



2009

MEDIA COVERAGE



COMMUNITY NEWS



SARAH SWAIN

I am covering Pollok, Newlands, Cathcart, Pollokshaws, Mansewood, Priesthill, Househillwood, Arden, Carnwadric, South Nitshill, Darnley.

Call me with your news on 0141 302 6532 or e-mail: sarah.swain@eveningtimes.co.uk

Exotic birds set to fly in

GLASGOW Museums Resource Centre is holding a special family event to celebrate exotic birds of the world.

On Saturday, November 28, you can get a close look at the beautifully preserved creatures from 1-2pm. It will be followed by a workshop where kids can make a bird mobile.

A Countdown to Christmas children's workshop is also being held on December 29 from 1-3pm.

Suitable for kids aged seven and above, children will be able to make their own advent calendar.

Places are limited for both free events and booking is essential.

Call 0141 276 9312 or e-mail gmrbookings@csglasgow.org

The centre, which is home to a vast collection of objects from around the world, is at 200 Woodhead Road on South Nitshill Industrial Estate.

Residents help clean-up

DOZENS of residents in Priesthill joined in a clean-up at the weekend.

Priesthill Youth Club, social housing and refurbishment specialists Connaught, Glasgow Community and Safety Services, Sanctuary Housing, Strathclyde Police Pollok Community Officers and Orbit Tenants Group also donned rubber gloves to help.

They cleared litter and dumped items from the Muirshiel area with equipment supplied by Glasgow City Council's Clean Glasgow campaign

Organiser Donna Foote said: "We're delighted so many made it along to help us with the clean-up."

Fair bid to aid charity

NEWLANDS South Church held a Christmas fair on Saturday in aid of the new Teenage Cancer Trust Unit at Yorkhill's Sick Kid's Hospital and Alzheimer's Scotland.

Stalls including home baking, crafts and a tombola helped raise £1,500.

Cancer Research

and CHAS also benefited from selling Christmas cards.

The choir of Langside Primary School also sang.

The next event at the church, on Riverside Road, will be the Children's Club Christmas party on December 5 and new kids are welcome.

Market comes to town

SILVERBURN'S Farmers' market is on this Sunday outside Next from 10am until 3pm.

The market runs the last Sunday of every month at the shopping centre in Pollok.

New twist on panto fun

PANTOMIME Cinderella is coming to Pollok Community Centre.

A new twist on the festive favourite is being performed on Friday, November 27 at 1.30pm and 6pm.

Organisers said: "Get ready to boo the evil Madame De'mon and the ugly sisters,

Fifi and Fou-Fou, who all conspire to ruin Ella's chance of going to the ball."

The festive show is written by Johnny McKnight.

For tickets, which cost £7 £5 and £3.50 call 0141 276 9696 (choose option 1) or visit www.platform-online.co.uk

Look out for more news from your part of the city in our Community News column

FACES IN THE NEWS

Primary praised for curriculum



A CLYDEBANK primary school has won an award for outstanding development of the international dimension of its curriculum.

Kilbowie primary headteacher Julie Cameron collected the award from the British Council at a ceremony in London to mark the 75th anniversary of the council. Kilbowie was one of only eight Scottish winners.

Prof puts brain under spotlight



PROFESSOR Roddy Williamson, dean of the University of the West of Scotland's

Faculty of Science and Technology, will look at how the brain works in a public lecture at 5pm on December 3 at the Paisley campus.

For tickets to "Models for the Amateur Brain Surgeon", call 0141 848 3598 or email inspiringpeople@uws.ac.uk

MSP is warm on energy action



MSP Patricia Ferguson got a warm welcome as she visited Glasgow Housing

Association tenants to learn about home improvements.

Ms Ferguson visited Alex and Hettie Ogilvie as part of the Warm Homes Campaign, led by charity Energy Action Scotland to raise awareness of the issue of cold and expensive-to-heat homes.

Ryan lands top hospitality title



CLYDEBANK High School pupil Ryan Kee has been named Scotland's top hospitality student by Quality Meat Scotland.

Ryan was presented with a £250 prize at the school recently after emerging as the best student from a total of around 6,500 youngsters taking hospitality courses.

Do you have a story and picture you want featured in our people column? Just e-mail the details and a picture to: news@eveningtimes.co.uk

CITY LINK Developer proposes new lane

IT'S THE WORD ON THE STREET

By GRAEME MURRAY

THE owners of one Glasgow's forgotten architectural gems believe it could form part of a 'cultural corridor' bringing together two of its most famous architects.

The "Mackintosh-Thomson Mews" would create a new path connecting Alexander 'Greek' Thomson's Egyptian Halls on Union Street with Charles Rennie Mackintosh's Lighthouse building in Mitchell Lane.

