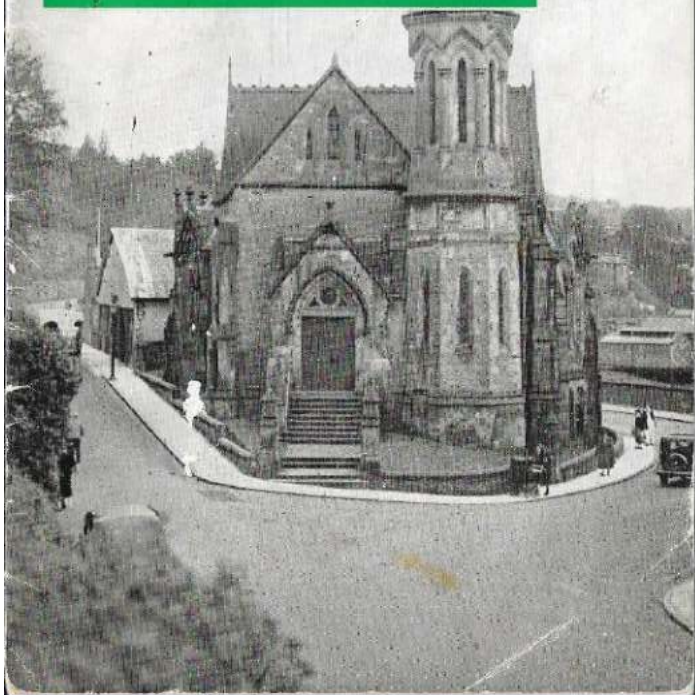


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## Illustrated Guide to **NEWPORT** and **WORMIT**



*Boat Road, Newport.*

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*High Street, looking East.*

## NEWPORT

There are many Newports, but only one Newport-on-Tay. The sylvan beauty and tranquil air of this little burgh attract many visitors. As viewed from the ferry boat crossing the Tay, nestling on the kindly, undulating slopes of the Fifeshire coast, it presents a picturesque sight not soon to be forgotten.

Set on the Firth of Tay, directly opposite Dundee, it may fitly be termed the southern suburb of busy Dundee. From the beach the slopes are dotted with elegant villas, while stately mansions and terraces of handsome houses rise upwards to the crest of the hill, which is crowned by a fringe of green, shady woods.

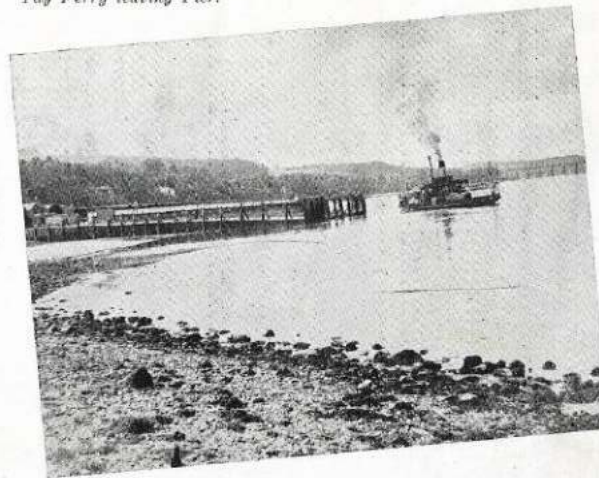
The whole town has an air of prosperity and refinement about it, and offers a quiet rural residence to the merchants and well-to-do classes of Dundee.

The population is about 3,320. There is no manufacture carried on in the parish.

### NEWPORT IN OLDEN DAYS

The town of Newport is about 200 years old, and its origin and growth are closely connected with the Ferry Service. The progress and prosperity of Dundee have also been reflected in its growth and an increasing number of the city business people have been drawn to it to seek residence in the quiet of its comparative seclusion.

*Tay Ferry leaving Pier.*





In 1669 the Woodhaven passage to Dundee was recognised as a public ferry in the great line of communication between the southern and north-eastern parts of Scotland. Woodhaven in these days was the principal ferry and carried on a considerable traffic. This old ferry was often the scene of great bustle and excitement, the boats and horses there being at the call of some hasty traveller from Dundee, or grave ecclesiastic returning from St. Andrews, or a merry monarch and his retinue from the Palace of Falkland on a hunting expedition to Monrummon Muir.

