

TALES OF THE RIVERMAN 149



There are two bridges in Glasgow that are prone to persons falling off. The Lower Suspension Bridge and the Albert Bridge. There were three, but the St Andrews bridge has had its parapet changed and is no longer a problem. The wide flat parapets of the problem bridges are an incentive for people to sit on, stand on, walk along. I've seen artists, photographers, people eating a carryout, sitting on the parapet with their legs dangling over the water, then stiff after sitting for a time, they try to stand up. People, especially after a good drink, daring each other to walk along the parapet, stagger, or have even been blown off by a gust of wind.

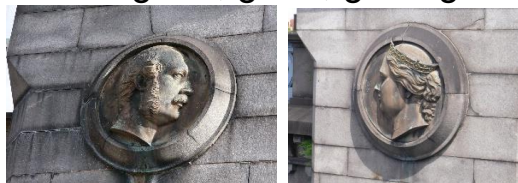
The Albert Bridge.

Built at one of the scariest parts of the river, just downstream of the Tidal Weir and Pipe bridge.

The west side of the bridge is the east boundary of Clydeport.

The length of this bridge is 410 feet and consists of 3 arches.

The Albert Bridge, originally opened in June 1871, is named after Prince Albert, the Earl of Wessex's great, great, great grandfather.



It was the third road bridge built over the Clyde in Glasgow, after the Victoria Bridge and Glasgow Bridge. It is a 145-year-old A listed Victorian structure. On Thursday 13 October 2016 a plaque commemorating its restoration was unveiled by HRH The Earl of Wessex.



There were four previous bridges at this site.

Bridge No. 1: 1794 to 1795. Washed away in a flood in 1795.

Bridge No. 2: 1803 to 1834. Wooden footbridge.

Bridge No. 3: 1829 to 1868. Demolished 1868.

Bridge No. 4: 1868 to 1871 - Temporary wooden bridge.

Bridge No. 5: 1871 Links the Saltmarket with Crown Street.

The bridge displays armorial shields including the royal coat of arms and those of local trades, the ancient arms of the City of Glasgow and roundels with gilded sculpted heads of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.



The changes I wished made to the parapet design were really simple. Instead of an almost flat top, I suggested a triangular shape that would have stopped the sitting standing and walking, but no, I failed.



St Andrews before.

After.

Albert

Lower Susp Br.



All I wanted was this slight change from almost flat to angular.

It was said that the parapet of the Albert Bridge could not be altered as it was grade A listed, so how come, we managed to have the St Andrews Suspension Bridge radically altered and it is Grade A listed? At least in Glasgow, new build takes safety into consideration.

