

A LONG, LONG TIME AGO...

Several hundred years ago, Lochend, Restalrig and Craigentenny were part of one of the huge baronial estates that used to surround Edinburgh. Although distant from Edinburgh's Old Town, for hundreds of years it saw processions of pilgrims visit St Triduana's Healing Spring, while the 16th-18th centuries brought tales of witchcraft, marauding armies and deadly plagues. In 1784 locals witnessed the first hot-air balloon flight in Britain, as James Tytler crash-landed near Restalrig. A few years later, Captain Macrae of Marionville House had to flee the country after a deadly duel.



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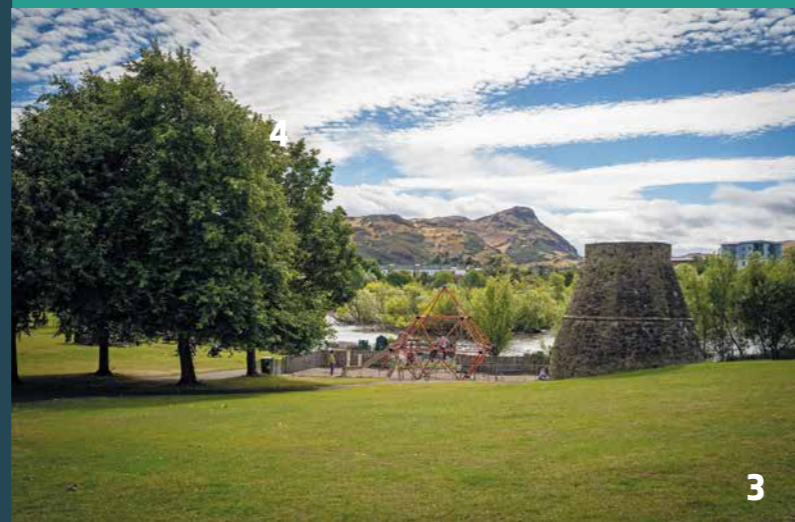
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TODAY...

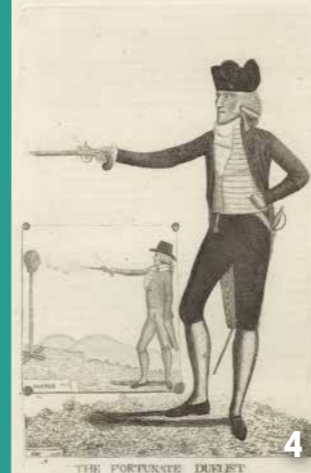
In the 21st century, the factories and mills are demolished or redeveloped as housing, and the area is now a largely residential suburb. The railway lines are no longer open to trains, and now support walkers, dogs, bicycles and wildlife. The communities have also changed; new generations have been born, families have moved away, while others have arrived from near and far. Many will be unaware of the history and heritage in Lochend, Restalrig and Craigentenny. It is hoped that this leaflet will help you explore the neighbourhood, connect with the community and enjoy a greater sense of belonging.

NOT SO LONG AGO...

Steam trains arrived in the 1830s, and from the 1870s the city, for so long just the Old and New Towns, began to expand outwards. New industries such as tallow works, roperies and woollen mills began, adding their noises and smells to those of Hawkhill Quarry, Lochend Farm and the Craigentenny Meadows, irrigated with sewage! In the 1930s the farmland began to disappear as council housing and bungalows were built, along with schools, churches, and recreational facilities such as sports grounds and Craigentenny Golf Course. By the 1950s the fields had gone, delivery horses were being replaced by vans, and trains were getting diesel engines.



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Discover local landmarks and stories

RESTALRIG, LOCHEND & CRAIGENTENNY

includes map highlights

Lochend, Restalrig and Craigentenny have been home to generations of people, through good times and bad. This leaflet has been created to encourage you to explore the heritage of this area and connect with others. We hope you enjoy discovering the landmarks and stories that make this area of Edinburgh special as much as we enjoyed getting to know the community. Thank you for your contributions and support which made this project possible.

— The People's Parish Project Team 2022

The People's Parish Project collected local stories, memories, and oral history during 2022. With thanks to all interviewees and supporters.

Heritage consultancy by Hetty Lancaster.
Design by Deborah Mullen.
Creative Fieldwork, survey and outreach interviews by Carol Stobie and Joan Robertson.

Download a free Resource Pack with additional content here:
www.peoplesparish.scot/culture-collective/restalrig

Funding and other support provided by:



1) Lochend Loch painted by Walter Geikie, RSA: courtesy of The Fine Art Society Ltd 2) View of Restalrig Village c1890 from CANMORE 3) Lochend Park 2022 © D Mullen 4) Captain James Macrae from Kay's Originals 5) Great Edinburgh Fire Balloon, public 1784, public domain 6) Two Women Standing, Restalrig 1937 THELMA Archives 7) No 64606 in the shed yard at St Margaret's Edinburgh 1963, © Keith Long 8) Munrospun Ltd - Knitwear factory 1962 © National World 9) Housing in Sleigh Drive c1936 from The Capital Collections 10) Restalrig Lochend Community Hub 2022 © D Mullen ** Front cover collage by D Mullen ©2022



1 Now a haven for waterbirds, Lochend Loch in **Lochend Park** once supplied Leith with fresh water and has been used over the centuries for hunting, fishing, boating and even ice-skating!