Rob Roy Macgregor, after his cruel raid in Fife in 1715, retreating before the Royal Army approaching from Perth, led off his whole Highland host by this route to Dundee.

Though a ferry had existed from time immemorial between Dundee and that part of the waterside now

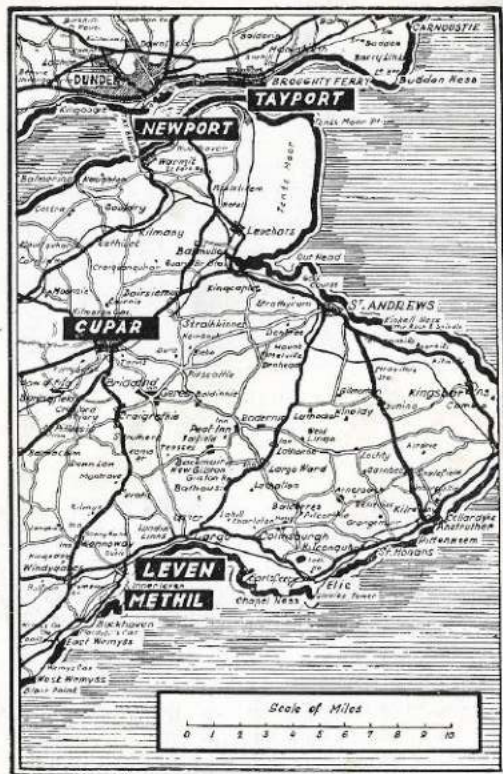
*Newport from Dundee, showing Ferry Boats crossing the Tay.*



*Newport from East.*

known as Newport, it was not till the beginning of the eighteenth century that it began to assume anything like the importance which was attached to its rival Woodhaven.

In 1713, the Guildry of Dundee, at the suggestion of the Town Council, resolved to take steps to establish a regular ferry from Dundee direct to the south or Fife side of the Tay. The suggestion of the Town Council was heartily taken up and ground purchased from the estates of St. Fort and Inverdovat (now Tayfield), on which a pier was built, and also a house for the tacksman, which was to be used as an inn and horse-riding establishment. But the Guildry did not rest satisfied with the construction of a harbour for "boats and

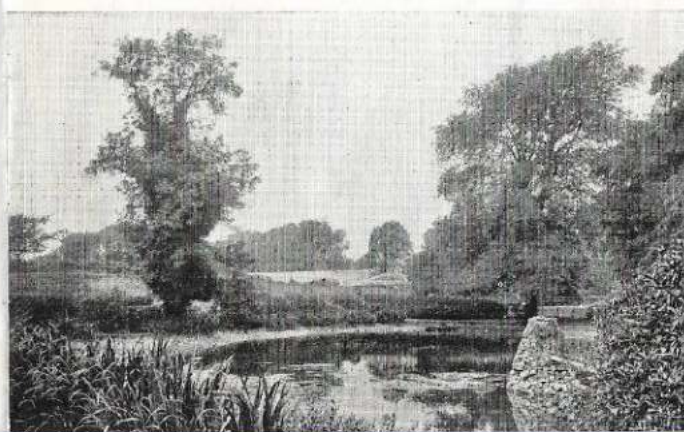


yals"; through their exertions a public highway was made from Newport to Kirkcaldy. Thus direct communication was opened up between the Metropolis and the North of Scotland, by the passage of the ferries on the Forth between Leith and Kirkcaldy, and on the Tay between Newport and Dundee.

From 1823, when the foundation stone of the new piers was laid and regular steamboat service established, traffic speedily increased. In 1873 the Dundee Harbour Trustees took over the management of the ferries, the price paid to the Caledonian Railway Company being about £20,000.

Within easy reach of the city, Newport speedily attracted Dundonians, and building went on apace. The increase of population was greatest in East Newport, and later West Newport came into being.

*Tayfield Pond, Newport.*





The humble little cottages soon gave way to handsome villas, and stations were erected, respectively known as East Newport and West Newport.

