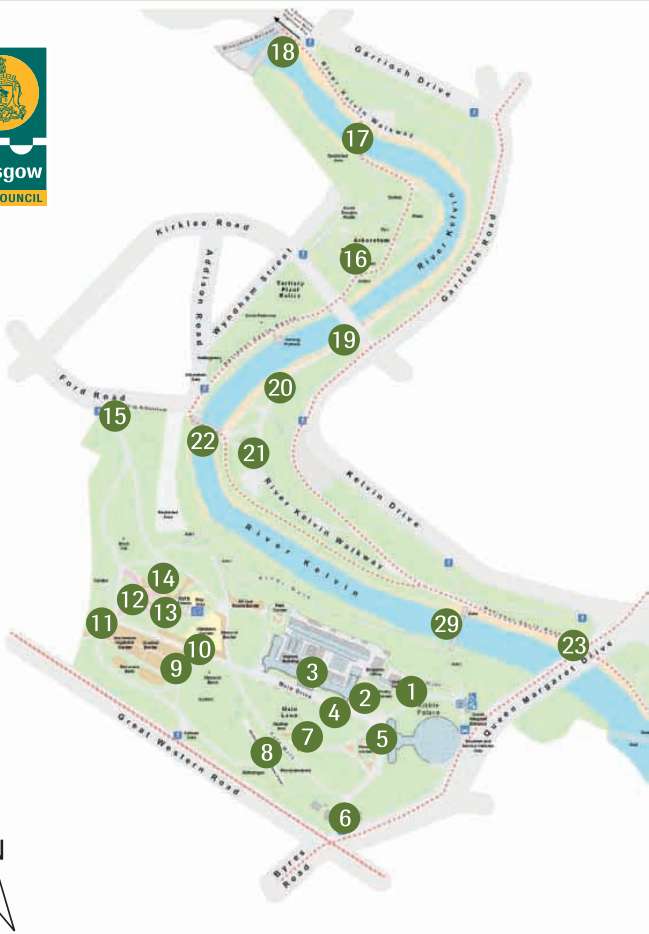




Glasgow Botanic Gardens Heritage Trail





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- 2 Peter Walker Memorial
- 3 Main Glasshouse Range
- 4 Sun Dial
- 5 Kibble Palace
- 6 Main Gate and East and West Lodges - Great Western Road
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Glasgow Botanic Gardens Heritage Trail

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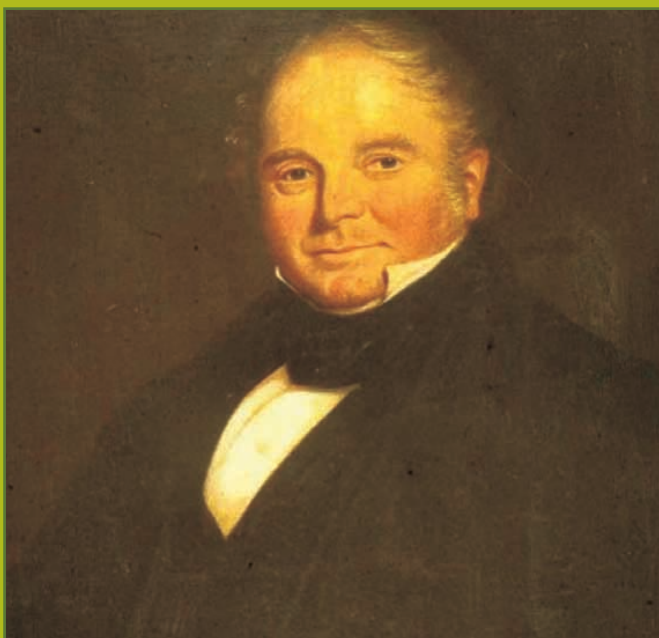
- 16 Arboretum and Douglas Beds
- 17 Garrioch Footbridge
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- 19 Kirklee Bridge
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Botanic Gardens History and Heritage

Glasgow Botanic Gardens have had a varied history. They evolved from a Physic Garden established in the grounds of the old College in 1705, for teaching purposes and maintained for about one hundred years. The Gardens were ultimately re-established in the West End in May 1817, when the work of laying out a botanic garden was begun on an eight acre site at Sandyford, at the west end of Sauchiehall Street.