The ambitious proposals hinge on the first phase of the Egyptian Halls being completed and either a retailer or hotel operator occupying the historic halls which have lain empty for decades.

The move would involve creating a "combined retail and parking asset" using NCP's Mitchell Street car park which would link with The Lighthouse via a newly-created lane leading from Union Street via Mitchell Lane to Buchanan Street.

Union Street Properties believe the idea offers a one-off opportunity to increase awareness of both architectural treasures and create a vibrant commercial retail and leisure route opposite the Union Street entrance to Central Station.

Derek Souter for Dundee-based Union Street Properties (USP) said: "Already there is quite strong interest in The Egyptian Halls, however there is a one-off opportunity to think out of the box and speculate whether Thomson's architectural masterpiece can be merged with NCP's Mitchell Street car park to create a new retail and car parking asset.

"Basically, we create a thoroughfare from Union Street through to NCP's car park in Mitchell Street. The fusion of the car park and the Egyptian Halls pivotally links this new architectural entity to The Lighthouse and to Mitchell Lane which exits on to Buchanan Street, Glasgow's prime shopping area."

The Lighthouse, which was once the home of the Evening Times and latterly a centre for design and architecture, is facing a battle for survival after a cash crisis.

But Culture Minister Michael Russell yesterday said he was committed to reuniting an architecture centre in the building and staff would transfer their employment from The Lighthouse Trust to Architecture and Design Scotland.

USP, which has invested £5.5million into restoring the Egyptian Halls, has now started marketing its historic building.

Bosses today admitted talks had been held with the car park operator about the ambitious Mackintosh-Thomson Mews blueprint which is now being given more consideration.

No link currently exists between Union Street and Mitchell Lane, but developers believe the move would bring together Glasgow's most famous architects in a project which could help regenerate down-at-heel Union Street.

The proposals could also see the creation of landmark meeting place on Buchanan Street which would mark the entrance to the new mews.

Mr Souter added: "Outline discussions have been held with NCP over the past few

years and they will now be revisited."

Bosses claim the potential of a re-modernised NCP car park at the rear of Egyptian Halls and the creation of the mews would increase awareness of The Lighthouse and help it achieve commercial sustainability.

Car park operator NCP today confirmed it was investigating the feasibility of USP's proposals.

A spokeswoman said: "NCP recognises this opportunity and we are looking into it."

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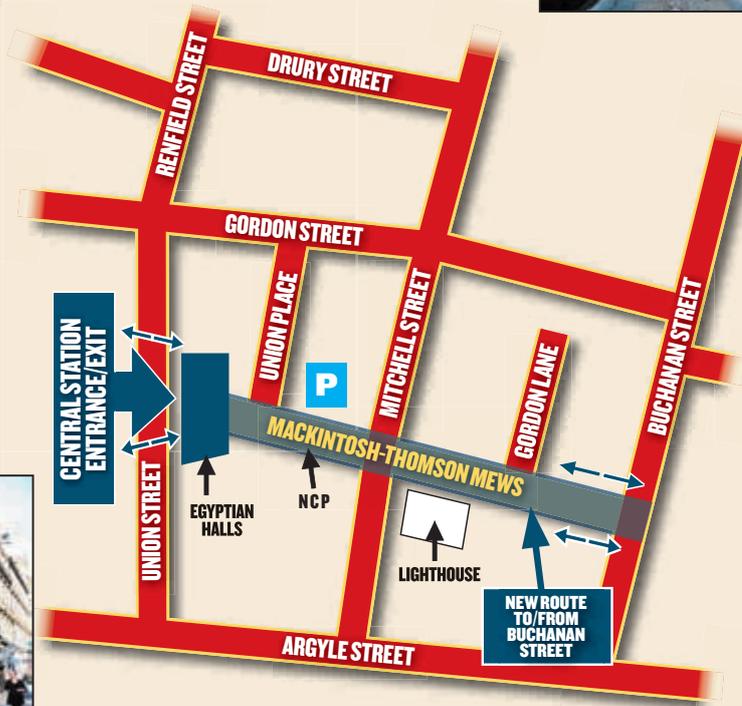
linking two of Glasgow's architectural masterpieces



■ The revamped Egyptian Halls in Union Street, above, could be linked to Mitchell Street car park



■ Mitchell Lane, right, is already home to stylish bars, a boutique and a trendy hairdressers



■ The new route would offer a direct link between Central Station, the Egyptian Halls, the Mitchell Street car park, the Lighthouse and stylish shops and boutiques of Buchanan Street



Star coaches share advice with parents

TOP tennis coach Judy Murray and SFA director of football Jim Fleeting are among the leading names from sport taking part in a question and answer session for parents.

Scottish Athletics national performance coach Laurier Primeau and former rugby internationalist Sir Bill Gammell will also join the panel for the parenting workshop organised by Positive Coaching Scotland.

