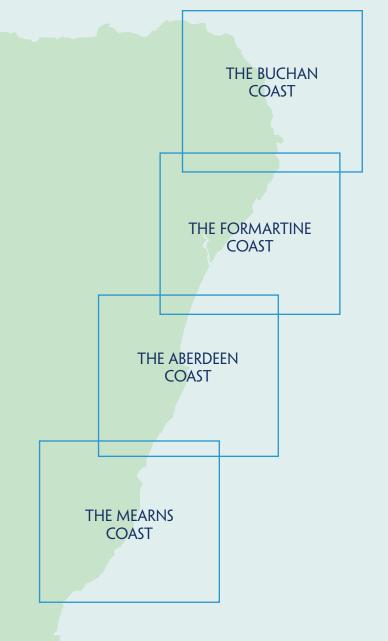


THE DISCOVER MAPS SERIES



Through our Discover maps project, we are creating a new and unique series of 4 maps covering the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire coast. These maps will contain a wealth of interesting information about the coast; including the people, history, environment and activities that make the North East of Scotland special.

We are looking to include memories and short stories of residents and visitors who have spent time in the area.

- Do you have memories of a favourite place?
- Have you seen anything special, interesting or just the mundane, but is an important memory to you?
- Have you worked on or around the coast or even just remember
- some favourite holidays or pastimes?
- Do you know of any tall stories that might be true or just legends that continue to grow?
- If so, we would love to capture some of your thoughts for posterity on our maps. We hope this project will continue to grow and become a

social story of the area and its people. Any information provided will be anonymised and may be edited by EGCP. Thank you in advance for helping us create these truly original

People & Culture

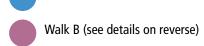
Nature & Environment

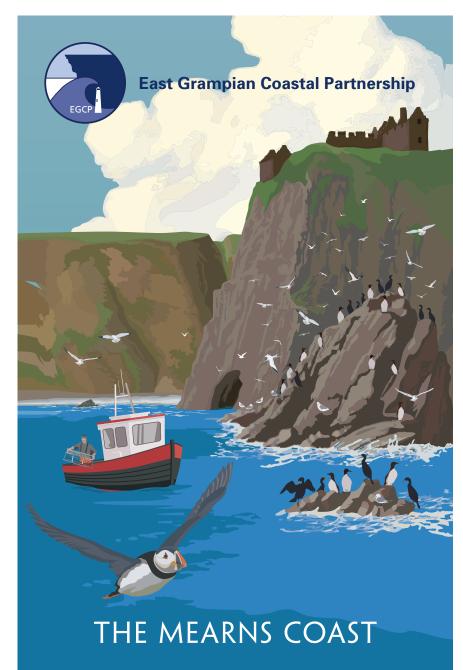
Memories

Golf Cource

Outdoor Garden

Walk A (see details on reverse)





Map design © 2021 East Grampian Coastal Partnership

Kincardineshire's history is full of rebellious folk from Finella, the Pictish assassin and David Barclay, who murdered the local sheriff by boiling him alive in a cauldron on Garvock Hill, to the hardy fisherfolk who risked their lives daily to reap the harvest of the sea. Mearns' author Lewis Grassic Gibbon described his fellow countrymen as "the last of the old Scots folk".

Today the Mearns coast features artists, fishermen, holiday homes, great walks, and awe-inspiring scenery. Stonehaven, famous for Dunnottar Castle, is also the home of the infamous deep-fried Mars Bar, while St Cyrus Nature Reserve features some of the most unique flora and fauna in Scotland. In between are the fishing villages of Catterline, Gourdon, Johnshaven, still working away and presenting their seafood to the public at their pubs, fishmongers and the most recent addition, a "lobster shop". Turn off at Stonehaven and follow the A92 to discover these hidden gems.

The Mearns

520 - 400

1315

c.1421

million years BC Mid Ordovician to Mid Devonian periods, the Highland Boundary Fault is formed, marking the geological border between the Grampian Highlands and the Central Lowlands. Lady Finella, daughter of the Mormaer of Kincardine, kills

Kinneff Church consecrated by David de Bernham, Bishop of

remembered in Den Finella near Lauriston Castle.

Kenneth II, King of Alba, after he has her son executed. She is

First written record of Gourdon fishing village, originally known as Gurdon, and still pronounced this way by locals

David/George Barclay, Laird of Mathers, and fellow conspirators boil Sheriff Melville to death on the Gavrock Hill.

onwards - Johnshaven developed as a fishing town. Removal of the Scottish Crown Jewels from Dunnottar Castle

to Kinneff Kirk by Christian Fletcher.

Parliamentary constituency of Kincardineshire established

1716 - 14 February, James Stuart "the Old Pretender" visits Hercules Scott of Brotherton before leaving Scotland for the last time, staying in a family property in Montrose.

Robert Scott of Dunninald, MP for Forfarshire, erects a huge lime-kiln at Miltonhaven as a commercial enterprise producing fertiliser for local farms.

> Robert Scott (above) yields the first turnip crop for cattle feed. He was a keen breeder of "Angus Doddies", a forerunner of

the Aberdeen Angus cattle breed.

Meal Riot at Inverbervie; after a poor grain harvest, word got out that local merchant, Robert Napier was sending a cargo of grain to Bo'ness. Fifteen women from Johnshaven, Bervie and Gourdon commandeered the ship which Napier had hired. When Napier arrived with his grain, they threw stones at him and the carters, ultimately forcing the ship's captain to go back to Johnshaven harbour after a day-long stand-off. Two of

Fishing village of Miltonhaven progressively washed away by sea surges.

the women were jailed and then banished for life.

workings, employing 40 men, also built a new pier at

George Brand of Lauriston takes over East Mathers lime-

Thomas Telford. Known as the "Old" or "West" harbour, it was expanded in 1842, and refurbished in 1960, still providing berths for local inshore boats

Gourdon's new harbour built, designed by Scottish engineer,

Montrose to Inverbervie Branch Railway authorised. Running for 12 miles, the single-track branch connecting Montrose and

North Water Viaduct completed. A major feat of engineering consisting of 12 rubble-built arches carrying the railway to Montrose over the North Esk River near Kinnaber. The

viaduct also marks the border between Kincardine and Angus

counties. On 1 November the Montrose to Inverbervie Railway

Brotherton Castle near Johnshaven was rebuilt in Scots Baronial stvle.

runs its first passenger train.

Mearns to Inverbervie Railway absorbed into the North British

1920 - 21

1976

2003

The Maggie Law lifeboat of Gourdon; built by James Mowatt,

cousin of author, Robert Louis Stevenson. It was powered by paraffin lamp and a clockwork mechanism for 76 years before

Todhead Lighthouse built by engineer, David A. Stevenson,

December, Johnshaven Lifeboat Disaster; the James Marsh was overwhelmed by seawater during rescue of Danish

schooner, Fredensborg, taking the lives of local brothers, John

and James McBay, and two of the Danish seamen.

