



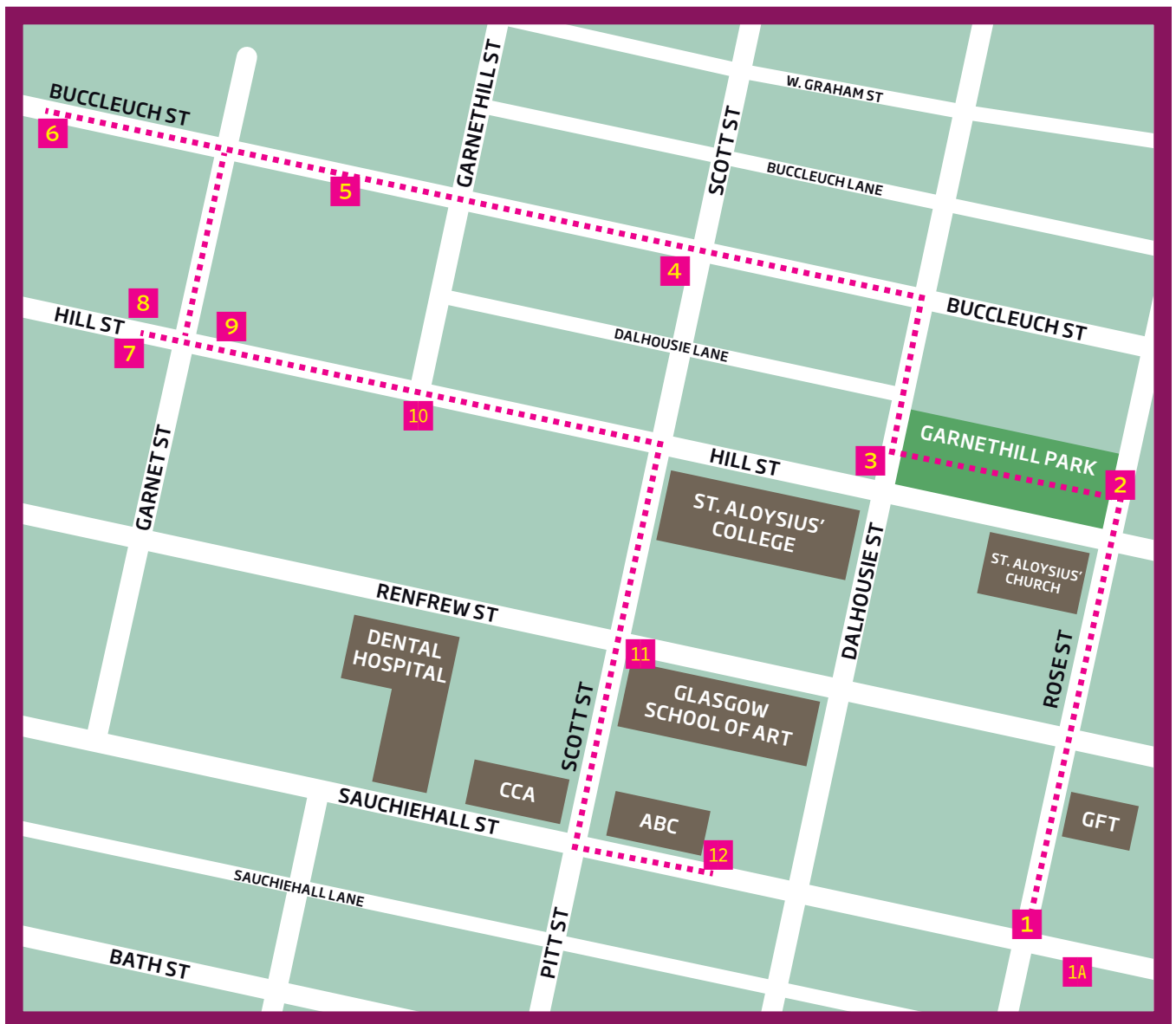
Glasgow  
Garnethill  
Women's  
**Heritage  
Walk**

# Glasgow Garnethill Women's Heritage Walk

As 19th century Glasgow prospered, it expanded west. The wealthy middle-classes built detached residences on the drumlin of Garnethill, attracted by its fresh air and hilltop vistas. A century on from those sedate beginnings, Garnethill had grown into a bohemian enclave, home to theatre people, incomers, artists and activists... and some remarkable women who shaped this corner of the city.



