

LEARN FROM THE PAST

USE WELL THE FUTURE

The words that once adorned the walls of Bridgeton Working Men's Club are appropriate as Bridgeton becomes the latest district in Glasgow to be named as a Conservation Area – an area of special architectural and historical interest.



The original Club had been set up in 1865 by John Anderson, James Templeton and other members of the emerging industrial elite to create a place for working men – but not women – to relax, to be entertained and to learn. It contained a library and reading room, a chess room, billiard tables and even a bowling alley.



Sadly the motto was not heeded and the Bridgeton Working Men's Club was pulled down in the 1980s.

This exhibition celebrates Bridgeton's heritage in the hope that we learn lessons from the past and secure the future for Bridgeton's unique architecture.



Far left: The motto on the interior of the Working Men's Club. Left: The 1899 Building Constitution Disposition.



Bridgeton Working Men's Club on Landressy St, 1978.

# LEARN FROM THE PAST

## BRIDGETON'S EARLY DEVELOPMENT

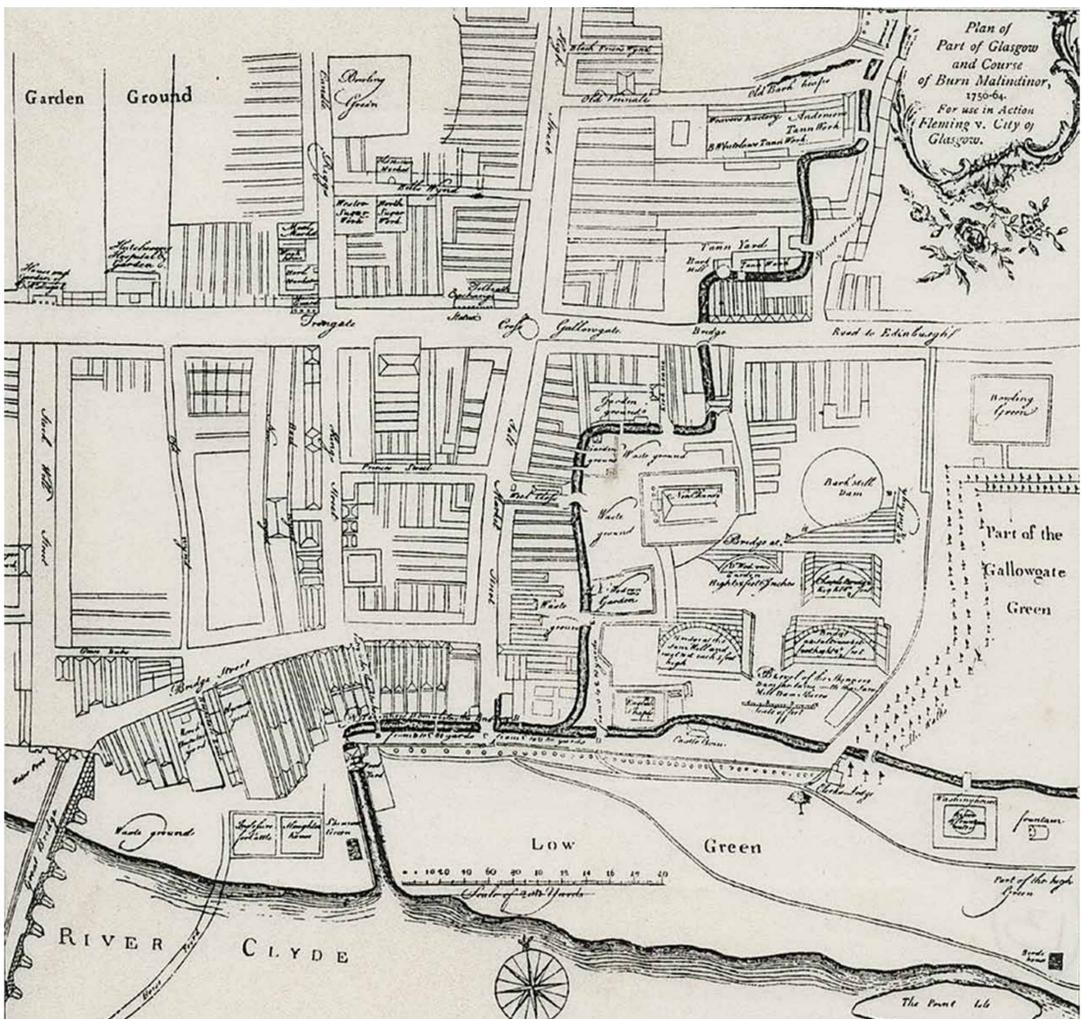
In 1776 the engineer James Watt completed a commission to build The Rutherglen Bridge, joining Shawfield and Barrowfield and forming a new area of development which became known as Bridgeton.



