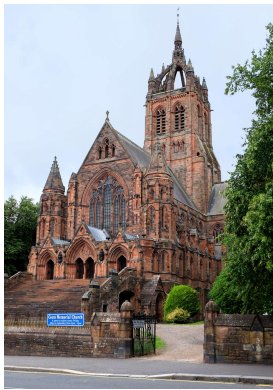
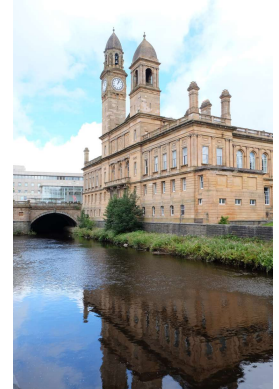


Walking Tour on Saturday 26th August, 2023

Paisley started as a village servicing the Abbey (founded 1163). The first bridge over the White Cart river, followed by burgh status in 1488, established it as the principal town of Renfrewshire. Weaving and water powered thread spinning took off throughout the county in the C18, and Paisley came to dominate the weaving of luxury shawls. From the C19 the Clarks and Coats huge mill complexes grew to supply much of the world's sewing thread. These survived the depression but declined in the late C20, so now the town is a service centre with a large hospital, university campus and Glasgow Airport. Shopping has migrated out of the town centre to Glasgow, Braehead and Silverburn. Lower house prices and good train links to Glasgow are helping repopulate and revitalise the town centre.



This history has left the town with a rich and diverse built heritage, much of which has been well cared for. The major industrialists endowed it with some city-scale buildings, notably Paisley Museum (1871), the Clark Town Hall (1882), and Coats Memorial Baptist Church (1894). These buildings, designed by architects from outside the town, have been complemented with many other buildings of interest designed by local architects of great ability. Our tour will focus on them.

We will stop for coffee and cake in the boutique Ashtree House Hotel. Then continue our climb up Oakshaw Hill, where competing denominations erected no less than eight churches. Then downhill via the Bull Inn, arguably Scotland's most Art Nouveau pub, to lunch in the volunteer-run local history Sma' Shot museum with its humble weavers' cottage.

The tour will leave from Paisley Gilmour Street Station (County Square entrance) at 10.30am and will be led by Duncan Macintosh, local historian and former conservation officer for Renfrewshire Council. The numbers will be strictly limited to 20, so do get your booking form in early!

The charge of £18 per person includes the tour, morning coffee/cake & soup/sandwich lunch.

**Please send your booking form, SAE if you do not have an email address, and cheque for £18 per person made out to "Strathclyde Group – AHSS" by 1st August, 2023 to:
Iain Wotherspoon, Flat 3, 60 Great George Street, Hillhead, Glasgow G12 8RP
E-mail address for more information: iainspoon@gmail.com**

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AHSS STRATHCLYDE GROUP STUDY DAY: Paisley Town Centre Walk

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____ TELEPHONE(Landline) _____ (Mobile) _____

EMAIL _____ OR ENCLOSE SAE

Number of persons () at £18.00 Amount Enclosed £ _____

Special food requirements, if any _____