



www.williamsoutar.com

To find out more about Soutar and his work, go to arrangement (telephone 01738 643687). as a permanent memorial, and may be viewed by prior a Dying Man. He died in 1943, aged 45. The house is kept kept hidden from his family, which he called The Diary of tuberculosis. His response was to start a new journal. After 13 years in bed, Soutar was diagnosed with his visitors but increasingly immobile. in starched shirt and bow tie, looking healthier than most of by his father, 27 Wilson Street. They found Soutar bedridden, was a key figure in the pre-war Scottish Renaissance. Most childhood. A friend of Hugh MacDiarmid and Neil Gunn, he but rooted in the speech he had heard and spoken since he wrote in Scots: drawing on 500 years of literary tradition and adult poetry. Arguably his greatest legacy is the poetry, dream diaries, reviews, letters, children's rhymes and riddles, was honed into mastery. He wrote continuously: journals, Soutar had written poems since his school days, but it was after he became an invalid that his facility with words notable Scottish writers of the day called at the house built in starched shirt and bow tie, looking healthier than most of his visitors but increasingly immobile. After 13 years in bed, Soutar was diagnosed with tuberculosis. His response was to start a new journal. kept hidden from his family, which he called The Diary of a Dying Man. He died in 1943, aged 45. The house is kept as a permanent memorial, and may be viewed by prior arrangement (telephone 01738 643687). To find out more about Soutar and his work, go to www.williamsoutar.com

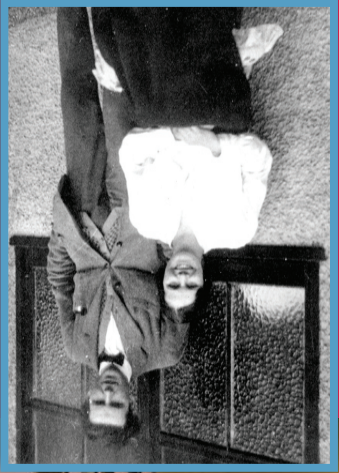


Soutar's graduation 1923

LLIAM SOUTAR was born in a flat in South Inch Terrace in 1898, and educated at Southern District School and Perth Academy. During the First World War he served in the Navy, witnessing the surrender of the German fleet. By the end of 1918 he was on sick leave, suffering early symptoms of the illness which was to cripple him. He began a medical degree at Edinburgh University but, being squeamish about dissection, switched to English literature. Poor health frustrated his hopes of a career in teaching and in his mid-twenties he returned to Perth to live with his parents and adopted sister Evelyn. He endured a series of treatments until 1930 when he was diagnosed as suffering from ankylosing spondylitis, an incurable arthritis of the spine.



