

ANNUAL ADAM SMITH FESTIVAL

Our annual Festival is held at the beginning of June to celebrate the life and works of Adam Smith. And what an amazing programme we have in store! It's promising to be a truly special festival, with an amazing variety of interesting and exciting events to entertain everyone.

- Participate in an international symposium celebrating the works of Adam Smith
- Take a guided tour and explore the charms of Adam Smith's home town
- Sample an incredible showcase of locally grown produce and cookery demo's featuring talented local chefs
- Kids can get creative with loads of activities including interactive storytelling and workshops
- Be inspired by book events featuring an impressive line-up of authors and storytellers or take a turn in the spotlight at book and poetry readings.

Visit our website for all the details:
www.adamsmithglobalfoundation.com



ABOUT ADAM SMITH GLOBAL FOUNDATION

A registered charity, the objectives of the Foundation are through the recognition, promotion, publicising and study of the life and works of Dr. Adam Smith, to advance in Scotland and elsewhere, community development and citizenship, education, arts, heritage, culture, science, public participation in sport and the prevention or relief of poverty.

The aim is to reclaim and continue the legacy of Kirkcaldy's famous son, Adam Smith. Working with partners, the focus will be on restoring the historic fabric of his home town while harnessing the spirit of enterprise, demonstrated by Smith over two centuries ago, bringing together public, private and philanthropic principles for the benefit of all.

This trail forms part of the wider Adam Smith Experience which encompasses the Exhibition, the Adam Smith Close, the Experience Centre, the Merchant's Quarter and the annual Adam Smith Festival.

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ADAM SMITH HERITAGE TRAIL



ADAM SMITH (1723-1790)

A prominent figure in the Scottish Enlightenment, Adam Smith remains today a towering figure in the history of economic thought. Regarded as a social philosopher and economist, Smith is known worldwide for his works "The Theory of Moral Sentiments" (1759) and "An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations" (1776).



Adam was baptized in Kirkcaldy's Old Kirk on 5th June 1723, the only child of Adam Smith and Margaret Douglas. He never knew his father as Adam Smith senior passed away a few months before on 25th January 1723. Smith senior had been an eminent legal figure from an Aberdeen family of high social status, who latterly worked as Comptroller of the Customs for Kirkcaldy District. Adam's mother, Margaret Douglas, was the daughter of John Douglas of Stratherny, a landed proprietor of some local note. Margaret was a devoted and indulgent mother who left her sickly son to wait for little.

The Smith family home was located on the High Street and boasted beautifully laid-out gardens, the property stretching down to the sea shore. Adam and his mother were a comfortable family here in Kirkcaldy.



His education was begun at home by private tutors before he attended the Burgh School. There he was taught by Mr. David Miller, a teacher of considerable reputation who produced a

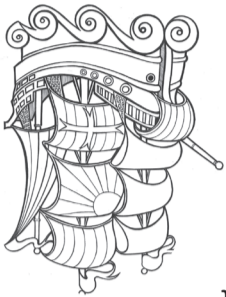
number of eminent men under his direction. As a boy, Adam had been an infirm child who took most of his enjoyment from reading. However, like most children, he enjoyed friendships with his schoolmates and those were to last throughout his life. Dugald Stewart, the son of one of those friends wrote

"The weakness of his bodily constitution prevented him from partaking in their more active amusements; but he was much beloved by them on account of his temper, which, though warm, was to an uncommon degree friendly and generous".



In 1737, at the age of 14 Adam entered the University of Glasgow to study Latin, Greek, Logic, Moral Philosophy, Mathematics and Natural Philosophy. In 1740 he left Glasgow with an MA with distinction after which he was awarded a Snell Exhibition at Balliol College, Oxford. However, disgusted by the poor quality of the teaching at the University of Oxford, Smith embarked on an extensive course of self-education, utilizing the books and manuscripts in the college library. From 1746 to 1748 he was permanently in Kirkcaldy until he returned to Edinburgh University to become a lecturer in Rhetoric. He was appointed Professor of Logic at Glasgow University in 1751, changing to Chair of Moral Philosophy in 1752. In 1764 Smith accepted a well paid tutoring post to the 3rd Duke of Buccleuch, which involved touring Europe over a period of two years. Their travels to Geneva, Toulouse

