

by Willy
Maley

The Story of Possilpark

Introduction

I first came across Willy Maley's 'The Story of Possilpark' around the beginning of 2020. I had just joined the Workers' Educational Association as a tutor, and my first ever gig was to facilitate a series of 'walk & talk' local history sessions with users of Possilpoint Community Centre on Denmark Street. An online article on the 'Glasgow – City of Sculpture' website about Walter Macfarlane & Co. and the Saracen Foundry had as one of its sources 'The Story of Possilpark' followed, in brackets, by the mysterious phrase, 'unpublished manuscript.' I was sure this manuscript contained everything I needed for my course, but I could find no reference to it in the Glasgow Libraries catalogue. Then one day I came across the local history box lying out in Possilpark Library, and tucked inside, was exactly what I was looking for. From the moment I saw it I thought I would like to find a way of publishing it. As Maley says in his introduction;

“Possilpark is full of local historians...People have memories and impressions of the area that they are willing to pass on, and it's important those memories are preserved.”

A more recent trip to Possilpark Library to revisit the local history box confirmed this, as we ended up in a long discussion of the area's history with a woman who wondered what we were up to. She told us that she grew up in a single-end on Old Carbeth Street, unlike the snobby ones on New Carbeth Street, with their indoor toilets.

The image that I always remember from 'The Story of Possilpark' is that of the 1,800 trees cut down to open up Saracen Street for the ironworks in 1869. "No fine was levied on the woodcutters," Maley writes, 'because Possil was no longer held in 'free forest'.' I shared this story with the group from Possilpoint Community Centre as we walked around the area. One of the women pointed out a patch of vacant land that was once home to the demolished tenements she

grew up in. Trees had grown back on the site. Now diggers were in the process of cutting them back down to make way for new houses again. These cycles of displacement and enclosure are a constant feature of the area's history, and have been central to the thinking around 'Beyond the Forbidden Gate', an exhibition of work created alongside communities in North Glasgow for Glasgow International 2024. Stories such as Willy Maley's can help us to look more critically at official narratives of regeneration. For example, the new housing being built in and around Hamiltonhill is to be welcomed, but knowing our history, we may question why private housing must be built on land that was once held in common, and where housing (far more recently) was owned publicly.

Much has changed in Possilpark since 1993, when Maley wrote his original manuscript. But much has also stayed the same. One of the sections in 'The Story of Possilpark' discusses an 1898 newspaper article that defends the area from its bleak characterisation as 'The City of the Dead' in William Black's novel 'White Heather' and then 'harks back to the golden age of Possil House':

"This is a familiar opposition. An attack on the area, or not so much the area as the neglect it has suffered, is met with a nostalgic yearning for the pre-industrial past. Possilpark has had more than its fair share of the unkind appraisal offered by William Black. It needs some lucky white heather or it may well become what it seemed to be over a hundred years ago – a city of the dead."

It may feel that we're all still holding out for that lucky heather. But despite everything, life goes on and history continues to be made. We hope that by publishing Maley's manuscript, and making it available in local libraries across the city, a few more of Glasgow's citizens may be inspired to record the story of their own areas, and plant a few more trees in inconvenient locations.

Joey Simons, Glasgow, May 2024

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Willy Maley,
30 September 1994

The Story of Possilpark

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Photographs by Kate Drummond

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Introduction

Possilpark is full of local historians. Everyone gets confused over dates, but they can recall events with remarkable clarity. People have memories and impressions of the area that they are willing to pass on, and it's important that those memories are preserved. But this is not a collection of reminiscences, nor is it an 'official' history in any precise sense of the word, although I've tried to include as many 'facts' about Possil as I think readers can handle.

Any writer's version of events will be coloured by personal experience, and my own experience of the area over the last thirty years affects the way that I feel about Possilpark. I hope this attempt to look at the story of a place that has not been treated kindly either by the media or by government will convince the people of Possil that they have something to be proud of, and something worth preserving in this area.

Historical Background

Compared with other parts of Glasgow, Possilpark is a relative newcomer to the city. But if the district itself is young, the name of Possil is an old one. The district of Maryhill, everyone knows, took its name in 1793 from a woman called Mary Hill, who lived at Garbraid House, and sold the land that became the Glasgow village to Robert Craig, a grocer. 'Possil', by contrast, goes back into the mists of time. There is some doubt as to the origin or meaning of 'Possil'. One nineteenth-century writer thought it meant 'Post-Hill', because High Possil was on a hill. Another conjecture is that it is derived from an old Celtic term 'poues' meaning 'station' or 'settlement'. A stone 'Celt' or rough-shaped flint was unearthed at the Old Possil Quarries on the site of Balmore Industrial Estate. It has been claimed that there is a suggestion of 'peace' in Possil, with 'the impression of an encampment giving protection to the immediate neighbourhood'.

There was a Roman settlement in Possilpark for a hundred years. The naturalist William Rennie, who lived in Possil as recently as

the 1950s, reported that: "In Possil Moss a leather bag containing about two hundred silver coins of Rome was found'. Who knows what other hidden treasures lie beneath Possil's soil. Perhaps some enterprising Possilparker will invest in a metal detector in search of more silver."

Although the name Possil has been in use for a long time, Possilpark itself is, as we will see, a very young area, a mere one hundred and twenty-five years old. It was the site of a mansion house and farm until around 1870, a place that was home to a handful of people, where field and forest were hemmed in by a recently built railway line and a newly constructed canal. Known at one time as 'The Garden of the North', Possil might be regarded as a flower that blossomed too soon, a flower that bloomed and withered within a century. But that would be a false picture. Possil has been pre-industrial, industrial, and post-industrial. It has survived amid fields and factories, and it still has a future.

On 12th September 1241 Alexander II, King of Scotland, gave William Corbet, Bishop of Glasgow, certain lands about the town, including 'Possele'. The lands were granted 'in free forest'. This meant that anyone cutting wood or hunting deer on this land would be fined £10, the same sum as they would be were they to be caught taking timber or venison from the king's own land. The gift of lands in free forest gave the bishop a ready supply of timber for the rebuilding of Glasgow Cathedral that was then underway. On 20th April 1450 the Bishops Forest and Glasgow were joined together under James II as a 'regality'. In the sixteenth century, the land of 'Possele' was divided into 'Over' or 'Upper Possil' - what was later to become 'High Possil' - and 'Nether' or 'Lower Possil'.