Soutar with his cousin Mollie Mackenzie 1924

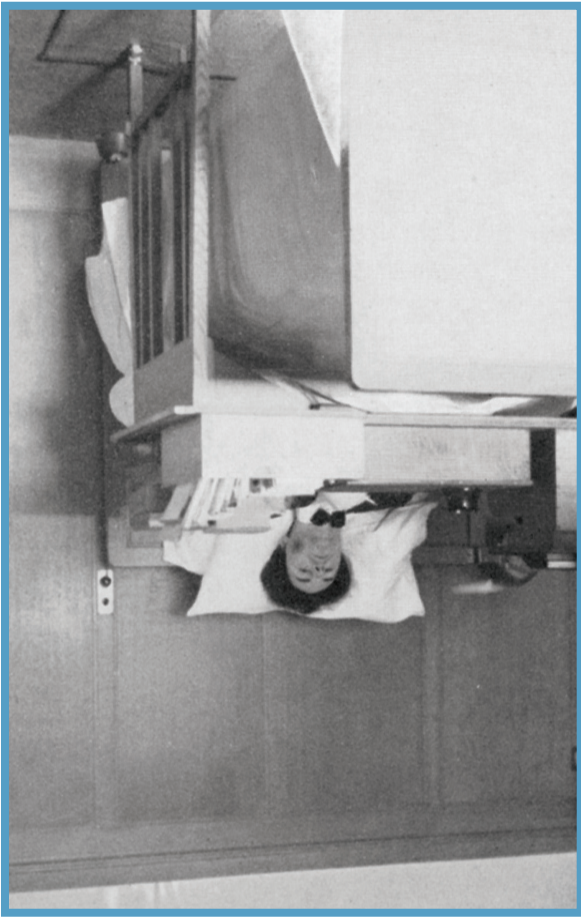


Stained glass detail from the Soutar house

Soutar's bedroom



William and his father in the Sma' Glen 1922



William Soutar

Out of the darkness of the womb
Into a bed, into a room;
Out of a garden into a town,
And to a country, and up and down
The earth; the touch of women and men
And back into a garden again;
Into a garden; into a room;
Into a bed and into a tomb;
And the darkness of the world's womb.

Autobiography

Craigie Knowes

Gin morning daw
I'll hear the craw
On Craigie Knowes
Wauk up the sin:

Wauk up the sin
Wi' caw on caw
Whan day comes in
On Craigie Knowes:

On Craigie Knowes
A' round about
I'll hear the craw
Or day be dune:

Or day be dune
And sterns come out,
And houlets hoot
On Craigie Knowes.



Craigie Knowes

Collect a free sheet of poetry featured in this leaflet from the AK Bell Library Local Studies Department or the Fergusson Gallery.



The Guildry Incorporation of Perth

The Guildry Incorporation of Perth can trace its roots back to the 13th century. It is one of the Fair City's most ancient institutions. Nowadays its role in Perth life is primarily charitable and publication of this leaflet was made possible thanks to a generous grant from the Guildry.



The Glover Incorporation of Perth

The Glover Incorporation of Perth was established to control the glove trade that flourished in Perth from at least the 10th century to the late 1700s. Many of its historical artefacts can be seen at Perth Museum and Art Gallery. It now operates as a charitable body, and has made a generous contribution towards the publication of this leaflet.

Perthshire

Scottish Enterprise
Tayside

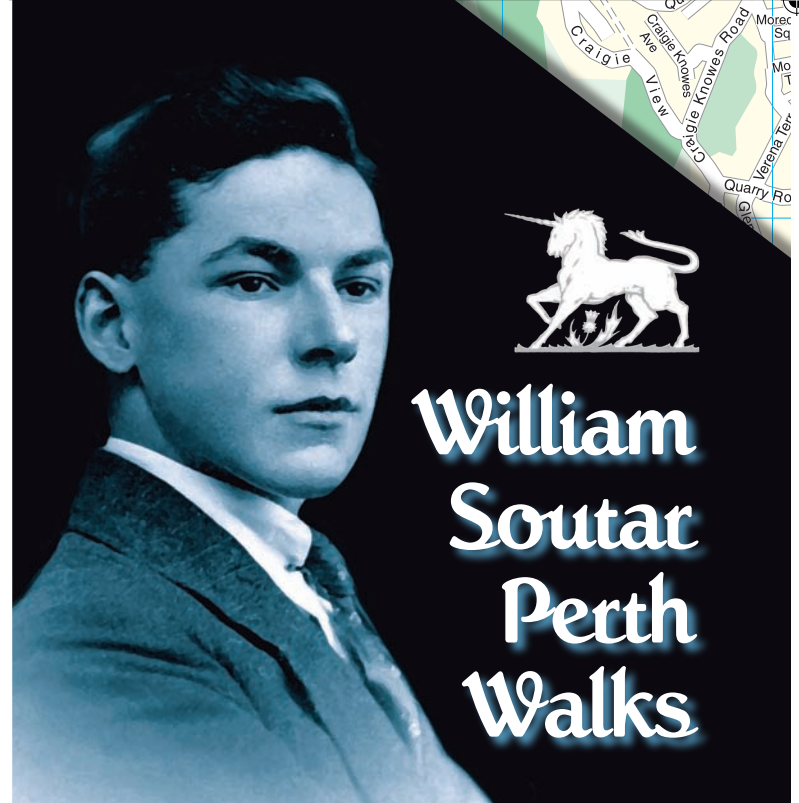


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Photographs and illustrations courtesy of Perth and Kinross Council Libraries and Lifelong Learning and Perth Museum and Art Gallery, apart from the photograph of William Soutar in bed, taken by Helen Cruikshank.

