

Why are traditional shops important?

We take shops for granted, walking past them every day. However, these facades reflect decades of local history, invoke nostalgia and memories but also remain practical working buildings, designed for a purpose and still fulfilling that role. Features hint at previous occupiers, styles and trends and provide layers of history adding character to the townscape.

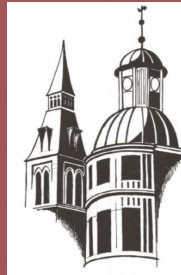


*Batchelor's Grocery, 10 Crossgate
Reproduced with permission of Cupar Heritage*



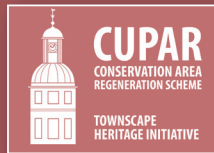
The Cupar & District Co-operative Society was a key retailer in the town. The Co-op remains in Bonnygate today. This image dates to early 1900s ©Fife Council

Cupar Heritage



Cupar Heritage is the local history society for Cupar and surrounding area and is located at: Cupar Museum and Heritage Centre, Railway Station, Cupar, Fife, KY15 5HX
www.cuparheritage.org.uk
T: 01334 844979

A report is available to see at the museum entitled, 'Traditional Shops and Shopping in Cupar, Fife'.



The Cupar CARS/THI Project 2014-19, managed by Fife Historic Buildings Trust on behalf of Fife Council, gave new life to some of the town's historic shops.



ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

Planning Permission: if you are considering making alterations to your shopfront you may need statutory consent. Contact Fife Council Planning Department for advice. They can guide you through the necessary permissions and consents.

Cupar Heritage is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation: Scottish Charity Number SC043605

Cover picture:

*G Lumsden, Hairdresser, 48 Bonnygate, c1930s
Reproduced with permission of Cupar Heritage*

Historic Shops of Cupar



***Cupar has, throughout history, been
a centre for buying and selling.***

From its market cross to the mixture of local and national retailers, Cupar's county town status has successfully attracted shoppers and retailers. While shopping has undoubtedly changed in recent decades, the legacy of this long retail history is a fascinating architecture evident in the surviving traditional shops. Embedded in this are decades of social history; local shopkeepers, national retailers and the Cupar & District Co-operative Society.

This leaflet celebrates this rich architectural heritage and highlights the value of these buildings.

Shopfront Styles:

A shopfront can be dated by its style and construction materials. Shops often show multiple periods of influence with features from more than one era. Cupar has shops dating to Victorian, Edwardian and Interwar periods as well as Post-war. They tell the story of how Cupar embraced a variety of retail fashions.

19th century: Quality masonry dominates with later examples more elaborate and with larger windows. Storm doors feature set in square entrances. By the late 1800s, splayed entrances were common with encaustic tiled floors. Decorative console brackets, pilasters and dentilled cornices were also fashionable.



Early 20th century: Edwardian shops used mosaic entrances, showcases and curved details to create beautiful shopfronts. This former Buttercup Dairy Company shop retains its original door and console brackets. The tiles remain but have been altered.

Inter-war: This large shop dates to the 1930s with Post-war mosaic added. It has bronze window frames and a deep entrance with a geometric design set into the marble floor.



Modern: This shop was renovated in 2017 as part of the Cupar CARS/THI. The simple signboards and matching doors are sympathetic to the parent building and typical of domestic style frontages. The design was informed by historic photos.

Cupar Shopfronts: What to Look For

Small details give clues to the past. Look out for these as you walk round Cupar.

Console brackets: These mark the end of fascia or signboard. Victorian ones can be very elaborate but early 20th century examples are simpler in design.



Practical details: Blinds, vents and gates all contribute to the history of a shop. The smallest details are of interest.



Entrances: The invitation to come in and shop is an important part of retail architecture. Lobby floors may be be tiled with mosaic, marble, encaustic tiles or terrazzo.