We can follow the fortunes of the lands of Possil through the ancient records of ownership. Looking through these records, you find yourself wondering how many of these landowners have descendants still living in the area. It would be interesting if a hunt through somebody's family tree turned up an old document that

showed the land belonged to them. Some names do ring a bell. Robert Chirnsyde owned High Possil 400 years ago, before a man from Castlemilk got it at the bargain basement price of £1.84.

If you think that was a small sum to pay for Milton, just remember that in those days you could have bought the whole of Possil and still had change out of a fiver.

Nether Possil

In December 1512 John Fowler rented lands at Nether Possil. In 1522 Robert Stalpart and Agnes Wood held the land by consent of Marian Wood. In August 1528 Bryce Carswell was in possession.

July 1529 finds Thomas Robinson holding Nether Possil. John Crawford rented 5 shillings worth of land in November 1529. In June 1534 Thomas Sym held land there, and in August 1534 Isabel Marchill and John Scott were in possession. Sir Robert Marchill and Colin Marchill his brother rented land in Nether Possil in January 1536, and in April 1537 James White paid rent of 5 shillings and sevenpence. On 22nd March 1545 Andrew Campbell, Burgess of Glasgow, held the west side of Nether Possil. At the same time, William Baxter was renting 5 shillings worth of land in the area. In 1553 John Nelson was paying 5 shillings and fivepence for land in Nether Possil. James Crawford held a larger stretch for 10 shillings and tenpence on 20th March 1555. In January 1558 Nicoll Sym is a local landowner. On July 8th 1563 Wilson Sym holds Nether Possil. On 21st November 1564 Wilson Crawford is in possession. On 14th July 1566 the district is in the hands of James Cravvford. On 10th May 1568 John Kerswell holds the East side of Nether Possil. Lands in Possil were granted to Henry Gibson, Citizen of Glasgow, by James Boyd, Archbishop of Glasgow on 30th March 1581. On 30th March 1592 William Sym and his wife Janet Wallace pass land in Nether Possil to Ninian Anderson and his wife, Janet Elphinstone.

Over Possil

In 1513 the records show that Robert Stoppart holds Over Possil by consent of Agnes Hutcheson. In March 1533 Sir Gilbert Binning and James Hutcheson hold land in Over Possil by consent of Margaret Binning. A year later, Patrick Laicht rents land in Over Possil for 10 shillings and tenpence. On 29th May 1540 Robert Duncan of Over Possil is renting 10 shillings and tenpence worth of land. On 10th July 1545 Minian Duncan is renting land in the area for 7 shillings and twopence. On 16th July 1554 John Crawford holds 9 shillings worth of Over Possil. The following year, John White holds lands in Over Possil. By October 1556 John Crawford holds Over Possil.

In 1589 Robert Chirnsyde was the proprietor of Over Possil. In 1593, Chirnsyde was one of the four baillies of Glasgow, and he was re-elected on 5th October 1594 by Lord Blantyre, acting for the Duke of Lennox. He became Commissary of Glasgow in 1602. A charter of 1613 reveals that Robert was the heir of Archibald Chirnsyde, also of Over Possil. On 23rd January 1655 Archibald Fleming held lands in Possil and Keppoch. On 25th of August 1684 lands were transferred from the Archbishopric to the Burgh of Glasgow. The owner of Over Possil was Sir William Fleming of Ferme.

Around this time, the lands of 'Milntoun', or were held by John Crawford, a writer in Glasgow. Crawford later became the owner of Over Possil. In 1706 it passed to the second son of Sir William Stuart of Castlemilk by Dame Margaret Crawford, his wife. The deed included, among his other lands, "all and hail his thirty-six shilling tenpenny land of Over Possil." In 1828, on the death of his grand-aunt, Mrs. Margaret Stuart Rae Crawford of Milton, William Stuart Stirling succeeded to the Milton estates, including Over Possil, and, in keeping with history and family tradition, assumed the name of Crawford. William Stuart Stirling was the son of William Stirling, Captain in the King's Dragoon Guards, who was the son of William Stirling of Keir by his second wife, Jean Stuart, daughter of Sir John Stuart of Castlemilk, Baronet.

In 1588 Nether Possil was divided into Nether Possil and Easter Nether Possil. Easter Nether Possil was "a forty-three and three-penny or fourpenny land, subdivided into three portions – a sixteen shilling and threepenny, an eighteen shilling, and a nine shilling land." These three portions of the lands of Easter Nether Possil frequently changed hands until 1703, when they were brought together as the sole property of Hugh Burns. In 1706, they were purchased by the Cordiners of Glasgow. In 1728 they belonged to John McGilchrist, writer in Glasgow, and his spouse. They were passed in 1749 to Glasgow merchant William Crawford of Birkhead, who had come into possession of the lands of Nether Possil proper in 1744, and who thus became owner of Nether Possil and all its subdivisions in Easter Nether Possil.

Nether Possil was acquired almost four hundred years ago, in 1595, by Robert Crawford, who was the son of Hugh Crawford of Cloberhill. It was sold in 1638 to Robert Vallance by the grandson of Robert Crawford. This Robert Vallance was the son of John Vallance, merchant burgess of Glasgow, and one of his wives was Grizel, daughter of Colin Campbell of Blythswood. In 1644 James Gilhagie of Kenniehill was in possession of the land, and in 1670 John Gilhagie succeeded. Gilhagie sold out to James Valiance, son of the former owner.

In 1681 John Crawford and his wife were the proprietors. In 1683 Glasgow merchant John McUre was the owner, and two years later, in 1685, the area was in the possession of Glasgow goldsmith Robert Brock. In 1684 a Charter transferred the Bishops Forest land from the Archbishopric of Glasgow to the Burgh of Glasgow. Already much of it, including Possil, had been carved up into small estates and farms that fell outwith the city boundary. In 1697 Nether Possil was bought by John Forbes, writer in Edinburgh. He built the mansion house of Possil which stood as a landmark in the area for the best part of two hundred years. The Black Quarry at Rockvilla opened about 1700. Its stone was used extensively although it had the quality of turning black on exposure to the air. By now the area was a mining and farming community.