The unicorn was a recurring symbol in Soutar's poetry; the image used as a logo of these walks was designed by Soutar's friend, James Finlayson.

This leaflet was written by the William Soutar fellow. For further information contact Perth and Kinross Council Libraries and Lifelong Learning. Telephone (01738) 444949 or e-mail library@pkc.gov.uk



William
Soutar
Perth
Walks

CRAIGIE 2 HOUR WALK (approximate)

Perth, its people, landscape and history, inspired many of Scots poet William Soutar's best-loved works.

This is one of two walks (starting at the Fergusson Gallery) around landmarks he knew and places immortalised in his poetry.

Please note: parts of this walk involve steps and can be muddy.



1. The South Inch

In the 1650s, after Cromwell's arrival in Perth, an artillery fort and barracks were built here. Partially demolished in 1660 after the restoration of the monarchy, Cromwell's citadel was re-fortified briefly in the Jacobite risings of 1715 and 1745. Nothing visible remains. Its northern wall lies under the eastern range of the Georgian houses in Marshall Place.

**"He rumml'd up his cannon
Afore St John's Toun:
Wowf! roar'd the cannon
And the wa's fell down."**

The Visitation



2. South Inch Terrace

Birthplace of William Soutar.

**"What wud ye hae for ferlie
And no ken the want o' mair?
The sun for a gowden apple:
The mune for a siller pear."**

Cradle Sang



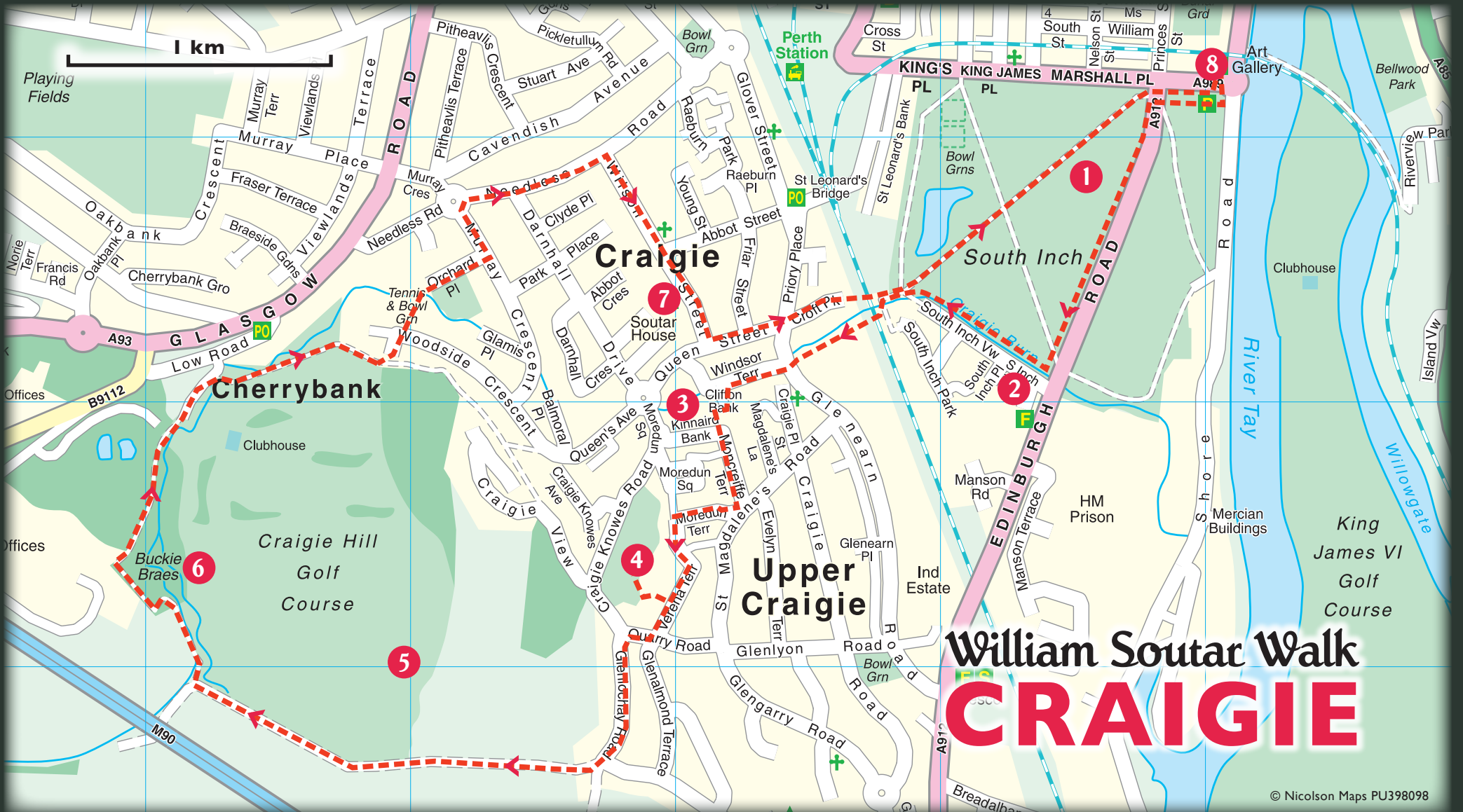
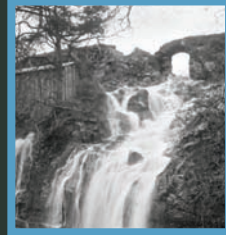
4. Craigie Knowes

