

East Dunbartonshire

Local History Month

2 March – 31 March



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Local History Month is an opportunity for local groups to highlight local history and for all members of the community to take part. Join us for a month of events, exhibitions, walks, and talks celebrating local history in East Dunbartonshire.

The Local History Month programme is organised by East Dunbartonshire Leisure and Culture Trust in partnership with local community, history, and heritage groups.

Booking information

Event booking is a mixture of Eventbrite, direct with organiser and no booking required. Please see individual events for further details.

For events bookable through Eventbrite please visit:

[Edlcculture.eventbrite.com](https://edlcculture.eventbrite.com)

For more information, contact archives@eastdunbarton.gov.uk or call 0141 777 3142.

Keep up to date with our Heritage and Arts events by signing up to our newsletter.



Events Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			Talk: The Kirkintilloch Bothy Fire 6.30pm – 7.30pm Kirkintilloch Town Hall		Event: Open Day & Guided Tours: Gavin's Mill 10am – 4pm	Walk: Milngavie Town Centre – Past and Present 2pm – 4pm
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Presentation: The Water of Life 6.30pm – 7.30pm Kirkintilloch Town Hall					Walk: A Tale with a Trail 10am – 12.30pm Kirkintilloch Town Hall	
					Event: Kid's Dig - Gavin's Mill 11am & 2.30pm	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Event: Papers of the Past 1pm – 4pm Bishopbriggs Library		Talk: Early Scottish Railways 2pm – 4pm Kirkintilloch Town Hall			Event: Children of the Past Bookbug 10am Crafts 10am – 12pm & 2pm – 4pm William Patrick Library	
					Walk: Gavin's Mill 10.30am & 2.30pm	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Talk: Auchengeich, Gone but not Forgotten 6pm – 7pm Kirkintilloch Town Hall		Talk: Farms and Farming in Campsie Parish 6pm – 7pm Lennoxtown Library			Event: New Kilpatrick Church Open Day 10am – 1pm	

Bearsden

Event:

New Kilpatrick Church Open Day ✨

On this open day, discover the rich history of Bearsden's New Kilpatrick Church. Did you know, the name Kilpatrick is an Anglicised form of the Gaelic Cille Phàdraig – which literally means “Patrick’s Churchyard”. Find out more about the fascinating history of New Kilpatrick Church and discover the beauty of the stained glass which tells a different story in each window.



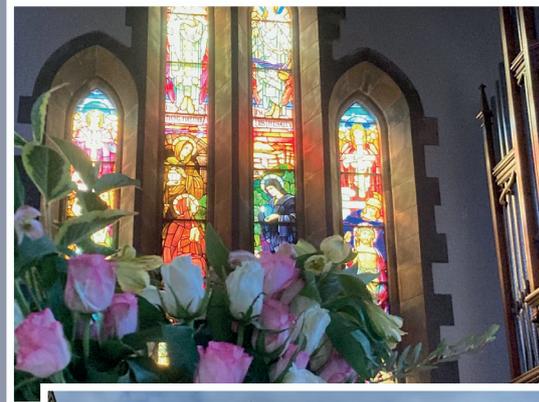
Venue: New Kilpatrick Church

Date: Saturday 28 March

Time: 10am – 1pm



Booking: Drop-in event (no booking required)



Bishopbriggs

Display: Cadder Pit Disaster

Learn more about this tragic mining accident which occurred near Bishopbriggs in 1913. This display details the circumstances surrounding the underground fire, the heroic rescue attempts, and the official inquiry in the aftermath of the disaster.

Lessons learned at Cadder brought about changes in safety policy across the coalfields.

This display will be on show throughout March during normal library opening hours.