The panel will urge parents to set the right example to their kids on and off the sports field, as a positive step in alleviating the high levels of drop out from youth sport. The event takes place at 8pm tomorrow at Eastwood Theatre, East Renfrewshire.

Online boost for planning applications

ONLINE planning in East Renfrewshire is achieving its three-year target within six months of starting.

Planning applications can be put in online and residents can also see plans, track the progress of applications and see decisions via the web.

Analysis by the Scottish Government revealed that with eight per cent of applications online, East Renfrewshire is two and a half years ahead of schedule.

East Renfrewshire's planning convener, Councillor Ian McAlpine said: "This is wonderful news. Having the planning information online makes it simpler, faster and much easier for residents."

Military band marches into local schools

MARINE musicians have staged an invasion of our schools.

The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines performed a mix of military music, chart-toppers and classic rock hits at Linwood High School in Renfrewshire today, having already played at both Bishopbriggs and Lenzie Academies.

In addition to the short concert, pupils were also given a presentation on life in the Royal Marines Band Service before taking part in fun music workshops.

Members of the Royal Marines Band provide musical support for the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines at every type of occasion.

New vitamin pill against blindness

Anti-oxidant aims to slow sight loss suffered by 63,000 Scots

ALAN MacDERMID

A NEW supplement carrying an anti-oxidant that staves off blindness has been launched in Scotland.

The multi-vitamin will tackle a steep decline in the average consumption of lutein, which has fallen by half since the Second World War.

According to leading ophthalmologist Professor Ian Grierson, wartime rationing

provided two-thirds of the required level of lutein compared to today's diets.

He was speaking at the launch in Scotland of the new supplement containing the ingredient, together with omega-3 and vitamins that slow the progress of macular degeneration.

Age-related macular degeneration, AMD, is thought to affect about 63,000 Scots,

leading to a large blind spot in the centre of the eye. Sufferers find it increasingly difficult to read, eat or recognise people and are at risk of falling down stairs.

AMD is the leading cause of blindness in the developed world and affects the macula, an area at the back of the eye. It happens when the cells that scavenge the area fall down on the job and a lot of debris builds up - known as "dry" AMD, the most common form.

This can progress to "wet" AMD, when blood vessels start growing out of control

and leaking. This is rarer but much more rapid and serious. Risk factors include poor diet, smoking, obesity, high blood pressure and excessive exposure to short-wave light and advancing age. Women and Caucasians are also more vulnerable, and a family history is also a risk factor.

Research has already shown that supplements containing vitamins C and E, and also zinc, can slow the progress from dry to wet, and a number of products containing these have been marketed.

A more recent study has shown protective effects

'There are a lot of people out there who would benefit from supplements'

from lutein and zeaxanthin, which as carotenoids help to provide a filter in front of the macula to protect it against light damage.

The new additives also act as anti-oxidants, scavenging the free radicals that accumulate around the macula in AMD.

All have been included in a new vitamin supplement, Ocuvit Complete, launched by the optical company Bausch and Lomb.

Mr Grierson said: "The recommended daily intake of lutein for normal health is 6mg, and during the war the average intake was 4mg. Powdered egg was a good source. Now it is down to 2mg."

Mr Grierson said that a diet rich in oily fish, fruit and vegetables like carrots and peppers could make a difference - but he takes supplements too.

He said: "I am all in favour

of a good diet but the reality is we don't have a good diet nowadays."

"There are certainly a lot of people out there who would benefit from the supplements. They cost £15 a month, which is cheap if they are doing you some good, but it is still a hole in the budget and you have to weigh it up.

"If you are 30 and have a good diet the answer is probably no.

"But if you are 40-50, have a lousy diet, a relative with AMD, or one or two other risk factors, then it would be well worth thinking about."

Sitcom's child stars nominated for comedy awards

FAMILY comedy *Outnumbered* is leading the way at this year's British Comedy Awards, with five nominations including three for its young stars.

Stand-up comics Michael McIntyre and Alan Carr will also have high hopes for the ceremony, with three nominations apiece.

BBC1's *Outnumbered*, which has been hailed by critics for its innovative, partly improvised style and believable performances, has earned newcomer nominations for all three of the show's child actors.

Claire Skinner, who plays their middle-class mother Sue Brockman, is up for best comedy actress, while the show also features in the best sitcom category, vying with Channel 4's *Peep Show*, starring David Mitchell and Robert Webb, and *The IT Crowd*.

Webb is in the running for best comedy actor and has a further chance to pick up an award for *That Mitchell And Webb Look*, which is nominated for best sketch show.

McIntyre and Carr will go head to head with Harry Hill in the best comedy entertainment personality and entertainment programme categories.

Hill's TV *Burp* scooped the best comedy entertainment gong last year, while Carr won the entertainment personality award.