In Soutar's time a popular picnic spot. Now a small wilderness of birds, whin and brambles amid suburban housing, affording panoramic views over Perth.



3. Craigie Waterfall

In Soutar's day the waterfall was surrounded by malt barns, a laundry and a flock mill. Take the flight of steps from Windsor Terrace to Moncrieffe Terrace.



5. Craigie Hill

Another of Soutar's childhood playgrounds, now a golf course and community woodland.

**"O! whan the haly bugles trill
Lat me wauken up right here."**

Patriotism



6. Buckie Braes

A deep wooded gully created by quarrying: a popular promenade from Edwardian times. Soutar spent happy days here in his energetic youth.

**"Monie a bairn frae our toun
Haiks up to the Buckie Braes,"**

The Buckie Braes

7. The Soutar House

In 1924 the Soutar family moved to 27 Wilson Street, one of a pair of semi-detached houses in the late Arts and Crafts style built by master-joiner John Soutar and his business partner, Tom McQueen. Here William Soutar honed his talent as a poet and produced his best work, but the house became his prison as he succumbed to the spinal condition ankylosing spondylitis. He spent 13 years in bed, visited by a constant stream of friends, neighbours and literary admirers. Between 1938 and 1940 he received over 2000 callers.

**"Though I envy paralytics
Who take up their beds and walk."**

Impromptu in an Eremitic Mood



8. The Fergusson Gallery

Return across South Inch to the Fergusson Gallery which served Perth as a waterworks from 1832 until 1964. The design, by Perth Academy rector Adam Anderson, drew fresh water from filter beds at Moncreiffe Island. The inscription above the door 'Aquam igne et aqua haurio' ('I draw water by fire and water') refers to the steam engine which pumped water to a cast iron tank from which it was piped to street wells. In 1992 the building opened as a gallery showing the paintings of Scottish colourist J.D. Fergusson.



