

Semple Stories, Lochwinnoch's Glories

Walk 2 – The New Town

Castle Semple, Harvey Terrace, Church Street, High Street, Auld Simon,
St Winnoc Road, Castle Semple

Harvey Terrace

- Welcome to the 'New Town' of Lochwinnoch (1)
- Originally called New Road.
- 6 houses built here for railway workers – been demolished now.
- There used to be terrace houses like on St Winnoc Road but they were condemned and pulled down. (2)
- Station Masters House/Red House. (3)

Harvey Terr/Gates Road (1)



Harvey Square

- War Memorial for WW1 – 1 name recently added due to local research. (4)
- The 2 houses flanking the Terrace – ‘Novar’ and ‘Ardmannoch’ built mid 1800s and early 1800s respectively. Ardmannoch was bought by Glasgow and South Western Railway for their senior manager who was based in Glasgow.
- Struthers main building used to be the old village school. Of course, Struthers was pulled down October/November 2019. (5)

Church Street

- United Free Church, manse, hall and Ladeside House (6)
 - Church and hall built 1792
 - Manse built 1825
 - Ladeside House built early 1800s
- Parish Church and Hall built 1806-1808. (7)
 - House to rear added 1901
 - Closed down April 2020
- Many of the buildings in the street built 1800s

Lochhead Avenue

- This area as it is today is too new to comment on but, there used to be a lot going on here. (8)
- The road itself is approximately where a lane called 'Rope Works' used to run which later gave way to the railway embankment. (8)
- Site of Cabinet makers workshop/factory behind the Kirk. Also known as Lochhead Cooperage. (9)
- As you walk up the lane towards Church Street, the former site of the Free Church/West Church is where the path kinks slightly and over to the back walls of the gardens. The bare ground behind the Parish Church was where the Lochhead cabinet works were. (10)