Possil House

Possil House was built by John Forbes around 1700 on a site about three miles from Glasgow Cross. In 1710 it was described by Hamilton of Wishaw as "a new house, well furnished, with good gardens and enclosures." The whole estate consisted of some 75 acres of land. In 1724 Samuel Forbes, his son, succeeded to the estate. In 1744 the Glasgow merchant, William Crawford of Birkhead, bought Nether Possil. Five years later he bought the lands of Easter Nether Possil, thus uniting the territory under the name of Possil that had been divided in 1588. In 1722 Robert Crawford, his son, succeeded to Possil. As well as Possil, Crawford was the owner of Langside in the South of the city. He died around 1805, and the estate passed to his son, William, who promptly sold it, three years later, to Alexander Campbell. Born in 1780, Campbell was the eldest son of a famous Glasgow merchant, John Campbell senior, founder of the West India House of John Campbell sen. & Co. In 1838 he acquired the property of Keppoch, next to Possil. Campbell died at Craigiehall in 1849, and his estates passed to his son.

The gate to the estate in which Possil House stood was located at what is now Saracen Cross. There was no Saracen Street at the time, so it was a rough road from Cowcaddens, up Garscube Road, and into Possil Road by horse-drawn carriage. There was another house in the vicinity of Possil House, to the North East, a building known as Possil Mains, occupied by John Risk. In addition, there was Craighall House, and a house or farm on Hamiltonhill or Keppoch. The Moss House was noted on maps by about 1858.

After Possil came into the hands of the Campbells, various additions and improvements were made on the house, the stables, and surrounding lands. Possil was a haven close enough to the city centre to be convenient, but distant enough to be a secluded spot, away from the smoke and bustle of business and industry. The mansion house was shielded from the wind by trees that had been allowed to grow old with dignity. Known for its 'beautiful gardens'

and 'grassy slopes', Possil was, in the middle of the nineteenth century, one of the most countrified areas of Glasgow.

During this period, the Mansion House of Possil was rented – fully furnished – by Sir Archibald Alison, Sheriff of Lanarkshire, and his wife. Alison was born on 29th December 1792 of Scottish parents at Kenley in Shropshire. He studied for a time at Edinburgh University. The advert that attracted him to the property of Possil House described it as “situated in a park of 30 acres studded with noble trees, some elms of two centuries age...fine gardens and perfect retirement and only three miles from Glasgow.” Alison could not resist the temptation to become a ‘Northender’. He took up residence on 12th February 1835, and lived over thirty years in Possil, where he finished the last eight volumes of his famous ‘History of Europe’, a work that sold 100,000 copies in America alone, and was translated into French, German, and Arabic. Alison, recounting Napoleon’s retreat from Moscow, is said to have drawn on his own experience of a severe winter in Possil to give him insight into what the French army suffered.

In 1836 heavy rains led to crop failure, labour unrest and strikes. There were no organised police forces in Lanarkshire outside Glasgow, so Sheriff Alison imposed order. During his stay, Possil House was the resort of the rich and powerful. In December 1838 guests included Sir James Graham, the Duke of Montrose, and the Marquis of Douglas. In the autumn of 1840 Possil was visited by the Duke and Duchess of St. Albans, the Marquis and Marchioness of Breadalbane, Sir John McNeill, the British Ambassador to Persia, General Tcheffkine, Aide de Camp to the Emperor of Russia, and Professor Jacobi of Königsberg. In 1842 there was a ‘riot’ or protest by local miners. Servants at Possil House were armed, but the strikers sent word to Mrs Alison that no harm would come to her household. In the autumn of 1847 Prince Waldemar of Prussia visited Possil House, and in December of the same year the celebrated Victorian novelist Charles Dickens stayed with Alison for two days.

Dickens was thirty-five at the time, and between two novels, having just finished *Dombey and Son* and about to begin *David Copperfield*. He wrote from Edinburgh on 30 December 1847:

"We came over this afternoon, leaving Glasgow at one o'clock. Alison lives in style in a handsome country house out of Glasgow, and is a capital fellow, with an agreeable wife, nice little daughter, cheerful niece, all things pleasant in his household."

Dickens, during his stay in Possil, had gone to visit the North Prison in Duke Street with Sheriff Alison, which he referred to as "a truly damnable jail." At the time, there was, as Dickens put it, "tremendous distress at Glasgow." Five thousand people were being kept alive by soup kitchens in Paisley, and the extreme poverty led to riots in Glasgow in March 1848. It is ironic to think in 1859. His report on the Sandyford Place murders may have saved Jessie McLachlan from the gallows.

In September 1862, at the age of seventy, Alison walked from Possil to Hamilton and back in five hours. He died on 23rd May 1867, the last occupant of Possil House. His funeral attracted great attention. From the gate of Possil House to the railway station the road was lined with people, many of whom had given up a half-day's wages to pay their respects to this famous Possil tenant.

Saracen Foundry

Alison's death left the way open for the Mansion House of Possil, from which Mansion Street took its name, to be converted from country estate to industrial hub. One hundred acres of the estate, including the house, together with its pleasure grounds, was snapped up by Walter MacFarlane & Co., iron founders. The Park that was Possil lived on only in the name given to the area. In November 1868 MacFarlane obtained "four plots of ground comprehending the policy of Possil and part of the farm of Keppoch." The land acquired extended over 486,500 yards.

Walter MacFarlane was born in Torrance of Campsie in 1817 and died in 1885. He had no children of his own, but adopted a nephew of the same name who succeeded him as owner of the foundry. The Saracen Foundry was originally established in Saracen Lane off the Gallowgate in 1850. In 1862, MacFarlane moved his business to Washington Street in Anderston. In 1869, he shifted again, this time to Possilpark, where the new ironworks had its large Gothic doorway located at 73 Hawthorn Street. Saracen Foundry gave Saracen Street its name, and was soon employing 1200 workers. According to one source, the population of the district grew from 10 to 10,000 in twenty years with the coming of the foundry, a rate of expansion unparalleled in the Clyde Valley. With the coming of the Saracen Foundry everything changed. Possilpark, as we know it, exists because of the foundry.

Dickens might have found some irony in the fact that the mansion house and grounds that he had strolled around in those dismal December days were now the site of the kind of dark satanic mill that figured in his books. Except that Saracen Foundry, when it was first opened, was a magnificent structure that had none of the harshness of the workhouse about it. Indeed, it looked as grand a building as the one it replaced. The foundry was initially built on 2-and-a-half acres of ground, but with room for expansion to 20 acres.

