

Queen Street/ Storie Street

Directions

Starts at the main entrance of **Paisley Museum and Art Galleries**. Walk away from Paisley Cross passing **Paisley University** on the left. Just beyond the junction of Lady Lane you will pass a bench with 'ginger bottles' cut out of the back. Continue on the main road and at the traffic lights take the left hand fork. Cross over the end of Castle Street and take the next left into **Queen Street**. You will pass **Tannahill's thatched cottage** on the left. At the bottom of the street continue straight through to **George Street** and turn left. As the road curves round there are thin **metal bollards** on the left separating two roads. At

this point leave the dual carriageway and cross over onto the other road. Continue in approximately the same direction as before with 4 storey flats on the left and a high rise block on the right.

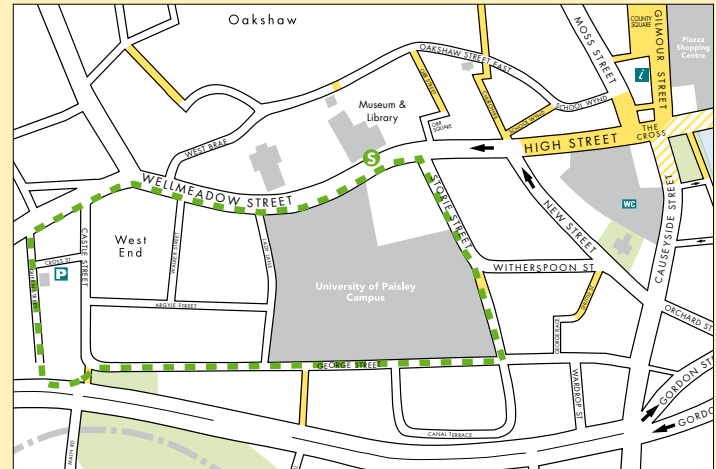
Eventually you will pass the original **university buildings**. Just after these turn left into **Storie Street**. You will pass the Robertson Trust Library on the left. When you reach the top of the hill turn left again into the **High Street**. The walk ends back at the museum.



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walking to health

Distance: 1.8kms Approximate time: 20 mins





A little local knowledge

Outside the main entrance to Paisley University you will see a statue of the **Reverend John Witherspoon**. He was the minister of the Laigh Kirk (where the arts centre is now) from 1757 to 1768. He was greatly respected in the town as a minister but unfortunately became involved in a libel case against some rich young men of the town. He was offered the presidency of Princeton

College, New Jersey, USA. In this new position he taught some of the future leaders of American public life. He eventually entered politics as a republican and helped to write the American Declaration of Independence of 1776.

The **Coats Memorial Church** was built to commemorate the life of Thomas Coats. Work began in 1885 but it wasn't opened until 1894, eleven years after Thomas' death. Although the family dictated that the cost should be £20,000 in the end the final bill was nearer £110,000. Along with many other outstanding features the vestry is said to contain the finest remaining Victorian lavatory in Scotland!

At the corner of **Lady Lane** you will see a bench, with ginger bottle shapes carved out of the back. A bottle of ginger was bought in the cafe that once stood here. A decomposing snail was found in the bottom of the bottle. When a complaint was made to the manufacturers it was deemed that as their contract was with the shop not the purchaser they did not owe any compensation. The resulting case changed the law on 'duty of care' forever.

Robert Tannahill was one of Paisley's weaver poets. Although he was born in nearby Castle Street, his family moved to the small thatched cottage in Queen Street when he was a young boy. He continued to live and work here until his death. At the weekend he would walk to Gleniffer Braes to enjoy the solitude and to gain inspiration for his poetry. Poetry was an essential part of his life, he is said to have had a wooden box above his loom in which he kept his writings on hand to add to whilst he worked. Although his poetry was much admired both during his lifetime and in the years since, he was often a troubled man. He had little faith in his own abilities and was often deeply depressed. His body was found in the Candren Burn on the 17th May 1810 - he was 36 years old.

The story of **Paisley University** really begins in the early part of the nineteenth century with a young draper, Peter Brough. He had been sent by his Glasgow employer to manage the Paisley end of the business. By the time he was 20 Peter had bought the shop and ten years later he owned six shops. When he died in 1883 Peter left several bequests to the town including a sum of £300 to be used for the establishment and future maintenance of a science lectureship within the Burgh of Paisley. His trustees were given the power to distribute the rest of his wealth and they decided to use the money to set up a technical school for the town - the makings of the university were born!