Stonehaven open air pool opened to the public. It was built to competition standard, being 55 yards long. The pool to this day still contains filtered, heated seawater which takes two and three quarter hours to fill. The pool is now run by a local

community enterprise. Anna Katherine Scott, last occupant of Brotherton Castle dies aged 80 leaving the estate to her niece.

Charles Alexander, who purchased Brotherton from Miss

Stonehaven Folk Festival established.

is an ancestor of the millipede.

division of Grampian into unitary authorities.

Scott's niece, sold the castle to the governors of Lathallan School, Fife, which had been destroyed by fire. Glasgow-based artist, Joan Eardley visits Catterline for the

first time and falls in love with the Mearns coast. Local art teacher, Annette Stephen helped her to buy the Watchie; an old coastal watchhouse as her studio.

2.1miles of coast below St Cyrus designated a National

Kincardineshire is absorbed into Aberdeenshire during the

Pneumodesmus newmani, one of the oldest air-breathing

Todhead Lighthouse decommissioned and sold privately.

fossils in the world was discovered at Cowie Harbour, by Mike

Newman an amateur fossil-hunter and local bus driver. This

myriapod was one of the oldest creatures to live on land and

23 May, Montrose to Inverbervie railway line closed. 1.1 mile stretch of coastal rocks at Fowlsheugh was Gourdon and finally Bervie. designated by the RSPB as a nature reserve for sea birds including guillemots, puffins, kittiwakes.

> all her staff were awaiting her. 3 trains on weekdays rendering the line commercially unviable. It limped on until the passenger

service was cut in 1951. The last steam engine completed the journey on 23 May 1966.



Walk A



Pass through the car park and public toilets (last chance for quite a while) to reach the harbour. Turn right and proceed past the large sandstone building, which is the old Tolbooth, constructed in the late 16th century, by the Earl Marischal Keith as a store, but later elevated in 1600 to the courthouse, and gaol, serving that purpose until 1767. Today it is a popular museum with a myriad of local

Visible from the harbour is the Clocktower, This was originally built in 1790 but extended to its current size in 1894. It was a useful addition to the town with a large barometer helping the fishermen predict the weather and avoid going to sea in major storms. It was installed four years after a surprise storm sank eight Stonehaven boats costing nineteen lives. Entry to the tower is free.

At the top of the path you get a great view over the harbour with boats, paddleboarders and swimmers to be seen all year round. At the other end of the bay you can see Garron Point where the Highland Boundary Fault enters the sea. having traversed Scotland all the way from Arran on the west coast. This volcanic fault — formed between 520 and 400 million years ago, marks the geological border of the Highlands and owlands. To the north, the 'Dalradian' rocks of granite, and to the south, the Old Red Sandstone which reaches down into Angus. Most of the buildings in the Mearns are built from it, in stark contrast to Aberdeen's hard, silvery granit which sparkles with mica.



It is worth the short detour to visit the memorial, originally built to commemorate those who served in the First World War, then continue, towards Dunnottar Castle. This is an excellent well-made path bu there are drops to the left, so





Once you reach the first of the 219 steps that lead down to the castle you have a choice, take the

steps down to enjoy the fine beach or explore the castle (entry fee applies). The main walk continues inland, heading up a track to the castle car park, before turning right onto the main road, then left onto a small rarely used farm track, inland and west from Mains of Dunnottar. You follow the farm track for just under a mile and the views are good.

Walk A

At the end of the farm track the path meets the A957 road. Turning right onto the main road; there is a narrow path on the opposite side. Follow this until you reach a small gap in the wall with a path that leads into Dunnottar Woods. In the woods turn left and follow the sometimes indistinct path along the edge of the wood until you see a bridge over a stream. The path is a few metres further on, take this and cross the bridge with Lady Kennedy's Bath an interesting feature nearby.



Follow the path to the right on the west bank of the stream through the woods which are a mass of wild garlic in the spring and colour in the

autumn. After a few minutes Gallows Hill rises to the left. This can be climbed via a path. After Gallows Hill you walk with the stream on the right and the high wall of the walled garden on the left. Look out for a steep stepped path down to the Shell house, which is worth a quick visit.

From the Shell House keep following the track that passes along the west side of the stream marked in places with red banded posts. Soon you head out of the

wood into Stonehaven with the newly completed flood prevention works in evidence. Follow the Carron Gardens and cross over the bridge turning onto Carron Terrace passing a fine art deco restaurant before turning left on to Ann Street which takes you to the bustling

After exploring head to the north east corner of Market Square and onto Allardice Road before crossing and following Beachgate Lane to the beach. Turn left and retrace your steps along the path over the bridge and past the Men's Shed. There are hopefully lots of options for a snack as treat having

History & Places

mpleted the walk!

Stonehaven Flood Protection

In addition to coastal waves causing floods near Cowie, Stonehaven has also suffered from the River Carron overflowing. Flooding events from the river were first reported in 1829 and continued on an intermittent basis until the 1980's, after which there have been regular occurrences, some of which have caused the evacuation of residents and businesses As Stonehaven has developed and expanded, flood protection measures have also had to evolve against a background of climate change and rising sea levels. Stonehaven Flood Protection Scheme (FPS) is a multi-million pound project funded by Aberdeenshire Council, designed protect homes and businesses which have previously been badly affected by flooding events around the River Carron. These project works include construction of walls, embankments, culverts, and alteration to five bridges along the Carron and its tributaries as it flows through Stonehaven to the sea.



eople & Society

Personalities of the Mearns

David Barclay, "the Cannibal Laird" of Mathers. Despised James Melville, Sheriff of the Mearns. James I declared "sorrow it would be if he were sodden and supped in bree"; Barclay and co-conspirators ambushed Melville and boiled him alive in "the Sheriff's

Kettle" on Garvock Hill. Built the Kaim of Mathers. George Beattie, born Whitehill, St Cyrus in 1786, popular wit, poet and notary. In 1821, ell desperately in love with Miss Gibson of Morphie and to marry. The engagement was broken off when she inherited her uncle's money. Heartbroken, Beattie committed suicide in 1823, but rumours of foul play remain.