Above: Looking north to Glasgow Green. Engraved for the Complete English Traveller, 1750. Below right: View of Glasgow Fair from the roof of the Court House, 1825.

This was the same year in which two Scots, John Witherspoon and James Wilson signed the Declaration of Independence and founded the United States of America. There were strong ties with the United States in the future years and Franklin Street was later named after the great American statesman, scientist and philosopher, Benjamin Franklin.

David Dale, who later moved out of the city to found New Lanark, helped to set up The Barrowfield Dyeworks in nearby Dalmarnock and Bridgeton began to grow to accommodate incoming workers.



Map of Glasgow, 1764.

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### AT THE CUTTING EDGE OF TEXTILES

A vast textile industry developed around Glasgow Green which had plentiful water and enough open space to spread out large pieces of cloth. But key to its success was the production of ‘Turkey Red’.



Textile giants Templeton's Carpets, established in 1839, followed on from others in the area who had been developing weaving, bleaching and dyeing techniques.

For years people in Europe had been trying to create a red dye without success. True red cloth was only found in places such as India, Greece and Turkey where they used complex processes, sometimes involving olive oil or even sheep dung.

Dyeing expertise then spread slowly across the Mediterranean to France. In 1785, Frenchman Pierre Jacques Papillon was invited to join forces with George Mackintosh and David Dale to establish Britain's most successful "Turkey Red" dyeworks.

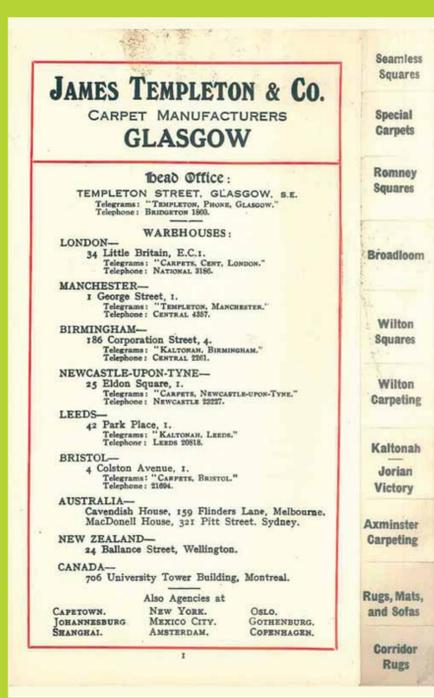
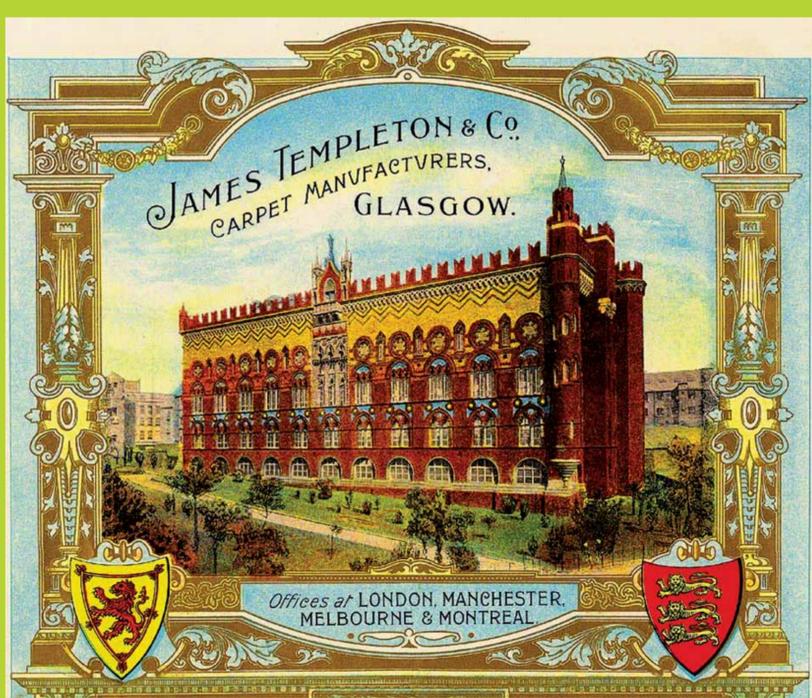


