

## Children at War

This fascinating exhibition tells the story of evacuation from busy Glasgow to the peace and quiet of Dumfriesshire. Bored mothers and unruly children almost caused a rebellion in the countryside



## Home Front Experience

Experience war-time Britain in our newly created 1940s house with its original Anderson Shelter. Imagine you are an evacuee as you use our interactive computer programme.

## The Devil's Porridge Shop

Devil's Porridge Video 40 minutes (approx)  
£9.99 + £1.50 p&p Now on DVD £10.99 + p&p

### Gretna's Secret War (1999)

Gordon L. Routledge £7.95 + £1.00 p&p

The story of the greatest munitions factory on earth.

### Sorrows of Quintinshill (2002)

Gordon L. Routledge £6.95 + £1.00 p&p

An account of Britain's worst rail disaster at Gretna Green.

### Miracles and Munitions (2003)

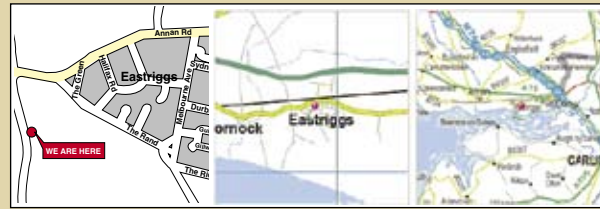
Gordon L. Routledge £7.95 + £1.00 p&p

A fascinating account of the history of the munitions industry.

Please send cheques to:

Eastriggs and Gretna Heritage Group, 2 Blake Terrace, Dornock,  
Annan, Dumfriesshire DG12 6SR.

## How to Find us



The Devil's Porridge at Daleside Eastriggs is signposted from the A75 between Gretna and Annan. It is easily accessed from Carlisle, Dumfries, the M6 and the M74 (Eaglesfield turn-off) We are on the Carlisle - Dumfries bus route.

## Opening Times

Friday 10th April - Sunday 25th October  
Open 7 Days

Monday - Saturday, 10am - 4pm  
Sunday 12pm - 4pm

*We are wheelchair friendly*

## Admission Prices

Adults £3.00 Over 60's £2.00  
Family (2 adults + 3 Children) only £7.00

## Larger Groups Welcome

Discounts are available to large groups. We may also be able to open out of normal hours and season  
Phone 01461 700021 for more information

## A Great Experience for Schools

The Devil's Porridge is ideal for both the WW1 and WW2 curriculum. Phone George on 01576 203394 for more info or contact the numbers above to book.

*"A fantastic visit - as ever"*

*Class Teacher, Lochmaben Primary School*

*"We had a great time"*

*Shirley, Annan Academy*

**Thanks to our funders**



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*As seen on the BBC Coast Programme*

2009  
Year of the  
Homecoming



# The Devil's Porridge

*An amazing exhibition tells the secret story of the greatest munitions factory on Earth . . .*

*In 1915, Britain was losing the war through lack of ammunition . . .*

*Until 30,000 women and men came from all over the world to work in the massive war factory on the Solway.*

*The Devil's Porridge was the explosive paste which these workers fashioned into ammunition at H M Factory Gretna for British troops and helped to turn the course of history. . . . And it happened here!*

*A warm welcome at . . .*

Daleside  
Butterdales  
Eastriggs  
DG12 6TQ





## What is the Devil's Porridge?

When Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, creator of Sherlock Holmes, visited HM Factory Gretna in 1916, he described the explosive paste which was mixed by hand as the Devil's Porridge.

It is a very apt name for the highly explosive mixture of nitro-glycerine and nitro-cotton. The dried paste was shaped into cordite which was put into shells and bullets. **This Scottish Factory produced more cordite than all the other factories in Britain put together.**



## The Secret Cities of the War

The two new townships of Eastriggs and Gretna were created during World War 1 to house many of the 30,000 workers who worked in the factory...but the new communities did not officially exist because of the secrecy of the operation. They were referred to by their codename "Moorside."

Conan Doyle described these townships as the Miracle Towns, because the houses were not just thrown up without thought. They were designed by prominent architects of the day to modern Garden City Principles and provided for all the needs of the munitions workers.

## The Greatest Factory on Earth



HM Factory Gretna was one of the largest factories ever built. Its buildings stretched over nine miles from the outskirts of Annan across the border to Longtown.

- Among the many statistics are: the factory had
- its own railway network had 125 miles of track, with 34 railway engines.
  - its own large power station provided electricity for the factory and the townships
  - it had its own water treatment plant handling ten million gallons daily
  - its telephone exchange handled 2.5 million calls in 1918
  - the factory bakeries produced 14,000 meals and 13,000 loaves daily
  - the laundry could clean 6,000 items daily

The Solway factory produced more than all the other plants in Britain put together.



## Devil's Porridge 2009

### Welcoming you home

In the year of the Homecoming, The Devil's Porridge has a new exhibition to commemorate the many local men and women who have left our community to live in the New World.

In 1914 - 1918 thousands of ex-patriots returned from their new homes in the British Empire to help the mother country. Many engineers, chemists and industrial leaders came to ensure that HM Factory was a success. It was the first and greatest Homecoming.

### Other Visitor Events

We have a number of events planned throughout the season at no extra cost.

### May Craft and Skill Demonstrations Monday 25th May

### Living History Weekend 8th /9th August

Participate in our Living History Weekend. Meet Munitions workers, hard drinking navvies and hard-pressed landlords.



### Vintage Vehicle Rally Sunday 9th August

The Vintage Vehicle Rally is the highlight of our Living History Weekend.

### Toy Railway Extravaganza Saturday 12th September

This is an un-missable event for all toy train enthusiasts, both young and old. Toy trains whistle through a number of track layouts.