James Blyth, 1839-1906, born Marykirk. He was an electrical engineer and pioneer of wind

power including being the worlds' first to use a wind turbine to power his home. Joan Eardley, English-born artist, who lived at the old watchhouse in Catterline from 1954. Loved the sea which featured heavily in her work. In 1963 Joan died of breast cancer, aged

42 just after being appointed a fellow of the Royal Scottish Academy. Fenella, Pictish noblewoman, daughter of the Mormaer of Angus, and legendary assassin of Kenneth II of Alba whom she tricked into touching a statue which fired fatal darts. Associated with Den Fenella, where she drowned in the waterfall, fleeing her pursuers reputedly escaped by shape-shifting into a bird

Christian Grainger née Fletcher, wife of James, Minister of Kinneff. During the Cromwellian occupation of Dunnottar Castle, Christian and her maid helped remove the Scottish Regalia to Kinneff Kirk where they were hidden.

Hercules Linton Inverbervie-born engineer and marine architect. He began as an apprentice at Hall Russell shipyard, Aberdeen. He designed the clipper, "Cutty Sark" for John Willis &Co. in 1869. Worked with local shipbuilder, James Mowat of Gourdon,

James Leslie Mitchell (pen name Lewis Grassic Gibbon), 1901-1935 novelist raised in Arbuthnott. Wrote Scottish fiction stories, most notably a Sunset Song is a national favourite. John Reith, born 1889 at Alexander House, Stonehaven where his parents were on holiday

> First Director-General of the BBC from 1922; died 1971, aged 81. David Straton, the St Cyrus Martyr. Laird of Lauriston's brother, lived at Nether Woodston as a gentleman farmer. Refused to give the tithe of his salmon catch to the church and told the priest to get them ou of the sea as he did. Burned as a heretic in Edinburgh in 1584. Robert William Thomson, 1822-1873, born Stonehaven. Initially self taught, became an engineer and inventor including a patent

fountain pen. Richard Henry Bruton. Born 1841 in the Coastguard house in Muchalls. Worked as a civil engineer for D & T Stevenson. In 1868 he was sent to Japan to design and supervise the construction of a network of 28 lighthouses. He has a statue to his

for the pneumatic tyre and the

Speed cameras

How much notice do you really take of speed cameras? Is the speed limit your upper limit? ...with factors



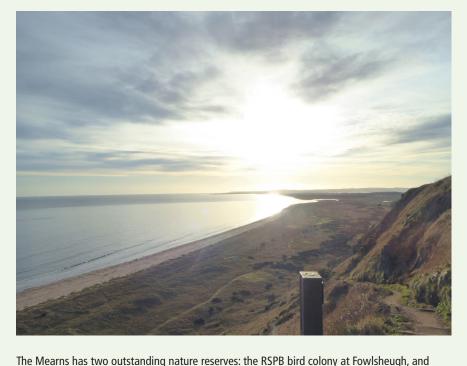
and your vehicle all playing a part in your decision making.... or do you see the speed limit as a minimum target whilst you wonder just how fast you can go over the limit without an accident or penalty. According to crashmap.co.uk in the 10 years of 2011 2020 along the length of the A90 and A92 between undee and Aberdeen there were approximately 198 erious accidents plus 30 incidents including fatalities. Safety Cameras Scotland as part of Police Scotland operate the programme including deployment of verage speed cameras on the A90 and A92. They neasure the average speed of a vehicle between a number of networked points using automatic number late recognition (ANPR). It is urban myth that you

peed limit or that it is effective just slowing down

The minimum penalty for speeding is a £100 fine and 3 penalty points on your licence. Monies eceived from fines go to the Scottish Treasury. Safety cameras are grant funded and do not benefit

Wildlife & Environment

Nature reserves



St Cyrus. The latter was designated in 1962 when Scottish Natural Heritage leased the beach from local salmon fishing company, Joseph Johnston and Sons Ltd for 25 years. This 2.17 mile stretch of sand has been described as an "incredible microclimate", sheltered by 230 ft cliffs of sandstone, mica and gneiss on the landward side, bordered by the Woodston Burn waterfall to the north and the North Esk estuary to the south. Current reserve manager, Therese Alampo, having been in the role for a decade, enthused

about the treasure of which she is custodian. "What makes St Cyrus instantly recognisable as an incredibly important site is that you get species here that you don't find anywhere else in Scotland, or at the northernmost limits." Therese explained that the climate is more like that of the Northumbrian coast than its neighbours in Aberdeen and Montrose. The Reserve Office and Visitor Centre's previous incarnation was as a lifeboat station, where the inshore rescue boat would launch directly into the North Esk's tidal channel, even as late

as the 1880s. The North Esk diverted its course after a storm in 1879, leaving the beach-front salmon bothies and St Cyrus' Nether Kirkyard high and dry, creating a saltmarsh, the only one in Kincardine and Deeside. The marsh in turn aided the growth of the sand dunes, as Marram and Sea Lyme grass sprung up, stabilising them thereafter. The "Gurkha Bridge" was built across the saltmarsh in 1985 and the lifeboat station converted in 1989. Even before this dramatic reshaping of the

landscape, St Cyrus was known for its multiplicity of plants. George Dickie, Professor of Botany at Kings College, included many examples in his 1860 "Botanist's Guide" to the local counties. Some, like the Nottingham Catchfly (Silene Nutans), a dainty white flower with hairy leaves which attract moths with their heavy night scent, previously only grew on the walls of Nottingham Castle, and was adopted as Nottinghamshire's county flower. Now extinct in England, the catchfly plant thrives in St Cyrus' grasslands. Dickie also recorded Maiden Pink (found in the dunes) and Henbane (found on the old railway sleepers of the defunct Montrose-Bervie Line). There are 500 different plant species still found today including Valerian, St John's Wort, Agrimony, Mugwort, Burdock, Marjoram and Speedwell/Veronica, all of which have medicinal qualities which earlier inhabitants would have understood and made

And where there are plants, there are insects to feed on them; Therese described the Goldtailed Melitta, a bee normally only found in the counties of England's southernmost coast, which has made its home in the limestone still extant in the St Cyrus cliffs where its main food source, the Bellflower grows. The site is a haven for Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths) The Shore Wainscot, a sandy-coloured moth, again normally found only on the coasts of Wales and England, reaches its northern limit here, feasting on the Marram grasses. Also at its northernmost locus is the Small Blue butterfly, which feeds on the Kidney Vetch (Anthyllis vulneraria) or Woundwort (after its medicinal qualities) found in the chalky soils of the reserve. Barn Owls have been able to build up their numbers again here, as have Rayens, Buzzards.