An advertisement showing a selection of products from David & John Anderson, 1915. John Anderson and James Templeton were instrumental in establishing the Bridgeton Working Men's Club.

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## THE SECOND CITY OF THE EMPIRE

By the 19th century, Glasgow was a thriving industrial power house. As large companies expanded, local entrepreneurs began to set up small family firms to support them.



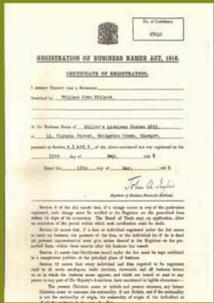
In 1889, Templeton's had become a huge success. The magnificent Venetian Gothic façade of their factory, modelled on the Doge's Palace in Venice, was built by William Leiper to advertise the grandeur of Templeton's products. They had outlets all over the world.

Miller's Linoleum Stores was established by William Millard in 1893 to sell Scottish-made linoleum and carpets. Today his great-grandson, David, continues the business at Bridgeton Cross.

*"I am exceptionally proud to be part of a family business that has survived in the same location for 119 years. Millers is one of only a small handful of family businesses that have made it from those early days of industry."*



David's shop still displays this photograph of his great-grandfather, seen on the right.



Miller's entry in the 1916 Registration of Business Names.

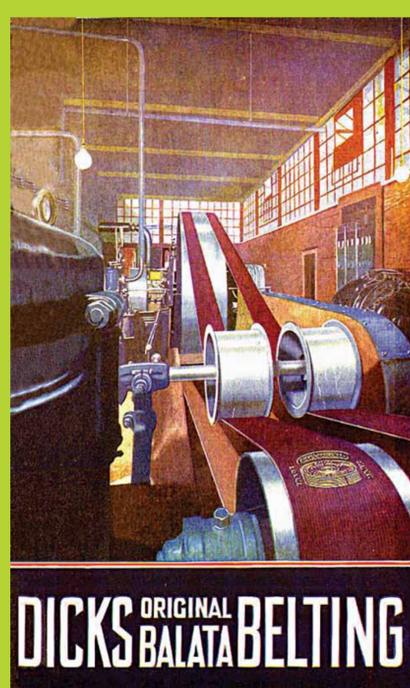
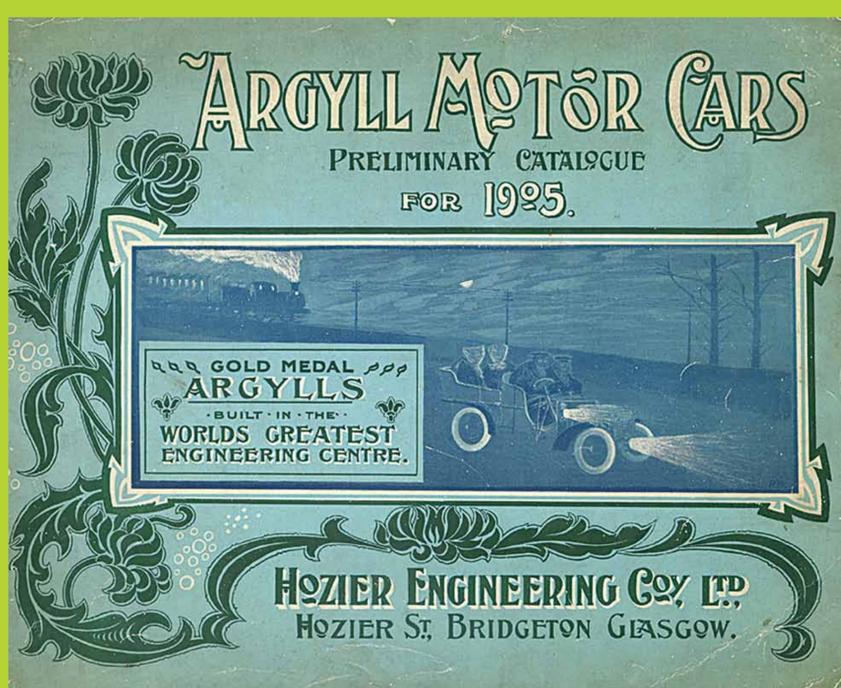
*"My great-grandfather started the company so he clearly had a lot of drive and ambition. My grandfather learned well from him and the business thrived – he became known as the Dennistoun Millionaire. But when his sons took over times were very tough. They had no experience of dealing with problems, this is a common thing in a family business and many of them disappear at the third generation. My brother and I have had to work very hard to build it back up again."*