This site was acquired by Thomas Hopkirk who founded the Royal Botanic Institution of Glasgow. The Institution managed the Gardens until they were taken over by the Corporation in 1891.



Thomas Hopkirk the younger, of Dalbeth



Funds were raised by public subscription, and the University made a substantial contribution on the understanding that a room was set aside for the Professor of Botany to deliver lectures, and that plant material for the students was also supplied by the gardens. In 1818 the Crown gave a donation and also granted a Royal Charter. Also in that year the University appointed the first Regius Professor of Botany, Dr Robert Graham, and he took an active part in the formation of the new Gardens. Hopkirk gifted the plants cultivated in his own garden at Dalbeth to form the nucleus of the new Botanic Gardens.

William Jackson Hooker, one of the most outstanding of British botanists, was appointed to the chair of Botany at Glasgow in 1821. He was largely responsible for the remarkable success of the Gardens in the early years. This was a period when many new plants were being introduced into cultivation and Hooker carried out much of the work on the description of these species, and the publication of botanical drawings of them. It was mainly due to his work that within ten years of its foundation Glasgow Botanic Gardens already had a prominent position in the world of botany.

The rapid expansion of Glasgow soon made the small eight acre site at Sandyford unsuitable and by 1839 an area had been purchased in the newly opened estate of Kelvinside. Sir Joseph Paxton (1803-65) was commissioned to design a new garden on the lands on the south bank of the gorge section of the River Kelvin.

The crucial years of transfer to the Kelvinside site were the peak of Stewart Murray's long and distinguished career as the first Curator of the Botanic Garden. In part the structure of the Gardens we know today was laid down by him.



This plan taken from the 1842 map by R. Martin shows the original layout planned by Stewart Murray.

Murray was born in Aberdeenshire in April 1790. Little is known of his early years, but by the time he was 17 he was in Glasgow. As a gardener at nearby Dalbeth he was much involved with Thomas Hopkirk's plant collection and he was appointed Curator of the new Botanic Garden in 1817. As well as being a skilled and knowledgeable plantsman, Murray was a landscape designer of some note. Not only was the layout of both Botanic Gardens principally his but he was closely involved in the layout of the Glasgow Necropolis and he designed and laid out the cemeteries at Sighthill, Glasgow, and at Paisley and Greenock. After retiring in 1852 he continued as Consulting Curator.





The present Botanic Gardens were laid out and the collection transferred along with the original range of glasshouses. The only plant from the old Garden known to be in the collection today is a Weeping Ash tree which can be seen to the south of the main lawn.



The move was completed in 1842 and the Gardens then opened to members of the Royal Botanical Institution and their families for an annual subscription of one guinea. Later the public were admitted on selected days for the sum of one penny. Glasgow Corporation took over full ownership of the Botanic gardens in 1891 and since that time the grounds and glasshouses have opened daily free of charge to all visitors.

The jewel in the crown of structures within the Gardens is undoubtedly the Kibble Palace, by John Kibble.

Some controversy surrounds the Kibble Palace as it became known, as Sir Joseph Paxton was credited with its design and, as an engineer, John Kibble would have been familiar with Paxton's other work and his association with the Crystal Palace.

John Kibble had the glasshouse built as a conservatory at his home in Coulport on Loch Long.

Kibble offered the structure to Glasgow for erection in Queen's Park, but, when the city dithered, he withdrew his offer and it was moved to its present site in 1873, following an agreement between himself and the Royal Botanic Institution. The agreement was to run for twenty one years and involved an annual payment which became a serious burden to the Institution within a few years. In 1881, as a result of a loan of £25,000 granted by the Corporation of Glasgow, the Institution was able to buy out the lease for £10,000.

The conservatory was dismantled at Coulport in May 1872 and brought to the Gardens via Bowling on the lower reaches of the River Clyde, and up the Forth and Clyde Canal to Port Dundas. It was re-erected, with considerable extensions, by James Boyd and Sons of Paisley.

In 1874 the Kibble Crystal Art Palace and Conservatory as it was then known, had 39 statues as advertised in Tweed's Guide to Glasgow of 1874.

This image of the Kibble taken in 1875 shows the large hall erected for John Kibbles oxy-hydrogen lantern performances.



