

A Guided Pictorial Walk Through Old Blairlogie

Places which can be seen on the walk



Introduction

If you are intending to visit Blairlogie and having a wee walk through it, it may be beneficial to take this guide with you. The names of the houses on the photograph above may prove beneficial when walking through the village.

Those who find crossing a stile or traversing a rough path difficult may prefer to walk out of the car park; turn right; walk along to the entrance to the village and turn right into it. Walk up to the square and turn right and follow the East Lane to the iron gate and start the tour from there. In this case please go to serial N^o 5 of this guide.



The Walking Guide

1. Park your car in the Blairlogie Car Park.

- a. Before starting the walk it is worthwhile having a look around. You are now standing in the old Orchard. There used to be a terraced dwelling here that has been demolished. Prior to its demolition, the cottages had received strikes from falling rocks which caused damage to the buildings.



© Blairlogie Archives

View of Orchard

- b. If you look East you may see Blairlogie Park, built between 1865 and 1866. It used to be two dwellings with different families staying in the front and back of the house. The Sharpe family lived in Blairlogie Park and in Orchard Cottages around the time of World War 1 and their story can be found in the “People of Blairlogie” section of the website.

2. Take the path at the back of the car park to the style and climb over it to the footpath.

- a. There is a dog access point to the immediate left of the style.
- b. On crossing the style you are on the footpath, but not just any footpath. You have now entered history as you are standing on the old “King’s Highway” from Stirling to Menstrie. Robert Burns passed along this highway on 27th August 1787 on his way from Stirling to Harviestoun, near Dollar.



© Blairlogie Archives

Path to King’s Highway

- c. The old Highway was in operation until a new turnpike road (now the A91) was built in 1806 when technology became available to drain the Kerse.

3. Turn left for Blairlogie and walk along the path towards Blairlogie.

- a. As you walk along it is worth noting the dry-stone dyke on your left. Much of it has now fallen down, but this wall lined much of the old King’s Highway.
- b. Watch out for brambles and nettles which can cut and sting you as you walk along. In the autumn, please feel free to enjoy a wee munch at the brambles but beware of the sloes on the blackthorn bushes.



© Blairlogie Archives

King’s Highway to Blairlogie

4. The first house that you will come to is the back of “Fenham”, (for more details see website Buildings of Blairlogie).

- a. This building was originally called Boghead of Blairlogie and it was only in the 1980s that it was renovated and expanded and its name was altered to Fenham.
- b. The front of the house is facing the A91 and is most attractive but not easily seen from the road.



© Blairlogie Archives
Fenham (rear view)

5. Continue past the back of Fenham until you come to a metal gate. To the left of the gate is a sheep gate which is easier to traverse.

- a. The large gate is still used by horse riders and the shepherd who delivers fodder to the sheep in the fields further on.
- b. For the more adventurous there is a path up Dumyat to the right of the gate. A guide will be prepared covering this route at a later date.



© Blairlogie Archives
Gates to Blairlogie

6. The first house on the left is called Telford House and it was built circa 1870.

- a. The Telfords were founding members of Stirling's first private bank, “The Stirling Banking Company” which sadly went bankrupt in 1826.
- b. The Telford family was very prominent in the district for quite a number of years. They were first recorded in Blairlogie in 1708 when John Telfoord married Isobell Monteith. Note that in those days spelling of names varied quite a bit.
- c. Along the wall line of Telford house can be seen an 18th century drain.



© Blairlogie Archives
Telford House

7. Easter Cottage can be seen to your right slightly up the lane.

- a. In the room to the left of the entrance to the cottage, in times past the old lady who lived in the cottage used to sell sweets etc. to village children and walkers.



© Blairlogie Archives **Easter Cottage**

8. Before you reach the cottage, look up the hill to your right and you will see the newest building in the old village.

- a. This house is called Underhill but in the past it was called "The Chalet".
- b. It started life in the early 1960s as a wooden shed in the grounds of Montana Cottage and went through a number of extensions and expansions to become a dwelling house.
- c. If you look high up on the hill you may be lucky enough to see the Common Buzzards circling in the heights of Dumyat.



9. The next building on the right is called the Reading Room.

- a. The Reading Room used to be three separate cottages with tenants prior to it being donated to the village as a reading room.
- b. There is speculation, on the basis of a passing reference in a newspaper article, that Lt. Col. Hare dedicated the building to community use, and became effective patron of the Blairlogie Reading and Recreation Room at the time of the Boer War (1899 -1902) and that this might therefore be the date of the start of its official existence as the village hall.
- c. Numerous village activities take place here, such as the annual Hogmanay Party, Art Exhibitions, film nights, talks etc.
- d. Anyone wishing to hire the village Hall may do so. Drop us a line via the website.