McIntyre is nominated for best live stand-up this year, while Alan Carr: *Chatty Man* is also up for best new British TV comedy.

Sacha Baron Cohen's controversial film *Bruno*, as a gay Austrian fashion expert, and *In The Loop*, the movie spin-off of the BBC's dark political comedy *The Thick Of It*, are both up for best film.

Pulling, BBC3's comedy about three hard-drinking thirtysomething women, which was axed after two series, is up for best television comedy drama.

Two of the show's stars, Rebekah Staton and Tanya Franks, are also in the running for best female newcomer.

Harry Enfield and Paul Whitehouse have earned a nomination for the second series of their sketch show, while last year's comedy panel show winner *QI* will battle it out with *Have I Got News For You* and *Mock The Week*.

The awards ceremony will air on ITV1 and ITV2 on Saturday, December 12.

Plans drawn up to link the legacies of a city's greatest two architects

EXCLUSIVE

GRAEME MURRAY

AMBITIOUS plans have been unveiled for a thoroughfare that would finally link the legacies of Glasgow's greatest architects - Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Alexander "Greek" Thomson.

The Mackintosh-Thomson Mews would run from Thomson's Egyptian Halls in Union Street to Mackintosh's hidden jewel, The Lighthouse, in Mitchell Lane.

Union Street Properties, which is behind the plan, believes it would increase awareness of both architectural treasures and create vibrant commercial shopping and leisure space opposite the Union Street entrance to Central Station.

The move would involve creating a shopping and parking centre using NCP's Mitchell Street car park.

It also depends on the first phase of the Egyptian Halls being completed and either a retailer or hotel operator occupying the historic halls,

which have lain empty for decades.

Derek Souter, of Dundee-based Union Street Properties, said: "Already there is quite strong interest in the Egyptian Halls. However, there is a one-off opportunity to think out of the box and speculate whether Thomson's architectural masterpiece can be merged with NCP's Mitchell Street car park to create a new, combined retail and car parking asset.

"We can create a thoroughfare from Union Street through to NCP's car park in Mitchell Street.

"The fusion of the NCP car park and the Egyptian Halls pivotally links this new architectural entity to The Lighthouse, and to Mitchell Lane, which exits on to Buchanan Street, Glasgow's prime shopping area."

The Lighthouse, which was designed by Mackintosh as a home to the then Glasgow Herald, is facing a battle for survival after a cash crisis.

Culture Minister Michael Russell said yesterday he was committed to basing an architecture centre in the building



Two giants of Scottish architecture

Alexander "Greek" Thomson

- Born in 1817 in Balfour, Stirling-shire, he was the ninth of 12 children.
- He married Jane Nicholson in 1847 and had 12 children, but later lost five of them to an epidemic.
- He developed his own highly idiosyncratic style from Greek, Egyptian and Levantine sources.

- He was an elder of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland.
- His Glasgow buildings include three of the world's celebrated Romantic Classical churches - the Caledonia Road Free Church, Queen's Park United Presbyterian Church and St Vincent Street Church - and the Egyptian Halls, above left.

Charles Rennie Mackintosh

- Born in Glasgow on June 7, 1868, the fourth of 11 children.
- He met fellow artist Margaret MacDonald at the Glasgow School of Art. The two married in 1900.
- His first grand architectural project was the design of the Glasgow Herald Building, above right, in 1893.

- His designs gained in popularity following his death in 1928.
- His House for an Art Lover was built in Glasgow's Bellahouston Park in 1906.
- The Glasgow School of Art building, erected between 1897 and 1909, is regularly cited as among the finest buildings in the UK.

'Slow learner' Susan Boyle bullied and beaten at school

BRITAIN'S Got Talent star Susan Boyle has revealed she was bullied at school and beaten by teachers who were ignorant about children with learning disabilities.

In her first interview since finishing her debut album, *I Dreamed A Dream*, Boyle, 48, said: "You're looking at someone who would get the belt every day. 'Will you shut up, Susan!' - whack!"

She continued: "I was a slow learner. I'm just a wee bit slower at picking things up than other people. So you get left behind in a system that just wants to rush on, you know? That was what I felt was happening to me."

She added: "But it's all very different now. I think teachers are taught to understand children with learning disabilities a lot better."

Referring to being bullied at school, she said: "There's nothing worse than another person having power over you by bullying and not knowing how to get rid of that thing."

Boyle also described how she used her faith to cope with the death of her mother Bridget in 2007.

She said: "That's what keeps you going. I have my faith, which is the backbone of who I am, really."

The former church worker from Blackburn, West



SUSAN BOYLE: Debut album looks set to sell 100,000 copies.

Lothian, became an unlikely international superstar after appearing on Britain's Got Talent earlier this year.

