

For further reading, visit the Women Make History pages at the website address below. For more insight into women's history contact Glasgow Women's Library to find out when our two hour guided bike ride of the East End and guided walks in other areas of Glasgow take place. You can also download our maps and audio tours from our website.

About Glasgow Women's Library

Glasgow Women's Library is no ordinary library. It is the only Accredited Museum dedicated to women's history in the UK, and also a designated Recognised Collection of National Significance. A place for browsing, borrowing and being inspired, GWL is welcoming, free and open to all, with programmes of events and activities that offer something for everyone: from film screenings to literacy support; from talks to supported volunteering opportunities; and from exhibitions to workshops.

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 produce related maps and audio tours. Other activities include talks, workshops, recording the histories of living heroines, exhibition curation, 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 of how it could be improved. If so, we want to hear from you. You can also support GWL by becoming a Friend. This is an invaluable way of ensuring that our work is sustainable for future generations. Visit friends.womenslibrary.org.uk to become a Friend.

Contact us

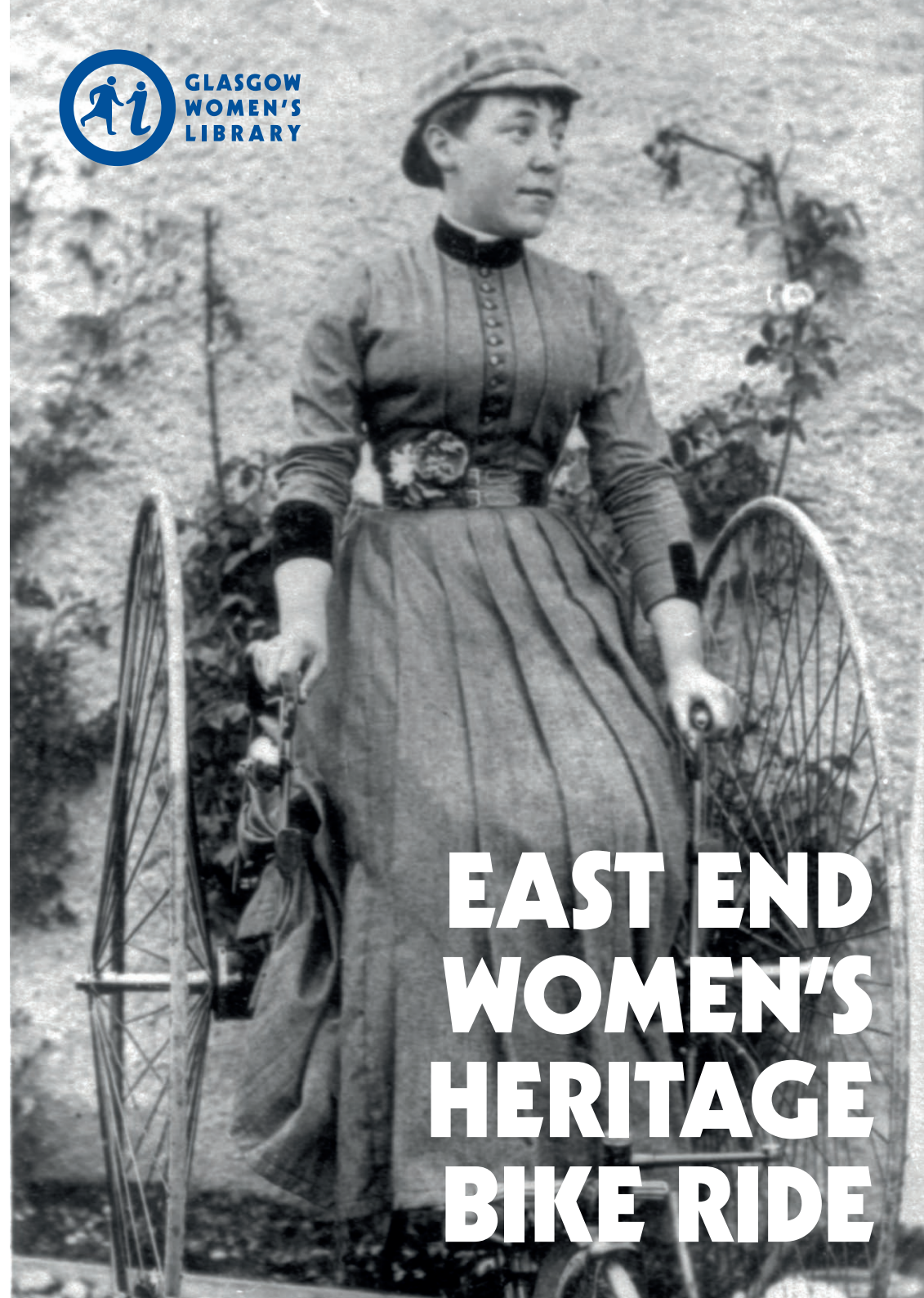
To find out more about GWL, Women Make History, our guided tour dates and maps and audio tours of other routes please visit our website: www.womenslibrary.org.uk, or email us at info@womenslibrary.org.uk

This trail was developed by the Glasgow Women's Library 'GWL Heritage Bike Ride' group. Thanks to Heather Middleton, Neil Johnson-Symington, Heather Robertson and Sheila Hanlon for sharing their research and expertise. Edited by Elena Trimarchi. Designed by Kirsty McBride. © GWL 2019.