# Route map



## Image Credits:

Cover image: Chookie Burdies by Shona Kinloch, Glasgow City Council • David Smith's 1828 Map of Glasgow and environs, courtesy of University of Glasgow Librarian • Woman with Bird (1955) by Hannah Frank, courtesy of Fiona Frank • Darling & James advertisement, 1914, University of Glasgow Archive Services, Glasgow University Magazine collection, GB0248 DC198/26 • Kate Cranston and Margaret MacDonald, courtesy of the Mitchell Library, Glasgow

City Council • Betty Brown, Newsquest Glasgow Herald & Times • Women in Profile, Glasgow Women's Library • Glasgow High School for Girls gymnasium, 1901, courtesy of the Mitchell Library, Glasgow City Council • Agnes Toward dressed for a wedding in the 1960s, The National Trust for Scotland • Night Forms (1932) by Hannah Frank, courtesy of Fiona Frank • Hilda Goldwag (left) and Cecile Schwarzschild on steps of Refugee Centre, Sauchiehall Street, Scottish

Jewish Archives Centre • Glasgow Close, Washing Lines, Cowcaddens (1964) by Hilda Goldwag, University of Strathclyde • Catherine Carswell, 'Mungo's Bairsns' by Carol Primrose (University of Glasgow, 1990) • Students and Fra Newbery, 1894, Glasgow School of Art • Suffrage centre, 1908, © CSG CIC Glasgow Museums Collection • Back cover: Garnethill Mosaic Mural (1978) by various artists, photograph by Heather Middleton.



We begin our tour at the junction of Sauchiehall and Rose Streets [1].

**IMAGINE Sauchiehall Street** around the turn of the century. Glasgow was the Second City of the Empire. Upmarket department stores competed in the splendour of their displays, tearooms and even orchestras to entice female patrons, for whom shopping was no longer solely about necessity but also pleasure. **Copland and Lye** at 165 offered the latest Paris fashions. Palatial **Pettigrew and Stephens** next door was Scotland's largest department store. Both are now demolished. **Daly's**, at 199, was "the Harrods of the North" and the former McLellan Galleries housed **Trerons' Magasin des Tuileries**, promising "Paris in Glasgow". The street was also famous for furriers. This advert for **Darling & James**, in the Glasgow University Magazine, was designed to attract the new spending power of female students, admitted since 1892. The grand stores declined with the difficult economic conditions of the inter-war years and competition from chains like Woolworths; **Watt Brothers** is the only survivor from that heyday.



To your left are the **Willow Tearooms** [1A], opened in 1903 by businesswoman and art patron **Kate Cranston** (1849-1934). Glasgow invented the tearoom. Kate's brother was the pioneer but her fame soon eclipsed his. Miss Cranston's premises here, and in Argyle, Ingram and Buchanan Streets, made Glasgow "a very Tokio for tearooms" [sic]. Charles Rennie Mackintosh and his wife **Margaret Macdonald** (1865-1933, below) worked closely on their elegant art nouveau interiors. Mackintosh appreciated his wife's contribution where some have not, saying, "Margaret has genius, I only have talent". Miss Cranston's dress - all ruffles and outmoded crinolines - was eccentric, but her progressive taste introduced generations of ordinary Glaswegians to avant-garde design in a refined setting.

*Walk up Rose Street to Garnethill Park [2].*

Garnethill, originally called Summerhill, is said to have been named after resident **Thomas Garnett** (1766-1802), an early supporter of female education. He was appointed Professor of Natural Philosophy at the new and progressive Anderson's Institution in 1796, "the first regular institution in which the fair sex have been admitted to the temple of knowledge on the same footing as men". Half the students at his popular lectures were female and, in his words, represented "an era in the annals of female education which posterity may contemplate with peculiar pleasure."