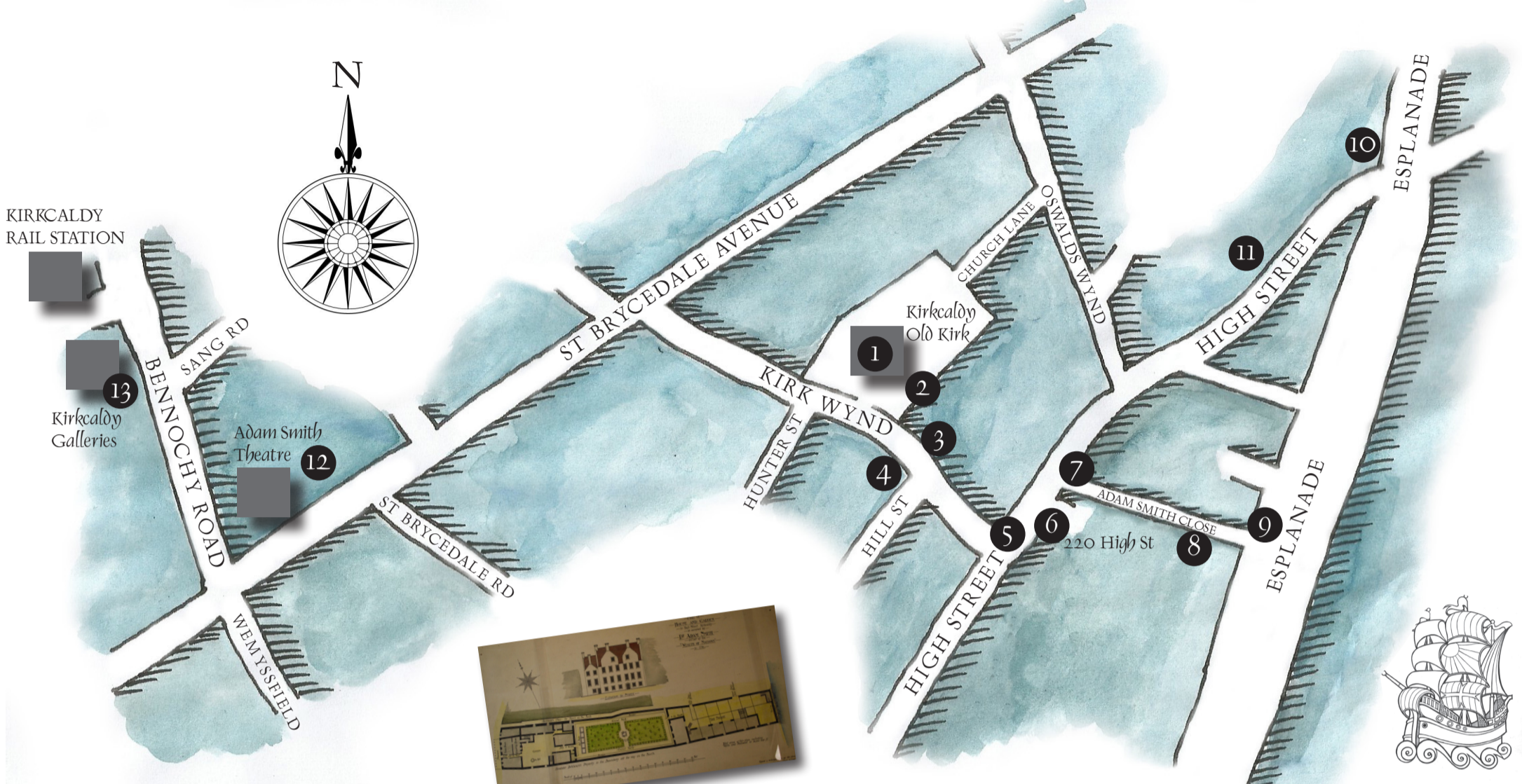
"My business here is study in which I have been very deeply engaged.... My amusements are long, solitary walks by the sea side. You may judge how I spend my time. I feel myself however, extremely happy, comfortable and contented. I never was, perhaps, more so in all my life".



and Paris enabled Smith to meet Voltaire, Turgot and Quesney amongst others of the French Enlightenment. He returned to Kirkcaldy, where he devoted the following ten years to completion of his 'Inquiry into the Nature of Wealth of Nations'; Over the years he would come and go but preferred whenever he could not just to visit but to live in Kirkcaldy with his mother, socializing and enjoying supper parties for which he became renowned. Using everyday life here as his inspiration, in 1767 Adam completed what many regard as his magnum opus, 'The Wealth of Nations', published in 1776. Throughout his life he frequently resisted calls from the likes of his dear friend, David Hume, to leave provincial Kirkcaldy. Hume considered Kirkcaldy no place for a man of letters but Smith refused, frequently stating his contentment in living in a small, quiet, country provincial town and the joy he derived from mixing with the townsfolk of all levels. This devotion is made clear in his letters and in a letter to David Hume from Kirkcaldy on June 7th, 1767:

The trail

The trail starts at the Old Kirk, where there is a new Adam Smith public exhibition. However, the trail can be picked up at any of the points marked on the map.



1 The Old Kirk Exhibition

This new public exhibition hosts 18th century day-to-day items, Adam Smith artifacts and illustrated storylines, providing you with an interesting and tangible link to the past.