Global sales of her album, which will be released next week, are expected to be in excess of 100,000.

Online neologism 'unfriend' is dictionary word of the year

"UNFRIEND" has been named the word of the year by the New Oxford American Dictionary, chosen from a list of finalists with a tech-savvy bent.

Unfriend was defined as a verb that means to remove someone as a friend on a social networking site such as Facebook.

"It has both currency and potential longevity," said Christine Lindberg, senior lexicographer for Oxford.

"In the online social networking context, its meaning is understood, so its adoption as a modern verb form makes this an interesting choice for word of the year."

Other words deemed finalists for 2009 by the dictionary's publisher, Oxford University Press, came from other technological trends, the economy, and political and current affairs.

In technology, there was "hashtag", which is the hash sign added to a word or phrase that lets Twitter users search for tweets similarly tagged; "intoxicated" for when people are distracted by texting while driving, and "sexting", which is the sending of sexually explicit SMS messages and pictures by mobile phone.

Finalists from the economy included "freemium", mean-

ing a business model in which some basic services are provided for free, and "funemployed", referring to people taking advantage of newly unemployed status to have fun or pursue other interests.

In the political and current affairs section, finalists included "birther", meaning conspiracy theorists challenging President Barack Obama's US birth certificate, and "choice mom", a person who chooses to be a single mother.

Novelty words making the shortlist were "deleb", meaning a dead celebrity, and "tramp stamp", referring to a tattoo on the lower back.

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Town first in the UK to make WiFi free for all

AN English town is to become the first in the UK to provide free wireless internet access to all its residents, it has been revealed.

Swindon, in Wiltshire, will be covered by a "WiFi mesh" offering blanket internet coverage for its 186,000 citizens, the council said.

The £1 million project will be funded by a mixture of public and private money, but it hopes to break into profit with residents subscribing to faster, paid-for access above the free service.

Some 1400 secure access points will be fitted around Swindon, similar to those used in homes.

The borough council worked with local business-

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FACES IN THE NEWS

Walking on the Moon is a Buzz



BUZZ Aldrin walked on the moon 40 years ago. Now he's celebrating with some moon tunes performed by the Boston Pops.

The celebration includes singalongs of the standards Blue Moon, It's Only a Paper Moon, Moon River and Fly Me to the Moon.

Aldrin was the second man to walk on the moon, following Neil Armstrong on July 20, 1969.

Cher's daughter has sex change



CHASTITY BONO, the daughter of Cher, is having a sex change.

Bono began the sex-change process to become a man earlier this year, her spokesman said.

Publicist Howard Bragman said Bono was proud of the decision.

The 40-year-old writer, activist and reality television star revealed 20 years ago that she was gay.

Miley Cyrus to play UK concerts



TEEN pop star Miley Cyrus has announced dates for her first UK concerts as

she continues to build a pop career in her own right rather than as her alter-ego Hannah Montana.

Cyrus, 16, who plays a schoolgirl with a secret identity as Hannah Montana in the Disney series and movie, will perform two nights at London's O2 Arena on December 13 and 14.

Prince wins barracks' battle



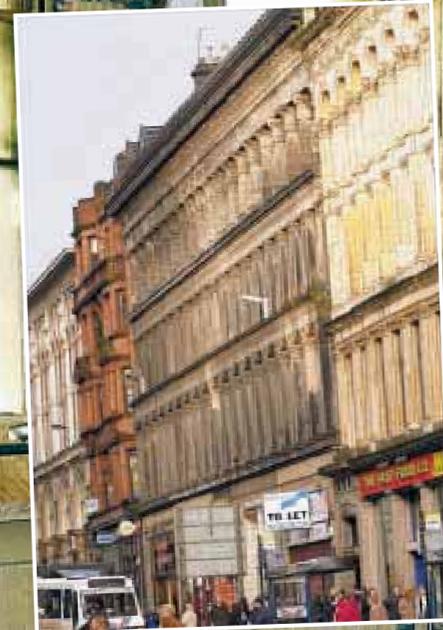
The Prince of Wales has won his battle to get the developers of Chelsea Barracks to drop their modernist design for the project.

The Middle East owners announced they have withdrawn planning application, less than a week before it was due to be considered by planning chiefs.

The decision follows intervention by the Prince.

HIDDEN TOMB IS REVEALED

We get sneak look at the Egyptian Halls, which are set for a £6.5m overhaul



By GRAEME MURRAY

THE owners of one of Glasgow's most important A-listed architectural treasures have warned that time is running out to save it.

Work has started trying to salvage the crumbling fabric of the semi-derelict Egyptian Halls in Union Street after decades of disputes over its ownership.

The A-listed Alexander 'Greek' Thomson building has stood still while almost 30 years have passed.

And decades of decay have taken its toll on the historic building's structure.