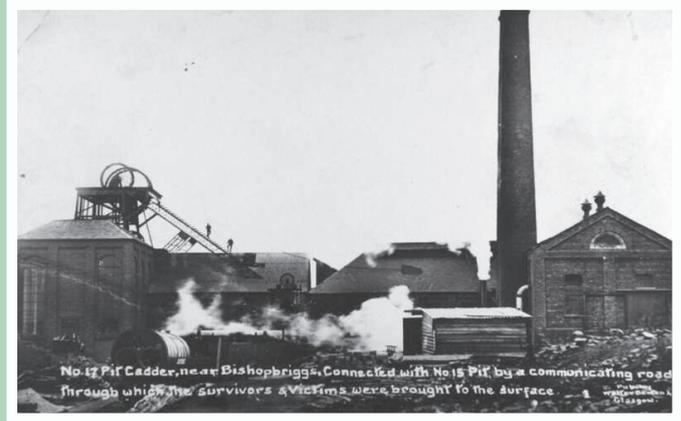
Venue: Bishopbriggs Library

Date: Monday 2 March – Tuesday 31 March

Time: During normal library opening hours



Booking: Not required



Event: Papers of the Past - Daily life in East Dunbartonshire

Are you interested in the day-to-day history of your local area? This drop-in event gives you a chance to explore a part of our local collection, exploring old newspapers and photographs that offer a glimpse of the past.



Venue: Bishopbriggs Library

Date: Monday 16 March

Time: 1pm – 4pm



Booking: Drop-in event(no booking required)



Kirkintilloch and Lenzie

Display: Women in East Dunbartonshire

To celebrate International Women's Day on Sunday 8 March, we are highlighting the stories of ordinary women who appear in our local studies collections.

This display gives an insight into the everyday life for women living and working in East Dunbartonshire. We hope their stories will inspire you to visit us on the first floor of the William Patrick Library and browse the collections.



Venue: William Patrick Library, Kirkintilloch

Date: Monday 2 March – Friday 3 April

Time: During normal library opening hours

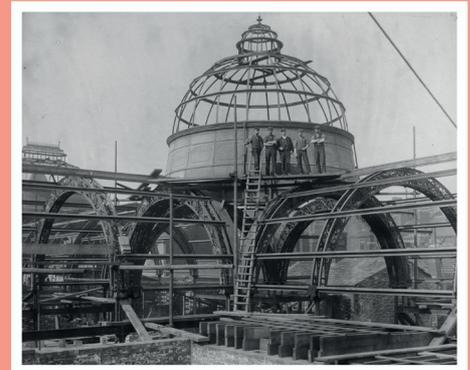


Booking: Not required

Exhibition: The Lion Foundry 1880-1984

This exhibition explores the history of Kirkintilloch's famous iron foundry. The Lion Foundry was known for its fine ornamental and architectural cast ironwork, earning a worldwide reputation and shipping castings around the globe. It was also one of the five foundries which manufactured the iconic red telephone box.

Learn about the foundry's story through drawings, photographs and objects from the EDLC Archives, Local Studies, and Museum collections.



Venue: Kirkintilloch Town Hall

Date: Monday 2 March - Thursday 30 April

Time: 10am – 4pm (Mondays – Fridays)



Booking: Not required



Talk: The Kirkintilloch Bothy Fire

Of the various disasters that have occurred in Scotland over the years, few have left such a haunting legacy as the Kirkintilloch tragedy of 1937. Join Irish labour lawyer and historian Michael Halpenny for a historical and informative talk about the Kirkintilloch Bothy Fire. Michael will share his research on this disaster which took place on 16 September 1937.

Bookings for the talk can be made on Eventbrite.