Peregrine Falcons, Kestrels, Sparrowhawks, and Fulmars all of which are currently breeding on the cliffs. The presence of passerine birds and small mammals aid with their continued success at St Cyrus. The Stonechat, which can be found up as far as Stonehaven, is a regular in the reserve, as are Whitethroat, Yellowhammer, and Oystercatcher. The latter has a piercing cry; said to resemble the Gaelic phrase "Bí Glic! Bí Glic!" (Be wise! Be Wise!), is also heard all over the Mearns and up into Aberdeenshire proper, as the Oystercatcher loves to nest in the cliff-clinging gorse. The beach today still contains the remnants of the salmon net poles, the memory of an industry

at least 800 years old, being first recorded in the 13th century. The fortunes of the Fordyce and Fraser families were built on the beach salmon fishing in the early 19th century. Apart from the fishermen's bothies on the beach: Kirkside, Woodston and Rockhall fishing stations were established on the clifftops. The railway allowed fresh salmon preserved in ice from the local ice houses to be transported far afield, such was its reputation. By 1997 however, there was only one salmon fisher remaining.



History & Places

in 1878, the Maggie Law surfboat being the best known.

succeeded in infecting the community with cholera, killing at least 30 villagers in the first few

weeks. This incident decimated Cowie ever after, leading to the abandonment of the harbour by

Mearns Shipwrecks

the beginning of the 20th century.

There are 1,490 known shipwrecks off the East Grampian coast, thus it is no surprise that there were clusters around the fishing communities of the Mearns. Gourdon's lifeboat station opened Shipwrecks sometimes brought more than just sailors and salvage; in 1864, Swedish cargo ship Wilhelmina Gibb, foundered at Cowie near Stonehaven. Though the crew were rescued, they

Burns Club is the only one in the world to include 'Fatherland' in its title. His grandfather, Robert Burnes was a gardener at Dunnottar Castle but lost his job after the 1715 uprising and became a tenant-farmer. He finally settled at Clochnahill, south of Stonehaven. His father William was born in the Mearns in 1721 and trained as a gardener. It was from Clochnahill that Burns' father left in 1748 in hope of a better life - the spot is marked by a stone cairn in a layby on the A90.

Burns came back to visit in 1787; on his

connections with. This included Glenbervi cemetery to see graves of his great grandfather James and great grandmother Margaret, and other ancestors. He probably visited Bogjorgan, north of Glenbervie where his great-great

The Burns memorial garden can be found on Belmont Brae, north of Stonehaven town centre and provides more stories of the Burns family.



and several attempts to a build harbour in the 1600's were prevented by severe storms. For a while it became a notorious haven for pirates. In 1700, the first pier was built, creating the North Harbour. During the Jacobite rebellions there were many landings in the harbour from

The southern area of the harbour was badly exposed to storms and hindered by Craig-Ma-Cair,

a massive sandstone rock just off the head of the North (now Old) Pier. With the onset of the

herring boom in the 19th century; up to 100 herring boats were based there, pressure increased to improve protection for boats in the harbour.

installed from the Tollbooth eastwards; then strengthened and improved in the 1960's after significant storm damage. During the second World War there were three flame throwers mounted on the Old Pier, with the oil pumps and storage tank at the Tolbooth building

The Inner Harbour is now be protected by steel gates in the event of threatening storms. Today Stonehaven is a mostly recreational harbour run by Aberdeenshire Council.



History & Places

intricate metal artworks created by a local sculptor.

Walks introduction

Walk A

Stonehaven Walk

Distance: approx. 8.5 miles

Max elevation: 508 feet

Time: approx. 3.5 hours

Valking routes have been added to this map to encourage those who would therwise just use the guide to browse over a coffee table. There is so much to

see and do around the coast, only a taste of the area is possible in these walk The route way marks on the front and narrative instructions on the reverse of

his map should be sufficient to find your way around but it is always advisable

b have an accurate map to hand and plan your day with care, especially being

This walk takes in sculptures, golden beaches, a great cliff walk and many surprises in the returning

Start outside the community-run open-air swimming pool on your left. This art-deco masterpiece

was first opened in 1934, featuring heated, filtered seawater, as it does to this day. The pool operates

annually between May and August. With a bit of careful planning, you could even end this walk with

a midnight swim hosted on a few nights during the summer. Stop to have a look through the gate

woodland section. Allow 3.5 hours or a full day if you include a visit to Dunnottar castle

on the southern wall of the pool before continuing to the beach.

Turn right, past Aunty Bettys ice creams and

The Bay Fish & Chips. Outside Molly's Café

If you have the time, borrow litter pickers

and black bags to do a mini beach clean.

The next building is Stonehaven & District

Men's Shed, whose members suggested this

walk. Onwards the bay sweeps south. This is

a great walk, but the people of Stonehaven

have taken this to the next level by creating

a quirky sculpture trail.

Stage 3

Bar you will find an EGCP beach clean box.

nindful of weather conditions and public transport timetables.

A Brief History of the Mearns

Geology and politics separate the Mearns from Aberdeen; 500 million years ago, the Highland Boundary fault, which surfaces at Craigeven Bay north of Stonehaven, split Scotland into granite of the north and sandstone of the south. The ancient county of Kincardine dates from the 11th century, centred around the eponymous lost village which was located between

After the bridge over the Cowie Water, a concrete barrier wall separates the boardwalk from the

another opportunity for a tea break. Follow the path until it crosses the Carron Water, the second of

Stonehaven's two rivers; by a new bridge added as part of work to protect the town from flooding.

Beyond the statue of a dolphin and seating area you spot a bi-plane, and a lighthouse, two of the

sea. Pass the houses until you see the rear entrance to the Waterfront Café on your left, this is

The very name Mearns gives a clue to an even earlier administration. Mearns, or Maoirne, is the Gaelic for a stewardry or sheriffdom, and the leaders of such areas were "mormaers", meaning Incoming Celts from Ireland struggled for power with the native Pictish folk descended from

Pictish root "cardden", Kincardine means "Headland of the Thicket". By 1600 Stonehaven replaced Kincardine village as the county town. The Earl Marischal's old harbour store was then transformed into the Tolbooth to serve as court and gaol for the next

the Neolithic and Iron Age farmers. Comprising of the Irish prefix "kin" or "ceann" and the

Fishing and farming



Fishing has been the prime occupation along this coast since Mesolithic times with Gourdon being one of the earliest fishing villages recorded in 1315. Johnshaven flourished from the 1600s onwards, becoming a major port for shellfish, whitefish and salmon, the revenue exploited by the landowners

The landowners were innovative and aimed to get the best out of their properties. Robert Scott of Dunninald, is best-known for his agricultural improvements, including enclosing field introducing the swede (known locally as the neep) as winter feed for cattle, and turning lime mining into a commercial industry to create the best natural fertiliser. Cattle experts aver that the feeding of neeps to the local livestock led to the development of the world-famous Aberdeen-Angus breed which descended from Old Grannie and Old Jock, the very first of this hornless breed.