But now owners have finally been allowed to start rescuing the 136-year-old treasure and transforming it into a £6.5million retail, office or hotel scheme.

Scaffolding has been erected on the outside of the building and the painstaking process has started to restore its stonework, windows, roof and the ironwork supporting its blackened façade.

Underneath the decades of fumes,

dirt and grime on the outside of the building hides Thomson's ornate frontage, thought to be among the architect's finest work.

But inside, the building is a shell, full of rubble and decaying plaster which latterly housed a Chinese restaurant and an Inland Revenue training centre.

Derek Souter's Dundee-based firm Union Street Properties has been involved with the halls for 11 years but, because of legal issues over ownership, only took possession of the building last year.

Now he is hopeful the firm can salvage the halls with a huge investment after years of neglect.

But after the Evening Times was given an exclusive tour of the four-floor property, Mr Souter warned time is running out to save the historic halls.

He said: "It's more or less been

empty since 1982. It's not in any danger of falling down but there is internal deterioration and water ingress and you reach a cut-off point where something has to be done.

"There are a few options for it and we are looking at offices, retail or hotel use because of its prime location.

"Given its proximity to Central Station it would seem a great location for a hotel.

"We are keeping it wind and watertight and managing the deterioration when we can but we are aware there are ground floor traders and their trade is paramount in our

consideration." The derelict four-storey halls were built in 1873 and are now reached via a shuttered door at pavement level opposite the side entrance to Central Station.

From there, a steep, dimly-lit staircase leads you to the first floor.

The decay of the interior is immediately noticeable and the halls' time as a restaurant is still evident with Chinese characters on its dusty windows and crimson flock wallpaper desperately trying to cling to its walls.

A caged liftshaft occupies the stairwell leading to the top floor and climbing the stairs gets increasingly precarious as holes become more evident.



After almost 30 years of neglect, the restoration work required inside the Egyptian Halls is apparent, but it's a challenge owner Derek Souter, left, is prepared to face

None of Thomson's architectural brilliance can be seen from inside and there is no evidence of the original use as a shopping bazaar and exhibition space.

But from the roof you can see some of the ornate frontage of the building.

Architects the Morrison Partnership have been charged with coming up with a scheme to transform the halls.

The £6.5m development is the culmination of 11 years of investment which has finally secured 100% ownership of the halls.

And it's believed the halls' restoration will be the catalyst for transforming the rest of Union Street.

Architect George Morrison said: "The current outward appearance is so dirty and forlorn that I guess the building does not register with most of the passing public.

"Behind 30 years worth of soot, grime and bird droppings, however, resides one of the most striking facades in Glasgow."

graeme.murray@eveningtimes.co.uk

“ Behind 30 years of soot, grime and bird droppings is one of the most striking facades in Glasgow



Cancelled wedding battle lost

Couple ordered to pay £3000 to lochside hotel

A COUPLE have been ordered to pay £3000 to a luxury hotel after cancelling their wedding due to "hidden costs".

John and Helen Lindsay, from Tollcross, Glasgow, were planning a big white wedding at The Lodge on Loch Lomond in Luss but would it off after they were told they would have to pay £600 extra to host the ceremony there.

The couple - who finally wed at the Bothwell Bridge Hotel - expected to lose just a £500 deposit but a clause in the hotel's contract meant they were liable for half of the total cost.

The lodge, whose famous guests have included Bill Clinton and George Bush Sr, had initially demanded almost £5000 from the couple.

This was to cover costs including potential bar takings and rooms that might have been booked by their guests.

But in a written judgment lodged at Glasgow Sheriff Court yesterday, Sheriff Sean Murphy ordered the couple to pay £3000, plus the hotel's legal expenses.

Sheriff Murphy said: "Mrs Lindsay claimed the

hotel's presentation of the wedding package details had been misleading from the start.

"She summed it up with these words 'they want to get your money and say we'll deal with things later'.

"However, I accept the couple failed to appreciate the full implications of the bargain.

"It must have been plain to them that charges beyond that of the deposit itself were due in the event of cancellation."

The sheriff added he would not make the couple pay for the hotel's estimated bar charges and room bookings.

The couple approached the hotel in late 2006 to

She claimed the details were misleading from the start

book their wedding for September 2007, taking the venue's premium Macmillan package and paying a £500 deposit.

In January 2007 they were sent a copy of the hotel's standard wedding contract, signed it and returned it to the hotel.

When they were later told about an extra £600 fee they cancelled.

The couple received an invoice for £4931 in July 2008. They offered to pay £2000 but the hotel refused to accept this.

Wind farm to create £200m

A GIANT wind farm will generate orders worth more than £200million for firms in Scotland, the First Minister has said.

The 152-turbine farm to be built near Abingdon, in Lanarkshire, will be the single biggest wind farm to have been given consent in Europe.