The rural retreat of Sheriff Alison was urbanised by Walter MacFarlane's decision to move North. If Alison had not died when he did, or if he had left a son who wanted to keep the estate going, or if Possil had not had the rail and water links it had, then things would have turned out differently. Alison, remember, was a tenant rather than the owner of the property. As it was, Saracen Street was constructed, running from the Toll-House on Possil Road to the gates of the foundry. Possil's main drag was opened up as an access road to the ironworks. Eighteen hundred trees had to be felled to make way for the link with Possil Road. No fine was levied on the woodcutters, because Possil was no longer held 'in free

forest'. Part of the purchase made by MacFarlane & Co. included 'the farm of Keppoch'. 30 acres of ground near the city centre were incorporated into the new suburb of Possil, which occupied around 100 acres of land.

The ironworks at Possil became one of the biggest foundries in the country, exporting ornamental fountains and street lanterns all over the world. A bank in Madras, India, boasts interior ornamental ironwork from Saracen Foundry. The foundry was also responsible for the bandstand in Springburn Park, and it supplied and erected the canopy of Central Station. So next time you are waiting for a taxi in Gordon Street have a close look at the finely wrought iron behind you. That was made in Possil.

Also made in Possil, before the First World War, was the bandstand that stood between the library and Possilpark School. In 1878 MacFarlane donated an iron horse trough to the local community, a very necessary item in those days, what with all the horse-drawn traffic. It stood in the middle of Saracen Cross, together with a clock, lamp, and fountain.

Possil Pottery

If Possilpark is best known for the iron foundry that gave its name to the district's main thoroughfare, then there are other important industries that have flourished in the area. A pottery was founded in 1875 by Messrs Bayley, Murray and Brammer.

The pottery was built close to MacFarlane's foundry, bounded by Saracen Street, Mansion Street, Hawthorn Street and Denmark Street, with its entrance at 85 Denmark Street. As with the foundry, the rail and canal links were an attraction to investors. Once again it was a case of an industry based in the East End, in this case Barrowfield, moving North into what was practically virgin territory. The chief raw material of the pottery came from the claybeds of Eastern Glasgow, the Mountainblue district of Camlachie. The main items manufactured by the pottery were kitchenware – jugs,

teapots, baking bowls and dinner sets. Known as Saracen Pottery from 1881, it changed its name to Possil Pottery in 1895. From this time, the principal products were stoneware bottles for the makers of ginger beer.

In February 1896, one year after assuming the name Possil Pottery, the firm was bankrupt with debts of £2,500, and the staff of twenty-two were laid off. Ironically, it was the company's failure to settle a small account of £16 with a coal firm from Dennistoun that led to liquidation. The pottery was bought up on 22nd October the same year, but the new owners, Daniel and John MacDougall of MacDougall & Sons, did not want the old moulds, and these were subsequently destroyed by the liquidator.

The MacDougalls had run a china, earthenware and glass business near Glasgow Cross from around 1790, first at the High Street, then at Jail Square, near Trongate. The MacDougalls had set up the Nautilus Porcelain Company in 1894, with a plant at Barrowfield, but when the site at Possilpark became available they moved the whole operation there, and shifted production to a soft paste porcelain. The Nautilus Porcelain Company was the name of the firm, but Possil Pottery was the name of the factory that produced their wares. The MacDougalls rapidly expanded the pottery, increasing the number of kilns from four to six within seven years. Machinery was overhauled and the pottery had a three-storey extension built onto it.

The showroom for the Possil Pottery was at 75 Buchanan Street. On 15th February 1910 John MacDougall died in his home at Stirling, aged 69. Daniel struggled to keep the business going, helped by two nephews, but a coal strike and a recession forced the pottery to close in 1911. Sounds familiar, doesn't it? With the coming of the First World War, the works lay desolate until 1918, when Tennant's the brewers took over the pottery and beer bottles became the main product. The pottery also produced vases, kitchenware, and 'footwarmers', clay jars to be filled with hot water at night, the

forerunner to the hot water bottle. The trademark 'Possil Ware' was rubber-stamped on the base of the goods, together with the words 'Possil Pottery Glasgow'. The pottery stopped producing goods in 1948, when it became a warehouse for the parent company.

Other Industries

While the foundry and pottery were emerging, work was underway in the South-West of the district on another industry. Boring operations were being conducted by 1870 with a view to opening a sandstone quarry. Stone from this quarry was used in the construction of the foundry, and in the building of the first tenements erected to house the iron workers.

The foundry, the pottery, and the quarry were part of Possil's transformation from country estate to industrial estate. Other industries followed. Clydesdale Iron Works were built for A. and J. Main & Co., iron fence and gate makers and wire merchants, around 1876, at 127 Hawthorn Street. Around 1850 James Frew was manager of Possil Colliery, and stayed at Ashfield. By 1860, Dunlop & Co. were in charge of Possil Colliery. Brownlee and Company, the City Saw Mills, started out at the canal bank in 1848, and in 1870 its business premises were built at Craighall Road. The yard and premises across at the Mosshouse were vacated around 1956 when the Alliance Box Co. (Scotland) Ltd took over to build their Hamiltonhill Works, opened in 1957, for corrugated cases and boxes. The premises were extended in 1973. In 1876 Possil Engine Works was built for Hugh Smith and Company. Possil Iron Works appeared at 64 Denmark in 1884, built for Broymlye & Murray. David King and Sons' Keppoch Iron Works were erected in Denmark Street in 1884.

The Phoenix Chemical Works in Panmure Street were built in 1886. The Oil Mills & Chemical Works at 123 Mansion Street were built around 1889 for Mrs A. Kirkpatrick, oleine, alizarin oil and soap manufacturer. Eastfield Engine Shed was completed in 1904 for the North British Railway. It was damaged by fire in 1919, and

had to be extensively rebuilt. The manual coaling stage was demolished in the 1960s, and the old sheds were replaced by new ones around 1970. Workshops were built at 343 Balmore Road in 1906-7 for the Glasgow Steel Roofing Company. Possil Park Paint Works were built at 160 Bardowie Street in 1902 for A. H. Hamilton, oil and paint manufacturers. The building was badly damaged by fire in 1967. Gas was introduced between 1870 and 1890 by the Partick, Hillhead, and Maryhill Gas Company. In 1897 ground was purchased at Spiers Wharf, Port Dundas, and in 1914 a small power station was set up to produce electricity.