Industrialisation, travel and tourism The 19th century saw a flurry of harbour construction to facilitate transport of lime, coal, wool, and grain, including Gourdon and Bervie in 1819 both designed by Thomas Telford, the great Scottish engineer) and Stonehaven in 1825, designed by Robert Stevenson, then engineer to

As the herring boom spread around Britain and the St Cyrus salmon fishing proved even more lucrative, joining the Mearns' coastal settlements to the main East Coast railway line was the next logical step to bring further revenue to the area. Hercules III of Brotherton and other local businessmen created the Montrose & Bervie Railway company in 1855, but it would be a further decade before the branch connecting the two towns was realised. Completed in 1865 with the crowning glory of the North Water Viaduct, the line took fresh seafood to the restaurants of London and Paris. The railway also encouraged tourism, inspiring the construction of Stonehaven's outdoor pool. Railway posters and tourist guides of the 1930s and '40s created a glamourised image of swimsuit-clad beauties enjoying saltwater bathing.

History & Places

the Northern Lighthouse Board.

Montrose to Bervie Railway (1865-1966) The 1850s was a boom period for Scottish wool exports, which necessitated the spread of the

railway. The Montrose-Bervie line, despite several false starts due to lack of local finance and having to court the national railway giants, opened in 1865 with a single track covering 13 miles, linking the fishing communities with the south. This allowed fresh local salmon to be exported as Local laird, Hercules Scott the 3rd of Brotherton, chair of the railway company, succeeded in

having an Act of Parliament passed in 1860 and capital authorised up to £70,000. Ultimately, due to lack of local funds, the Caledonian Railway Company paid for the route. Much to their chagrin, they had to use the North British Railway's station at Montrose. The Bervie Branch left the main line at Broomfield outside Montrose, ran through Kinnaber, and crossed the North Water Bridge viaduct over the North Esk, then continued through St Cyrus, Lauriston, over Den Finella on a 40ft viaduct of 4 arches, then onto Johnshaven, Birnie Road,

Hercules Scott's involvement ensured his family had a private halt just outside Johnshaven. Withir living memory there are stories of Miss Anna Scott, the last resident of Brotherton, returning from business in London and informing the conductor at Montrose to drop her at the castle halt where Originally there were 6 trains a day with an extra service on market day. By 1935 there were only



History & Places

Dunnottar castle

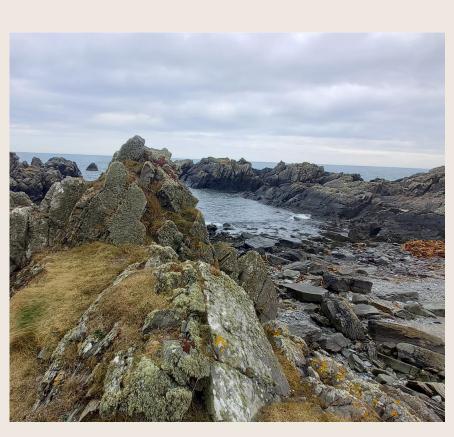
structure on the site was a Pictish fort. In around 400AD this was joined by a church built by Saint Jinian one of the first missionaries in Scotland For such a natural defensive position it does not have the best record. In 900AD King Donald II was killed here as the castle was overrun by Vikings. In 1297 William Wallace captured the castle from the English, in the process he took 4000 prisoners who were burned alive in the church.

The rocky outcrop of Dunnottar has long been used as a great defensive position. The first known

The English retook the castle in 1336 before losing it to Sir Andrew Murray. Over the next two hundred years the castle was expanded and improved, however during the English Civil War the astle was forced to surrender to the army of Oliver Cromwell. During the siege of the castle, the Honours of Scotland were smuggled out and hidden in a nearby church. During the Jacobite uprisings the castle again changed hands several times, serving as a stronghold for both the Jacobites and the Hanoverians. In modern times the stunning location has been used many times in film including Hamlet in

This is a fascinating place to visit and can easily be combined with a visit to nearby Stonehaven.

1990, Brave in 2012 and Mary Queen of Scots in 2013.



Highland Boundary Fault Rocks really define the land. They are intrinsic to an area's culture, history and economy, even if

they are buried under a mass of soil and vegetation. In this part of Scotland, this can be seen in the oil and gas industry, but just north of Stonehaven the story goes back much further. A millipede fossil discovered in the village of Cowie is the world's oldest air breathing creature ever found. It lived at a time of change around 400 million years ago in the Devonian Period when two continents were colliding, as the ancient continent of Pangaea was forming. This produced the Caledonian mountain range that may have been higher at the time than any This mountain building produced huge cracks, depressions, and faults in the rock. Over time whilst the old continent continued to move around the globe, through a geological process

called plate-tectonics, these rocks were split apart by the formation of the Atlantic Ocean about 100 million years ago. Erosion, weathering, and ice ages gave us the land we see today. But remnants of the past remain. from Garron Point near a ruined chapel, north of Stonehaven, south westwards to the Isle of Arran on the west coast, the Highland Boundary Fault slices through Scotland. To the north and west is a land of high mountains and deep valleys. To the south are the lowlands. The fault can be seen in the change in the landscape and in the gorges that form in rivers such as

As well as separating rock this line has also separated people with the distinct highland and

lowland Scottish cultures leading to wars and rebellions, before becoming romanticised in

eople & Society

The Mearns coast has constantly inspired the creative mind. Joan Eardley, now regarded as one of Scotland's greatest twentieth-century painters, has been associated with Catterline's old Watchie studio since her first visit in 1951. She fell in love with the huge seas and "vast waste" which compelled her to paint. The Watchie still functions as an artist's studio today; the current incumbent, Stuart Buchanan regards himself merely as its janitor, so strong is Eardley's memory there. Eardley's niece, Anne Morrison Hudson

Artistic Inspiration

recalls "Joan was interested in both the sea and the landscape at different times of the year [...] there was so much for her to work from there." Dressed in a fisherman's gansey and cord trousers, Joan would plant herself down at Catterline Harbour, anchoring her hardboard canvas with huge lumps of sandstone, and attempt to capture the wildness of the North Sea. The fisherfolk, though concerned for her wellbeing, were secretly proud of their artistic neighbour. Anne again says, "they realised she wasn't just there for fun. it was a job and she really worked hard at "," commenting that the "Scottish work ethic" was built into Joan. very eve of national success, her influence remains. Today the Mearns coast is a

Though Joan died of cancer in 1963 on the hotbed of creatives including painters, glassmakers, printmakers and ceramicists. Sheila MacFarlane, who now lives at Tangleha, was inspired by the legend of Finella to create huge linocut prints of the Pictish assassin leaping into the waterfall.