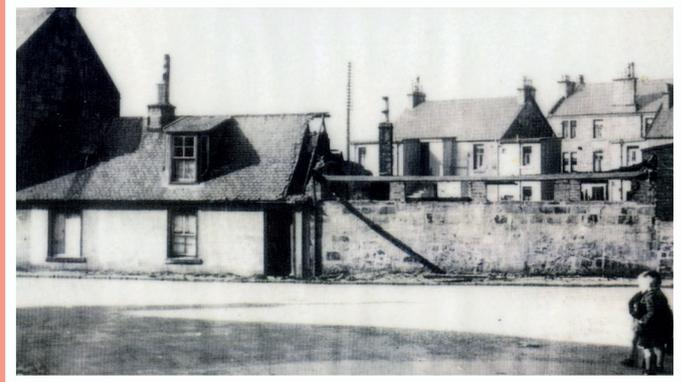
Venue: Kirkintilloch Town Hall

Date: Thursday 5 March

Time: 6.30pm – 7.30pm



Booking: [Eventbrite](#)



Presentation: The Water of Life - The Ballad of Rita and Masataka

Rita Cowan's journey from daughter of Kirkintilloch to 'Mother of Japanese Whisky' began just over a century ago, when two lonely strangers met - one driven to escape, the other driven by a dream. Join local playwright Alan Muir for an insight into the true story of two legendary lives.

Bookings for this event can be made on Eventbrite.



Venue: Kirkintilloch Town Hall

Date: Monday 9 March

Time: 6.30pm – 7.30pm



Booking: [Eventbrite](#)



Walk: A Tale with a Trail

Join Jenny Burgon of the Kirkintilloch and District Soroptimists for a walk following in the footsteps of philanthropist Beatrice Clugston.

Beatrice Clugston founded Broomhill Hospital, Lenzie Hospital, the Dorcas Society and the Association for the Relief of the Infirm. In 1876 she moved from Glasgow to Moncrieff Avenue in Lenzie and is buried in the Auld Aisle Cemetery, Kirkintilloch.

Starting at Kirkintilloch Town Hall we will pass by places associated with Beatrice Clugston in both Kirkintilloch and Lenzie.

Bookings for the walk can be made on Eventbrite.



Venue: Walk meeting point at Kirkintilloch Town Hall

Date: Saturday 14 March

Time: 10am – 12.30pm



Booking: [Eventbrite](#)



Talk: Early Scottish Railways

A talk by John Yellowlees of the National Transport Trust Scotland organised by the Kirkintilloch and District Society of Antiquaries.

All the early Scottish railways - the 1722 and Alloa waggonways, the Kilmarnock & Troon, the Edinburgh & Dalkeith, the Garnkirk & Glasgow, the Dundee & Newtyle - have their claims to fame. However, it is the Monkland & Kirkintilloch that ticks the most boxes. It was the first public railway with an Act of Parliament, the first to successfully use steam, and even the first train-ferry.

The Monklands was the cradle to much early railway activity, and the Monkland & Kirkintilloch would become the ancestor of present-day railway endeavour including Airdrie-Bathgate, Lumo and Russell Road-Rail.

Bookings for the talk can be made by emailing the Kirkintilloch and District Society of Antiquaries.



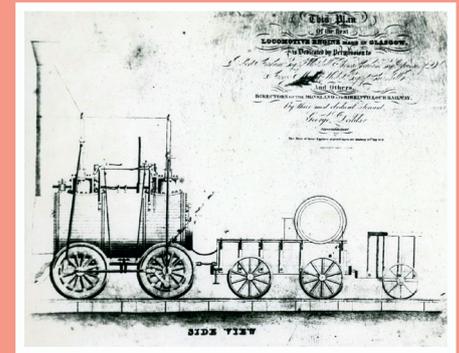
Venue: Kirkintilloch Town Hall

Date: Wednesday 18 March 2026

Time: 2pm – 4pm



Booking: kdsantiquaries@gmail.com



Exhibition: Monkland & Kirkintilloch - Scotland's First Modern Railway

Would you like to learn more about Scotland's first modern railway? Visit our exhibition which marks the 200th anniversary of the Monkland & Kirkintilloch Railway, Scotland's first public edge railway.

Featuring significant archives, objects, and photographs from the EDLC Archives, Museum, and Local Studies collections. As well as unique objects on loan from local specialists and model makers.