*"But I think, since the banking crisis, there is a new found respect for the kind of integrity you have in a family business. I am certainly proud of our history here at Bridgeton Cross. I hope others begin to appreciate the heritage we have here too."*

LEARN FROM THE PAST

## THE WORLD'S GREATEST ENGINEERING CENTRE

From the busy industrial heart of Bridgeton, cars, carpets and all things in between were exported across the globe. It became known as The World's Greatest Engineering Centre.



Left: The cover of the Argyll Motor Cars catalogue for 1905. Right: An advertisement for R & J Dick's original balata belting, 1926. James Dick became a millionaire, donating Cathkin Braes Park to the city in 1886. He also established the Dick Institute in the town of Kilmarnock, where he was born.

Following in the footsteps of the successful textile industry were many other industrialists.

Two young brothers, Robert and James Dick, developed a rubber-like leather substitute called gutta balata. This was also used to make gym shoe soles - hence the term 'gutties'.

There are many street names that recall Bridgeton's industrial past.

### French Street

Originally called Papillon Street after Pierre Jacques Papillon, who came from Rouen in France to introduce Turkey Red.

### Landressy Street

Said to have been adapted from Landres, the village in France where one of the dye workers came from.

### Muslin Street

Named after the unbleached cloth often used for wrapping food at that time. Charles Rennie Mackintosh's mother was a muslin darner who lived in the area.

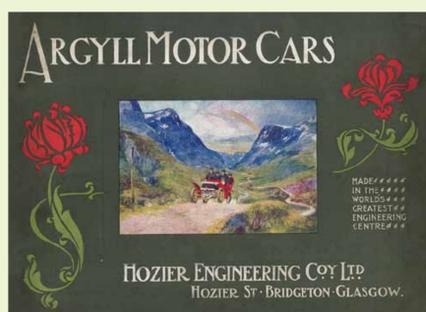
### Dale Street

Named after David Dale who lived in this house on Charlotte Street.



### Tullis Street

Named after the Tullis family of tanners and leather merchants. John Tullis & Son opened the St Ann's Leatherworks in John Street, established in 1870. They manufactured hard-wearing leather belts that were needed to drive the machinery powered by steam engines.



Above left: The cover of the Argyll Motor Cars catalogue for 1904. Above middle: An advertisement for John Tullis & Son, 1926. Above right: Cars loaded for delivery in Hozier St.

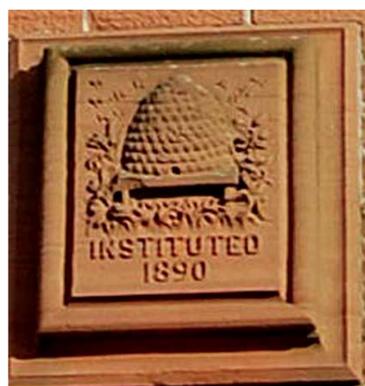
## LEARN FROM THE PAST

# A WOMAN'S WORK

While the men were able to study in the library of the Working Men's Club, women had the option to go to the Logan and Johnston School of Domestic Economy.



Women and girls were kept as busy as bees while they were learning their domestic duties.



The building, still visible in Greenhead Street, was designed by Glasgow architect James Thomson between 1890 and 1893. Here women could learn cooking, sewing and laundry duties. The sculpture of a hive would have reminded the women and girls to keep as busy as bees.