10. The next building, connected to the Reading Room is Crowsteps.

- a. If you stand back from this building and look up at the gable end of the building, you will see that it has a series of steps built into the roof line. Hence the name Crowsteps.
- b. Crowsteps also boasts one of the two village time pieces and on a sunny day you can check your watch against the sundial. Please remember to take into account British Summer Time when checking the time.
- c. If you examine the roof of the building you will see that it is covered in Scots slate rather than the red pantiles of the Reading Room. The roof was originally thatched, then for many decades it was corrugated iron before being retiled in 1971.
- d. Crowsteps houses the kitchen and conference room of the Reading Room.



- e. At one time there was a family in the upper section of Crowsteps and another in the lower.

11. The building on the left is called Blair House and is reputed to be the oldest house in the village.

- a. Blair House dates from 1721 and there is evidence that it was used as a posting house for the change of horses for the stagecoaches that travelled along the old "King's Highway" during the 18th Century.
- b. Signs of renovation work can still be seen in the inscription "1765" cut into the stone lintel beam above the porch area at the back door.



12. The last house in East Loan is on the right and it is called Hillside.

- a. Don't be surprised if you see an apparent ghost walking from one of the cottages through stone walls into the next cottage. It was originally two separate houses but in the mid 1970s they were converted into a single dwelling.
- b. At various times there is evidence that **two** families lived in **each** cottage.
- c. If you stand in the village square and look at the roof of the cottages you will see that they are made from red pantiles with Scots slate at the bottom. The pantiles were imported into Scotland when ships were returning after selling their wares in Spain or Holland and the pantiles acted as ballast and were sellable. The slates at the bottom of the pantiles are to slow the water flow; otherwise it would fly over the gutters and soak anyone passing by.



13. By now you should be standing in the village square. There used to be a ford across the burn before the culvert was constructed to take the burn under the roadway here.

14. The house at the top of the square is called Montana.

- a. Montana cottage was built in 1765. This was cut on the date stone along with the initials J A and I T.
- b. Montana derives its name from the Montana Clematis which grows around the window to the left of the front door.
- c. Blairlogie's second sundial is to right of the central window.
- d. It is worth noting the Italianate pilastered door piece and the unusual oriel window.
- e. The other interesting feature of Montana is the



overhanging pantile roof, unlike the rest of the houses in Blairlogie.

15. To the left of Montana is the entrance driveway to Blairlogie Castle. This is a private road and the castle is a private home to the family who live there.

16. Garage to the right of Montana.

- a. The pan-tiled garage to the right of Montana has not always been a garage. In the deeds to Hillside Cottage it is listed as a Brew house. This would have been to make low alcohol beer for the village, as water was not always safe to drink.
- b. When the village was a fashionable spa, in the 18th and 19th centuries, the garage was used for the milking of goats. The goats were kept on Goats' Green, which was immediately behind Montana.



17. Opposite the garage is Ivy Cottage

- a. Ivy Cottage is a single storey cottage and was the gardener's cottage for Blairlogie Castle.
- b. Up until recently Ivy Cottage got its water from the hillside which is reputed to have helped the villagers to live to ripe old ages.



18. The tour now takes you down West Loan past the gable end of Croft House and Ivy cottage.

- a. This lane gives a good impression of the what the old King's Highway would have looked like

19. After passing Croft House on your left, have a wee peek over the fence and admire the wonderful garden. This is one of the nicest gardens in the village. Every couple of years the village has an open garden day and Croft House garden is one of the main features of this event.



20. Slightly further on, on the right is The Croft.

- a. The Croft has had a number of extensions and alterations over the years, yet it still manages to retain the feel of times past.
- b. Prior to being called The Croft, its name was New Orchard Cottage as it faced onto the new orchard.
- c. The father of the Sharpe brothers passed away in The Croft on 25th January 1942.



21. As you walk down the lane, look to your left and admire the New Orchard.

22. Walking further down the lane, have look at the muckle great stones in the wall on the right.

- a. Consider the effort that had to be put in to dig the stones from Dumyat, transport them to the wall and then lift them into place.



© Blairlogie Archives **New Orchard**

23. Slightly further on you will see a small lane on your left, have a look down the lane and admire the wee castle at the bottom of the garden. It is actually a folly which was probably built in the 19th century.



© Blairlogie Archives
Wee Castle

24. The next building is Blairlogie Cottage.

- a. Blairlogie Cottage is the original 1772 name of the house, it has also been briefly called “Edenville” and “Clovenstones”.
- b. In 1911 James Jamieson, an early photographer with a business in Leith was living in Blairlogie Cottage.
- c. Note the line of boulders along the back of the house. These were common in roadside houses, to protect the building from damage by wheels of carts and wagons.



