

# Starrie rock

From the sweeties.net wiki

Scotland has its own kind of rock, and it is quite different from the seaside sticks sold at English resorts. Star rock, also called starry rock or simply starrie, is made in Kirriemuir, in Angus.

## What it is

Star rock is sold in small bundles of pencil sized sticks, and it is less brittle than seaside rock. Like the soft, crumbly Edinburgh rock, it is a distinctively Scottish form of rock: see [Edinburgh rock](#).

## The Star Rock Shop

Star rock is made by the Star Rock Shop in Kirriemuir, which was founded in 1833 by David Ferguson. According to the shop, Ferguson was originally a mason from Brechin, and he created star rock after an accident that left him almost blind. The shop still trades from the same premises in the Roods, in Kirriemuir, and describes itself as the oldest producing and continuously trading sweet shop in Scotland.

The recipe has been handed down unchanged and taught to each new owner. Ferguson passed the shop to his daughter, Jean Ramsay, and she passed it to her daughter, Jean Morrison Ramsay, known as Jessie. It has had a string of owners since, and the current owner took over in 2018.

## How it is made

The rock is made in fresh batches of 4.3 kilograms, which are pulled by hand, then rolled and shaped. The original flavour is lemon, and the shop also makes butterscotch, cinnamon, clove, ginger, mint and horehound.

## Peter Pan's town

Kirriemuir is the birthplace of J. M. Barrie, the author of Peter Pan, who was born there in 1860, about 30 years after the shop opened. He is buried in the town, his birthplace is now a museum, and a statue of Peter Pan stands in the square. The shop points out that, like so many children since, he would have been able to call in on the way home from school for a sweet treat.

## Other Scottish sweets

For more of Scotland's traditional sweets, see [Hawick Balls](#), [Jethart snails](#) and [Scottish tablet](#). For the story of seaside rock, see [seaside rock](#).

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