Join us for the opening on Saturday 21 March 2.30pm



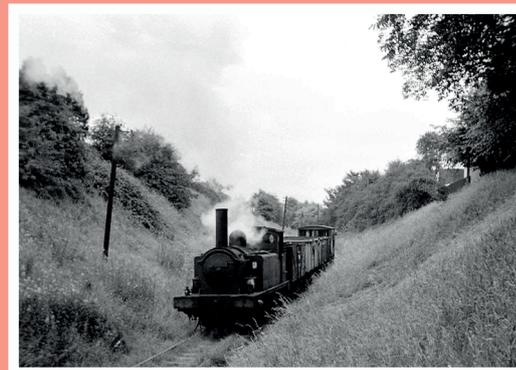
Venue: Auld Kirk Museum

Date: Saturday 21 March – Wednesday 20 May 2026

Time: Tuesdays to Saturdays, 10am-1pm and 2-5pm



Booking: Not required



Event: Family Fun Day - Children of the Past

Join us for a history themed family fun day at the William Patrick Library. We'll have a Bookbug session as well as craft and dressing up activities. Look out for our local history-themed treasure hunt too!

Bookbug will start at 10am and booking is required for this.

Our craft and dressing-up sessions will run in the morning 10.30am – 12.30pm and again in the afternoon 2.00pm – 4.00pm and no booking is required.



 **Venue: William Patrick Library, Kirkintilloch**

Date: Saturday 21 March

Bookbug

Time: 10am



Booking: [Eventbrite](#)



Craft and dressing up

Time: 10am – 12pm, 2pm – 4pm



**Booking: Drop-in
(no booking required)**

Talk: Auchengeich - Gone but not Forgotten

Join us for a talk by local author Hugh Gaffney. The story of Auchengeich is in the DNA of all miners who travelled underground, in a time when health and safety was near non-existent, and the deaths of miners in pits across the UK was almost considered normal. Every working-class family had a relative in the mines, and it was through these extraordinary people that communities were built and changed.

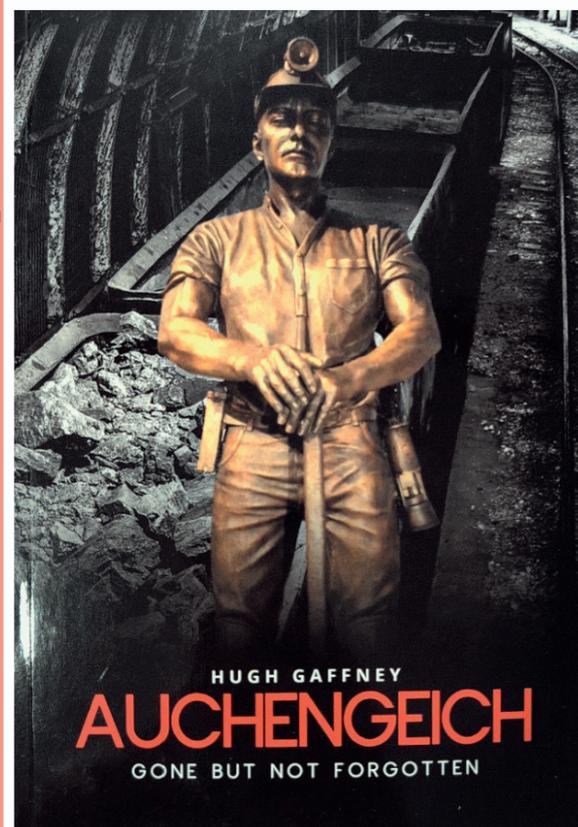
Bookings for the talk can be made on Eventbrite.

 **Venue: Kirkintilloch Town Hall**

Date: Monday 23 March 2026

Time: 6pm – 7pm

 **Booking: [Eventbrite](#)**



Lennoxtown

Display: Farms and Farming in Campsie Parish

Uncover the history of local farms and farming in Campsie parish with a display by the Campsie Local

History Group. View maps and photographs of local farms and gain a glimpse into farming life in the past.

The display will be on show throughout March during normal library opening hours.