It was entered from the central corridor. Kibbles' intention was to use the building for concerts and public meetings, this continued for about ten years during which time many large meetings took place. The American Evangelists, Moody and Sankey, preached to



a crowd of several thousand people outside the Kibble Palace. Both Benjamin Disraeli and William Ewart Gladstone were installed as Lord Rectors of the University of Glasgow in 1873 and 1879, and delivered their Rectorial addresses in the Kibble Palace.



From the 1880's the Kibble was planted up with temperate plants including an important collection of tree ferns from the southern hemisphere.



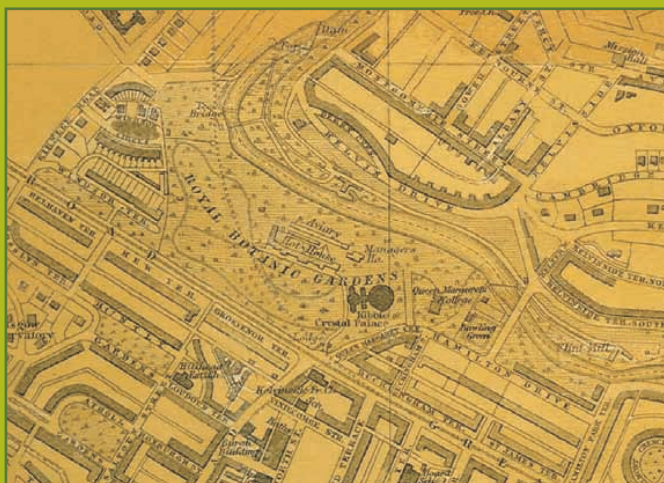
To this day John Kibble has been the only person to Bicycle across Loch Long on floats

In 1875 an ornamental iron bandstand was erected on the lawn in front of the Main Range of Glasshouses.



The Band of Prince Albert's Light Infantry were first to perform here on 4 August 1875. By 1912 a new pavilion style band-stand was constructed on the site now occupied by the World Rose Garden. This was used for military and local brass bands, and children's entertainment of the seaside type. These provided a moral boost during the two World Wars but by the late 1950's they were attracting little public interest. Sadly the bandstand was demolished in 1965.

The loan from the Corporation was also intended for the rebuilding of the Main Range Glasshouses, which was by this time in a serious state of disrepair, having come from the old site. The new range of houses was built on the same site and opened in early 1883. The taking of this loan proved a fateful point of history of the Institution. By 1885 the financial position had become critical, but rather than sell up the Gardens, the Institution wished to maintain what had been built up for the City and so made moves in favour of the Corporation taking over. On 1st April 1887 Glasgow Corporation entered into possession as creditors and the Gardens were closed, maintenance work continued at the Corporations expense. The City of Glasgow Act 1891, provided that, 'the gardens and the property and effects of the Botanic Institution should be transferred to and vested in the Corporation, to be kept open, preserved and maintained as a public area and botanic gardens for all time', and also to continue the privileges of the University for the teaching of botany. Thus the original intentions of the founders have been safeguarded, and the position of the Gardens in the lie of the City has been maintained.



This 1890 map of the Botanic Gardens shows how the gardens extended east of the current Queen Margaret Drive into the neighbouring North Park Estate which originally belonged to John Hamilton, who was thrice Lord Provost of the city.



North Park House (the former BBC Scotland Building) was purchased in 1882 by Mrs Isabella Elder (1828-1905) wife of the famous John Elder one of the founder members of the Fairfield Shipyard in Govan. She had the house converted in 1883 into a college for women named after Queen Margaret (1046-1093), the wife of Scottish King Malcolm Canmore King Malcolm III) (1031-1093). The College was unique in Scotland as a Women's College that offered university level teaching in both arts and medicine. In 1892 Queen Margaret

College became part of the University of Glasgow and all teaching was transferred to Gilmorehill in 1935.

By the 1920's the new Queen Margaret Drive and Bridge were constructed resulting in this section of the gardens being lost.





Botanic Gardens Trail

1 Curator's House/Visitor Centre (1840)



The Botanic Gardens Trail which should take approximately 1hr and 30 minutes begins at the Visitor Centre.

The 'B' listed Curators House was built in 1840, and is still known by this name. Designed by Charles Wilson, a central figure in the development of Glasgow's architecture and town planning in the mid 19th century, the house is an asymmetrical 2-storey villa with single storey wing and conservatory to the west standing in its own fenced garden.