2 Kirkcaldy Old Kirk

Parish records indicate that Adam Smith was baptised in Kirkcaldy Old Kirk on 5th June 1723. Only the 15th century tower remains as the main body of the Kirk had fallen into a dilapidated condition and was therefore rebuilt in 1807.

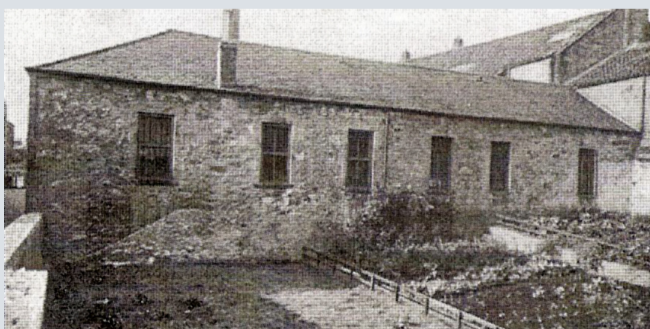
3 Matthew Anderson's House

Indicated by an elaborate marriage lintel dated 1627, this was once the family home to a successful meal and malt merchant, Matthew Anderson. Smith would have been familiar with the house as he'd have climbed the adjacent steps on his way to the Kirk. It is now the home of the Adam Smith Global Foundation.



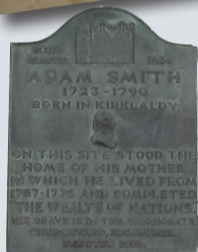
4 Burgh School

Adam was educated at home by private tutors until the age of 10 after which he attended the Burgh School where he was taught by Mr David Miller, a teacher of considerable reputation. In 1843, the school was relocated from this site to where the local college of further education stands today.



5 High Street

In the 18th century, Kirkcaldy was a very small town with a census in 1755 recording the population at 2,296. In those days the town was comprised of one long street with small lanes opening on each side. It would have served as the main thoroughfare along the Fife coast from the ferry port of Pettycur, near Kinghorn, where travelers would alight from Edinburgh. The original market cross had then been situated only a few steps from Mrs. Smith's house but was relocated further West as Kirkcaldy grew.



6 His Mother's House

Smith's mother was Margaret Douglas of Strathendry, daughter of a wealthy landowner. Her house boasted beautifully laid-out gardens, the property stretching down to the sea shore. There were fruit trees and bushes, herbaceous borders and hotbeds for exotic species. Adam enjoyed spending time at home here throughout his life.

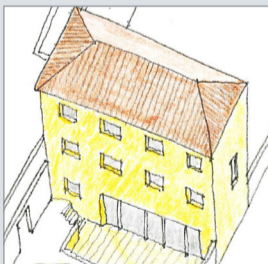
7 Adam Smith Close

Follow the timeline along what was formerly known as 'Halkett's Close'. This was typical of many narrow vennels of the time, providing access to the shore from the High Street. Adam would often have walked between these walls or entered onto the close via a doorway in their garden wall.



8 The Adam Smith Experience Centre

Step inside this historic building situated within the original grounds of Smith's home and enjoy an interactive experience exploring the life and times of Adam Smith.



9 The Esplanade (formerly Sands Road)

Adam would have wandered on the beach here as a boy and in later life he still loved long strolls along the shore. He'd have looked south across the Firth of Forth to Edinburgh and eastward, watching ships coming and going to the rest of the world. This surely would have fostered inspiration for his work, "The Wealth of Nations"

10 Law's Close/Merchant's House

This is one of the oldest houses in Kirkcaldy with much of its original ornate décor still surviving, the house was built in the 1590's for a shipping merchant named 'Law'. From here Law would watch his ships entering and leaving the harbour. Adam would have passed by here regularly, perhaps even stopping in to visit.



11 Betty Nicol's Bar

A centuries old drinking establishment with records and historical documentation dating back to 1741 when it had been sold to Alexander Watson of Glentarkie for the principal sum of Ninety Eight Pounds and Ten Shillings. It's known that Adam enjoyed French claret and Scottish beer, feasibly patronising some of the local hostelries which remain today.



12 Adam Smith Theatre

Provost Michael Beveridge (d.1890) left a bequest to build a public hall in memory of Adam Smith. Opened in 1899 by Andrew Carnegie, the Theatre today is a popular venue, well-loved for its high-quality shows, full-scale cinema and long history at the heart of the local arts scene.



13 Kirkcaldy Galleries

When Adam Smith died, he left a huge legacy of ideas but few personal possessions. Kirkcaldy Galleries is lucky enough to have on display his snuff box, a first edition of the Wealth of Nations, his ink stand and, currently on loan, the restored painting of his mother by Conrad Metz. (1749 - 1827).