From the 1820s Garnethill developed into a leafy suburb of detached villas, tenements and terraces. Cheaper housing spread as the area became built-up and less desirable. By the 1970s it was in decline and artists including **Margaret Watt, Carol Rhodes, Irene Keenan** and



**Jane Sutherland** began its regeneration. Most of this environmental art is gone but one mosaic and a gable end survive in the urban oasis of **Garnethill Park**. A key player in the site's development was "**Battling**" **Betty Brown** (right), an STV cleaner and union representative who chaired Garnethill Community Council. She organised groups to recycle masonry from skips and demolished buildings for the park. Designed by Dieter Magnus, it was opened in 1991 by Princess Diana and incorporates mosaic, lighting, metallic globes and waterfalls. Cast slabs by architect **Ulrike Enslein** bear quotations from residents, one of which pays tribute to Betty. Her determination was legendary: "If you don't harass, then things don't get done." Honoured with an MBE in 1998, she died in 2006.



*Walk through the park to the corner of Hill and Dalhousie Streets.*

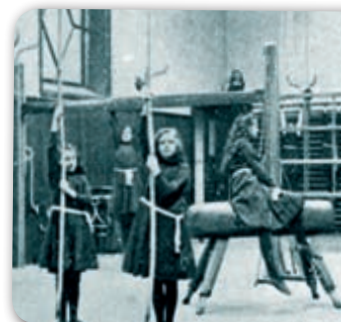
This shop front marks the first home of **Glasgow Women's Library**, opened in 1991 [3]. GWL grew from a grassroots project, Women in Profile, founded in 1990 (when Glasgow was European City of Culture) to promote the work of women artists. The WiP building, round the corner in Dalhousie Lane, was in poor condition with no windows, but from it emerged an ambitious programme of events. GWL was run by volunteers for its first seven years; it now has 14 paid staff and soon begins a new chapter in permanent premises at the former Bridgeton Library building.



Now look up at the lamp-posts to the small plump birds perched on top. These are the much-loved **Chookie Burdies** (as pictured on the cover of this guide) by sculptor **Shona Kinloch**. Around 150 were installed in the surrounding streets in 1993.

*Go up Dalhousie Street and left on to Buccleuch Street, to the corner with Scott Street.*

The sandstone villa with the roundel showing Charity comforting a child housed Glasgow's first **Hospital for Sick Children** [4], opened 1882 in response to Glasgow's high infant mortality rate. Its operating theatre was gas-lit, and the authorities prided themselves on recruiting only 'ladies' as nurses. It survived entirely on charitable donations, so fortunately its location gave it excellent access to the benevolent ladies of Glasgow's prosperous West End. It soon outgrew its premises and in 1914 a new purpose-built hospital opened at Yorkhill. This building is now an annexe of St Aloysius' College.



*Continue along Buccleuch Street, past Garnethill Street.*

The grand building marked Garnethill School and its neighbour served as the **Glasgow High School for Girls** [5] (above) from 1899-1968. Graduates include veteran

journalist Katherine Whitehorn; writer and broadcaster Muriel Gray; Lady Hazel Cosgrove, first woman to be appointed to a permanent seat as a judge in the Court of Session; and Alison Sheppard, Olympic and Commonwealth Games swimmer. The school moved to Kelvinside in 1969 and, despite opposition from both sides, merged a few years later with the Boys' High School. The vacated Garnethill buildings were used for a while by Glasgow School of Art then converted into flats in 1998.