Two of the ground floor rooms are currently used for interpretative displays and art exhibitions, the other rooms form part of the Gardens' Library and Herbarium. Members of staff, apprentices and visiting professional botanists/horticulturists are welcome to use the library on request.

Charles Wilson is buried in the Southern Necropolis and his Obelisk is a feature of the Southern Necropolis Heritage Trail.

Peter Walker Memorial (1906)



Peter Walker was a wealthy Glasgow businessman who frequently visited the Botanic Gardens. The granite drinking fountain was erected in 1906 in memory of Peter Walker by Zoe M. Walker. Public use of the drinking fountain ceased in early 1960's as it was considered unhygienic.



2 Main Range of Glasshouses (1883)



These Victorian Glasshouses were originally built in Burma teak in the early 1880's and house a wide range of tropical plants, including orchids, ferns, cacti and succulents, palms, begonias, plants used in commerce and aquatics. A phased restoration of this 'B' listed building began with the palm house in 1988 using steel and aluminium, followed by the remaining houses with the west wing completing the restoration to its original design in 2004. In 2005 the City Council installed a memorial to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother in the west wing.

Situated behind the Main Range is the.....

Hopkirk Building

This building is dedicated to Thomas Hopkirk who was one of the founders of the Botanic Gardens. Built on the site of an old smaller potting shed, it has undergone a refurbishment to turn it into a multi-functional space which is available for schools to carry out science studies during visits to the Gardens.

Euing Range

William Euing (1788-1874) a well known businessman gave a gift to the Royal Botanical Institution of Glasgow which provided a much needed glasshouse for propagating plants. The range was erected in 1875 and named after him.

Filmy Fern House

The fern house dates back over 100 years to late Victorian times and can be seen on the OS map of 1895. Glasgow is considered to have one of the best filmy fern houses in the country, which is due to the purity of Glasgow's water.

A tour of the above facilities is available on request. Ask at the Gardens office.

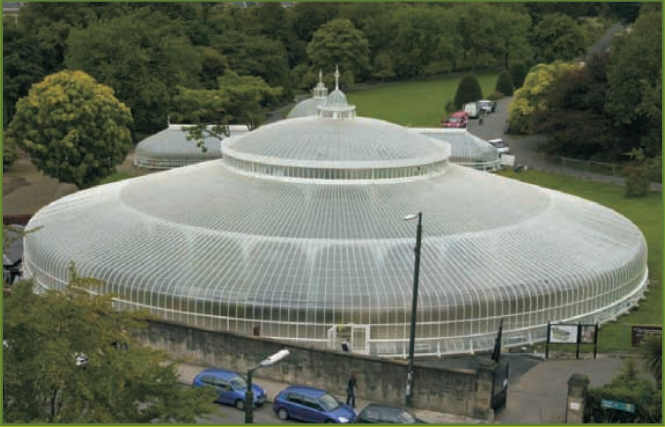
4 Sundial

The sundial was made for the Botanic Gardens during the first half of the 19th Century. It stands on a millstone taken from the site of the flint mill by the River Kelvin at North Woodside.

5 Kibble Palace (1873)



This is an 'A' listed 19th century, curvilinear iron structure of exquisite design and form. Originally owned by John Kibble, an engineer with wide interests and some eccentricities, his private conservatory was moved to its present site in 1873. The main conservatory: 150ft (46m) in diameter, is spanned by a saucer-shaped dome with cupola.



The Kibble Place was closed in 2003 in advance of a multimillion pound restoration. This was completed in 2006 and the glasshouse re-opened to the public on St Andrew's day that year.



Marble Statues in the Kibble

Cain (1899)

The sculpture of Cain, son of Adam and Eve crouching in anguish at his punishment for jealously murdering his brother Abel is the work of Edwin Roscoe Mullins (1848-1907)

King Robert of Sicily (c1927)

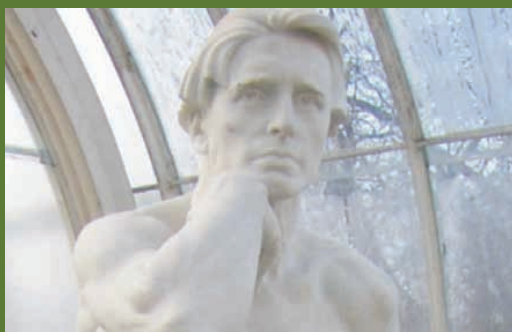
The seated statue of King Robert and his monkey, executed by Scottish sculptor George Henry Paulin (1888-1962)

Eve (c1880)

This marble statue of Eve, the first woman was created by Italian sculptor Scipione Tadolini (1822-1892). This remarkable artwork is the centrepiece of the Kibble (Palace).