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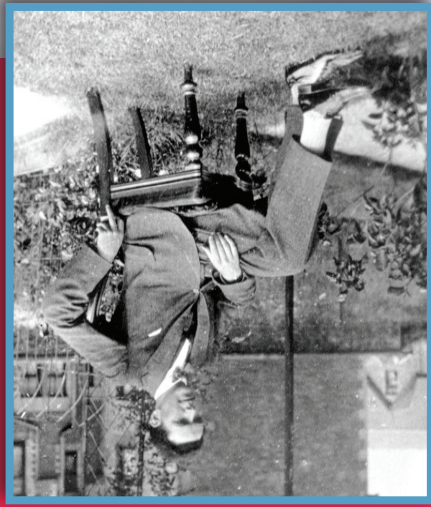
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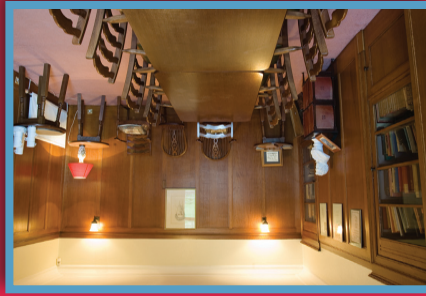
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The Soutar House



William in the Soutar house garden 1924



Soutar's bedroom

But whether a rowth o' preachin
Is byord'nar drouthy warks;
Or whether a rowth o' leechin
Maks folk keep in wi' the kirk;
Or whether a rowth o' drinkin
Needs a rowth o' physic and prayer—
Ye winna be lang in thinkin
They're a' thrang and thrivin here.

Wha daunders round St Johnstoun,
Or up and down onie gate,
Will gang by monie a kirk and pub,
And monie a doctor's plate.

Thang and Thivin

St. Leonard's in the Fields

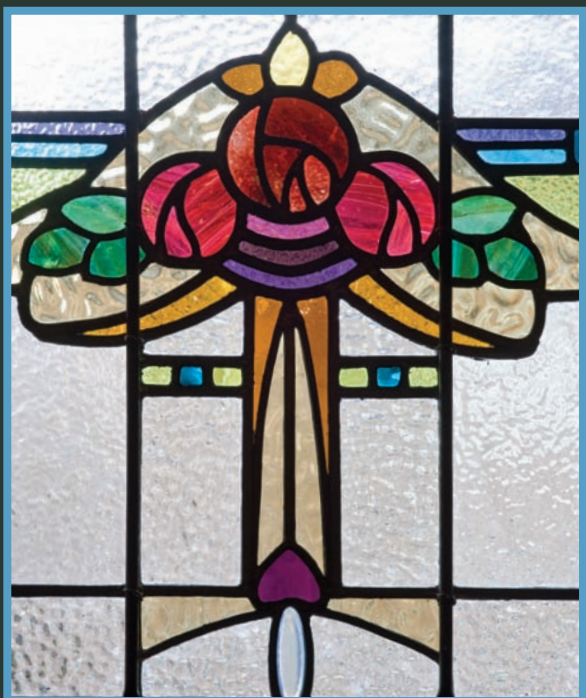


Perth saw an explosion of church building during the 19th century. Many fine examples survive today, including the octagonal **St Paul's** (1807), at the junction of Old High Street and South Methven Street; the neo-classical **St Leonard's** (now an auction house), built in 1834 in King Street; and two fine examples of the later Gothic Revival style: **St Matthew's** on Tay Street and **St Leonard's in the Fields** in Marshall Place. By the early 20th century the number of churches in the town was rivalled only by the variety of public houses, a fact which inspired Soutar to mischievous speculation.

Nae Day Sae Dark

Nae day sae dark; nae wud sae bare;
Nae grund sae stour wi' stane;
But licht comes through; a sang is there;
A glint o' grass is green.

Wha hasna thol'd his thorter'd hours
And kent, when they were by,
The tenderness o' life that fleurs
Rock-fast in misery?



Stained glass in the Soutar House

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Perthshire


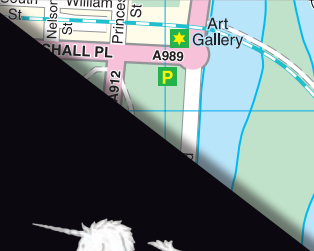



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William Soutar Perth Walks


CITY CENTRE

90 MINUTE WALK (approximate)

Perth, its people, landscape and history, inspired many of Scots poet William Soutar's best-loved works.

This is one of two walks (starting at the Fergusson Gallery) around landmarks he knew and places immortalised in his poetry.

