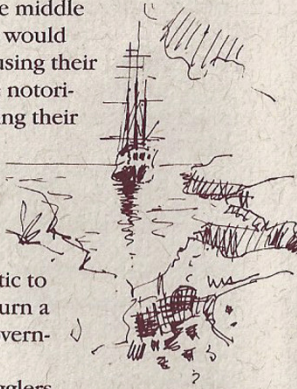


6. BLACKROCKS

Blackrocks was a popular spot for smugglers off loading their contraband during the middle 18th - 19th centuries. The luggers would come in close to the Pow Burn by using their local knowledge to get through the notorious Blackrocks. Farmers would bring their carts down the Wrack Road under cover of darkness, load up and be away before the Excise men arrived. Colonel Fullarton, employed by the government to stop this illicit trade, was sympathetic to the plight of the locals and would turn a blind eye to this activity. Many a government Excise Cutter landed on the blackrocks giving chase to the smugglers.



7. DANDERIN

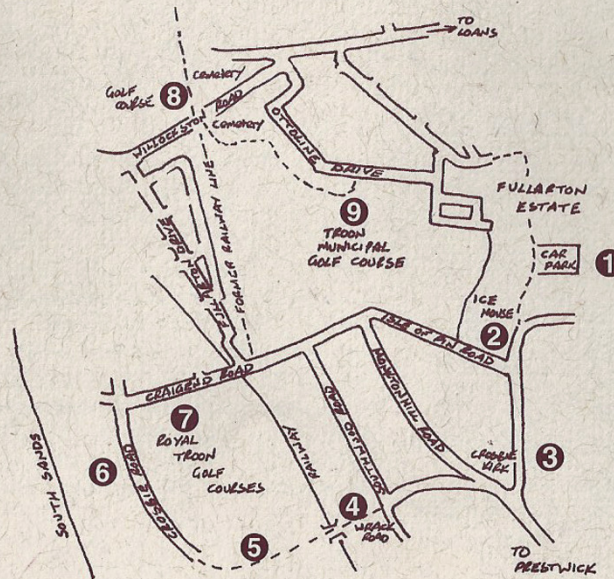
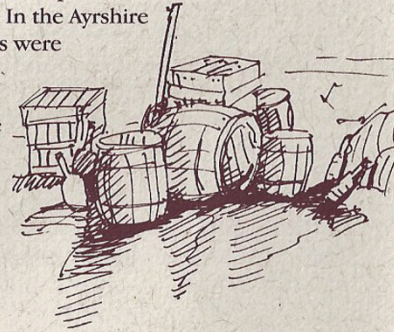
Craigend Road from Bentinck Drive up to the Isle O'Pins Road was known as the Danderin'. On the lower part was an avenue of large trees known locally as the Boulevard. Sunday afternoons would see a number of families out sitting, walking, chatting to friends or just taking the air, 'danderin' under the shade of the trees. Fullarton Drive, originally called Bogend, was the site of the first settlement of Fowlertons who came to Troon from Irvine around 1230.

8. WILLOCKSTON BARRACKS

During his career in the army Colonel William Fullarton served in France, India and South Africa. He led an expedition to Mexico against the Spaniards and when Britain was threatened he raised locally the 23rd Light Dragoons. Known as Fullarton's Light Horse and 102nd Regiment of Foot, they were barracked in Troon at the top of Willockston Road. The officers Polo ground to the rear of the barracks is now the Fullarton golf course, soldiers had their own polo ground in what is now the Municipal golf course. He twice represented Ayrshire in Parliament and in 1801 was appointed Governor of Trinidad.

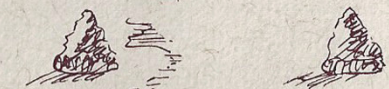
9. SMUGGLERS PATH

Smuggling in Troon was big business, foreign goods like rum, tea, lace, silk as well as everyday items such as salt had a heavy duty on them. To avoid the payment of this duty ships used tax free havens like Isle of Man and Ireland as huge store houses for the contraband coming from the continent. Small bays on the Ayrshire coast made it an ideal landing spot. Records go back to 1857 when the path from Willockston Road across the golf course was used by the smugglers. They came from Troon shore up to the woods on route to Loans and Dundonald in a bid to keep out of the way of the Redcoats. In the Ayrshire smuggling era excise laws were regarded as unjust and tyrannical. Many thought it was their duty to evade them by using illegal methods, cunning and brute force, but many would not have survived without the income this trade generated.



Artwork courtesy of Framework Gallery (Troon)

TROON HISTORICAL WALK



An all seasons circular walk from Fullarton Estate round the south of Troon exploring the history of the Fullarton Estates & the smuggling trade.