In 1878 Glasgow's first "Steamie" was opened. As keen historian Gordon Adams wrote in his book, *A History of Bridgeton and Dalmarnock*:

*"It became increasingly obvious to the municipal authorities that it was in the best interests of the entire population's health and welfare that provision be made for the maintenance of elementary hygiene. Very few houses had bathing facilities in the late 19th century. In January, 1876, a Special Committee on Baths and Wash-Houses leased the site of the old washing house on the Green and eventually had built Greenhead Baths. The building was opened in 1878 by the Lord Provost."*

In the building were a swimming pool for men and boys, a smaller pool for women, 27 private baths for men and seven for women. There were also 40 wash-house stalls.

## LEARN FROM THE PAST

# ARCHITECTURE AT ITS FINEST

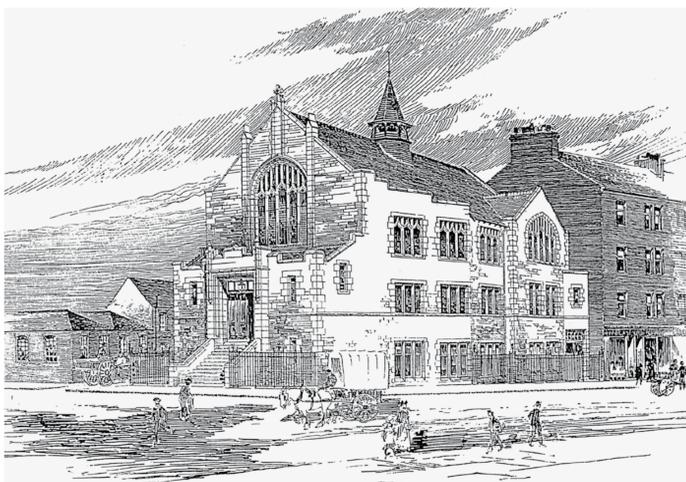
**As Bridgeton prospered the finest architects of the day were asked to design important buildings for the Cross. Fortunately they can still be seen today although their uses have changed.**



Grandiose flourishes show the Victorian's sense of confidence. The Trustee Savings Bank, left, had turrets while the Savings Bank of Glasgow, right, resembled Parisian architecture.

A distinctive B-listed red sandstone building was designed as a branch of the Trustee Savings Bank in 1897, in a classical renaissance style by John Gordon – once president of the Glasgow Institute of Architects. The bank's unusual flourishes – such as a sculpted rampant lion, and prominent turret-like chimneys, are thought to have been the work of Gordon's more avant garde partner David Bennet Dobson.

Also at Bridgeton Cross is another Category B-listed building dating back to about 1876 which was the local branch of the Savings Bank of Glasgow. It has a decidedly French influence. A huge arched panel rises through two floors and the third floor centre section is capped by a large French-style roof. The architect, John Burnet, was one of Glasgow's finest. He sent his son, John James, to the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, for the best architectural education money could buy. It is thought that the French influence hints at some involvement by his son John James. JJ Burnet, as he is known, went on to become one of Glasgow's most prolific architects. He was knighted in 1914 for his work on the Edward VII wing of The British Museum and many believe he should be as widely celebrated as Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Alexander 'Greek' Thomson.