The Weights and Measures people erected a public weighing machine at Possil Cross, at the junction of Saracen Street and Possil Road, around 1907. The builder's yard of A. Taylor Junior was established at 111 Saracen Street. Around 1910-11 a boot and shoe warehouse was built for Greenlees and Sons at Saracen Street. It became the Blind Asylum in 1935, the largest of its kind in Europe, employing 275 people by 1975. The Askit Company moved from Keppochill Road to the corner of Saracen Street and Killearn Street in 1931. The Lower Clyde Water Board premises in Balmore Road were opened in two phases, on the site of what was Parkhouse Farm. The first section opened on 6th March 1970 and the second stage was completed on 25th October 1974. The City Glass Company moved from Denmark Street to Balmore Road around 1971. The Star Cash and Carry in Hawthorn opened on 28th June 1973, and was at the time believed to be the largest of its kind in Scotland.

Churches

Although Rockvilla Church dates officially from 1890, Rockvilla Sabbath School was established in Hamilton Terrace, now Possil Road, by January 1855. A new school was built in 1867 at a cost of £740. On 8th October 1878 the school became Rockvilla United Presbyterian Church. The first name entered in the Baptismal Register was that of Margaret Gray McCallum of 16 Mansion Street, on 29th November. A year later the Reverend John Milne became the first Minister of Rockvilla United Presbyterian Congregation.

He resigned on 14th June 1884, and his successor, the Reverend Bruce Meikleham, arrived in November of the following year. Rockvilla was struggling to maintain its congregation, and the newly established 'village of Possilpark' offered one way out. At this time the settlements of Lambhill, Maryhill, Springburn and Possilpark were all distinct communities.

The foundation stone of a new church was laid on 2nd November 1889 by the owner of Saracen Foundry, Walter MacFarlane, at what is now Allander Street, on the edge of the new estate. The new church was opened on in September of the following year, with its entrance in Stoneyhurst Street.

In 1877 the Kirk of Session of Maryhill rented shop premises on the West side of Saracen Street, between Mansion Street and Hawthorn Street, and founded a mission station. Samuel Fry, a student at Glasgow University, opened Sunday School, conducted services, and made home visits. Fry's successor, the Reverend James McMaster, was ordained on 12th March 1879 in the new Church Hall at the corner of Ardoch Street and Bardowie Street a site covering almost 2000 square yards, with an annual rent of seventy-eight pounds, nineteen shillings and sevenpence. The Hall had a pulpit against the rear wall, but this was removed in 1880 to make the premises more user-friendly as a public venue. The Hall was then more suited for general letting purposes, and this generated income for the fledgling congregation. That year, the General Assembly passed a Deed of Constitution making the mission station a 'Chapel of Ease' – a Church of easy access. The district now had a minister who could dispense the sacraments and conduct weddings. A Baptismal Roll was instituted. The first meeting of the Trustees was held on 3rd February 1880.

Work was soon underway on a new church designed by Glasgow architect David Thomson. The Baird Trust donated £1200 and the Ferguson Bequest gave £350. The Home Mission Committee pledged a grant amounting to one sixth of the cost, based on seating capacity. The balance was underwritten by the congregation and

their friends. On 27th June 1886 the Church was opened by the Reverend Donald MacLeod of the Park Parish, Glasgow. It had cost what was then the astronomical sum of £3410 to complete. There was seating for 812 people. Church and Hall together had cost £4500 in total. The offering on the opening day amounted to fourteen pounds, thirteen shillings and ninepence, and was credited to the building fund. The annual rent was proving burdensome, so MacFarlane & Co., who leased the land, were approached in order to secure a more favourable arrangement. The Baird Trust stepped in with £2081 to buy the site. Money was also needed to provide an annual endowment for stipend and repairs. A further £3000 was secured. In a mere thirteen years almost £10,000 had been raised for the church. By July 1890 an application could be lodged for the granting of full parish status to Possilpark Church. The new constitution was granted on 7th March 1892, The 'Chapel' of Ease became the Church and Parish of Possilpark. The Reverend James McMaster was admitted as first Minister the next day.

In 1892 the population of Possilpark was estimated at 7650, and the district had been brought officially within the city boundary. There were no houses between Saracen Street at Allander Street and the town centre. Beyond the Church in Bardowie Street was farmland. By 1939 the number of people in the area had increased more than fourfold, and stood at just under 40,000, and the Church congregation had swollen from 450 to 1020. St. Agnes' Roman Catholic Church on Balmore Road was built in 1894. St. Matthew's Episcopal Church dates back to 1895, with the present building erected in 1936.

The Henry Drummond Church of Scotland was built in Allander Street in 1880-81. It became the United Free Kirk in 1900, and the Church of Scotland in 1929. It moved to 4 Crowhill Street in Parkhouse on 1st May 1944, and in 1968 became Trinity Possil Henry Drummond Church of Scotland. The 283rd Company of the Glasgow Boys' Brigade was established in the Thirties. Trinity Church Possil opened in the spring of 1936.

In the late 1920s Father McMenerney of St. Agnes' bought the Craighbank Estate, 10 acres of land. In 1932, Father Conlon moved into 177 Saracen Street, and a temporary church was soon ready for use. The old coach-house was duly flattened and a rockery was formed. On 3rd October 1932, the Feast of St. Teresa, the Little Flower, the first Mass was held at the newly established church dedicated to St. Teresa of the Child of Jesus - St. Teresa of Lisieux. Work was underway on a new Church to be erected in the grounds of Craighbank Estate, an old Georgian building. The land was enclosed by what was once known as the 'Sparrow's Dyke'. At the Mosshouse was a lodge house, and, above it, where St. Theresa's Primary School now stands, was a sort of gamekeeper's cottage. The House on the Hill became St. Teresa's Chapel House. The new Church was opened in December 1932, with Father Conlon as the first parish priest. The parishioners came chiefly from Anderston, the former site of the Saracen Foundry, but also from Lambhill and Cowcaddens. A new Church was opened on 8th December 1960 by Donald Campbell, Archbishop of Glasgow, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. It is an impressive building which some observers of the time thought fit to be a cathedral. The cross on the church belfry is 130 feet above street level and above the main entrance doors on the north elevation are the figures of St. Andrew and St. Mungo. In the 1970s controversy surrounded St. Teresa's when a priest was linked with the IRA and the Church was represented in the media as a bomb factory, or the site of another Gunpowder Plot. The chapel grounds remain one of the greenest parts of the district, and a valuable community resource.