Venue: Lennoxtown Library

Date: Monday 2 March – Tuesday 31 March

Time: During normal library opening hours



Booking: Not required



Talk: Farms and Farming in Campsie Parish

Delve deeper into the agricultural history of Campsie with a talk by the Campsie Local History Group. The Group will share more about their farming research project and accompanying display.

Bookings for the talk can be made on Eventbrite.



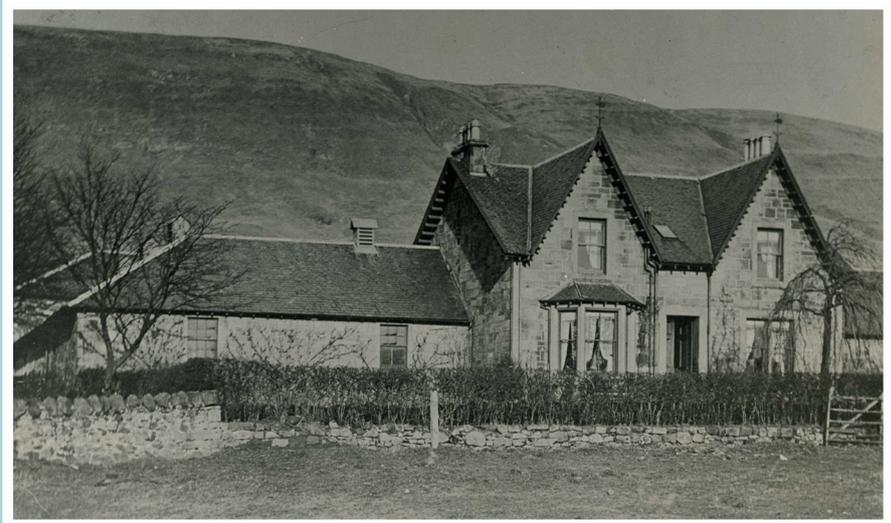
Venue: Lennoxtown Library

Date: Wednesday 25 March

Time: 6pm – 7pm



Booking: [Eventbrite](#)



Milngavie

Display: The Changing Face of Milngavie - 1960 to 1980

This heritage display by the Milngavie Heritage Centre Group will showcase the significant changes that Milngavie witnessed over 20 years from 1960 to 1980. These include the pedestrianisation of the town centre, the construction of many new public buildings, a new bypass, and the electrification of the Milngavie railway line.



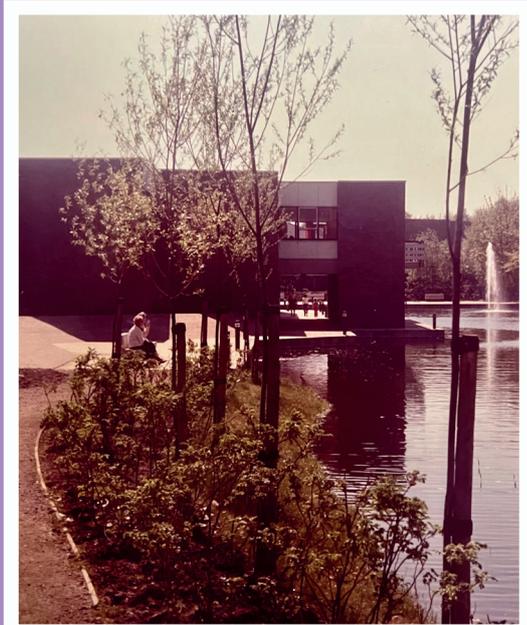
Venue: Milngavie Library

Date: Saturday 7 March - Saturday 13 June

Times: During normal library opening hours



Booking: Not required



Walk: Milngavie Town Centre – Past and Present

Join Milngavie Heritage Centre Group for a walk which will highlight the significant changes to the Milngavie landscape as a result of the construction of Woodburn Way, the new bypass in Milngavie.

Numbers on the walk are limited to 15 people.