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Registered Company No: 178507

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"Let me tell you what I think of bicycling. I think it has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world. It gives women a feeling of freedom and self-reliance. I stand and rejoice every time I see a woman ride by on a wheel... the picture of free, untrammelled womanhood." Susan B. Anthony, 1820–1906 – abolitionist and leader of the American women's suffrage movement.

THE CARBON CYCLE Kate

VLA MURPHY FULL TILT

Bike Ride - Anne Mustoe

Heels on Wheels

V COAST HOME

RVLA MURPHY SILVER A WINTER JOURNEY

the girl's guide to life on two wheels

GENIOUS

This ride will take you from Glasgow Women's Library, east to the Velodrome, then south to the river Clyde and west, following the riverside walkway through Glasgow Green and towards the city centre. The stops along the way illustrate some key events in women's history and the role cycling has played in these.

Begin at the **Glasgow Women's Library (GWL) (1)**. The library, founded in 1991, relocated to these premises on Landressy Street in 2013 and carried out extensive renovations to their new home, a Carnegie Library built in 1906. GWL is the only Accredited Museum in the UK dedicated to women's lives, histories and achievements, with a lending library, archive collections and innovative programmes of public events & learning opportunities. The library holds books by intrepid female touring cyclists such as Dervla Murphy, Anne Mustoe and Josie Dew as well as books about the history of women's cycling. The library also has its very own team of cycle couriers called the PaperGrrls.

From GWL make your way to Bridgeton train station, where you can join the cycle

path along London Road. Stop opposite the Police Station, at Kirkpatrick Street, and look north to a derelict red brick building beyond the Police Station. This building was the premises for the **Howe Machine Co. (2)**. The American company was well known for its production of sewing machines, but turned to the

manufacture of bicycles in the 1880s. Tricycles were an important part of their production and were popular with lady cyclists as social norm required women to wear tight corsets and long dresses which essentially precluded them from riding high bicycles such as the Penny Farthing. These high bicycles eventually lost popularity and gave way to the Safety Bicycle and the start of a revolution in women's dress. Indeed the chain mechanism on the modern Safety Bicycle was dangerous for female cyclists wearing long skirts, so women began to adopt divided skirts and bloomers, paving the future of women's fashion.

Heading east along London Road you will reach the next stop at the **Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome (3)**. It is here that the track-cycling and para-track events took place during the XX Commonwealth Games in 2014. Scotland's para-cyclist Aileen McGlynn and her pilot Louise Haston won silver in both the Women's Tandem Time Trial and the Tandem Women's 1km Sprint. Their tandem bike is on display at the Riverside Museum, following a partnership between Glasgow Museums and the athletes in 2014.

Women's cycling is now a prominent sport within the Commonwealth (and Olympic) Games but it was not included until the



2 Howe advertising poster, © National Museums Scotland.

Auckland Games in 1990. Despite this absence in public sporting events women have been racing for over a century. In the late 19th century velodromes were built in many major cities across Europe, and women's racing was a popular spectator sport. This popularity reflected the Victorian thirst for novel experiences, and was mirrored in women's higher earnings than their male counterparts. In the 20th century there were many successful Scottish women riders, including Rebecca Mason from Maryhill and Marguerite Wilson in the 1930s.

Marguerite was not Glasgow born but she sourced her record holding 'Flying Scot' bicycle from the renowned Rattray's Cycle Shop in the Townhead area of the city. Marguerite was known in the late 1930s as the "greatest girl rider in cycling history" becoming the holder of all 16 Women's Road Records Association's bicycle records.



3 Aileen McGlynn and Louise Haston, © Glasgow Life.

Head south along the Clyde Gateway for 1 km. When you reach Dalmarnock Rail Station, cut through the green space, going south, to reach the crossroads of French Street and Carstairs Street. Going south to the Clyde River you will cycle through Dalmarnock, passing through the area known as the Glasgow's Showman Quarter. When you reach the riverside pause for a while to admire the **Shawfield Bridge (4)** and the former Strathclyde Public School

Front Cover: Woman on a tricycle, possible Perthshire, 1880s © National Museums Scotland. A selection of cycling books from GWL.



The bike ride is approximately 6 km long along cycle paths and share-use paths and it takes between an hour and an hour and a half. You can do the ride in either direction and there are Next Bike hire stations near stop 1 and halfway between stops 6 and 7. You can also bring your bike on the train to Bridgeton train station (please note however that this station does not have a lift) or to Argyle Street train station.