Ruth (c1880)

Ruth traditionally said to be an ancestor of Christ is sculpted by Milanese sculptor Giovanni Cinselli (1832-1883) who specialised in portraits of Biblical and mythological figures.



The Sisters of Bethany (1871)

Nineteenth century English sculptor John Warrington Wood (1839-1886) captures Martha and Mary, sisters of Lazarus.

The Elf (1899)

Welsh sculptor William Gascombe John (1860-1952) regarded the 'Elf' as one of his greatest achievements. This stood in Kelvingrove Art Galleries from 1901 to the 1930's when it was moved to its current setting.

Nubian Slave (after 1858)

The statue of an oriental slave was sculpted by Italian Antonio Rossetti (1819-1891).

Stepping Stones (1878)

The young girl carrying her infant brother across a brook is captured by William Hamo Thornycroft (1850-1925).



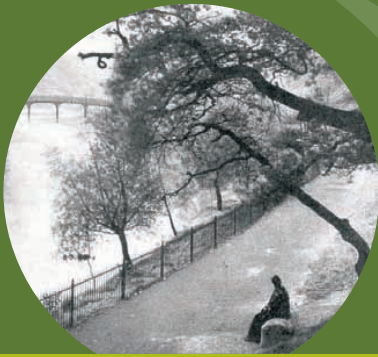
6 Main Gates and East and West Lodges - Great Western Road



The entrance and lodges were constructed in 1894 by the City Architect Alex B McDonald (1847 – 1915) and all are Category B Listed.

The gateway of 4 symmetrical columns is comprised of alternating bands of red brick and sandstone which rise into a curved and moulded stone cope. The two innermost gate-piers are topped with decorative wrought iron lamp brackets. The gates and pillars were moved back nearer to the lodges from their original position in the 1920's when the new Queen Margaret Drive and Bridge were constructed.

The Lodges of mock Tudor style flank the main entrance to the Gardens. Both are single storey with symmetrical inward facing elevations and face onto Great Western Road. The steps to the door have an ashlar parapet supporting a gabled porch on Roman Doric columns. The porches are flanked by mullioned and transomed 3-light window and roll-moulded panels on the West lodge containing the Glasgow City crest while the East lodge has the date 1894.



7 Weeping Ash



The Weeping Ash tree (*Fraxinus excelsior* 'Pendula') adjacent to the Main Lawn is known to have been transplanted from the Botanic Garden at Sandyford in 1841. It had been given in 1818 by Robert Austin, a nurseryman, and one of the original directors.

8 Botanic Gardens Station (Disused)

The Botanic Gardens Station, which had been located on Great Western Road was built in c1894 for the Glasgow Central Railway and designed by the Scottish architect, James Miller (1860-1947) the staff architect for the Caledonian Railway Company. An unusual and attractive station, it had the platforms and waiting rooms underground as the railway ran mostly underground from Stobcross Junction (now the Exhibition Centre) up the valley of the River Kelvin to Maryhill.



The booking office was in a red brick building with a steeply pitched roof having two towers with galleries, surmounted by gilded onion domes. The centre portion of the frontage was a veranda and there were pavilions at either end. Botanic Gardens Station was the first to be closed on 6th February 1939. The entire line was finally closed down on the 5th October 1964 after just 68 years.

The booking office remained on Great Western Road long after the station was closed and briefly became a nightclub called Sergeant Peppers from 1967 until it was destroyed by fire in 1970.

9 Herb Garden



The original Herb Garden, laid out in 1957, was adjacent to the Kibble Palace; the plants were lifted and relocated to their new site around 2000 in preparation for work to restore the Kibble Palace. The garden



consists of five beds which are planted with – Scented herbs, Dye plants, Culinary plants, Medicinal plants and in the centre of the lawn is the Scottish bed with plants that were used historically within Scotland such as Yellow Flag (*Iris pseudacorus*) a traditional Scottish dye plant.