*Continue to the end of Buccleuch Street, just before it curves left.*

This row of seven red sandstone tenements dates from 1892; the last, 145, was the home of **Agnes Toward** (1886-1975) [6]. Born in nearby Renfrew Street, she was brought up by her mother, her siblings having died in infancy and her father dying when she was three. They moved here in 1911 and after her mother's death in 1939, Agnes stayed another 26 years. A shorthand typist who worked for a shipping company, she never married and worked to the age of 73. She occasionally had the house redecorated and in 1960 had electric light installed but made no major changes. She spent the last decade of her life in hospital. The flat and her belongings remain a time capsule and their very ordinariness makes them fascinating. Owned by the National Trust for Scotland, **The Tenement House** is open to the public from March to October.

Another woman associated with Garnethill is author **Denise Mina** (b. 1966). After leaving school at 16 she did a series of lowpaid jobs, then studied law as a mature student. But instead of writing her PhD she started a novel. Struggling with writer's block, she attended a writing course at Glasgow Women's Library. She says, "That's why I became a crime writer... I finished the book and I owe it all to them." *Garnethill* (1999) was the start of a hugely successful career.



*Return and bear right up Garnet Street, then right again on to Hill Street.*



**Garnethill Synagogue** [7], opened in 1879, has connections with two remarkable artists. **Hannah Frank** (1908-2008) was the daughter of Russian Jewish émigrés who fled their homeland to settle in Glasgow. She began her artistic career by submitting line drawings to the Glasgow University magazine under the penname Al Aaraaf. As a schoolteacher, she attended evening classes at Glasgow School of Art, going on to study sculpture. There has been growing interest in recent years in her distinctive art nouveau

pen and ink work and sculpture, and a collection of her papers is held here by the Scottish Jewish Archives Centre. **Hilda Goldwag** (1912-2008), a long-time resident at 155 Hill Street, was a familiar sight in the area, shopping trolley piled high with painting materials. After graduating from Art School in Vienna, Hilda arrived in Scotland in 1939 where she met fellow refugee Cecile Schwarzschild, who became her lifelong companion. Hilda's family was unable to escape Austria, perishing in the Holocaust.



During the war years she and Cecile worked as turners at engineering works in Glasgow, living in poor hostels; post-war, Hilda became head designer at Friedlanders designing scarves for Marks and Spencer, afterwards moving into freelance illustration. When the Great Storm of 1968 took the roof off their Garnethill flat, she and Cecile relocated to Knightswood, close to the Forth and Clyde Canal, subject of many paintings.

A major exhibition at the Collins Gallery in 2005 brought Hilda's work to the notice of a new generation. The Scottish Jewish Archives Centre holds a collection of her papers and works.

The building opposite the synagogue has significance for many women in Glasgow and beyond. In 1896, following a local appeal, the recently established **Glasgow Cancer Hospital** [8] moved here. Two existing villas were converted into a modern 30 bed hospital, research facilities and staff accommodation. Director **George Beatson** was one of the pioneers in the treatment of breast cancer. The current building, rebuilt 1906-12, is now flats but is still associated with his name.

*Return along Hill Street, past the **Wing Hong Chinese Elderly Centre** at 122 [9].*

Almost all the early 19th century villas of Garnethill have been demolished or absorbed but here one survives. The 1960s saw Garnethill's first settled Chinese community, mostly Cantonese speakers who had emigrated from Hong Kong to England during the previous decade. Chinese New Year brings dragons and firecrackers to the area, which also hosts the Chinatown shopping mall and traditional medicine shops.

*Continue to 101 Hill Street [10].*

Author and journalist **Catherine Carswell** (1879-1946) was born here. She studied at Glasgow School of Art and Glasgow University before embarking on "a rash and foolish marriage to a man I scarcely knew", who tried to kill her when she fell pregnant, believing he was sterile. The marriage was annulled in a groundbreaking legal case, on the basis her husband was insane when he proposed. Carswell worked as a critic for many years but was fired from the Glasgow Herald for her favourable review of *The Rainbow* by DH Lawrence. Her second marriage, while happy, was financially precarious, and the family often relied on her prolific freelance writing. *Open the Door* (1920), the first of two Glasgow-based novels, dealt with the quest for independence of a heroine who attends the Glasgow School of Art. A lively, unsentimental biography of Burns outraged traditionalists, to the extent she received a bullet in the post. The reissue of her novels by Virago Press in the 1980s re-established her reputation as an important figure in Scottish literature.