© Blairlogie Archives
Blairlogie Cottage

25. The last cottage in the lane is Watergate.

- a. This cottage was built in 1979 as an extension to Blairlogie Cottage and it is now rented out as self-catering accommodation.
- b. The unusual hexagon shape with Scots tiled roof blends well with the village and the extension has been built with integrity.
- c. Right next to the cottage is the well that once served the occupants. The well is rather overgrown but still a very nice feature.



© Blairlogie Archives
Watergate

26. Walk down to the gate and look over and admire the well and the fields beyond.

- a. No matter what time of year it is, this field is always a wonderful sight to see.
- b. In the spring, lambs can be seen gambolling in the fields; in the winter, when snow has fallen the fields look wonderful with a white blanket covering them.



© Blairlogie Archives
Field beyond Watergate

27. Retrace your steps to the village square and turn right.

28. The house on the right is Croft House.

- a. The earliest record of the land ownership of the site of Croft House is in 1772, when Robert Reid purchased, under feu, a piece of land "with half the houses thereon", which is now the site of Rowanbank.
- b. If you look in the front garden you will see a stone horse trough.



© Blairlogie Archives **Croft House**

29. Facing Croft House is Blair House, the rear of which you passed as you walked along East Loan.

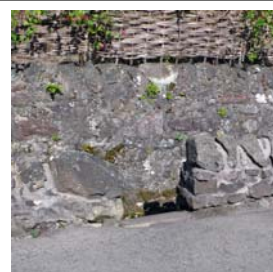
- a. It is worth noting the wee bridge that crosses over the culvert to give access to Blair House.
- b. Up until the early 1970s there was a building to the right of the bridge as you entered the garden. It was built of Belgium brick, with a square pyramid pointed roof. Sadly this had fallen into disrepair and was taken down.



© Blairlogie Archives **Blair House**

30. You will have noticed the Culvert as you crossed the square and walked down the present path.

- a. The culvert or the burn that it holds is one of the main reasons that Blairlogie was built. In the 1760s, you could not build a village without a water supply and the burn supplied that need. The steps illustrated to the right allowed access to gather water.
- b. Prior to the culvert being built, the burn ran across the square, with a ford where the road crossed it.



© Blairlogie Archives
Culvert Steps



© Blairlogie Archives
Culvert Steps

31. The cottage behind the ivy covered wall to the right is called Rowanbank N^o 1 and behind it lies its twin, Rowanbank N^o 2.

- a. When Rowanbank was originally built it was a single storey building and it was only later on that it was converted into two storeys.
- b. There have been other extensions to the building over the years and it now boasts an additional lounge and atrium.



32. As you walk down the road, the next house that you come to is Ivydene on the right.

- a. Ivydene dates from 1762.
- b. The 1871 Census Records show Mary Barrie Bain occupying Ivydean. At that time it was designated as a lodging house. Note the different spelling of Ivydene, this occurred numerous times over the years.
- c. The house has been divided horizontally with one family on the top floor and another on the bottom.
- d. This imposing building was more imposing in the early 1900s when the upper apartments had an oriole window on the south gable end.



33. Burnside cottage is the next cottage on the right hand side as you walk down the lane which used to be called Kirk Green Road.

- a. Burnside cottage is now part of Kirklea but in the past it housed its own families.



34. The next building that you see is Blairlogie Kirk and it is facing you.

- a. The original church was sadly burnt down in 1846 and the foundation stone for the present building was laid in the same year.
- b. The filled in doorway halfway up the wall once had a wooden stair which led to the balcony.
- c. Due to low attendance the church was deconsecrated and sold with planning permission to turn it into a home. Unfortunately the church is still for sale.

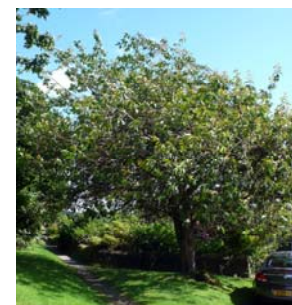


35. Prior to reaching the church you will see to the left the Coronation tree which was planted in 1953.

- a. Mrs Henderson, who was the oldest resident in the village and was living in Burnside Cottage was given the honour of planting the Coronation tree to celebrate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II in 1953.
- b. The tree looks wonderful in spring when it is in full blossom.