10 The Herbaceous Border

These delightful borders form another of the Gardens traditional horticultural features. Divided into two sections by the centre path, the southern border is backed by a small clipped beech hedge whilst the south facing herbaceous border is backed by a 3m high beech hedge.

11 Chronological Border

This border was laid out in 1962 to show when popular garden plants were first introduced to British Gardens. The plants are grouped in beds, one from each century from the 16th to the 20th Century, and the actual year of introduction is given on the labels. The majority of the 16th Century introductions came from Southern Europe and the Mediterranean region but as explorers opened up new areas in succeeding centuries, the plants came from further afield. It is one of only two such borders in British Botanic Gardens the other being Cambridge Botanic Gardens.

12 Flag Pole

When the original Douglas fir flagpole failed its replacement was selected and stored, but when work began to craft it, it was found to be rotten. The current flagpole and weather vane which marks the highest part of the gardens dates from 1991 and is a metal street lighting pole fitted with guys to create the illusion of a traditional timber pole.

13 World Rose Garden

This World Rose Garden was designed and created for the World Rose Convention in 2003. The wooden



gazebo and pergolas were constructed in 2000 as part of the design. The garden interprets the 'Rose in History', 'Wild Roses', the 'Rose in Britain' and the 'Use of the Rose'. The Garden was opened on 24th July 2003 by the President of the Rose Society in Japan, Her Imperial Highness Princess Tomohito of Mikasa.

14 Memorial Plaques

There are a number of memorial benches and plaques located throughout the Gardens particularly within the World Rose Garden.

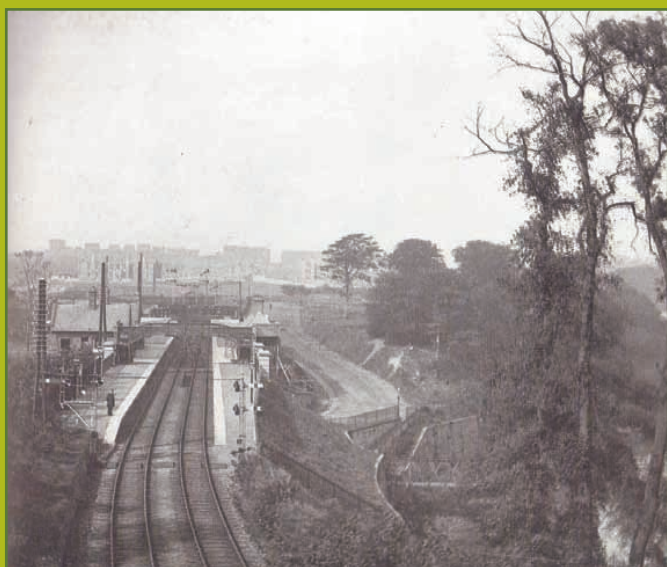
A memorial tree *Prunus* Pink Perfection was planted on 19 December 2001 by The Right Honourable, The Lord Provost, Alex Mosson and Angela Logan in memory of Jimmy Logan actor and entertainer 04/04/1928 – 13/04/2001. One of the benches is dedicated to the



late Peter Keenan 1928 – 2000 the former British, British Empire & European Bantam weight boxing champion.

The 9/11 Fireman's Memorial “Tree planted in memory of our fallen comrades who died in America in the atrocities of 11 September 2001” was dedicated by Fire Brigade Union Members, Scottish Region.

15 Kirklee Gate/Kirklee Station/Ford Road



Exit the Gardens through Kirklee Gate and turn right onto Ford Rd towards the arboretum. On your left was the site of Kirklee Station, designed by architect J. J. Burnet and built in c1894 for the Glasgow Central Railway.

It was a two platform through station, with neat single storey red sandstone buildings. Though the down platform building was not particularly unusual, the up platform building was supported at the rear on massive rustic walls, with recessed arches and had a little semi-octagonal porch at the east end. Kirklee Station closed on 1st May 1939, and the line closed down in October 1964. The station was demolished in 1970.

16 Arboretum



The newest part of the garden was officially opened on 27 April 1977 when Parks Convener John McQueenie planted a *Metasequoia glyptostroboides* (Dawn Redwood Tree). The curator saw this as an opportunity to establish a small but much needed arboretum.

An arboretum is a collection of trees which are grown for display, educational or scientific purposes.

