



...the sight of buzzards wheeling overhead, the sound of woodpeckers drumming and the spectacular rookery. Malky, Janet and Mairie M.

In winter, berries, including holly and rowan, provide food for **winter** visitors, as well as resident birds such as blackbirds. Look out for redwings, greenfinches, bullfinches, waxwings and fieldfares.

'I remember running, running around in the meadows and watching the deer'. Rowan W.

Swifts, swallows and sand martins depart as the leaves begin to colour for their **autumn** display. Brambles fruit on Holmehill and in the Lighthills.

'We used to have picnics and meet folk up there'. Irene F.

nectar-rich flowers. Bees and butterflies can be found feeding on Africa. Bees and butterflies can be found feeding on start fledging. Bumblebees abound and painted lady trees. Resident birds and **summer** visitors are in full song, breeding and nesting. Soon after, baby birds look for pipistrelle bats catching insects at dusk near

'The children used to roll their eggs down the hill at Easter time'. Bob G.

in the woodlands. Migratory birds, including sand martins, swallows and swifts arrive from the south and start nesting. Watch buzzards soaring overhead.

Spring enjoy snowdrops, celandines and bluebells

Text in italics are memories from Dunblane residents who participated in the Holmehill Oral History Project.

Knockmafuddy is a small secluded area of woodland, to the north of the Hydro hotel, which has a mix of managed parkland and woods.

The pond has been cleaned out and upgraded by local volunteers.

Enjoy a stroll around this tranquil park with its mature trees and beautiful pond, home to ducks and swans.

Ochlochy Park

Enjoy a relaxed stroll either side of the Allan Water, including the Memorial Park, Bleaching Green and the 'Faerie Bridge'. Look out for herons, dippers and gosanders. Dabenton's bats hunt insects over the water at dusk in summer.

Riverside Walks

Here you will find something for everyone: a skatepark, playground, a network of paths and a variety of wildlife, particularly in the wetter areas alongside the Allan Water and Scouring burn. In 1828 a well house was erected here for those who came to Dunblane to 'take the waters'.

The Lighthills



Find the latest news at www.holmehillblog.org

On Holmehill you can find roe deer, bats and many species of birds, including chaffinch, willow warbler, wren, blue tit, long tailed tit, coal tit, tawny owl, great spotted woodpecker, tree creeper, sparrowhawk and buzzard. The rookery here has around 95 nests and is often a busy, noisy place. It is said that Bonnie Prince Charlie remarked on the rookery when he rode through Dunblane in 1745.

'Good trees for conkers'. Bob G.

Native species including oak, holly, yew, birch, elder, lime, beech and sweet chestnut line the main path.

'I remember the garden around Holmehill House - it was the most beautiful garden'. Willy W.

Many of the mature trees you see here are likely to have been planted as landscaping in the grounds of the mansion house which stood on the hill from 1820 until 1980. Its owners included the Donaldsons, who owned a major shipping line, and the Templetons (of Templetons Carpet factory near Glasgow Green). A plaque on the wall behind Dunblane library commemorates Holmehill.

Holmehill is the green heart of Dunblane. It is the dun - fortified hill - of St Blane, a Celtic missionary who founded Dunblane in 602 AD.

Dunblane's Wildlife Year

For more Dunblane Walks

Dunblane Heritage Walk is produced by the Dunblane Local History Society and is a short stroll through 2000 years of history.

Dunblane Community Paths leaflet is produced by Stirling Council, and shows some longer walks from Dunblane, all starting from the Cathedral.

Annual events in Dunblane's green spaces

Dawn chorus bird watch	Early May
Doone and Dunblane Fling	Last weekend of May
Hydro 7.5 mile Roadrace	Late May
Family Funday	Second Sunday in August

Useful links

For the latest news of Holmehill events and wildlife

www.holmehillblog.org

For Dunblane information

www.dunblaneweb.co.uk

www.dunblanefling.com

www.dunblanehydrohotel.com

For Stirling Council information

www.stirling.gov.uk

Holmehill



Holmehill Community Buyout

Green Walks in Central Dunblane

This leaflet has been produced by Holmehill Community Buyout to help residents of and visitors to Dunblane enjoy its central green spaces with their rich history, flora and fauna.

Holmehill Community Buyout is a local community group based in Dunblane.

Its aims are:

- To buy Holmehill for use by the community of Dunblane.
- To ensure that the protection presently afforded to Holmehill is maintained.
- To ensure the sustainable development of Holmehill.

Holmehill Community Buyout is the campaigning name of Holmehill Ltd. (Scottish Charity No SC036988). Holmehill Ltd. is a company registered in Scotland No 279947.

www.holmehill.org

Holmehill, the green heart of Dunblane

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Walks leaflet © Holmehill Ltd.



Including Holmehill, Knockmafuddy Woods, Lighthills, Ochlochy Park, Hydro Grounds and Riverside Walks



KNOW THE CODE BEFORE YOU GO

outdooraccess-scotland.com





Green walks in Central Dunblane

All areas can be reached within 20 minutes walking, but there is plenty to see on a more leisurely stroll. Many of the paths are accessible by wheelchair and buggy, but some are hilly and can be muddy.



Blossom by the Cathedral

Brambles at Holmehill

Trees at Holmehill

0 yards 100 200 300
0 Metres 100 200 300

KEY

	Accessible paths (suitable for wheelchairs/buggies)		Parking		Tennis court
	Rougher paths: wear stout shoes		Public toilets (not 24 hrs)		Play park
			Post office		Skate park
			Cafe		Football pitch
			Public house		Golf course

Useful Information

Enter **Holmehill** from the gate lodge where Smithy Loan meets Perth Road, opposite Dunblane Hydro, or from Braeport, between the two white houses just up from the community centre.

Access **Lairghills** from the firm riverside path, or from a hilly path from Ramoyle.

Knockmafuddy is accessed from the **Dunblane Hydro Hotel**, or from Ledcameroch Gardens.

Ochloch Park is accessed from the Glen Road or Ochloch Park.

The riverside paths on either side of the **Allan Water** are accessible from the station and the Cathedral.

Ramoyle was originally a separate village. Some of the weaver's cottages date from the 18th century.

Building of the **Cathedral** began in the 12th century. It was restored in the 1890s.

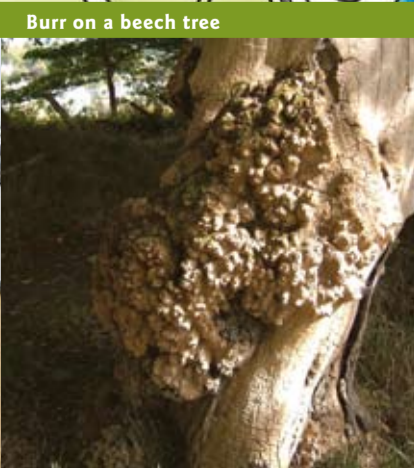
Dunblane Museum inhabits the 17th century Dean's House.

The **Leighton Library** houses the 17th century collection of Leighton, Bishop of Dunblane, and some of the rarest books in the country.

Scottish Churches House is an ecumenical residential centre with a programme of events open to the public.



Holmehill frames Kirk Street



Burr on a beech tree



Holmehill



Dunblane Hydro Hotel