Ceramicist Hilary Firth has a studio looking directly out to sea at Johnshaven harbour, and her neighbour, Morag Smith, a painter, is also inspired by the same light and colour which Eardley Hilary, originally from Edinburgh, like Eardley is a fan of the sea, "I love the sea ...the expanse, the enormousness... and it changes

every day." She says that using a dark blue glaze on her work was "a natural colour for me to go with" because of the studio's proximity to the harbour. Morag, born in Aberdeen, is inspired by the movement of landscapes observed from a car or train window. "Ye just get these beautiful colours and shapes whizzing past, and the way the light shines on it, or clouds ...it's that kinda visual memory that brews away... I love the light here... those beautiful open stretches create

History & Places

Modern farming of the Mearns Derived from the old red sandstone lying south of the Highland Boundary fault, the soils of Kincardine and Mearns are amongst the most fertile in Scotland, sustaining a wide range of high value agricultural

and horticultural crops. Malting barley, wheat, field vegetables and soft fruit go mainly for domestic consumption while high health status daffodil bulbs and seed potatoes are exported. Total agricultural area is 61,000 hectares, of which 60% (and rising) is intensively cropped. The average farm holding size is 74hectares with owner occupation at 77%. Livestock production is declining, but the region remains home to around 240,000 poultry, 43,000 sheep, 48,000 pigs and 39,000 cattle – the latter includes Aberdeenshire's largest dairy herd near Inverbervie, which produces around 8 million In 2021, one of Scotland's leading fruit farms near Fordoun grew and packed 8.5 million punnets of strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, and cherries from fruit fields equivalent to 142 football pitches,

while a local farmers' cooperative produced 6 million bunches of daffodils, 4000 tonnes of bulbs (for the US and Europe) and 18,000 tonnes of seed potatoes for export to Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and south-east Asia. Farm woodlands, lightly scattered across lowland of Kincardine and Mearns extend to 2800 hectares. Inland, on the westward horizon, commercial forestry such as at Fetteresso is more in evidence. Upland private estates also host Christmas tree plantations



Inverbervie to Tangleha' Coastal Path

Distance: 6.85 miles / 11.02km Max elevation: 89m / 292ft Time: approx. 2.5hr his is a linear walk so double the distance and time required to return.

Walk B

Inverbervie is an ancient medieva own, given royal burgh status by King David II in 1342. Bervie Water, known for its salmon, rise n Drumtochy Forest and enters the sea at Inverbervie. The town's later prosperity came from the flax mill, he first in Scotland, which opened

Terrain: grass, gravel paths, pebble beach.



Begin at the carpark, situated at the foot of Kirkburn, following a well-defined coastal path to the south. The first point of interest is Hallgreen Castle, at the end of the first row of houses on the landward side. Now a quest house, Hallgreen is an L-plan towerhouse from the 16th century, with an earlier foundation dated 1376. Owned by the Rait family from 1425 to 1724, it was then sold after the last laird died a bankrupt and the property passed to James Coutts of Coutts' Bank fame.

The fishing village of Gourdon is a mile south of Bervie. The path leads along he appropriately named Seaview Terrace. Keep following the main street via Shoretack to William Street, on the right you will pass a small, squat

uilding which is the Maggie Law Maritime Museum, named after the

first inshore lifeboat from 1890. The building was the former coastguar

The lower floor features the Maggie Law surfboat itself, a small art gallery and display panels on he Titanic. Whilst entry has been restricted during Covid restrictions, the museum website features a 'virtual tour" of the facility.

Continue towards the harbour. Just before William Street turns up the hill, you will see the Harbour Bar with its distinctive gable featuring a painting of a local fishing boa A friendly, locally owned pub wit a beer garden and meals available

Walk past the bar on the right and follow the gravel path out of the village,

keeping the shoreline on your left, passing the hamlet of Whitehouse soon Stage 4

Next point of interest is the Haughs of Benholm, a former fishing hamlet originally belonging to the Earls Marischal Keith just to the east of the Burn of Benholm Robert Keith brother of George, the fifth Earl, lived at Benholm Tower House. He greatly resented

his elder brother and in 1588, commissioned a townhouse in Aberdeen within sight of George's new university, Marischal College. The rocky coast was the scene of many a shipwreck. A coal-boat called the Gem, having been on its way to South Shields from Wick, ran aground at the Haughs in 1878 in thick fog, resulting in the loss of two crewmen.

the right, nearing Johnshaven, you will see Brotherton Castle, built in the Scots Baronial style in 1867 for Hercules Scott II. His last heir, daughter Anna, left Brotherton to her niece, who then sold it on to Charles Alexander. In 1950, Charles sold it to the

Continue to follow the coastal path. On

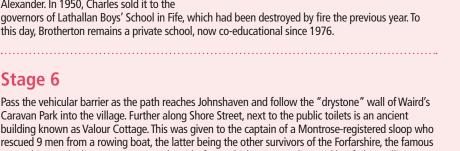
Stage 5

Stage 6 Pass the vehicular barrier as the path reaches Johnshaven and follow the "drystone" wall of Waird's Caravan Park into the village. Further along Shore Street, next to the public toilets is an ancient building known as Valour Cottage. This was given to the captain of a Montrose-registered sloop who rescued 9 men from a rowing boat, the latter being the other survivors of the Forfarshire, the famous steamship wrecked at Longstone, Humberside, from which Grace Darling and her father William

rescued 5 remaining survivors. This sloop was believed to be the Peggy & Elizabeth, skippered by one

Next door is Murray McBay Shellfish Merchants and the Lobster Shop opened 2021). The McBay family first settled in Miltonhaven in the early 8th century and have prosecute fishing and processing ever since. The produce comes directly from local

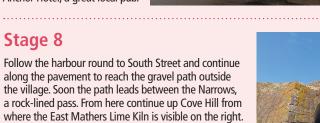
James Simpson, the recipient of Valour Cottage.



Reaching Johnshaven Harbour

Walk B

you will pass the old Lifeboat Shed, the home of Johnshaven Heritage Society. The building has a bright, modern interior which doubles as an art gallery. Next door is the Hidden Treasure Tearoom, then up to the right on New Road is the Anchor Hotel, a great local pub.



An information board provides further details. The kiln

was erected in 1768 by George Carnegie of Pitarrow

who further developed the local lime industry begun by

his wife's kinsman, Robert Scott of Dunninald.

The path begins to narrow here as it runs by a wire fence. Approaching Seagreens, where Carnegie built a pier in 1803 for transporting lime by sea, the path erodes completely

Stage 10 Just past Seagreens are the Red Rocks, a stunning red sandstone outcrop often home to sand martins and mason bees. This is the ancient "Old Red Sandstone" on which this coast developed. millions of years ago. The path drops down to sea level by a wire fence, marking the beginning of Miltonhaven Caravan Park's property. Cross the concrete footbridge and stop before the fence.

