

here, a venture that seems symbolic of Finnieston. She worked on giving the Glasgow 'hoodie' a revamp, with European elegance and a touch of tartan woven together to create striking fashion.

After riding the Finnieston creative curve, Pellegrino recently moved even closer to the centre, but as I talk to her – she sips on mocha laced with flakes of Belgian chocolate served in graceful vintage crockery at the right-side-of-twee Hidden Lane Tearoom (www.thehiddenlanetearoom.blogspot.co.uk) – she makes it clear that she is still a huge fan of Finnieston: “For me, this is the most creative corner of a very creative city in a very creative country. I find it inspiring here, with a real can-do creative spirit that was lacking back in my native Italy. I still return to Finnieston for much of my inspiration.”

Across the road is an independent gem typical of Finnieston. The Shop of Interest (www.theshopofinterest.co.uk) is an offbeat fashion and art boutique, and a gallery, too, which, of course, stocks Pellegrino's hoodies. I slip nearby to the Soul Barber Room on Argyle Street, where I enjoy a complimentary smooth rum-and-mango cocktail served with a generous slice of Glaswegian patter as I have my hipster crop. I'm unlucky as they often lay on live music here.

My luck returns as the last sunlight of the day dapples across the hulking Finnieston Crane, a constant reminder of Finnieston's gritty roots. I head for SWG3 (www.swg3.tv), a multi-disciplinary arts hub by day that provides gallery and studio space to

a community of over 100 artists, photographers and musicians. Weekends see a lively roster of electronic music club nights take over.

I meet Ervin Trykowski, who describes himself as a 'Captain of Liquids' at one of Finnieston's rapidly-expanding welter of watering holes. He fills me in on one of the local scene's most popular clubs: “The Electric Frog over the May Bank Holiday was the hottest happening and club event on the Finnieston nightlife scene.”

Lurking below the SWG3 is the Poetry Club (www.thepoetryclub.net), set up by Jim Lambie – one of Glasgow's multitude of Turner-prize nominees. It showcases the sheer diversity of Finnieston's creativity aiming, in its own words, to be a “hub for art, music, performance, spoken word and billows of smoke”, with spoken-word events, theatrics, performance art and live music.

Restaurant revolution

I'd heard Finnieston is in the midst of a restaurant revolution, too, and over dinner at The Gannet, local blogger Neil Robertson (www.travelswithakilt.com) soon dispelled any anachronisms about deep-fried Mars bars: “I'm old enough to remember the Finnieston of old – the less said the better – but it has grown into a foodie hub to rival anywhere. I don't consider Glasgow to be inferior to any city in the world when it comes to food. The multitude of great restaurants in Finnieston force each other to constantly raise their game.”

The Gannet (www.thegannetgla.com) proves Neil's



Above: The Tall Ship
Below, clockwise from left: The shop of interest; the Tomahawk at Butchershop; traditional park bar