Produced by South Ayrshire Council in conjunction with Troon Community Council for Environment Week 1998

The Fullartons

The name Fullarton is of Anglo-Saxon origin and derived from the title given to a group of King's men called 'Fowlerton', meaning 'fowlers of the town'. They stocked and maintained his land to fill his table with wild fowl and game. Alanus de Fowlerton sent a band of fowlers out around 1230 to take possession of the coastal strip stretching south from his castle at Irvine. This area later to be known as Troon, provided ideal hunting in the marshy sandy land.

The Fullarton's Coat of Arms depicts a hawk above three otters. The hawk still hunts the many species of smaller wildlife to be found in the woods today.

1. FULLARTON HOUSE

The marriage stone to the rear of the car park, dated 1673, recorded the union of William Fullarton to his third wife Anne Brisbane from Largs. This lintel was placed over the door of the original Fullarton House from the nearby Crosbie Castle when it was dismantled to supply stone for the new dwelling in 1745. To the north left of this spot is the remains of the garden grotto used by the ladies of the house. Colonel William Fullarton, soldier, student of agriculture and a good friend of Robert Burns was the last family tenant. He got into financial difficulties and sold the estate, which included the lucrative Troon Harbour, to the Marquis of

Titchfield in 1805. Fullarton House was taken down by Troon Town Council in 1966. The stable block to the east side of the carpark, a later addition to the house, was saved and turned into a picturesque courtyard development in the 70's. The walled garden still in use, is adjacent to the stables. In 1996 the elegant stone 'Pins' the twin pillars that graced the house entrance were restored and erected in their original position on the north facing side of the estate and can be seen clearly at the wood edge when approaching from Loans. He left no heirs and



his death ended an unbroken line of family descent for over 600 years.

2. CROSBIE CASTLE OR 'ICE HOUSE'

Crosbie Castle was the original Fullarton home. An ancient fortalice built around 1240. Over the centuries it was re-built three times, in the same square design as seen at Dundonald Castle. All that remains today is the Castle's dungeons. When in use criminals would be held there before sentence was passed on them. Crosbie Castle was dismantled and the stones used to construct the first Fullarton House. The dungeon, which had an underwater river, was an ideal cold storage cellar. It became known as the 'Ice House'. To the east of the ruin on the area called Lawhill stood the 'Justice Pillar'. This was where the Fullartons carried out their rough justice in the King's name. The stone pillar suffered from exposure to the elements until it was moved to a sheltered spot beside the cottages on the Isle O' Pins Road. The 'Dove Cot' an essential part of a country house was for many years a picturesque ruin that stood behind Lochgreen's 12th tee before it was removed when it became dangerous.



3. CROSBIE KIRK

This small church was built around 1680, constructed on the site of the original chapel. The name came from the Anglo-Saxon word 'Crossbye', signifying the dwelling of the cross. The kirkyard was formed about 1240 and later was held under the Stewarts by Fullarton of Crosby in the 14th century after being passed on from relatives. Records indicate that this ground was used by a holy order before the Fullartons arrived in the area. Crosbie church had its roof blown off by a fierce gale on the night of 25th January 1759, on the same night Burn's cottage at Alloway lost its gable



end the day their son Robert was born. The kirkyard was the burial ground for Troon until 1862 and family lairs were opened up until after the first world war. The remains of the church manse wall built across the road can be seen today.

4. THE WRACK ROAD

The 'Wrack Road' was the Fullarton Estate service road used by farmers who took their carts down to the shore to collect seaweed for fertiliser. It was also the main road from Troon for any funerals going to Crosbie kirkyard. Horse drawn carts to and from Ayr to Irvine would use this route to avoid the 'Turnpike Toll' at Loans cross, where a toll was levied on all cart wheels and horses and was paid both ways. The road skirted past the Pow Burn which made some areas dangerous and a number of people were buried alive in quick sand when they wandered off the path. This pleasant walk through Southwoods gives a glimpse of the town's most elegant Edwardian Mansions and mature trees. Because of the unspoiled tranquillity a variety of wildlife and woodland plants can be seen here.



5. ROYAL TROON GOLF COURSE

Across Southwood Road into the edge of the golf course and up over the iron railway bridge a magnificent panoramic view of the Firth of Clyde opens up. Arran in the background provides a perfect setting for the immaculate green of Royal Troon Golf Course. Troon Old Course, now known as Royal Troon, was formed on the Craighend lands. The club house overlooking the first tee was built in 1878 and was designed by H.E. Clifford who included some outstanding features in the building. The portico, arched windows on the building's gable ends and the cast iron balcony makes this Clubhouse unique in Ayrshire. The Club is known worldwide for staging the Open Golf Championships.