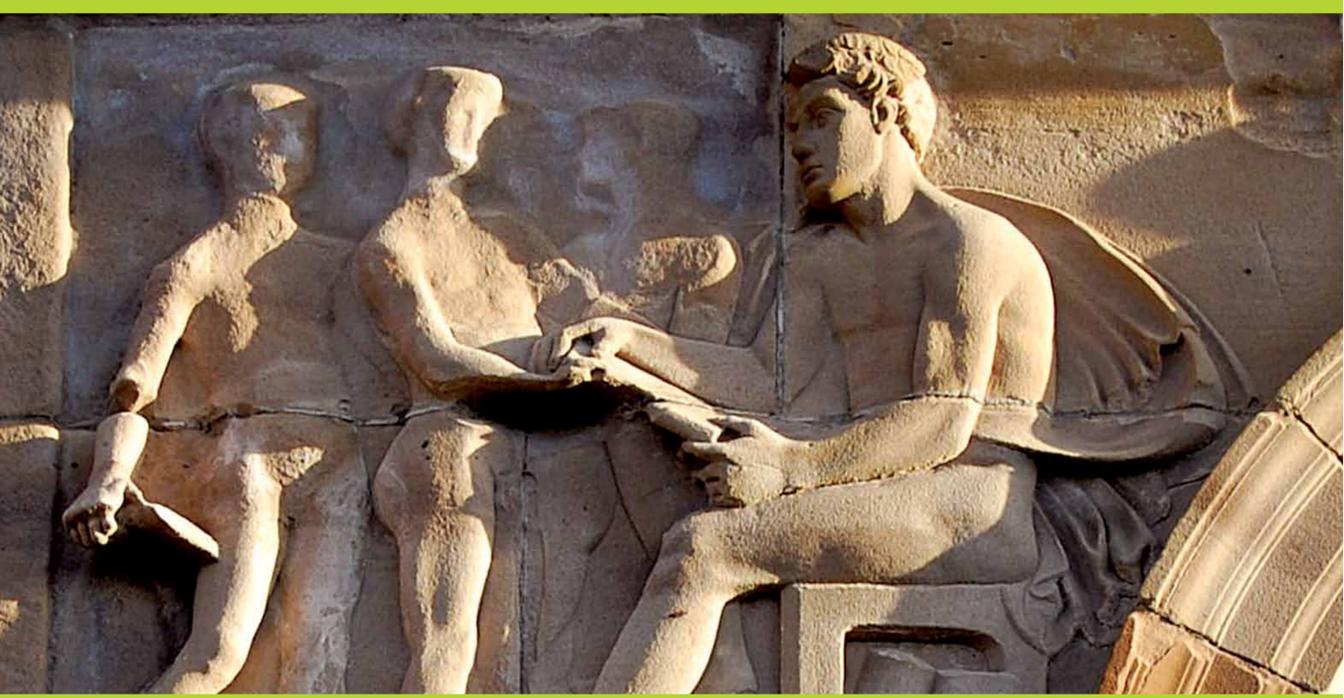


Above left: Bridgeton Cross Mansions, designed by John Cunningham, 1896. Above right: An engraving of Bridgeton Baptist Church, Orr St, 1906, designed by Miller & Black Architects.

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## INSPIRATIONAL SURROUNDINGS

The Scottish born benefactor Andrew Carnegie gave money to Glasgow Corporation to establish libraries with a view to helping working people to improve their education.



Sculptures by locally trained William Kellock Brown, on the walls of Bridgeton Library, were intended to glorify learning. He collaborated with architect James Robert Rhind on seven of Glasgow's Libraries.



Bridgeton Library, built in 1906, was one of seven libraries built by the Inverness-born architect James Robert Rhind. He had worked in London and Montreal and his libraries in Dennistoun, Govanhill, Hutchesontown,

Maryhill, Woodside and Parkhead show an influence from the French-Canadian Baroque style. This can be seen in the detailed ornamentation on the façade, creating the feeling of a place dedicated to knowledge, rather than a room in which to store books. Bridgeton Library is a Category B-listed building.

Although still very much places to research information, libraries have changed their role in the modern era and bookshelves are being replaced by computer screens. After more than a century of continuous use, the library services will move from the existing building into the redeveloped Olympia.



# USE WELL THE FUTURE

## THE ICONIC UMBRELLA

The Cross Pavillion and Clock tower, to give it its full name, was gifted to the city in 1875 as a water fountain and shelter for casual workers who would gather there, waiting for employers to pick them up.



The Umbrella, built and gifted by George Smith & Co., has long been a focal point.

One tailor, known as John “Buck” Kelly was frequently waiting for the chance of work, and the monument started to be referred to as Buck Kelly’s Umbrella, and then simply, The Umbrella.

The Umbrella was restored to its previous grandeur in 2010 by Clyde Gateway and Glasgow City Heritage Trust.