Alex Salmond hailed the potential for firms when he visited the site to see preparatory work.

The project will cost £500m, and the £200m-worth of contracts will include a £10m order for Machrihanish-based Welcon Towers to supply turbine towers, helping to secure 100 jobs.

The farm, to be developed by Scottish and Southern Energy, will generate enough power for about 200 homes.

SSE said it will provide at least 100 jobs in its construction phase and 30 in its operational life.

Mr Salmond said: "The sheer scale of the Clyde wind farm reflects Scotland's ambition and ability to become the clean, green energy capital of Europe.

"Scotland boasts a clear, competitive advantage in the development of clean, green energy sources with 25% of Europe's offshore wind and tidal power."

The man who built Glasgow

Alexander Linklater

21 Jun 1999

Alexander Linklater welcomes the belated recognition for an architect whose work stands comparison with that of Rennie Mackintosh. Alexander "Greek" Thomson has, at long last, been officially invited back home to Glasgow. Banners in George Square sport his profile equally with that of Charles Rennie Mackintosh. The Clydesdale bank has started using the same image of Thomson for its #20 notes. And, most importantly, a major exhibition of his work, due to open this weekend, inaugurates the Lighthouse museum on Mitchell Street as the central focus of Glasgow's year of Architecture and Design. It is, in fact, the only exhibition exclusively dedicated to the city which Glasgow 1999 is staging. Certainly, there should have been more. With hindsight, it becomes clear that the recent ill-attended Vertigo exhibition theorising future world cities would have had broader appeal and vision if it had specified the substance of its home city instead. But if you are going to do Glasgow, then there is no single figure from the entire cultural history of the city better to represent it than Thomson. The fact that in the last 40 years Glasgow itself has so comprehensively failed its greatest creator only emphasises the drama of this exhibition. Most of the 100 or so buildings that Thomson designed between 1849 and 1875 survived until the 1960s. Thereafter, they began to vanish with terrifying speed. Extensive blocks of his tenements in Gorbals and Tradeston fell victim to the infamous demolition programmes. Unnecessarily, so did commercial buildings in Bath Street and villas in Pollokshields and Shawlands. Thomson's finest tenements, at Queen's Park Terrace, were pulled down as late as the 1980s. Caledonia Road Church, one of the greatest Victorian churches ever built, barely survives as a ruin. Of all the buildings Thomson designed, less than two thirds remain. It is only very recently that Glasgow, not to mention Scotland as a whole, has woken up to Thomson. The National Trust for Scotland has recently refurbished Holmwood House, his finest villa. If an ownership feud surrounding the Egyptian Halls in Union Street is resolved, his finest commercial building may also re-emerge from decline. And the selection of St Vincent Street Church as a World Heritage Site looks set to save his only still-living church. The urgency of this concerns far more than the mere preservation of heritage scraps. In a dazzling introduction to the illustrated book which accompanies Glasgow 1999's exhibition, curator Gavin Stamp frees Thomson from the past, brandishes him as one of Scotland's major creative originals, and sets him up as a key inspiration for innovators of the future. It is not as a simple revivalist - "Greek" or classical or otherwise - that Thomson stamped his mark on architectural history. Rather Thomson's aspiration to dis-cover fundamental laws in ancient Greek or Egyptian styles which drove him to the threshold of a structural abstraction. "We do not contrive rules; we dis-cover laws," Thomson once declared with characteristic zeal. "There is such a thing as architectural truth." Ever since the Alexander "Greek" Thomson society was established in 1991, Gavin Stamp has been one of a few stalwarts who have championed Thomson as the "Unknown Genius". As the title of the exhibition he has co-curated with filmmaker Murray Grigor (whose film on Thomson, *Nineveh on the Clyde*, screens later in June), this has now come full circle as a meaningless phrase. The contents of Stamp's book of the same name says it all: Thomson built villas, terraces, tenements, commercial buildings, churches and monuments. He was Glasgow's cardinal city maker. Stamp sees the revival of Thomson for Glasgow 1999 as a civic symbol, conceding that "official attitudes have now changed." But he doesn't believe Thomson's real importance was ever really forgotten. "Ordinary Glaswegians never ignored him," says Stamp. "I don't think he's ever been forgotten." Destruction of Thomson, whether intentional or not, has left holes in the civic memory. At the centre of the exhibition a huge and miraculously reconstructed model of the Queen's Park Church, bombed into extinction during the war, is an amazing reminder of the force of imagination which once drove a city. Reconstructed capitals from columns in the St Vincent Street church demonstrate that it was an ambition brilliant with interior colour as well as structural ingenuity. Here is Thomson being exhibited in a building designed by the normally more celebrated Charles Rennie Mackintosh which demonstrates that - in terms of originality alone - Glasgow possessed at least two architects of equal genius. Thomson emerges from the very centre of Victorian Glasgow, and in many respects represents the glowering ambitions of his times. But his use of the "Greek" can be deceptive. "How is it . . . there is no modern style in architecture?" he asked in 1871. His solution was "to abandon with all convenient expedition the whole mass of accumulated human traditions under which we have been, as it were, smothered." "Greek" Thomson was neither, precisely speaking, a neo-classicist nor, exactly, an early modernist. His were the fierce outlines of a genuine original.