Linking up East and West Newport, the mansions of Balmore, Kinbrae, Westwood and Tayfield give picturesqueness and dignity to the burgh.

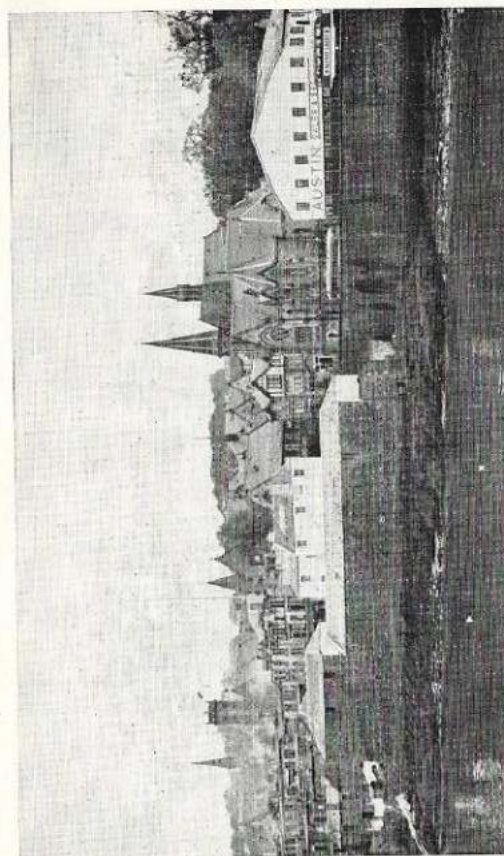
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#### SPORT AND RECREATION

For the golfer there is a wide choice of courses within easy reach.

**Scotsraig Golf Course.**—Golfers will find this course within easy reach. It lies about ten minutes' walk from Tayport Railway Station, and buses pass within about five minutes of the clubhouse. The course belongs to the Scotsraig Golf Club and has a history of well over 100 years, having been founded in 1817. It is an 18-hole course and, apart from one or two holes, the ground is of real seaside turf, with a sandy subsoil, so that even in the wettest weather the course does not become water-logged, but is playable in comfort. Its length is 6,476 yards, with a scratch score of 73.

The members enjoy the amenities of a commodious clubhouse, where meals and refreshments may be obtained. Temporary members are welcomed, and they will find it possible to play at any time in comfort without the congestion which is so often the bugbear of public courses. There is Sunday play after 1 p.m. The



Newport from River Tay.

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charges for visitors and temporary members are very moderate.

St. Michael's Golf Course, Leuchars, four miles distant from Newport, is also a haunt of Newportonians.

The Public Park holds a fine site, three minutes' walk behind East Newport Station, and here the youth of Newport disport themselves summer and winter. Football and hockey (ladies' and gentlemen's teams) are enthusiastically played in the winter months.

Splendid Tennis Courts and a Quoiting Ground are on the Cupar Road.

The Bowling Green holds pride of place in the hearts of many of the residents. Its gates front the Council Chambers.

In the Tayfield policies there are excellent ponds for curlers.

#### LOVELY WALKS

Few spots can boast of as many charming walks as those round Newport. The Old Kirk Road of The Den, as it is familiarly called, is entrancingly lovely. This walk branches off the Cupar Road and runs parallel to Tayfield Den. The fine old trees which border the way form a canopy of foliage through which even the rays of the sun find difficulty in filtering.

Perhaps the favourite walk is through the Serpentine. This path wends its way through the Scotsraig policies. The north entrance is on the Tayport Road, half-way between Newport and Tayport. The south gate is on the Inverdoval Road, a little beyond the gates of Chesterhill.

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Another delightful walk is via Wormit by the Braes to the quaint old village of Balmerino. This village boasts the ruins of a fine old Abbey, well worth a visit.

There is a wealth of beauty in the woods which border the Five Roads. This is a circular tour which commences via the Cupar Road, past Commerton Home (where poor children from Dundee holiday), thence by St. Fort and Wormit.

Old Forgan Kirkyard has much to attract the antiquarian, and the famous old yew trees which adjoin the burying ground are well worth seeing. This church has celebrated its 800th anniversary.