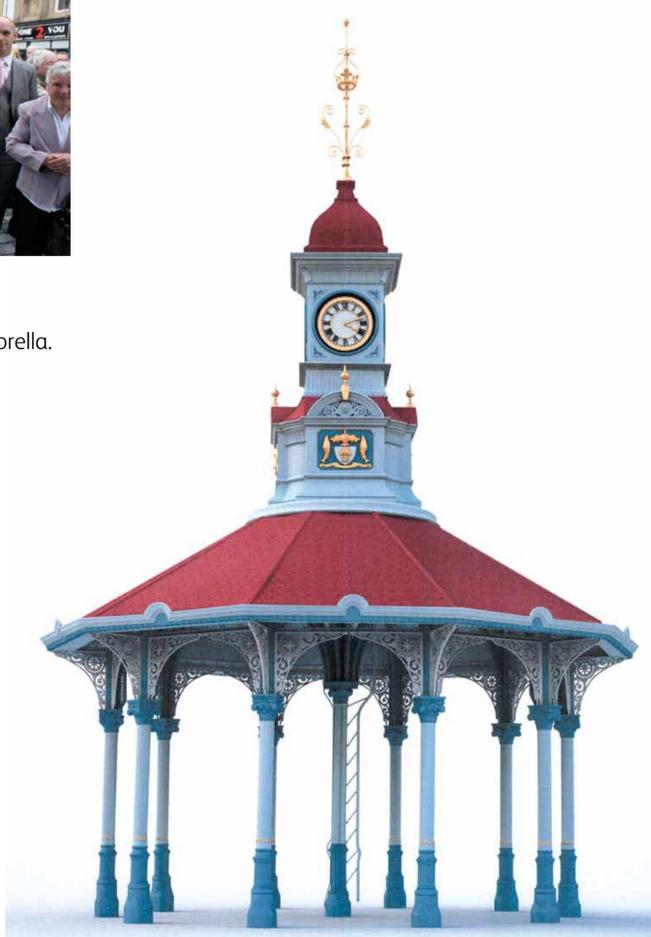
Today it is one of the world’s finest pieces of cast iron construction and for that reason it is listed at Category A. It remains a real Bridgeton icon.



A sketch of the Cross Pavillion and Clock Tower as shown in the George Smith & Co. Sun Foundry Catalogue.



Above: Lord Provost, Bob Winter, unveils the completed Umbrella, 23rd August 2010.  
Right: A 3D visualisation of the finished Umbrella.



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## THE OLYMPIA LIVES ON

At one time Bridgeton had several cinemas and music halls but the Olympia Theatre of Varieties was the top of the range, a real Saturday night destination. It fell into disrepair but its future is now secure.



How the Olympia will look on completion. Clyde Gateway purchased the property in 2009 to bring the building back to life by retaining the façade and creating four new floors behind.



The Olympia opened in 1911 and in its early days it cost an extravagant 2d to sit in the gallery. The B-listed, curved red sandstone was designed by George Arthur and Son and, unusually for its time, was intended for films as well as live shows. It even had a sliding roof to allow all the smoke out.

In 1924 the Scottish Cinema and Variety Theatres bought it and dropped all live acts but it finally closed on March 9, 1974. It lay empty for at least 20 years before a rescue plan was started with Clyde Gateway. The new building will provide a public library and café with archives on local history, music hall, cinema and sport.



Waiting outside the Olympia was all part of the Saturday night experience.

*“I remember going to the Olympia on a Saturday night. The Olympia was a real treat. Some of the other cinemas had wooden forms to sit on but at the Olympia you got a nice seat.”*

*“The queue outside used to stretch way down the street. There would be an accordion player or an actor and everybody would be singing. Everyone was happy, there was never any trouble.”*

Grace Donald, Bridgeton resident from 1924 onwards.

*“In 1958 I was in an almost empty Olympia watching ‘Ice Cold in Alex’ with John Mills and Sylvia Syms. In the interval the lights stayed up.”*

*“We all looked round to see Sylvia Syms in an ivory ball gown with a matching stole coming down the aisle looking like an angel.”*

*“I’ll never forget it, she talked about her life filming with John Mills, she was really lovely. It was marvellous to a wee girl.”*

Memories from Donna Robertson, as posted on [www.arthurlloyd.co.uk](http://www.arthurlloyd.co.uk).

# USE WELL THE FUTURE

## A CHILD'S VIEW

Life for children in the East End of Glasgow has changed dramatically. In the early 19th century, children as young as nine had to work hard. Thankfully, growing up in Bridgeton is now a lot more fun.



This artwork of the Umbrella, and the three below, were created by pupils at St Mungo's Academy, in a joint project with Glasgow City Council to raise awareness of the Bridgeton Cross Conservation Area designation. The aim was to encourage pupils to think about their environment and their history.