The arboretum contains examples of many trees introduced by David Douglas (1799-1836), the famous plant collector, who worked in the original Gardens in the 1820's.

He played an important part in collecting and bringing various North American plants to Britain. He introduced the Douglas Fir, originally the Oregon Pine until it was renamed after him.



17 Garrioch Footbridge

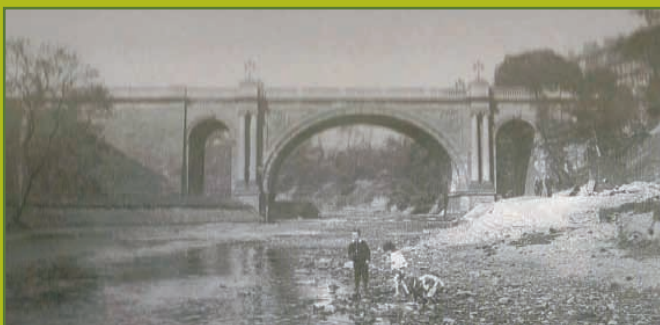
This footbridge dates from 1974 and provides an important link in the Kelvin Clyde route and options for circular walks around the Gardens.

18 Railway Viaduct at Garrioch (c.1896)

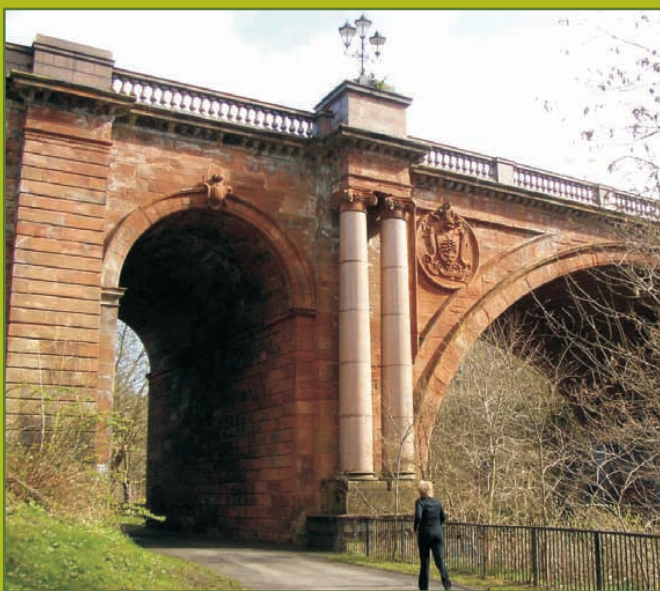


The viaducts at Garrioch Quadrant were built c1896 for the Glasgow Central and Lanarkshire & Dumbartonshire Railways. The eastern viaduct (GCR) has three large semicircular arches, in rustic masonry, with a small arch for a footpath on each side, while the western (L&DR) has plate girders on rustic masonry piers.

19 Kirklee Bridge (1900)



The Kirklee Bridge was built during 1899 – 1900 for Glasgow Corporation Highways Department by Foreman & McColl Engineers. It consists of a high semi-elliptical masonry span with narrow semicircular arches on each side.



The main span is flanked by pairs of granite Ionic columns, and there are low-relief carvings of the arms of Glasgow in the spandrels.

20 Kelvin Walkway

The wooded banks and grassy slopes of the River Kelvin have long been admired for their beauty and the idea of a walkway along the river's edge was discussed as long ago as 1890 and again in the 1950's.



Today this walkway is a reality which offers very pleasant and picturesque surroundings. It links Kelvingrove Park with the Botanic Gardens and now connects up with the West Highland Way. It also forms part of the Glasgow to Milngavie cycle route. One of the most popular sections of the walkway runs through the northern section of the Botanic Gardens.

21 Halfpenny Bridge House

This is a single-storey red brick building with pitched slate tiled roof. It was originally used as an old man's shelter but is now leased to the Friends of the River Kelvin (FORK). This group of people who care passionately about the River and its wildlife set up the Friends group in 1991. Their aim is to heighten and extend public awareness and commitment to the care and maintenance of the Kelvin and its tributaries.