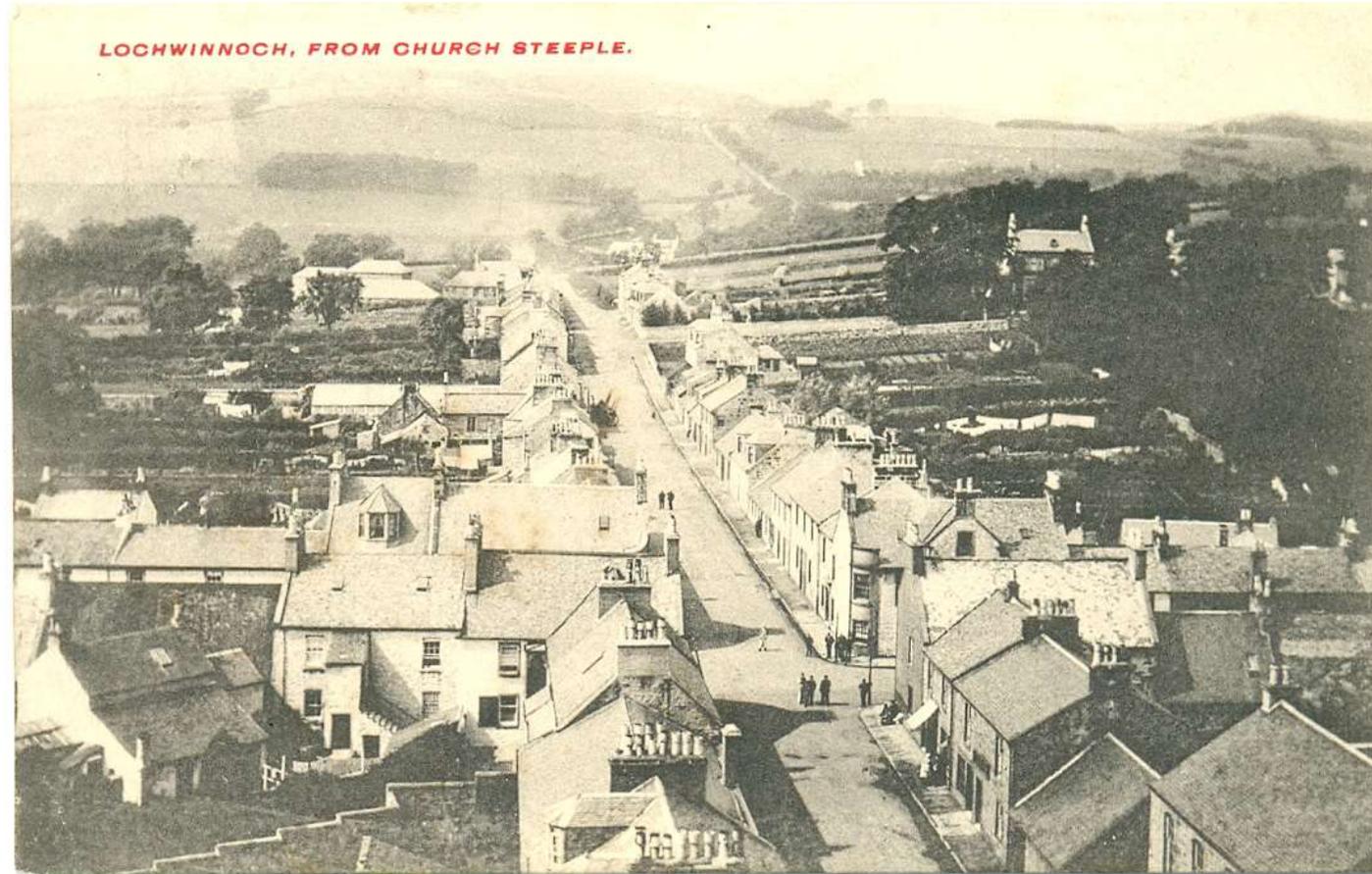
Church Street, again

- The telephone box is on the Buildings at Risk Register – standard K6 telephone kiosk designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, 1935. (11)
- Former court house and police station, on right hand side of the road, with beautiful arching windows. Late 1800s. Court house on left with two doors, police station on right. These buildings appear on 1895 map, but not on the earlier 1856 map. (12)
- The ‘Three Churches’ pub was named for the churches which once stood on Church Street. (13)

High Street

- The full street used to be Main Street – mid to late 1800 – and then became High Street – late 1800 to early 1900 – then High Street East and West and then High Street seems to come into use 1944ish for the portion of the road from the Catholic church to Johnshill.
- No.1 High Street – the former Bank of Scotland. (14)
- Library is former primary school, built by Colonel D.H. McDowall, in a time when the parishes themselves were responsible for providing schools. Externally, this building is little altered from its original, 1857, design. In 1872, the Education (Scotland) Act made 5-13 education compulsory. (15)
- Masonic Lodge used to be the meeting hall for the Liberal Society. (16)

(14)



Looking up to Johnshill

- You are now on the very edge of the original settlement of Lochwinnoch. (17)
- Johnshill - area around the church is the original 'Auldtoun' of Lochwinnoch. It was only a small hamlet until McDowall started building the 'New Town' of the High Street/Main Street to accommodate workers for the factory he had a share in. (18)
- Dated 1729 on lintel, Old Simon - Originally St Winnock's Church, until the reformation, then became St. John's Kirk. The good and the great of Lochwinnoch are buried here, no riff-raff. Parish Church built in 1808 and likely when the Kirk was knocked down but gable end left standing due to protests around the clock – most people didn't have a wrist watch at this time. (19)
- The original clock face and workings are maintained by volunteers and you can have a look around on 'Doors Open' day.

St Winnoc Road/Factory Street or Close

- The factory did not last long and it may have a glue factory which is why the Corner Bar is also known as the Glue Pot. It stood on the left-hand side of the road where the two bungalows are. (20)
- The Corner Bar has been on maps since the mid-1800s but is not marked as a public house. It may have been but just isn't noted as a pub.
- Gates Road is the original and main entrance to the Castle Semple Estate. The gates and gatehouses are still standing and are private houses. (21)
- The railway through the village was in fact the newer of the two – 'Lochside', now Lochwinnoch station is the original railway. 1840, the first train ran through the village and the last 1966. There were 'subway' passages on either side to access the platforms. These were later called the 'Subway Bar' by local youth for their evening socialising. (22)
- Photograph(23)

(23)



THE LOCH, LOCHWINNOCH.