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'Annie Oakley Rides the Sterling Bicycle.' Sterling Bicycle co. advertisement.

with Glasgow's East End was Annie Oakley (1860–1926). She visited Glasgow with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show from November 1891 to February 1892 and was one of the show's main acts. Annie was one of the first women to earn superstar status as entertainer and sharpshooter, and to be hired by a Wild West outfit in a role traditionally held by men. She ordered her first bicycle in Glasgow and it was here that she learned to ride her bike, practising incorporating her wheel into many of her shooting acts. She wasn't able to perform atop her bicycle in Glasgow but went on to do so upon her return to the United States, shooting clay pigeons whilst riding and earning the nickname "Little Cycling Sure Shot".

Continue west along down the river, entering Glasgow Green. Once passed under the Kings Bridge which links the Gorbals and Bridgeton, cycle up the incline to reach the cycle training centre **Free Wheel North (5)** with its outdoor cycle track and colourful shipping containers. This charitable organisation promotes physical and mental health, providing opportunities for people with additional needs to

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'Belles on Bikes', reproduced with permission of the Belles on Bikes.

designed by John MacKissack in 1903. Glasgow's Showman Quarter, part of a former industrial estate, has been home to the city's largest travelling community since the 1850s – fairground workers who have made Glasgow their home. A show woman and cyclist from further afield with connections

participate in cycling activities. They offer a range of adapted bikes, trikes and go-karts, and organise led group rides which are open to all. As early as the 1900s, cycling groups gave young women a chance to socialise and gain freedom away from the home. The 1930s also saw the revival of the socialist Clarion Cycling Club, which sought to promote freedom and class equality through cycling. Mixed and women cycling clubs have recently seen a revival and the Belles on Bikes, a cycling group set up in 2011 for women in and around Glasgow, organise rides and women-only bike maintenance sessions. There are rides for all abilities and whether you want to commute confidently by bike or (re) learn how to take off on two wheels, this group is a great way to meet other cyclists and discover new cycling routes.

Continue west for a short distance through Glasgow Green until you reach **Nelson's Monument (6)**, once an important meeting point for suffragette rallies. The bicycle was instrumental in the campaign for women's suffrage, making it easier to advertise rallies and distribute leaflets. The Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) had a dedicated team of Cycling Scouts whose role was to spread the word beyond urban areas. And for suffragettes involved in militant arson and vandalism attacks, bicycles could facilitate quick getaways. But not always... One account tells of two suffragettes, Janet Parker and an accomplice, who set out by bicycle in an attempt to destroy Burns' Cottage, the birthplace of the poet Robert Burns in Alloway, in the name of women's suffrage. The pair rode to the isolated cottage under cover of night and attempted to set the building alight. When the plot failed and the authorities arrived the pair took flight by

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Suffragette postcard. GWL collection.

at the Albert Bridge passing the Briggait (Glasgow's old fish market) on the right. Join the Clydeside cycle path and continue on to Customs House Quay, located just before Glasgow Bridge. Here you will reach the final stop at **La Pasionaria (7)**, or the Passion Flower, one of only a handful of statues representing real women from history in Glasgow. The statue is of Dolores Ibarruri (1895–1989), a Spanish communist who became a symbol of Republican resistance during the Spanish Civil War. The Republicans, who were fighting in Spain against Franco's regime, received support from the people of Glasgow and this memorial erected in 1977 commemorates the 65 Scots who died in the conflict.

While there is no evidence that Dolores ever cycled, cycling has been a mode of transport for women activists since the time of the suffragettes. A woman whose bicycle was central to her activism was Margaret Harrison (1918–2015), a campaigner against nuclear weapons and one of the founders of the Faslane Peace Camp. In 1981

bicycle. Janet was arrested cycling away from the crime scene, but her accomplice escaped on foot, leaving only her bicycle behind for the police to find.

Heading west we leave Glasgow Green and cross the road

Margaret and her husband Bobby set off on a Peace Pilgrimage, cycling from Iona to Canterbury. They made several stops along the way to hand out leaflets and to speak to residents about their campaign to change public and political perception about nuclear weapons. There are newspaper accounts of the two cycling on a tandem bicycle, for a period of 6 weeks. Margaret's efforts, along with her husband's, were instrumental in changing public attitudes to nuclear weapons and in alerting people, on an international scale, to their danger. A year later, in 1982, they went onto establish the Faslane Peace Camp which continues to this day.

Having reached the end of the route, let us reflect on the role that bicycles and cycling have had on women's history. A symbol of freedom and possibilities, the bicycle

continues to inspire women to explore their environment and their role within it. We hope that you have enjoyed the ride and that you feel inspired to discover more about women's cycling history and follow in the trail of these women cyclists.

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La Pasionaria Credit Martin Emes, Creative Commons. 'Cyclists against the bomb' badge. GWL collection.

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