22 Halfpenny Bridge



Built around 1886, the original foot-bridge was a wrought iron box girder bridge. There was a toll to cross charged by the owner of old Kelvinside House set at one half penny hence its name 'The Ha'penny Bridge'. The bridge was washed away on the 10th December 1994. Glasgow City Council decided to replace the lost bridge with a wooden one as a vital link in its Glasgow to Milngavie cycle route. Built in Holland and costing £200,000 the bridge was opened in 2004.

23 Queen Margaret Bridge



The bridge seen today was built during 1926-29 by Thomas Somers & Considered Constructions Ltd, engineers at a cost of £108,424. It consists of a reinforced concrete segmental arch with semicircular arches for footpaths on both sides. The concrete is faced with red Corncockle sandstone, and there are solid red Peterhead granite parapets. The main span is 135 feet 6 inches long.

24 Old Queen Margaret Bridge

The first Queen Margaret Bridge was built in 1870 to carry Queen Margaret Road over the River Kelvin. It was constructed of two lattice girder spans carried on tall rustic masonry piers. It was demolished in 1971. The bases of the piers are still in place.



25 Flint Mill Bridge

This pedestrian bridge provides the link with the continuation south of the Kelvin Walkway to Kelvingrove Park.

26 Belmont Street Bridge (1870)



The Belmont Street Bridge was built in 1870 on ground belonging to the City of Glasgow Bank to give access from Great Western Road to the North Woodside area. Its high elliptical masonry arch pierced with stone parapets and rusticated abutments carries Belmont Street over the river. A subsidiary cast-iron span with six ribs and lattice railings carrying the street over Garriochmill Road was replaced in 1971 in concrete.

27 North Woodside Flint Mill



Although its origins are unclear, the North Woodside Mill was erected by Archibald Stirling of Keir, owner of the North Woodside Estate. It was well established as a grain mill in 1765 and was also used to grind gunpowder during the Napoleonic wars. The mill was converted, to grind flints by the owner of the Verreville Pottery in Glasgow, in the middle of the nineteenth century. The flints were first calcined (burnt) in the kiln on the same site. Verreville Pottery closed in 1917 but a firm from Paisley kept the North Woodside Mill working. The mill continued to operate until the late 1950's and soon after closure the buildings were partially demolished.



The most substantial survivals are the square tapering kiln of stone and brick, concrete, and the weir and lade.

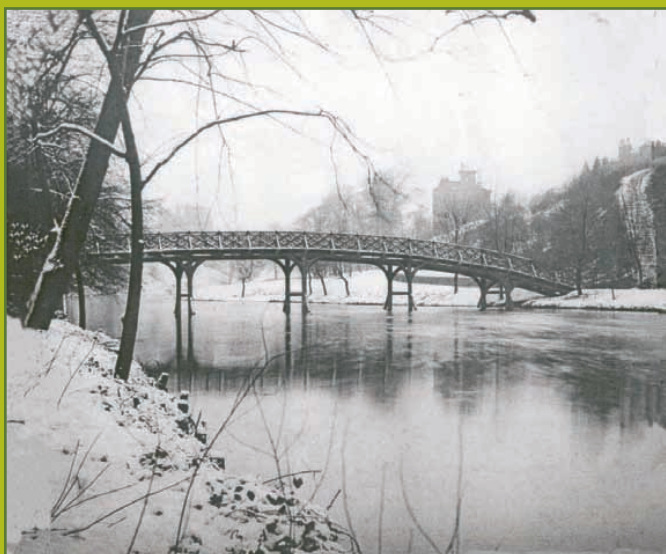
28 Weir and Mill Lade





The weir and lade supplied the water to the iron internal undershot wheel. The remaining structures, including the lade, were incorporated into the Kelvin Walkway in the early 1970's.

29 Humpback Bridge (1908)



The 'B' Listed cast iron Humpback Bridge, which spans the Kelvin from the Walkway to the north eastern corner of the Gardens was built in 1908 by Messrs Orr, Watt & Co Ltd of Motherwell. It replaced a short lived 'rustic' bridge which was built in the 1890's.

Once you have crossed the Humpback Bridge ascend the stairs which will take you back to the main gardens where you will find public toilets, baby changing facilities and refreshments.

Land and Environmental Services

Glasgow City Council 231 George Street Glasgow G1 1RX

Phone 0141 287 5064

E-mail LES@glasgow.gov.uk

Link to Botanic Garden website: glasgow.gov.uk/parks

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Culture and Sport Glasgow
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www.fork.org.uk

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