4 Built in 1920s, on the site of Lochend Farm, **Lochend Housing Estate** was one of Edinburgh's first council housing schemes.

5 Local industries once included rope-works, print-works, sawmills, and brewery maltings. The railway line that served them has become quiet, leafy **Restalrig Bike Path** connecting to Seafield and Leith.



6 **Marionville House** was built in the 1780s for the Ramsay Sisters, successful Edinburgh business women. In the 20th century, as the

Presbytery for St Ninian's and St Triduana's Roman Catholic Church, it provided a vital social space, hosting family events and youth clubs.



7 The site of a popular family shop, from 1908-1982, **Kemp's Corner** is named after original owner, Charles Kemp.

8 Red-brick 1890s **Munrospun Factory (formerly Kinloch Anderson)** employed local women producing fine woollen goods for almost 100 years. Now residential flats, its tall water-tower still dominates the skyline.



9 Home to Hibernian Football Club, founded by Irish immigrants in 1875, **Easter Road Stadium** has echoed to its fans' chants and cheers since 1893!



10 **Hawkhill** is where King James III (1451-1488) once hunted with his hawks. In 1769 it was the site of one of Edinburgh's earliest observatories in the grounds of Hawkhill House, noted justice Lord Alemoor's country villa.

11 The russet-topped tower-blocks of **Nisbet Court and Hawkhill Court** recall the tall, red brick

chimney of an earlier factory that produced tallow, a key ingredient of soap and candles.

12 Bethlehem translates to 'house of bread' in Hebrew. **Bethlehem Way** commemorates the Smith's and Sunblest Bakeries that once stood here.



13 The large villa of Restalrig House was replaced by the tower-blocks of **Restalrig House And Lochend House** in the 1960s-70s.



14 One of Scotland's most ancient saints, **St Triduana** is said to have died in Restalrig where her healing spring for eye complaints can still be found. This was a highly significant medieval pilgrimage site.

15 Once known as 'the hut' and used as Boy Scouts' clubhouse, the **Lochend Boxing Club (est 2007)** trained Commonwealth Games medal-winner Josh 'The Tartan Tornado' Taylor.

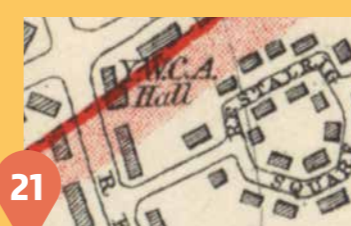


16 Originally built around 1604, **Craigentenny Castle (or House)**, was remodelled

in 1849 and saved from demolition in the 1930s by Edinburgh Council. Opening in 1937 as Scotland's first Community Centre, it continues this important role today.



The area is home to many greenspaces. The largest and oldest is **Lochend Park**. **Craigentenny Community Garden** is one of the smallest and newest. Together with the **Lochend Secret Garden**, a more established community garden, and the **Restalrig & Craigentenny Allotments**, these much-loved green spaces were especially important during the 2020 Covid lockdowns.



21 **The Hub** replaced the old YWCA 'hut' that once stood here, both vital local resources. Older residents recall "Y Dub" discos, youth clubs and baby-groups. Now **The Ripple Project** welcomes all to its friendly community café, activities, services and support groups.

22 Now a Conservation Area, the ancient **Village Of Restalrig** was first recorded in the 12th century and remained surrounded by farmland until the 1930s.



23 Built of prefabricated steel for easy construction in the 1920s, the **Findlay Estate Houses** were part of a post-war national building programme.



24 **Craigentenny Marbles** are the mausoleum and resting place of William H. Miller (1789-1848). Many of the area's streets are named for members of the Miller family, owners of the Craigentenny Estate.



Beside St Triduana's Chapel, **St Margaret's Parish Church** was once an important medieval Catholic Church with Royal patronage. Rebuilt in the 1830s as a Church of Scotland, today the church and nearby McLaren Halls form a welcoming social and spiritual hub for the community.

PHOTO CREDITS:

- 1) Heron at Lochend Loch by D Mullen 2022
- 2) Lochend House, near Edinburgh by John Clerk of Eldin, courtesy National Galleries Scotland.
- 4) Man With Children Sitting In Patch Of Grass At Lochend, The Living Memory Association Photo Archive.
- 6) Marionville House Around 1880 from Cassell's Old and New Edinburgh
- 7) Kemp's Corner Ghost Sign by D Mullen 2022
- 8) Munrospun former factory by Andy Arthur 2014
- 9) Easter Road Stadium 2012 by daniel0685, Wikimedia Commons
- 10) Viewing The Transit of Venus c1793 by Isaac Cruikshank
- 13) Restalrig House 1880 from The Capital Collections
- 14) 1913 Stained Glass Window of St Triduana, courtesy of St Magnus Cathedral, Orkney
- 17-20) Allotment gardens from Adobe Stock Photos
- 21) Post Office Plan of Edinburgh and Leith c1932-33 NLS Map collection.
- 22) Restalrig Village by D Mullen 2022
- 24) Old And New (Craigentenny Marbles) by Magnus Hagdorn
- 25) St Margaret's Kirk, Restalrig c1985 from Capital Collections



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:
For more information about the places mentioned in this guide, links to additional resources and a downloadable PDF version, please visit:
peoplesparish.scot/culture-collective/restalrig