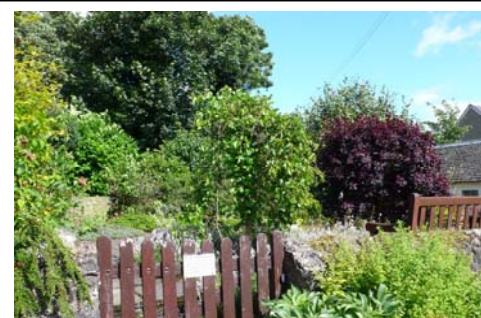
© Blairlogie Archives
Coronation Plaque



© Blairlogie Archives
Coronation Tree

36. Just after the Coronation tree you will find the village garden.

- a. The village garden is an open garden and all are invited to enter and enjoy the sights and scents.
- b. The garden was originally part of Burnside Cottage until Moultrie Kelsall purchased both and allowed all access to the garden.
- c. In the garden you will find two plaques; the one on the bird bath is in remembrance of Marie Holt of Rowanbank. The other plaque is at the foot of the mulberry tree which was planted to mark the millennium.



© Blairlogie Archives **Village Garden**

37. After enjoying the garden continue to follow the road; the lovely cottage on the right is Kirklea.

- a. Kirklea's garden contains the remains of Victoria Terrace, which was a series of cottages in the same line as Kirklea. Sadly these all fell into disrepair and had to be pulled down.
- b. It is worth noting the two horse drinking troughs on either side of Kirklea's front door.
- c. In 1880, the Glasgow Herald reported the terrible death of Mary Hodge, who was burned to death in her home in Green Row. The gruesome report included the comment that her arms and legs were almost completely consumed by the fire.
- d. The arches at the front of the house come from a farm ruin beside the old Tullibody brig.



© Blairlogie Archives **Kirklea**

38. The rear of the building to your left is the Manse which was attached to Blairlogie Church.

- a. The Manse was rebuilt in 1865.
- b. The Archives has many photographs of the occupants of the Manse from the early 1900s onwards.



© Blairlogie Archives **Manse**

39. As you walk round the corner, heading to the main road, look over the wall on the right to view the village swing park.

- a. The swing park has been the centre of the village for the children who stay in the village and those on holiday in the nearby caravan park.
- b. It is worth looking at the Elizabeth the 2nd red post box on the corner. The villagers make a point of sending their letters from there to ensure that it continues in use.



40. Walk to the crossroads and turn left heading back towards the car park.

41. The single storey cottage across the road is the old Post Office and Store, now called Blairmains Cottages.

- a. Maps as far back as 1841 show the right hand cottage as the old village post office and it was in use until around 1881.
- b. The two cottages now form part of a single home.



42. Walk along the pavement and after passing the front of the Manse, you will come to Blairlogie Kirk.

- a. The Kirk is of plain design with three gothic windows and a bellcote.
- b. The Morning Post in London reported on 8th January 1846 the following:
"On the Sabbath last all that was combustible in the Relief Church at Blairlogie under the pastoral charge of the Reverend Mr Anderson was consumed or destroyed by fire with the exception of the pulpit bible. The fire began at the roof, and was caused it is said by overheating an ill constructed stove." As has been mentioned earlier, it was not long before a new kirk was raised for their worship.
- c. An interesting feature which is not readily seen is on the West gable end of the kirk where the original plaque from the first place of worship in Blairlogie is mounted. The first meeting Howse was built at the congregation's expense when they dissented from the Church of Scotland in 1761.



43. Walk along the pavement past the kirk and the next house that you come to is Struan.

- a. Struan is another lovely cottage and has a row of concentric gothic windows fronting its dormer.



© Blairlogie Archives

Struan

44. After Struan is a small cottage called Ochil Neuk.

- a. Ochil Neuk is one of the quaintest cottages in the village and has excellent detailing around the front door and roofline.
- b. It served at one time as the home of the coachman for Blairlogie Castle and was extended in the 1970s.



© Blairlogie Archives

Ochil Neuk

45. Adjacent to Ochil View is Nethercraig.

- a. Nethercraig has had a very varied history. From about 1881 it was the village Post Office and store and as such was the centre of the village as far as news and gossip was concerned.
- b. On Friday 13th May 1994 Puddleducks as it was called then opened up as a tea room and was most popular until 2005 when the owners sold up and moved away. The new owners kept up the tradition of the premises being used as a place of business and in the Autumn of 2008 "Inside Out" opened for business.



© Blairlogie Archives

Nethercraig

46. Walking further along you come to the last building in old Blairlogie and that is Fenham, the back of which you passed at the beginning of your guided tour.

- a. Fenham is too far back from the road to be seen easily, especially in summer when the greenery obscures any chance of a view of the lovely house.

47. A last short walk takes you back to the car park and possibly a short drive to the Coffee Bothy for a cup of tea and a scone.

- a. To get to the Coffee Bothy, turn right when you leave the car park and then left when you reach the crossroads at the entrance to the village and you cannot miss the Coffee Bothy just up the Manor Loan a wee bit.

The Archives group hope that you have found the walk informative and fun and we would be delighted to receive any suggestions on how to improve it. You can contact us at the contact page on the website: www.blairlogie-scotland.org