The Caravan Park is built on the site of the lost fishing village of Miltonhaven, once extremely

Stage 1

Just before Seagreens Cottag

(Claire Adam's Airbnb), drop

down onto the pebble bear

until regaining the path jus

before a ruined building

prosperous due to lime works and smuggling. Local laird, Robert Scott of Dunninald realised the commercial value of lime as a fertiliser, building a kiln at Miltonhaven in 1750 which was then the largest known in Scotland. Excessive mining destabilised the ground and successive storm surges between 1785 and 1790 washed away Miltonhaven forever.

At this point, after enjoying the

view, double-back and return to

Inverbervie via the same route.

Avoid an unsafe wooden bridge by walking past the caravans on the pebble beach. The path then widens out and over the rise in the distance is Tangleha, the fishing hamlet reputedly built to replace Miltonhaven, A large white house belonging to the Tangleha Artists' Collective dominates the view and beyond is a line of former fishermen's cottages.



History & Places

• Sir Alexander Straton, laird of Lauriston won the fishing rights from Dunnottar to St Cyrus from George Keith, 5th Earl Marischal following a wager. Keith bet Straton that his fishermen could pull the former's ten oxen into the sea. When it looked like the fishers might win, somebody shouted an insult at Straton's cattleman, whose roar of

as a winter feed for his cattle. His neighbours laughed at him, but when his herd survived the winter without needing to be slaughtered, everyone started planting "neeps" to feed • An inadvertent benefit of Robert Scott's lime kiln built at Miltonhaven was its acting as a beacon for smuggling ships. From 1750 onwards, the village's prosperity rocketed as a

agent between smugglers and buyers. He knocked the tidesman to the ground then • Wilhelmina Bell, the inspiration for James Scott Skinner's fiddle tune, The Bonnie Lass o

undeserved bankruptcy, promising "I'll mak a tune that'll keep ye in mind when we're baith deid!" The first bar of Mina's tune is inscribed on Skinner's own grand headstone in Allanvale Cemetery, Aberdeen. Kincardinshire is named after the long demised town of Kincardine. All that remains of this settlement are foundations of a castle two miles north of Fettercairn.

Catterline is the home of saints, artists and dare devils. This pretty cliff top fishing village has a steep track linking it to a sweeping shingle beach were Saint Ninian landed and began converting the locals to Christianity. This steep decent is also home to the annual carty challenge. Locals race homemade go-carts at breakneck speed. On the cliff top, a seafood restaurant shows village's artistic talent with paintings on display. The Maritime Rescue Institute was a Scottish charity based in Stonehaven. It provided Kincardineshire's local lifeboat service and provided specialist training programmes. It closed in February 2013 following damage sustained during the December 2012 storms:

the biggest fishing port in the Mearns at one time, with thirty line boats.

History & Places

often associated with engineer and ship designer, Hercules Linton, as the latter commissioned

two boats from him, Mowatt was only 18 when the Cutty Sark was launched from Linton's the overlapping clinker-built, which dated back to the Iron Age, and the later carvel-built, where

drifter designed for Robert Cargill of Arbroath in 1884. Mowatt was also an innovator; the Elizabeth, commissioned in 1886 for a Broughty Ferry buyer,

nerring and haddock craft" in Angus and the Mearns.

People & Society

Jist a scooter, An ordinary wee motor, Sat at the fit o the stair. The weans daurna touch it though At's Auntie Joan's scooter ye ken You leave it be!

Auntie Joan, goan gies a hurl

Doon tae the Clyde

JOAN EARDLEY'S SCOOTER

But whan she gets a call Tae gaun tae the East, Cos there's a storm brewin, Tae Queen's Cross. Then it sits in the guard's van

Now they're in the Mearns, Land of Grassic Gibbon, lobsters, lush cliffs, Red rocks, jagged glacial remains, Worn slowly down as the sea Licks away their sandstone faces, And will soon lick at her windburned cheeks, As she plants herself at the pier, Disdaining all offers of soup, a blanket, a warm coat, From kindly neighbours and bairns, Who worry Auntie Joan has no-one to look after her,

> Stonehaven, next station, the guard's accent Reminds her she is home,

In that artist's eyrie perched atop

Catterline's horseshoe bay.

Wi their caps and their jaikets gaun doon the boozer. Another tongue, another culture, another land. Then it's helmet on, kickstart, off by Dunnottar,

The burn bubbles fiercely as more familiar sights appear The village road narrows till there's nowhere left to go. The scooter is left again to stand Sentinel to his mistress's work. Bare moments later, she's back; hardboard canvas, Her paint pots stowed in the pannier,

As the little green scooter acts as anchor For the cords that hold the board to the easel, And there they will stay, Woman and machine, storm chasers both Just an ordinary scooter maybe, But no ordinary rider she.

Woman at work, do not disturb,

Doon far the big ships bide. result. Tea became the fisherwives' new tipple and it was said that the laird's wife spent 20 shillings a week on China tea and sugar from the West Indies.

Bon Accord is buried at Fetteresso cemetery, with her headstone facing Clayfolds Farm near Newtonhill where she was born. Skinner was moved by the plight of her father's Wi mailbags and pushbikes

origin of the name Esk could very well come from the word 'Esek' mentioned in the Old estament (Genesis 26) meaning spring or well of water.

lifeboat services in Stonehaven. place with thousands of people lining the streets to see the town fire ball display. The first written record of this event comes from 1908 but is thought to be much older. The festival origins relate to a ritual wanting to bring good luck, however it certainly now serves as a spectacular way to bring the community together and celebrate the new year. Johnshaven was the first place in Scotland to use the seine net in around 1800. It was



Boatbuilding

Ilydeside yard.

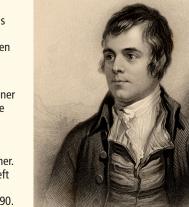
Mowatt's speciality was fishing boats. He had the skill to create both traditional styles of hull, the planks were flush against each other, creating a more aerodynamic line in the water, and

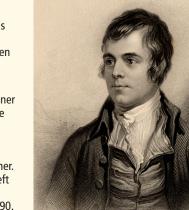
was the first steam-powered line-boat in the county. She was 46 ½ feet in length, still had a mast and sails, but given the advantage of the engine, the Elizabeth could outrun the weather. Mowatt's most famous build was the Maggie Law, the first surfboat or inshore lifeboat at Gourdon. She had a 30ft keel, was 8ft in width and powered by six oars. Equipped with cork

Robert Burns

Robert Burns had good reason to love the Mearns and Stonehaven, as this is where his father and forefathers had come from. It is known as his Fatherland, and the Stonehaven

People & Society





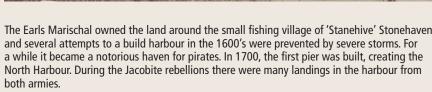






Stonehaven Harbour





Robert Stevenson (grandfather of Robert Louis Stevenson, the famous author) won approval to build the South Pier and remove the offending rock formation, which was completed in 1827. A westward extension (the Fish Jetty) was added to the South Pier in 1837, creating the Inner The harbour was still susceptible to easterly storms and in 1913 the first breakwater was



It micht be blazin sun in the West They ken they'll no see her for days. As the wee Vespa roars ower the road

Then change at Edinburgh, Wheel the craitur across the platform, And then the East Coast line opens To lowering skies, To rain, rain, blessed rain! Mixed with the sea,

Oh, how she loved the sea!