Please note:
parts of this walk involve steps.



1. Soutar's Menagerie

Ronda Bailey's brightly-painted bronze sculptures of the creatures in Soutar's bairnrhymes. Lines from Soutar's *Aince Upon a Day* are carved into the adjacent wall.

**"For gin ye cleip a craw will name ye,
And gin ye rype a daw will shame ye;
And a snail will heeze its hornies out
And hike them round and round about
Gin ye tell a lee."**

Aince Upon a Day



2. Golden Eye on the Dark and Singing Tide

David Annand's bronze of a diving waterfowl.

**"Like the skimmer o' the lampicht
On the dark and singin tide."**

The River

3. Greyfriars Burial Ground

Site of a Franciscan friary founded in 1460. Perth's main cemetery between 1580 and 1849. One of the finest collections of 17th and 18th century headstones in Scotland.



4. Ropemakers' Close

Originally used by rope-makers as a rope-walk during the twisting operation. Until the 20th century most of Perth's population lived in closely-packed tenements accessed by wynds like Ropemakers' Close and Cow Vennel (pictured). The current close lies 15 metres from its original location under Rogerson's shoe shop.

**"The sma'-hour dinnies through the dark;
The trollop taivers hame."**

Backlands



5. St John's Kirk

Perth's oldest building first appears in records in 1126. The present fabric dates from 1440 but has been extensively renovated since. Here, in 1559, John Knox preached a sermon against idolatry which caused his congregation to sack the town's Greyfriars, Blackfriars and Charterhouse monasteries.

**"In bane he was sma' boukit,
But had a muckle beard
And when he gar'd it waggle
Baith man and beast were feared."**

John Knox



6. Nae Day Sae Dark

David Annand's sculpture inspired by Soutar's poem of the same name, a landmark for High Street shoppers.



10. The North Inch

Reputedly the first place in Scotland where cricket was played. A Jacobite assembly point in 1715 and 1745. In 1396 Clan Chattan and Clan Kay fought the Battle of the Clans here in an attempt to settle a Highland feud. The battle, also described in Scott's *The Fair Maid of Perth*, is mocked gently in Soutar's poem *Hal o' the Wynd*:

**"Hal o' the Wynd he taen the field
Alang be the skinklin Tay:"**

Hal o' the Wynd



Pop into Perth Museum and Art Gallery to see Benno Schotz's bronze bust of William Soutar.

11. Perth Bridge

Completed 1771 by John Smeaton, designer of the Eddystone Lighthouse. Widened 1869.

**"As I gaed owre the Brig o' Perth
Ablo the hunch o' the hill,
The mune gou'd down on the
doverin toun;
And I heard the water sweel."**

The Auld Man



Cross the bridge and follow the sculpture trail along the east bank of the River Tay.

12. Kinnoull Churchyard

(Open April - September, 10am - 4pm). The roofed Kinnoull Aisle contains a monument (erected in 1635) to George Hay, first Earl of Kinnoull, industrialist and Lord Chancellor of Scotland under Charles I.

