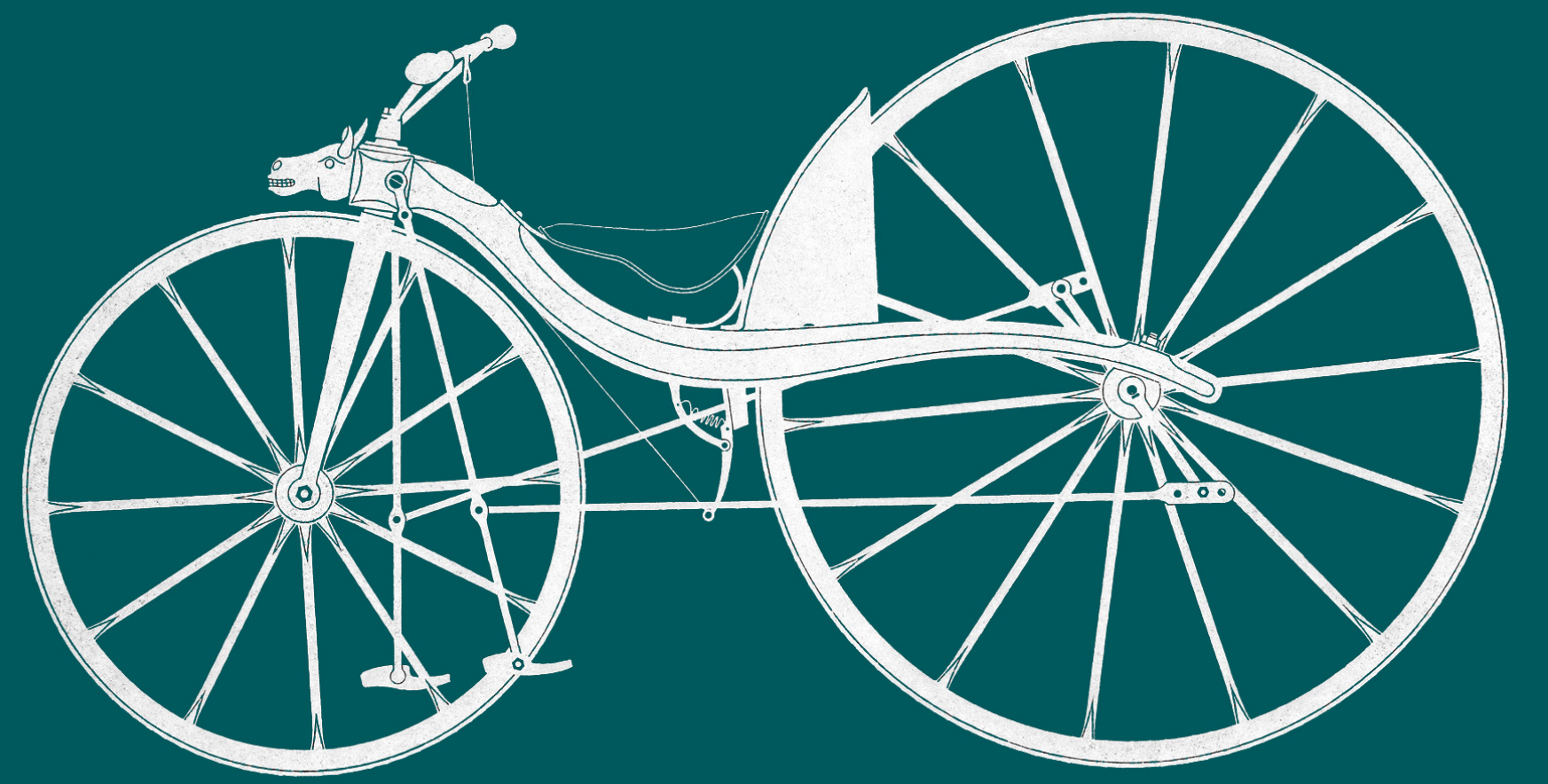


Welcome to KEIR MILL



Home of Kirkpatrick Macmillan, inventor of the pedal bicycle

Kirkpatrick Macmillan was born in Keir. He was a blacksmith at Courthill Smithy, which is 500 yards further along the road towards Penpont on your left. An information panel at the Smithy summarises most of what is known about his life and work.

It was here where, in 1840, he invented the first pedal cycle, the 'velocipede'.

His bicycle had wooden wheels with iron band tyres and a frame consisting of a wooden bar, forked to carry the rear wheel. It was propelled by a horizontal reciprocating movement of the rider's feet on the pedals. The movement was transmitted to the cranks on the rear wheel by connecting rods.



There is no known original Kirkpatrick Macmillan bicycle. The oldest replica, built by Macmillan's friend, Thomas McCall, is in Dumfries Museum. There are other more recent examples at Drumlanrig Castle, only 4 miles away via the Kirkpatrick Macmillan Trail, and in the Loreburn Centre in Dumfries.

In 1992 a Kirkpatrick Macmillan Trail cycle route, using cycle paths and quiet roads, was designed and waymarked by Dumfries and Galloway Regional Council. The route runs from Dumfries, via Keir, to Drumlanrig Castle (see adjacent board). The Kirkpatrick Macmillan Bridge, opened in 2006, spans the River Nith in Dumfries and provides another crossing point for pedestrians and cyclists downstream from the main town centre bridges.

Macmillan's velocipede developed into the bicycle of today. His vision is now reaping rewards as Dumfries and Galloway is today recognised as one of the most cycle friendly regions in Scotland.

This panel was renewed and provided by CTC Dumfries and Galloway Members Group and the Taylor family to replace the original.

In Memory of John Taylor

7 July 1930 to 13 July 2009

Cycling campaigner and lover of all nature.
Chairman and Secretary of the Founding Committee
1990 Kirkpatrick Macmillan KM150 Cycle Rally.
John made a significant contribution to Dumfries and Galloway cycling, championing cyclists' rights on and off road.

Over the wall, behind this noticeboard, you will see a bicycle repair stand provided by KPT Development Trust. Please feel free to use it, should you need to make a running repair to your bike.



Design by
Dumfries and Galloway COUNCIL

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