With its vast empty wastes of water,

When not even the bravest fisher

As she watches Glasgow disappear

Montrose station flashes by

Her other home, with other friends, other views, Hardy, windswept folk of the sea. Quite unlike the Townhead fellas

Powering up the braes, taking in the clear country roads That few would tackle on a motorbike In Force 8, as the gale buffets Vespa and rider, Gratefully turning off the A92, St Philip's plain slate roof hove into view.

Brushes shoved in pockets, a boilersuit With ganzie to keep her neck warm. Another quick journey down to the harbour To set up her pitch.

thus a faster craft. One example of Mowatt's carvel-built boats was the Pioneer, a herring

lifejackets, lifelines and buoys, the Maggie Law went on her first shout within weeks of her launch. The members of the lifeboat crew agreed that she had proved a "useful little boat' as she could be out at sea within five minutes. The initial cost of both the boat and her shed was £40; the fishermen were happy to pay a penny in every pound from their catch for her By the time Mowatt died aged 69 in 1920, he was described as "one of the best builders of

ohnshaven had its fair share of shipwrecks, the most tragic occurring on 21 December 1920, a stormy day along the whole coast. The lifeboat, James Marsh had been alerted to a Danish schoone redensborg, which had run aground after an attempted tow to Montrose. James Marsh attempted to enter Johnshaven Harbour but was struck by a huge wave, turning her over, but she righted herself immediately with most of the men managing to cling to the side ropes. Sadly, not so James McBay, cousin of coxswain, John McBay. As the Danes gamely

managed to reach the shore with the help of local fishermen wading into the surf with ropes, James' wife, Jean saw in horror her husband trying to swim for the shore. The heavy swell overcame him, and ames was drowned within feet of the beach. Two of the Danes were lost also. The Danish king made a presentation to the crew and gave Jean McBay a financial gift for the loss of her husband. Wartime occasioned other dangers such as enemy aircraft fire, which is what happened to the Taurus, a Norwegian merchant ship, hit by German bombs on 6 June 1914. En-route from

Nigeria to Hull, the Taurus had sustained a leak and was under tow near Montrose when further bombs ripped a further hole in the port bow. She sank off Johnshaven. A few weeks later, her cargo started to float ashore, huge lumps of lard which would have been used in cosmetic manufacture. Locals helped themselves and enjoyed many a fry-up. Two Johnner men were fined for "appropriating" the salvage. Over the next fifty years; the lard, now thoroughly rancid, continued to appear on the shore between Johnshaven and St Cyrus, even as recently as In February 1914, one sleepy French fisherman had reason to be very thankful to the rocket brigade of Johnshaven who had already rescued his crewmates after their ship, the Daniel had

run aground at Seagreens. He had slept through the entire drama only to wake in the sodden

wreck. His shouts of distress were heard, and a lifeline was fired from the apparatus, pulling The Mearns is today served by RNLI stations at Stonehaven and Montrose.

Wildlife & Environment

The Grampian mountains shelter the northeast from the worst of the Atlantic storms but the coast is wide open to bitter eastern winds from Russia and Scandinavia. The two weather effects created by Scotland's topography can see extremes, depending which way the wind is

there is too much water causing saturation, and it falls as rain or snow. These clouds also stop sunlight reaching the earth and reduce ground temperature further. If air warms it can hold more moisture, so the cloud starts to clear. Derived from the Latin term, Favonius, meaning favouring; it is the technical description of what happens when it is sunny on the eastern coast such as the sands of St Cyrus and the rocky inlets of Stonehaven, yet there is heavy rain over Glasgow and in the western highlands. The Fohn effect occurs when humid air hits a mountain (in this case, the Grampians) and is

forced upwards. When wet air is forced up it loses about 0.5C for every 100m height gain, this

means it cannot hold as much moisture, creating cloud and rain on the windward side of the

Probably the most important fact that influences weather is that warm air can hold more water

than cold air. If warm moist air cools, water forms droplets creating clouds. If it cools more,

nountain. Dryer air warms up again as it descends on the leeward side meaning it can easily hold the remaining moisture. This drier, warmer air increases 1.5 C for every 100m it falls. Also being cloud free, the sun can hit the ground increasing the temperature further. In other parts of the world this is also common. For example in Canada east of the Rocky Mountains this is known as the Chinook, meaning 'snow eater' This is the bane of fishermen's lives, and almost the Fohn effect in reverse. Summer in the North Sea is cooler in the west and warmer in the east. When warm easterly wind crosses the North Sea, it picks up moisture whilst passing over cool water. This chills the air so it cannot hold

water, creating a damp, dreich mist. Once inland, the warm earth quickly heats up the air so it

Often in summer people less than a mile inland can be sunbathing under clear blue skies while

there is fog on the beach. In Stonehaven the cliffs can also have a major local effect, with the

harbour sometimes being warm and sunny, with the main beach being covered in cold mist.

Vildlife & Environment

Doric dictionary for seagulls Macduff Pewlies

can hold more moisture, clearing the fog.

Peterhead Collieston Fraserburgh

rage caused the oxen to bolt and drag the boat right out of the water and up the beach, thereby winning the wager. In 1754, Robert Scott, laird of Dunninald was the first farmer in the Mearns to use turnips

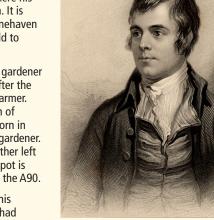
James Philip was known as "The One-Eyed Tidesman of Johnshaven"; tidesmen were the lowest of the excisemen, tasked with watching the shores at night for vessels potentially involved in smuggling. One night in August 1768, Philip seized several barrels of spirits near Miltonhaven. He was attacked by Thomas Morrice, the local baker, who acted as landed a backhander, permanently blinding Philip in one eye. Unable to secure witnesses to Morrice's assault, Philip got no compensation – or sympathy – from his employers.

Rivers named Esk are common in Britain, Australia, New Zealand and Canada. The

Following the demise of MRI, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution started providing The Fireballs. In the last few hours of every year Stonehaven becomes a surprisingly busy



James Mowatt, or Jeems to his neighbours, was Gourdon's master shipbuilder. Although he is





Highland Tour to visit sites his family had

History & Places