'City of the Dead'

On 22nd of December 1898 an article in the 'Evening News' entitled 'Posthill, or Old Possilpark' contrasted the new Possilpark industrial estate with the old rural estate of Possil House. It opened with a recent description of the area by the writer William Black in his novel 'White Heather'. The leading character of the story arrives in Possil to discover that:

"There was nothing before him but the wide, empty, dullhued street, apparently terminating in a great wilderness of India-rubber works and oil works, and the like. But when he got further North, he found that there were lanes and valleys permeating this mass of public works, and eventually he reached a canal and crossed that. Here was neither cowm nor country; or rather both were there, and both were dead. He came upon a bit of hawthorn-hedge; the stems were coal black, the leaves begrimmed out of all semblance to natural foliage. There were long straight roads, sometimes fronted by a stone wall and sometimes by a block buildings, dwelling houses apparently; but of the most squalid and dingy description; the windows opaque with dirt: the closes foul, the pavements in front unspeakable. But the most curious thing was the lifeless aspect of the dreary neighbourhood. He came to a dreadful place called 'Saracen Cross', a very picture of desolation and misery; the tall, blue-black buildings showing hardly any signs of life in their upper flats...it seemed a city of the dead."

The rest of the article is taken up with defence of the area by the journalist, who first of all outlines recent improvements, then harks back to the golden age of Possil House. This is a familiar opposition. An attack on the area, or not so much the area as the neglect it has suffered, is met with a nostalgic yearning for the pre-industrial past. Possilpark has had more than its fair share of the unkind appraisal offered by William Black. It needs some lucky white heather or it may well become what it seemed to be over a hundred years ago – a city of the dead.

Housing

An early account of 'The Suburb of Possil Park' in 'The Daily Mail' in 1870 describes the new development of the area:

"At the corners of Saracen and Hawthorn Streets two large Tenements of four storeys each have been Erected by the Proprietors of the Ground, and two Rooms and Kitchen are

Ticketed at from £13. Several other Tenements have also been put up next these, while many Feus have been taken over for Building-Operations in the Spring. The Stones of which the Foundry and Dwelling-Houses were Built were taken from a Quarry opened on the South-West portion of the Grounds. These Tenements have been, as all others will be, Erected with the strictest regard to Sanitary Laws; but perhaps the most commendable Feature in the arrangement of the Suburb is the Walling in of a large piece of Ground to be called The Possil Park Gardens. Here Labourers are busily engaged putting everything in good order; and, when Completed, it is intended to Let the Gardens off in Plots, as is done just now in the Albert Gardens, on the South Side. Altogether, this New Suburb is likely to become a great Favourite with the Class for whom it is especially intended. For Workmen employed in the Northern District it is within easy walking distance, indeed Half-an-Hour would suffice to go from the Royal Exchange; and as the Place becomes Populated, doubtless the North British Railway Company will see it to be their advantage to offer facilities for the speedy Conveyance of Passengers from and to the City. To the West of the Suburb, Workmen have been engaged for some time conducting Boring Operations, as it is contemplated to open a Sandstone Quarry, should the Quality of the Stone prove encouraging."

In the 1880s, the old houses of Hamiltonhill, previously the site of mine workings, were demolished, as was a colliers' row. By the 1890s, the population of the area was 10,000, with 1200 employed at the foundry. There was an urgent need for accommodation.

Early builders were local firms such as W. and A. Taylor, who built the four tenements opposite the school in Ardoch Street around 1890. The firm also undertook the construction of the 'Doctor's House' at Saracen Street, the old Co-op building, and the tenements at Saracen Street. Other local firms who played an active part in the job of expanding the new Possilpark included J. Young, plumbers, and J. Stewart, joiners.

In 1891 Possilpark and Maryhill were incorporated into Glasgow. Lambhill followed in 1925. Previously, they had all been part of the Cadder district of Lanarkshire. Work started on Ruchill Hospital on 16th April 1895. The foundation stone was laid on 29th August that year, and the building was completed on 13th June 1900, with patients admitted three months later on 10th September. Under the Housing Act of 1919, 228 houses were built in Hawthorn Street. Under the Act of 1924, 554 houses were constructed in Possil, 546 in Balmore, and 192 in Parkhouse. The Boot houses of Parkhouse went up in the 1920s. In May 1930 there were, either completed or in progress, 584 houses in Possil, 188 in Parkhouse, 66 in Saracen Street, 354 in Ashfield, and 228 in Hawthorn Street.

The Hamiltonhill and Possil houses soon numbered 1,282, with Hamiltonhill stretching, as it does today, from Bardowie Street to Possil Road and from Ellesmere Street to Carbeth Street. There were 738 houses in Balmore and Parkhouse. In 1939, it was estimated that only 290 houses in the area were built before 1914, the remaining 2000 being constructed since the mid-Twenties. A £4m facelift for Greater Possil began in the Keppoch Possil area on 26th April 1973 when the Lord Provost William Gray ceremoniously demolished a back court 'midden'. The Springburn and Possilpark Housing Association sprang up in 1979. By the early 1980 the 'facelift' was being condemned as an eyesore. Opening up the back courts and doing away with gardens, paving waste ground and grassy areas, closing off roads – it wouldn't have gone down well in Bearsden, and in Possilpark it was met with some resistance. The fact that the renovation coincided with the erection of a police station at Barloch Street in 1974, just as the closure of factories was quickening, suggests that the park and the industry was being taken out to be replaced by a concrete jungle.

The Bomb at Possil Bridge

At half past midnight on the morning of Sunday 21st of January 1883 a home-made bomb exploded on the canal bridge at Possil Road. Four men and two women were crossing the bridge on their way from the city centre to Springburn when they spotted a tin hat box. Adam, Matthew, and Archibald Barr, George Gee, Janet Richardson, and Janet Watson had spent the evening drinking at the house of Janet Richardson in Wigton Street.

One of the group, Adam Barr, a soldier on leave, opened the box and saw some stuff that looked like sand. He stirred it a little, and carried it a few paces. It started to fizz, and exploded soon after. Those present suffered minor injuries. They were clearly not severely shocked, because they kicked the box about a bit after the bang, which was heard 300 yards away by a police officer. The tin was later found to have contained an illegal explosive, a nitrocompound used in America and elsewhere, but prohibited in Britain. What made the incident more peculiar was the fact that two other bombs were detonated around the same time, one at Tradeston Gasworks a couple of hours earlier, at 10.10 p.m. on the 20th January, and another within an hour of the Possil Bridge explosion, at 1.15 a.m. at a disused shed belonging to the Caledonian Railway Company 35 yards beyond another bridge at Dobbies Loan. A ladder had been propped against a wall for a quick getaway.