Venue: Milngavie town centre

Date: Sunday 8 March

Time: 2pm – 4pm



Booking: Contact 0141 956 3541 for further information and to reserve a place on the guided walk



Event: Gavin's Mill Open Day & Guided Tours

Explore the history of this ancient corn mill and learn about the significance of milling to human history over thousands of years. Join guided tours throughout the day showing where the milling machinery was, and watch demonstrations of prehistoric grain processing with quern-stones, which were stones used to grind grain to make flour.

There will be a memory desk where you can ask questions and tell us your own memories of the mill. The water wheel will be running at intervals, and the cafe will lay on cakes and biscuits using oats, which were the staple product of Gavin's Mill.



Venue: Gavin's Mill, Milngavie

Date: Saturday 7 March

Time: 10am – 4pm



Booking: Drop-in no booking required



Event: Kids' Dig at Gavin's Mill

Come and help us hunt for the treasures of the past at The Kids' Dig! Large sandboxes laid out on tables will be seeded with minerals, fossils and artefacts such as stone arrowheads, pottery sherds, clay pipes, and old coins. We will use trowels and brushes to dig up these finds and then talk about what they are, how old they are, and how they featured in the lives of people at different times in history.



This activity gives children an introduction to the world of archaeology, teaching them about the concepts of geological time and human history, and showing them how things can change quite quickly.

This event takes place outdoors. Please bring warm clothing and waterproofs. Please book in advance via email, the Gavin's Mill website, or in the shop at Gavin's Mill.

 **Venue: Gavin's Mill, Milngavie**

Date: Saturday 14 March

Times: 11am & 2.30pm

 **Booking: email office@gavinsmill.org or visit www.gavinsmill.org, or visit in person at the shop**



Walk: Gavin's Mill

Gavin's Mill was the oldest mill to take power from the Allander, but by no means the only one. A tiny village of 200 people in 1800 became an industrial centre supporting a population of 3481 in just a hundred years. Bleachworks, calico printing, a papermill, cotton spinning and a distillery employed hundreds of incomers. Milngavie's industrial history is laid out along the river side.



The walk will last approximately an hour and cover some rough ground so please wear walking shoes and waterproofs.

Please book in advance via email, the Gavin's Mill website or in the shop at Gavin's Mill.



Venue: Gavin's Mill, Milngavie

Date: Saturday 21 March

Times: 10.30am & 2.30pm



Booking: email office@gavinsmill.org or visit www.gavinsmill.org, or visit in person at the shop



Local history is not just for March!

If Local History Month has sparked your interest in local history, get in touch with us at archives@eastdunbarton.gov.uk or call 0141 777 3142 for more information on our Archives and Local Studies Service (situated on the first floor of the William Patrick Library).

Here, you can enjoy free access to a wealth of archive and local history material including; local newspapers from 1883 to the present day, a vast collection of 40,000 photographs, and a large and varied selection of local books and maps to enjoy.

There are also over 300 archive collections covering councils, schools, businesses, industries, cemeteries, clubs, individuals, families, poor relief, valuation rolls, burial records and building plans.



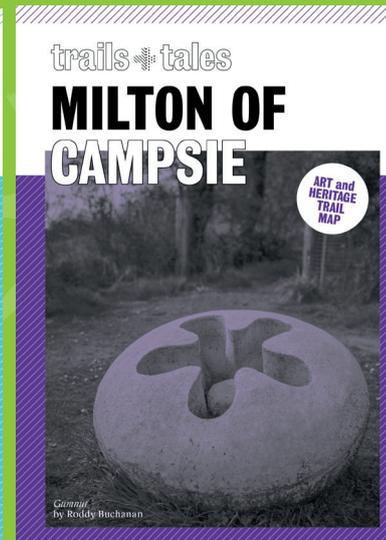
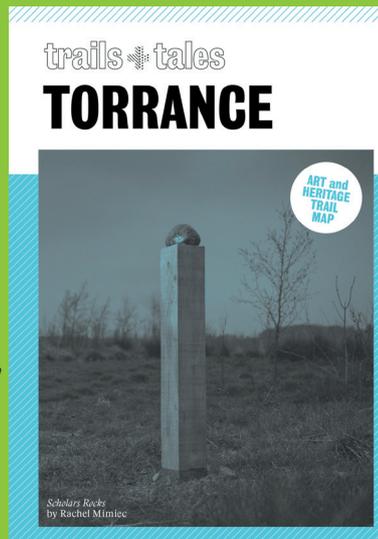
You can also search our collections virtually on our online collections catalogue. Use it to search our archives and museum/gallery collections, plus 5,000 of our local studies photographs. Try it out here: <https://collections.edlc.co.uk/>