The Cemetery of Vicarsford lies on the left of the Cupar Road, just beyond Forgan Brae. It is a very peaceful God's Acre. Surmounting the hill is the beautiful little chapel—The Leng Memorial Chapel—in which is a marble monument to the memory of Newport Volunteers who fell in the South African War.

Leuchars, with its Norman church, lies five miles distant from Newport; and St. Andrews, "the grey old city by the sea," is only 11 miles off.

### **PLACES OF WORSHIP**

The burgh is well sprinkled with churches. St. Thomas's Established Church, with its handsome clock tower, has its site in St. Phyllan's Place, and the manse adjoins it. Forgan Parish Church is two miles out on the Cupar Road, on Forgan Brae. St. Fillan's Church stands at the junction of William Street and King Street. At the foot of the High Street is Trinity Church, and its neighbour is St. Mary's Episcopal Church. To the rear of King Street is situated the Roman Catholic Chapel. The Congregational Church has its site at the foot of Kilnburn.

### PUBLIC BUILDINGS

The Blyth Hall, to the rear of the High Street, with St. Thomas's Established Church to the east and the Congregational Church to the west, is a handsome edifice. It was gifted to the inhabitants of Newport by Mrs. Blyth-Martin in memory of her three brothers. The hall has proved a great boon to the inhabitants, as it affords them a commodious place for lectures, concerts and public entertainments.

Next door to the Blyth Hall stands the Public School (Junior and Secondary).

The Post Office is conveniently situated near the pier. Shops of all descriptions flank the High Street, and are also scattered over other parts of the village.

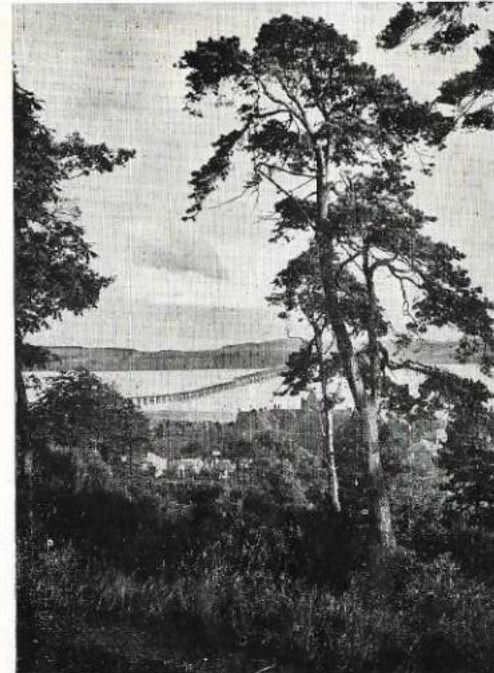
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*Tay Bridge from Balgay Hill, Dundee.*

### WORMIT

This charming little sister suburb of Wormit, linked to Newport by Woodhaven, forms part of the burgh.

Wormit is purely a residential suburb and has only one or two shops. As a holiday haunt it is ideal. The air is fresh and invigorating, beautiful vistas of river and woodland are on every hand, and there are many delightful walks.

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There is a well-kept and popular Bowling Green, where visitors are made welcome.

The Free Church is an attractive edifice on the Newport Road, and the Parish Church has its site facing the river, five minutes' walk to the east of the station.

Wormit School is at the east end on the Newport Road.

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR MOTOR RUNS

The following are some of the many places of historic interest and scenic attraction to which the motorist, with Newport as his headquarters, might pay a visit.

**St. Andrews.**—A run of about eleven miles south-east brings one to this world-famous university town, the Mecca of the golfing world and ancient ecclesiastical capital of Scotland. En route the village of Leuchars, with its great aerodrome, is passed, then Guardbridge at the mouth of the Eden. In St. Andrews, the famous golf courses must be seen. Other features are the East and West Sands, the Step Rock Bathing Pool, the Castle, the Colleges, Martyrs' Monument, etc.

**Crail.**—Ten miles eastwards from St. Andrews, nestling in the East Neuk of Fife, is the quaint and attractive town of Crail. Artists love Crail. Of interest are the Old Town House, dating from 1602; the scanty remains of David I's old Castle; the pre-Reformation Gothic Collegiate Church; and farther east the ruins of Balcomie Castle, once one of the finest buildings in Fife, and the residence of a General Scott, who was reputed to be the most experienced gambler in Europe.

