RC) opened. Town Car Park created.
1972	Mansewood development built.
1972	Town Hall closed to public as it was unsafe. Plans for a new hall had been abandoned.
1973	Mrs Murray Usher became Honorary Burgess of the Burgh of Gatehouse of Fleet.
1974	Gatehouse Waterworks closed. Water now supplied by S.W. of Scotland Water Board.
1974	Town carpark and toilets built in Campbell's Field on Brewery Brae. New Tourist Information centre in carpark.
1975	30th April 1975 - last Town Council meeting. Replaced by Community Council.
1975	Girthon & Anwoth Parish Churches unite to become Anwoth & Girthon Church. Bakers at 44 High St. closed (Kean's). Cally Hotel - west wing extension added to provide more bedrooms. (Forest Wing) Fleetwood House built in Boreland Wood development.
1977	Mains gas came to Gatehouse. Old part of Gatehouse given Conservation Status.
1975 - 79	Rusco Tower renovated to dwellinghouse.
1978	Fire Station built in Dromore Road. Fleetside houses started.
1979	Sheltered housing built in garden of Woodlyn. (Birtwhistle Gardens)
1981	Girthon Parish Church Hall built. Gatehouse Secondary School closed and building used as Primary School.
1984	Housing development started at Boghall Wood (now called Bracken Wood). Work began on the bypass on 26 th April 1984. Old primary school building became Community Centre.
1985 ish	Fleet Farm closed.
1986	Gatehouse bypass opened. Houses built at old Girthon School / Drill Hall site. Called Carnies' Corner. Council depot 9 Digby Street converted into flats. Pennywell extended.
1988	Little Water of Fleet Viaduct demolished.
1990	Cally Chapel demolished. Upstairs hall at the Masonic Arms converted into a flat.
1990	Mrs Elizabeth Murray Usher died. Burgher Park at Riverbank created in her memory.
1991	Forestry Commission Nursery closed. Now part of Cally Golf Course.
1991	Lower Birtwhistle Mill renovated as The Mill on the Fleet. Fleet Valley designated National Scenic Area. (Stewartry Local Plan)
1992	Campbell's Garage closed (Fleet Street).
1994	Angel Hotel closed.
1995	Bicentennial Bridge built. (1795 - 1995) Town Hall garden opened.
2000	Millennium Memorial, Boreland Hills.
2003	Post Office moved to Fleetvale.
2005	Riverside Walk opened (Port McAdam to Drawbridge). Anwoth & Girthon Church changed title to Gatehouse Parish Church.
2014	Post Office moved to 52 High Street.
2016	Roman Catholic Church closed for regular services. Later demolished.