*Continue along Hill Street, turn right on to Scott Street, and to the corner with Renfrew Street.*

In 1899, **Glasgow Art School** <sup>[1]</sup> moved to this purpose-built home, designed by ex-student Charles Rennie Mackintosh. The Glasgow Boys are justly celebrated artists but their female contemporaries have not always received similar recognition. In 1885 the dynamic new Headmaster, Fra Newbery, overhauled the curriculum, hired female staff and encouraged traditionally feminine crafts as well as fine arts. Students including **Jessie M. King**, **Bessie MacNicol**, **Ann Macbeth**, **Jessie Newbery** and **Margaret & Frances Macdonald** helped evolve the distinctive Glasgow Style, drawing and designing, working with textiles, ceramics and metals, and even making avant-garde clothes and suffragette banners. **Jude Burkhauser** (1947-1998) rescued them from obscurity when she mounted the blockbuster **Glasgow Girls** exhibition at Kelvingrove in 1990. In the accompanying book she wrote, "Young women in the arts have been starved for stories of other women, tales of these maverick sisters whom they might learn from [...] We followed in one another's footsteps, knocking on doors, asking the same questions, rediscovering fire, the wheel, electricity, because there was no record of our past."

*Walk down Scott Street, then left on to Sauchiehall Street.*



Our final stop is an unlikely landmark, with no plaque. Just past the ABC, a restaurant occupies the address which once played an important role in the women's suffrage campaign. The Women's Freedom League opened a **Suffrage Centre at 302 Sauchiehall Street** <sup>[2]</sup>, with a bookshop and tearoom decorated in their colours of green, white and gold. A banner proclaimed their slogan: "Dare to be free". In summer the League took the campaign "doon the watter" to a summer HQ in Rothesay to convert holidaymakers. As a result of their and others' efforts, the vote was finally extended to British women on the same terms as men in 1928.



Produced by Glasgow Women's Library's 'Women Make History' project

For further reading, visit the Women Make History pages at [www.womenslibrary.org.uk](http://www.womenslibrary.org.uk). For more insight into women's history contact Glasgow Women's Library to find out when our guided walks of Garnethill and other areas of Glasgow take place. You can also take your own tours by downloading our maps and audio tours from our website.

### About Glasgow Women's Library

Glasgow Women's Library (GWL), launched in 1991, is a unique organisation in Scotland. It is a key information hub on women and gender. In addition to its lending library and archive collections, GWL is an accredited museum. It has exciting programmes of events, activities, courses and other learning opportunities, dedicated projects that support women to develop their reading, writing and numbers and a project tailored for Black and Minority Ethnic women. It has a national lifelong learning programme that works with women across Scotland.

### About Women Make History

Women Make History is GWL's women's history project. Volunteers research and deliver pioneering Women's Heritage Walking tours in Glasgow and related maps and podcasts. Other activities include talks, workshops, recording the histories of living heroines, tour guiding, training and ongoing women's history detective work. For more details contact GWL.

### How to get involved

Glasgow's women's history is still largely hidden from the general public. There are many ways to get involved to address this. Why not join our women's history detective or tour guide teams? You may have information you think could be added to this tour or suggestions how it could be improved. If so, we want to hear from you. Some people have chosen to show their support of GWL and the aims of Women Make History by sponsoring a book, shelf or Library section and dedicating it to one of Glasgow's forgotten heroines. This fundraising campaign is called *Women on the Shelf* and you can donate at [www.womenslibrary.org.uk](http://www.womenslibrary.org.uk).

### Contact us

To find out more about GWL, Women Make History, our maps, audio tours and tour dates of other routes please visit our website at [www.womenslibrary.org.uk](http://www.womenslibrary.org.uk), or email us at [info@womenslibrary.org.uk](mailto:info@womenslibrary.org.uk)

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