Legal battle threatens Greek Thomson's masterpiece

| [Sunday Herald, The, Jun 13, 1999](#) | by [Darran Gardner](#)

A VITAL restoration plan to save Alexander 'Greek' Thomson's most celebrated architectural masterpiece has stalled after becoming a casualty of a bitter legal wrangle between a suspended accountant and an ex-football club chairman.

The battle for ownership of Thomson's landmark Egyptian Halls on Glasgow's Union Street is being fought between Tom Dyer, an accountant suspended from his professional body for cheating a bankrupt out of #80,000 and Derek Souter, who resigned his vice- chairmanship of Dundee FC in disgust at the club's links to Giovanni Di Stefano, the controversial Anglo-Italian businessman and friend of Serbian warlord Arkan.

Both men currently own a key part of the threatened property. The restoration project, originally intended to be the highlight of Glasgow's City of Architecture and Design celebrations, is now scheduled for 2000, having been at the mercy of legal negotiations since the early 1990s. Glasgow City Council has backed Souter's bid to redevelop the building, having previously initiated a compulsory purchase notice against the property - citing failure to comply with repair orders - in a desperate bid to save the listed property. Dyer claims he was not given enough time to carry out the repair work. Souter's company, Union Street Properties (USP), is involved in advanced negotiations to purchase two street-level shop units, currently occupied by an insurance company and a London-based businessman. This would give USP control of the entire ground level and all but half of the upper floors, which are owned by Dyer's company, Paratus Ltd. Despite the compulsory purchase notice, which is currently awaiting a Court of Session hearing and will be pursued by the city council unless he agrees to sell to Souter, Dyer appears reluctant to sell, claiming he has a plan to develop the property into a hotel and restaurant complex. His refusal to sell continues to block restoration work. In 1998, Dyer was found guilty of professional misconduct by the Institute of Chartered Accountant's Disciplinary Committee after an investigation into allegations that he cheated a bankrupt and his creditors out of an estimated #80,000. He was ordered to pay costs of #18,000 and was suspended from the institute for three years. Remedial work on the building's exterior began at the end of last year, with the interior being stripped in preparation for future construction work. Those involved include architects Morrison Partnerships and engineers Peter Stephen and Partners. According to George Morrison, a senior partner at Morrison Partnerships, the building, while in terrible shape, can be saved: "The building is in better shape than we feared. We have stripped out all the secondary work that has been done over the years and returned it to the original form.

We hope to see a significant step forward in the next month or so." The history of the Egyptian Halls is complex. Built in 1871, using cast iron and stone, the Halls turned architectural wisdom on its head. The Halls were designed 'upside down', featuring thick stone columns - usually found at ground level - on the top floor, as well as featuring pioneering glass frontage shops at street level. Dr Gavin Stamp, architectural historian and head of the Greek Thomson Society, admits that few in Glasgow realise the importance of the building: "Egyptian Halls wasn't just a warehouse, it was a shopping centre cum bazaar, with promenade concerts inside. It was a Glasgow institution." In 1991, the building was in such bad condition that the council issued a repair order to a Hong Kong restaurateur who owned part of the upper floors. In 1995, this property interest was sold to Dyer. According to the Land Registry office in Glasgow, ownership of the building through a variety of sales and leases, with the property falling into a "black hole". Other Thomson landmarks such as the Caledonian Road Church and the St Vincent Street Church have also fallen into disrepair, with a cash-strapped council and other grant-making bodies like Historic Scotland unable to fund essential restoration. Don Bennett, deputy director of Development and Regeneration Services at Glasgow City Council, admits that with a reduced #400,000 conservation budget, battles such as that over the Egyptian Halls only make things harder. "There are an awful lot of listed building in Glasgow. We'd like to save every one, but we'll never have the resources to do that. If we step in, it invariably takes money from elsewhere. We just can't afford to invest in every one." Born in Stirlingshire in 1817, Alexander Thomson is widely considered to be one of the most remarkable architects to work in Scotland. His ability to design distinctive yet classical buildings earned him the nickname 'Greek'. As part of the city's architecture and design year, Thomson's work will be celebrated in a new exhibition at The Lighthouse later this month, but the future of his greatest work remains in the balance. Tom Dyer was unavailable for comment. I See also Directory