**"Here the stillness o' the stane
Brings stillness to the breist:"**

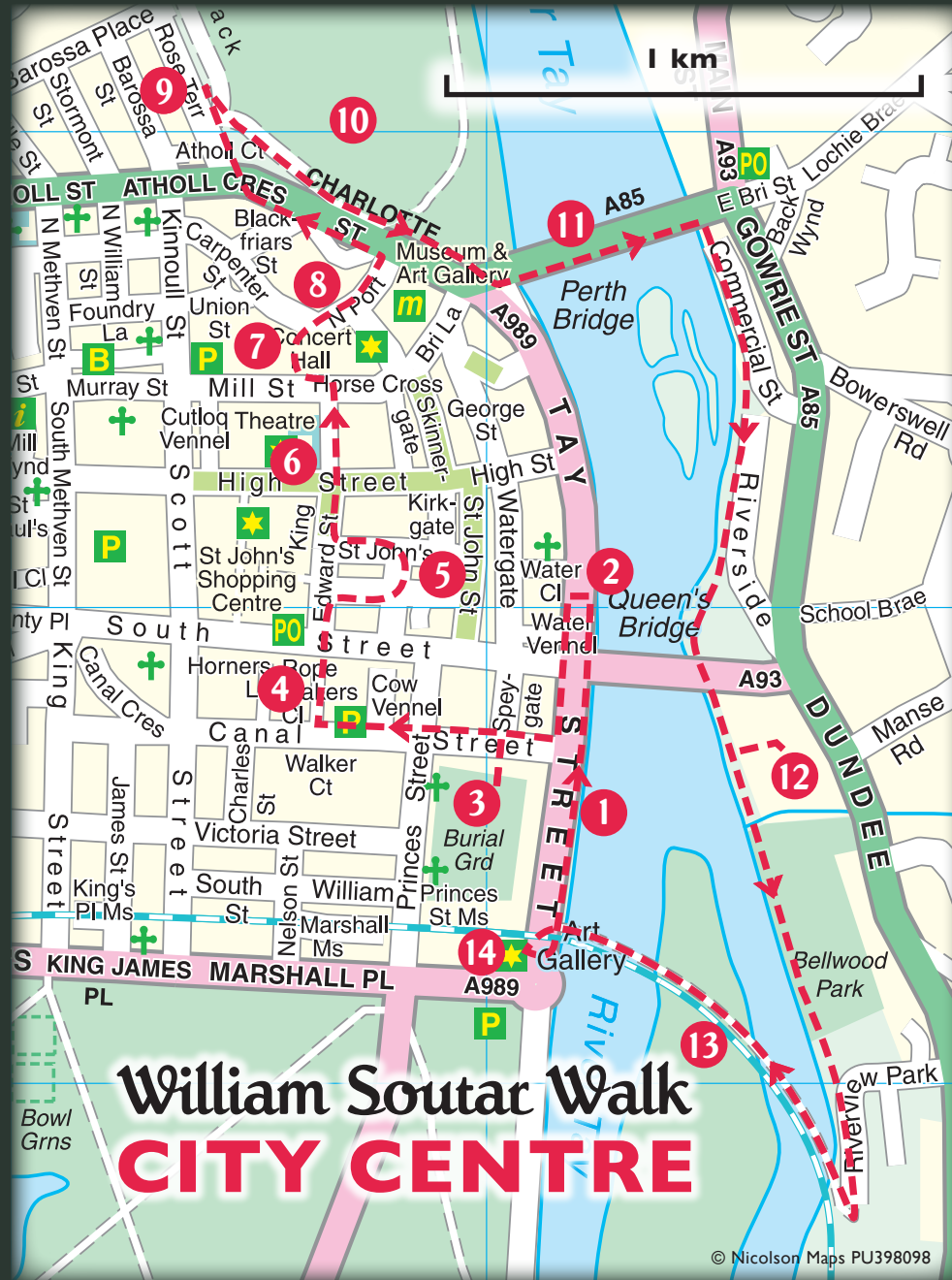
The Kirk-Yaird



13. Railway Bridge

Cross Moncreiffe Island via the railway bridge built in 1863, and return to the Fergusson Gallery, which served Perth as a waterworks from 1832 until 1964. The design, by Perth Academy rector Adam Anderson, drew fresh water from filter beds at Moncreiffe Island. The inscription above the door 'Aquam igne et aqua haurio' ('I draw water by fire and water') refers to the steam engine which pumped water to a cast iron tank from which it was piped to street wells. In 1992 the building opened as a gallery showing the paintings of Scottish colourist J.D. Fergusson.

14. The Fergusson Gallery



7. Cutfev Row

Part of an early Medieval suburb outwith the town wall where malting and tanning took place.



8. The Fair Maid's House

So popular was Walter Scott's 1828 romantic novel *The Fair Maid of Perth* that the oldest secular building in Perth was renamed The Fair Maid's House.



9. Rose Terrace

The centrepiece of Rose Terrace, built in 1807, was formerly Perth Academy, Soutar's secondary school. The parapet, clock and statue of Britannica were added in 1886.

