

## THE KIRKALDY TESTING MUSEUM

*A perfectly preserved Victorian workshop that changed the world*

99 Southwark Street, London SE1 0JF, UK  
[www.testingmuseum.org.uk](http://www.testingmuseum.org.uk)

**The Kirkaldy Testing Museum is one of the great, unsung museums of international importance operating in London today, offering a unique insight into Britain's industrial and scientific past.**

Located in Southwark near major tourist attractions such as Tate Modern and Borough Market, this one-of-a-kind museum hosts the **preserved Victorian workshop** of global engineering pioneer, David Kirkaldy, and **the huge testing machine he invented that changed the world.**

The findings from the experiments carried out on the machine and in the still-intact workshop **changed the face of the world's engineering and construction industries forever**, as well as **revolutionising air, rail and road transport.**

In the process, **it saved untold numbers of lives.**

The hydraulic tensile testing machine – the first of its kind and the last remaining – formed the heart of **Kirkaldy's Testing and Experimenting Works** where experiments took place on emerging industrial materials to determine their strength.

Listed and still in perfect working order, the machine is housed in a beautiful and atmospheric Grade II listed building specially constructed in 1874 to accommodate it.

Spread over two floors, the workshop is **preserved in its original state** and still features **the office, and even the chair, where David Kirkaldy dreamed up his world-changing inventions.**

An authentic, real-life reminder of Britain's Victorian industrial past, it evokes a feeling similar to that of the Sir John Soane Museum in Lincoln's Inn Fields: that **its founder has not left, he has just stepped out.**

The Kirkaldy Testing Museum has been run by a small group of dedicated volunteers for the past 30 years who have worked tirelessly to keep it open and operable. Current resources make it possible to open once a month to the public or through special appointment for group visits.

Sited in the historic Bankside district – which has undergone massive regeneration over the past 15 years – the museum is surrounded by new **modern high-rises that would most likely not exist in their current form** had it not been for the work and inventions of David Kirkaldy at Kirkaldy's Testing and Experimenting Works.

***The Museum is now under threat from developers who want to turn it into a themed restaurant. Your help is now urgently needed to save it.***

**If you can provide advice or expertise to help us save this unique and precious link with our past for future generations, please contact Hugh MacGillivray, Kirkaldy Testing Museum e. [hugh.macgillivray@btinternet.com](mailto:hugh.macgillivray@btinternet.com) or Una Devine e. [una@unadevine.com](mailto:una@unadevine.com).**

### Further Information

The Kirkaldy Testing Museum, 99 Southwark Street, London SE1 0JF, is open on the first Sunday of every month. Please check website for opening times. An online tour is available

here: <http://www.testingmuseum.org.uk/tour.html>. The museum is a registered charity (No. 297557) and receives no funding other than from visitors. If you would like to help, donate or volunteer, please visit: [www.testingmuseum.org.uk](http://www.testingmuseum.org.uk)

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**David Kirkaldy's motto 'Facts Not Opinions' is still to be seen over the door at Kirkaldy's Testing Museum on Southwark Street, London.**