Trails and Tales is a series of outdoor sculpture and heritage trails covering all towns and villages in East Dunbartonshire. The trails were designed and created by artists working with local communities.

There are nine downloadable maps on our website which you can use to get out in the fresh air, view artworks, and learn about the heritage of East Dunbartonshire.

To download the maps please visit www.trailsandtales.org



Made in Kirkintilloch

A heritage centre at Kirkintilloch Town Hall

The Made in Kirkintilloch Heritage Centre on the first floor of the Town Hall tells the story of Kirkintilloch's industrial history through a permanent display.

It's suitable for families, with interactive and drawing activities available. We also have a community learning space and co-curated exhibition space which has a changing programme of collaborative exhibitions between artists and communities.

In addition to the community learning space, we have a programme of self-led activities for schools.

Open to the public **Monday to Friday 10am – 4pm.**

For school bookings email: EDLCT.bookings@eastdunbarton.gov.uk



Auld Kirk Museum

Cowgate
Kirkintilloch
G66 1HN
Tel: 0141 777 3013

Kirkintilloch Town Hall

Union Street
Kirkintilloch
G66 1DH
Tel: 0141 777 3143

New Kilpatrick Parish Church

28 Kirk Place
Bearsden
G61 3RT
Tel: 0141 942 8827

Bishopbriggs Library

170 Kirkintilloch Road
Bishopbriggs
G64 2LX
Tel: 0141 777 3155

Lennoxtown Library

46 Main Street
Lennoxtown
G66 7JJ
Tel: 0141 777 3151

William Patrick Library

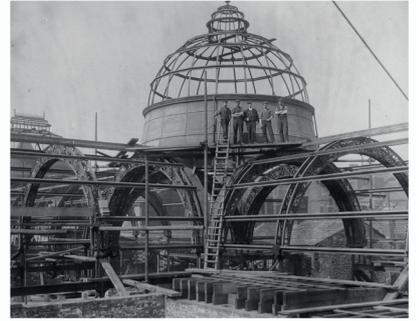
2-4 West High Street
Kirkintilloch
G66 1AD
Tel: 0141 777 3141

Gavin's Mill

Gavin's Mill Road
Milngavie
G62 6NB
Tel: 0141 955 0437

Milngavie Library

Allander Road
Milngavie
G62 8PN
Tel: 0141 956 2776



Other formats

This document can be provided in large print, Braille or in audio format and can be translated into other community languages.

Please contact the Council on 0300 123 4510

本文件可按要求翻譯成中文，如有此需要，請電 0300 123 4510。

اس دستاویز کا اردو خواستہ کرنے پر (اردو) زبان میں ترجمہ کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ براہ مہربانی فون نمبر 0300 123 4510 پر رابطہ کریں۔

ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦਾ ਮੰਗ ਕਰਨ ਤੇ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਵਿੱਚ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 0300 123 4510 ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Gabhaidh an sgrìobhainn seo cur gu Gàidhlig ma tha sin a dhìth oirbh. Cuiribh fòn gu 0300 123 4510

अनुदीध कम्ने पर यह दस्तावेज हिन्दी में भाषांतरित किया जा सकता है। कृपया 0300 123 4510 पर फोन कीजिए।