**Fife Ness.**—This is the farthest east point of the

county. Here Mary of Guise landed in 1838, stayed the night in Balcomie Castle, and married James V the next day.

**The Fife Coast.**—The run may be continued down the coast-line to the south, passing through a succession of popular resorts: Anstruther, Pittenweem, St. Monance, Elie and Leven. Sandy bays, golf courses, red cliffs, sunlight dancing on sparkling waters, church spires, and quiet grey walls that the years have mellowed; these will be the memories of this enchanting run.

**Cupar.**—Eleven miles south of Newport, is the county town of Fife. Here the War Memorial first takes the eye, a winged figure in an imposing position at the entrance to the town. Attractions here are the Hood Park, Duffus Park, and the Golf Course at Hill Tarvit. Meandering through the town is the River

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*Wormit from Bridge.*

Eden on its way to the North Sea. The Eden is well stocked with fish and is a fine trouting stream.

**Newburgh.**—A fine run of about seventeen miles along the south shore of the Tay brings one to Newburgh. One proceeds by Woodhaven to Wormit. At this point the Tay Bridge is of absorbing interest. For many years the longest bridge in the world, it extends for over two miles, and is the second bridge to cross the Tay. The first was opened in 1878, and had a tragic end. On Sunday, 28th December, 1879, a furious gale swept several of the central girders into the river, together with the afternoon train from Edinburgh and about ninety passengers, all of whom were lost. The present bridge was opened for traffic in 1887.

Leaving Wormit the road passes through arable fields sloping gently to the river side. Amid them clusters Balmerino, associated with the ruins of an old

Abbey, dating back to 1229. Following south-west is Rathillet, then Luthrie; thence two miles west is ruined Creich Castle, built by Cardinal Beaton's nephew, Sir John Beaton. Just before Newburgh, ruined Lindores Abbey is passed, recalling Scotland's Wars of Independence. Founded in 1178 by David, Earl of Huntingdon, for the Reformed Order of Benedictines, the Abbey was the meeting place of Edward I of England with the Scottish barons. In it was buried the young Duke of Rothesay, son and heir of King Robert III. Newburgh is next reached. It is a picturesque old town on the Tay, and has a prosperous linoleum factory. Return can be made by Auchtermuchty and Cupar, with alternative routes offering delightful runs.

**Perth.**—From Newburgh one may continue to Perth, eleven miles farther on. The mouth of the River Earn is passed, and Abernethy, with its ancient Round Tower, provides interest. Many fine views entrance the eye. "The Fair City" of Perth has great historic interest, and till 1452 was the Capital of Scotland. There are many fine buildings and features of interest.

**Dundee and Angus.**—If one cares to cross the Tay by Ferry from Newport, a wide field is open for exploration by the motorist. Dundee, the third city in Scotland, has its own amenities and attractions for the visitor, and many fine runs radiate from it.

**Aberfeldy and Sma' Glen.**—Aberfeldy is about forty-eight miles west of Dundee, by Coupar Angus and Dunkeld. From Aberfeldy with its famous "Birks," you take the hill road by Glen Cochill to Amulree and run through the beautiful Sma' Glen to Crieff, and home by Methven and Perth.

**Carnoustie.**—Ten miles north-east of Dundee is Carnoustie, well-known golfing and seaside resort.

Other delightful runs are too numerous to mention here, but these will indicate the wide choice available.

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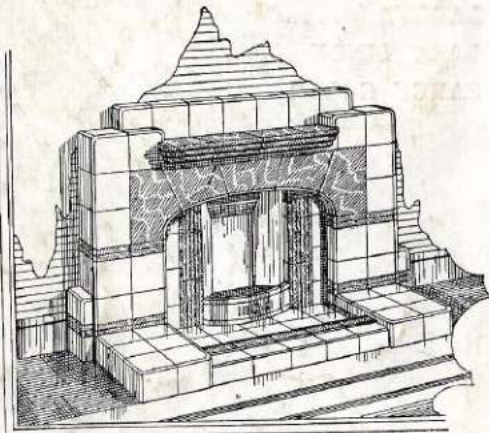
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