

“DOON THE WATTER” – THE GLASGOW FAIR

Glasgow Fair Fortnight occurred during July when Glasgow **packed up and left on its holiday**. The origins of the Glasgow Fair can be traced back to the 12th century when the Fair was a market held in the surrounds of Glasgow Cathedral. In the 1800s it was very much a Trade Fair but by the 1950s “Doon the watter” was the annual escape from the industrial city, when large numbers departed to the healthier shores of seaside resorts such as Rothesay and Helensburgh.

Others would travel to Cushendun. Over centuries strong links were established with Cushendun with people and trade moving back and forth across the water. Prior to the opening of the Coast Road, Cushendun had a Passport and Customs Office. Cushendun was therefore both an accessible and attractive destination, not only to first time Scottish visitors but also to those with family connections.

Denis McKay remembers what it was like as a boy to travel from Stranraer to Larne on either the *Princess Maud* or the *Princess Margaret* and the anticipation of two weeks holiday by the sea. He describes the excitement upon arrival at Cushendun and the excitement of reconnecting with young friends to sample the delights of swimming and fishing in Cushendun Bay.



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