The official inquiry into these acts of terrorism or sabotage could not identify perpetrators or motive, but concluded: "It is sufficient to know beyond all doubt that great pains had been expended by some evil-disposed person or persons to produce an explosion which, if it had accomplished what was evidently intended, would have occasioned very great loss and damage, and much public inconvenience." The Possil Bridge bomb had apparently failed to detonate fully, or the unfortunate passers-by who discovered it would not have had such a lucky escape. 'The device had misfired. The bombers are said to have been eventually apprehended and sentenced to penal servitude.

Work and Recreation

A grant was made by Andrew Carnegie towards branch libraries in Glasgow on 15th May 1901. Land was given by the man who had taken over from Archibald Alison as the patron of Possil, Walter MacFarlane, and the construction of a library was begun. Built using local stone drawn on horse lorries from local quarries, Possilpark Library was opened on 15th March 1913, with money that had initially been earmarked for Hillhead. It was proposed at one point that there be a separate Reading Room for Ladies, but the proposal was defeated.

Glasgow has a great tradition of cinema going. By 1920 the city had 75 picture houses. At one time Possil had two cinemas, The Mecca, at the corner of Balmore Road and Hawthorn Street, opened in 1938, and The Possil in Saracen Street. The Mecca became The Vogue, and is now a bingo hall. The Possil became The Avon, then The Bowman Bar, and is now The Brothers Bar. The Astoria at the Round Toll was the second largest cinema in Glasgow, next to Green's Playhouse, with a seating capacity of 3,000. Described as 'the largest working class sound cinema in Scotland', it opened in February 1932 and closed thirty years later. It is now a bingo hall.

Partick Thistle Football Club was founded in 1875, and Possil Bowling Club was formed in 1878. Possil is famous as a breeding-ground for good footballers. Former Scotland manager Willie Ormond once said that he could pick a national side from Saracen Street. This is all the more astonishing when one thinks how poorly served the area has been in terms of sports facilities. It is a great testament to the way that talent can overcome adversity.

Transport

Possil was no doubt an attractive prospect for an entrepreneur like Walter MacFarlane, with its convenient road, rail and canal links and its nearness to the city centre. One contemporary report speaks of "the close proximity of the Helensburgh Branch of the North British Railway". But Possil had another valuable transport

network. The Forth and Clyde canal was surveyed and mapped out in 1763 by John Smeaton, designer of the Eddystone Lighthouse. The first spade of earth was lifted by Sir Lawrence Dundas at Grangemouth on 10th June 1768. The canal was navigable as far as Kirkintilloch by 3rd September 1773, and Stockingfield by 10th November 1775. The Hamiltonhill section was cut and the basin formed there by 10th November 1777. By 1790 the Glasgow branch of the Great Canal was finished and joined up with Monkland Canal, and granaries were built at Port Dundas and Dundashill. The village of Port Dundas was under construction. On completion, the canal was thirty-five miles long and 8-10 feet deep. Around 1790, Rockvillia Bridge or Aqueduct was erected. It is the small arch to the right of the main bridge that you can see as you go down Possil Road into town. It was realigned and enlarged around 1860. Just beyond was the Mansion of Rockvillia, owned by R. Graeme, Sheriff-Substitute of Lanarkshire, who died in 1808. The aqueduct at Bilsland Drive was completed in 1879.

By 1808 three passenger boats were plying the canal – The Margaret, The Charlotte, and The Star, all drawn by two horses, from Port Dundas to Lock 16 at Falkirk in 5-and-a-half hours. The Rockvillia Castle, a fifty-foot boat with a red funnel, made the trip between 1859 and 1880. In 1893 the first Fairy Queen began its career at two runs per day, passing through Rockvillia, Ruchill Bridge, Lambhill, Cadder, Torrance, Kirkintilloch, Twechar, Auchenstany and Craigmarloch. It was put out of use in 1897. The second Fairy Queen was in operation between 1897 and 1912. It was exclusively for charter after 1905, when the Gypsy Queen, which proved to be the last ship on the canal, came in. The Gypsy Queen was in use from 1905-1940. The May Queen ran from 1903-1918. It weighed 56 tons and carried 231 passengers, and took up almost the whole breadth of the canal. The third Fairy Queen – which had no funnel, and was a bit of a come-down from The May Queen – ran from 1923-1931. In 1966 canal-filling operations started in Port Dundas to make way for a new inner ring road. The canal brought business and industry, but it also brought pleasure, and perhaps that's where its future lies.

Transport by road advanced in tandem with the development of the canal, and soon outstripped it. In the seventeenth century there must have been a decent walkway where Garscube Road now stands, because on 20th October 1650 Oliver Cromwell's army marched down Cowcaddens into Glasgow on its way from Kilsyth, after defeating the Scots at Dunbar. On 22nd August 1676 the highway leading to Nether Possil is described as an important route linking the district with the city centre. By 1795, the road to Possil from Cowcaddens to Garscube Road passed the new farm of Sawmillfield and, further along, Craighall House, with Craighall Road a tree-lined lane leading past Pinkston Bog to St. Rollox. There was no through road to Cowlairs.

Sedan chairs were in use from the eighteenth to the midnineteenth century. Cabriolets, hackney carriages drawn by a single horse the original 'fast black' – first appeared in Glasgow in the 1820s. 'Noddies', two wheelers, four wheelers, and minibuses, were in vogue by the 1840s. Hansom cabs came later in the nineteenth century. In 1832 it was estimated that there were only 400 private carriages in Glasgow, and in 1845 the First Street Transport Regulations were laid down.

In the 1870s Menzies Buses, ran a 2-and-a-half minute service with horse-drawn vehicles. Not bad, if you could put up with wet straw, a strong wind, and serious overcrowding. The first trams were originally brought in to haul iron and coal from the mines on wooden rails. On 19 August 1872 the first horse-drawn passenger tram route in Glasgow ran from St. George's Cross to Eglinton Toll. By 1885 trams ran to Rockvilla, and by 1886 to Springburn. In 1894 there was a Rockvilla to Possilpark horse tram system in operation from 8.16 a.m. to 10.43 p.m. with a halfpenny fare.

The first horse tram reached Saracen Cross in 1896. The electric tram arrived in 1901. You might well ask why the horse tram got there before the electric tram. Around this time there was a Saturday night special running from McLachlan's Pub at Saracen

Cross to Lambhill Bridge. It was reputedly a riotous journey, and one on which the only sober creatures were the horses. It was not unknown for the driver to wake up in a field.