*"There was always a strong sense of community. I remember the Queen's Coronation in 1953. One of our neighbours had just bought a television so we all went up in relays, about 12 at a time, to see it. None of us saw the whole thing, just whichever bit was on when we went in. There was a big party in a church and everyone dressed up and there was lots of food. All the children were given a commemorative florin. The school children were given a tin of toffees, but I was only four years old so I didn't get one.*

*"We used to play in the back courts, you weren't allowed out the front but once in a while an older child would tempt you and you could play chicken in front of the trams. You'd always get caught and then you were in trouble."*

Manus Fullerton, resident in the 1950s, now a director at VisitScotland.

*"Bridgeton is very friendly, we know a lot of our neighbours.*

*"You feel very proud when you walk through the Cross now, to know that you have contributed to the way it is now, it feels good.*

*"I go there to meet up with friends, we might hang about there for a bit go over to the Green. It's a lot different now. I think people have noticed that it has started to look a lot nicer. Some people are looking after it better."*

Clodagh McSorley, now 13, took part in the Bridgeton regeneration project helping Clyde Gateway to select some of the features for the new-look Cross.

### APPRENTICE RUN OFF

On Wednesday the 28th ult. JOHN McCONNELL, apprentice to Jonathan Tomlinson, weaver, Calton, left his work. He is about nine years of age, four feet high, fair hair and a fair complexion. Had on an old blue jacket and a pair of new corduroy calshes, but neither shoes, stockings nor hat.

Any person who will bring the said Boy to his Master; will receive HALF-A-GUINEA of Reward; and those who employ him after this intimation, will be prosecuted with the utmost rigour.

GLASGOW COURIER 15 December 1804.



The pupils involved were: James Biello, Lynsey Fuggaccia, Chloe Brady, Stefny Hanley, Roisin Brown, Emma McGeorge, Amber Clarke, Nicole Norman, Navada Conn, David Rooney, Heather Dickson and Shannon McAdam.

# USE WELL THE FUTURE

## THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

Clyde Gateway worked closely with the local community to create a new focus for contemplation, gatherings and celebrations. They sought ideas from new and existing community organisations.



The Bridgeton Victoria Cross Memorial Group has now started the tradition of holding a Remembrance Day Service at the Cross at the 11th hour, on the 11th day of the 11th month.

The Bridgeton Victoria Cross Memorial Group felt that the three decorated war heroes of the area should be remembered. A permanent memorial to three recipients of the Victoria Cross has now been created at Bridgeton Cross.

The three, John Simpson Knox, Henry May and James Cleland Richardson, were all awarded the Victoria Cross for heroic deeds and actions in battle.

### I'LL GO AND BE A SODGER

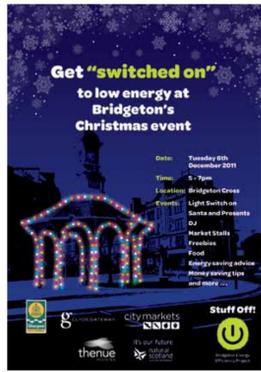
O WHY the deuce should I repine,  
And be an ill foreboder?  
I'm twenty-three, and five feet nine,  
I'll go and be a sodger!

I gat some gear wi' mickle care,  
I held it weel thegither;  
But now it's gane, and something mair –  
I'll go and be a sodger!

Robert Burns  
1782

The Bridgeton Burns Club is one of the country's oldest groups dedicated to the Bard. The Cross regeneration now reflects that link with the Bard in a permanent sculpture.

The Umbrella can also be the focus for celebration. At 2011's Christmas lights switch-on The Umbrella played centre stage.



Christmas lights flyer, December 2011.



Stonemason's sketch of the Burns Memorial sculpture at Bridgeton Cross.



The completed sculpture.



Exhibition created by Glasgow City Heritage Trust. With thanks to Historic Scotland and Glasgow City Council, Fergus Sutherland at ICO SSE, Dennis McCue, Alison Farrell and Kate Dargie at GCC, Audrey Carlin and Simon Biggam at Clyde Gateway, Matthew Lloyd, Gordon Adams, F Sheridan at St Mungo's Academy, Melodie Crumlin at PEEK.

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