

Tracy Patrick (HNC) Reid Kerr College

Argyle Street, Paisley

Old closes, damp, steeped in two centuries of smog,
shadow the narrow, cobblestone street. Faded
gold lettering points to a tailor on the second floor,
long-dead. Generations have worn thin the stairs,
girls to the mills, men to the foundries, children barefoot.
The crumbling outhouse has lost its roof. Ferns and
rhubarb replace the toilet. Gone, those dirty faces beneath
the washing line. Yet this close has preserved time
better than any museum's glass case. The JCBs wait.