Possil Tram Depot was built at 240 Hawthorn Street in 1900 for Glasgow Corporation Tramways Department in order to accommodate electric trams. In 1902 the last horse-drawn tram was withdrawn. On 1st December 1924 a motor bus was introduced, and in 1933 there was the 7a to Lambhill, and in 1938 the No. 4 Blue Tram from Keppochill to Renfrew.

The railway came to the area between 1857 and 1859. Possil Station opened at 441 Balmore Road in 1897 for the Lanarkshire & Dumbartonshire Railway. It was a three platform station in a shallow cutting, with an island platform and a single sided one. The main offices were in a two storey and attic building spanning the tracks, entered at first floor level from the street. There was also a goods shed and office. A handsome wooden platform shelter was demolished in 1967. Possil Station had a chequered history. It was closed to passengers in 1908, reopened in 1934, and closed again in 1967. It has now reopened as Possilpark and Parkhouse Station, hopefully a sign of regeneration.

Schools

After the 1873 Education Act, 'Wee Possil' was built beside Possil Station on Balmore Road. Oakbank and Keppochill schools sprang up in 1878. Around 1890 the old part of Possilpark School, 'Big Possil', was built by the local firm of A. Taylor. There was a tin school in Barloch Street prior to this. Possil, or 'Wee Possil' continued as a Primary. Big Possil was an advanced division school. Old Colston School arrived in 1909, with the new school being built in 1969. It was not long before it was deemed to have outlived its usefulness.

Saracen Primary, built as a military hospital in 1929, opened as a school in 1932. In 1933 the 'Red School', Possilpark Senior

Secondary, was built at Balmore Road. The old building was demolished about 1934. Parkhouse School in Buckley Street opened in 1938. In 1940 St. Cuthbert's was built. Chirnsyde, a name with long associations in the area, followed in 1953. St. Augustine's Primary opened in 1953, and the Secondary a year later. St. Ambrose was built in 1963, together with Our Lady of the Assumption and St. Teresa's. Hawrthorn Primary opened in 1963, incorporating the old East Keppoch School, built in 1935. In 1966 Big Possil was demolished to make way for the new Possilpark Secondary built at Carbeth. The new school was constructed in two phases in 1964 and 1969. Phase 1 went the way of Colston in 1992, but Phase 2 looks set to live on. Wee Possil became an Education Department store in the 1960s. St. Agnes' Primary in Balmore Road, used from 1884 as a schoolhouse and chapel, became Joan of Arc in 1958. Miltonbank Primary Opened in 1970.

Wartime Experiences

The people of Possilpark, like many other communities, paid dearly during the Second World War, but the area itself escaped lightly. On one occasion an unexploded bomb fell upon the school near Carbeth Street. The surrounding houses were evacuated until the bomb was located and removed. Fifty years later the Regional Council would drop its own home-made bombshell on the school, prompting another evacuation. Around 1942/43 a barrage balloon ignited over Ruchill Park during an air raid. Bill McAuley, who stayed in Panmure Street at the time, recalls the incident: "It caused a great deal of panic for my own family, as we all thought that the 'Germans had landed!' The whole of the vicinity was illuminated by an infernal red glow as we all rushed downstairs to the air raid shelters in the backyards."

Conclusion

In recent years, there have been a number of local community initiatives aimed at regenerating Possil. In 1975 the Possil Festival was inaugurated, and a local paper, 'The Possil Post' was begun. The Festival, a popular venture, has had funding problems. A new

community newspaper, 'The Northender', came into being in 1991, run from shop premises in Ellesmere Street, Hamiltonhill.

In 1977 a proposal was put forward for a farm on a six acre terraced site, formerly the old quarry near Firhill basin at Hamiltonhill, a mile and a half from the town centre. Greater Possil City Farm had an open day on Saturday 15th May 1982. Sadly, the farm did not prove to be viable. It was a brave attempt to bring a piece of the country back to an industrial wasteland. It was ironic that the idea of a farm in Possil raised a few eyebrows, since the area had once housed a number of farmsteads. Even after the canal and the foundry brought the industrial revolution to Possil, the area remained a farming community. Fairhill Farm stood at Parkhouse. In the 1850s Duncan Campbell was farming at Parkhouse, and Robert Weir at Ashfield. There was Buckley Farm at Parkhouse, and High Possil Farm.

Nothing should surprise us where Possil is concerned. We've had the Stone Age, the Bronze Age, the Roman Age, the Mansion House, and the Industrial Revolution. Possil has said farewell to field, farm, and factory, to park land and pottery, to Romans and countrymen, and it's still alive and kicking. On a sunny day, Keppochhill viewed from Possil Road, or the canal from the bridge at Hamiltonhill basin, offers a glimpse of the old Possil, the welcome refuge from the bustle and traffic of the city that it once was.

But this sense of timelessness conceals dramatic changes. There is no longer a cinema in Possil. The Moss House was demolished around 1964, another landmark lost to 'progress'. Nowadays these buildings are being saved and renovated, like Spiers Wharf, but the 1960s were the decade of Demolition Man. The Saracen Foundry was levelled in 1967. The Pottery is gone, knocked down in 1974 to make way for Keppoch Nursery School. The Blindcraft is away. Hugh Smith's is history. The old Possilpark Church was lost in 1986. Possilpark Secondary has closed, bulldozed despite local protests in 1992. Some things have changed less radically.

The tram depot has become a bus depot. The train station has reopened. Phase 2 of Possilpark Secondary remains as a potential community resource.

Between the baronial estate of Sheriff Alison and the manufacturing heyday of Walter MacFarlane & Co., between Possil House and Saracen Foundry, there must be another way of life: This fossil park of industry, of gap site and gable end, has in the past given peace and prosperity to the chosen few. It does not deserve to be forgotten, or to lose its name, now that it has outlived its usefulness for the townhouse gentry and the industrial magnate. The story of Possil may at times have been 'Nether', but it is far from 'Over.'

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Saracen Foundry

With the intention of writing a history of Walter Macfarlane's Saracen Foundry. I would like anyone with any knowledge of the Foundry to get in touch with me at, The Possil Learning Centre, First Floor, Ardoch House, Ardoch Street, Possil or phone any Evening:

0141 556 2121

**Thank You
Patrick Maguire**

Colophon:
The Story of Possilpark

Designed by Andrew Brash as part of 'Beyond the Forbidden Gate' — an exhibition by Joey Simons and community collaborators from North Glasgow at The Mitchell Library's Old Glasgow Room.

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