



# Kelvingrove Park



**Between 1852 and 1854, the City purchased 66 acres of land forming Kelvingrove and Woodlands Estates for the sum of £77,945 to create an area which is now known as Kelvingrove Park. The Park was created in the then rapidly growing West End of the city for the recreation and amusement of the citizens of Glasgow. It was one of many Victorian parks created in response to the then appalling conditions created by rapid urban growth resulting from the industrial revolution.**

Kelvingrove Park was laid out between 1852 and 1867. It is commonly recognised as the first purpose designed and constructed park in Scotland. This new park was intended to be middle class in its aspirations functions and surroundings, and the pursuits of its visitors altogether more genteel. It was originally known as 'The West End Park'.

The layout of Kelvingrove was designed by Sir Joseph Paxton, architect of Crystal Palace. His work was received with great enthusiasm by the City's fathers and Paxton received two further commissions – Queens Park in the South of the City and Alexandra Park in the East. Thus the hand of one man, with considerable assistance from the city architect John Carrick, produced the whole suite of Glasgow's early Victorian parks, setting a standard for design and making a mark on the Glasgow townscape as effectively as Frederick Law Olmstead had in New York and Chicago.

An interesting link with New York is the bronze sculpture group in Kelvingrove Park of a Lioness with a Peacock' -Nicolas Cain (1821-94), presented to his native City by John..S. Kennedy of New York. A duplicate of this sculpture stands in Central Park. Kelvingrove is one of the city's best loved historic parks, an enduring and much loved legacy of urban parks from the Victorian era which has a special place in the hearts and minds of the people of Glasgow. It has twice been used for International Exhibitions in 1888 and 1901 as well as being used for the Scottish National Exhibition in 1911.

The magnificent Art Gallery and Museum, which was completed wildly over budget at a cost of £257,000 is a prominent feature of the park built for the 1901 Exhibition and was subsequently taken over by the City and remains well used to the current day.

Arguably the centrepiece of the park and the jewel in the Kelvingrove crown remains the magnificent Stewart Memorial Fountain,



# THE STEWART MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN RESTORATION

The fully functioning and restored Stewart Memorial Fountain was unveiled in Kelvingrove Park, on 14 October 2009, the 150th anniversary of the day fresh water flowed into the city for the first time.

The Team who led the £500,000 project to restore the 'A' listed structure, originally erected in 1872, to its former glory said: *"It took years of planning and just over five months to carry out the restoration, which involved cleaning and repairing the stone and bronze work, carrying out remedial and renewal work to sculptures, including some missing since the 1930's, drains were renewed, a new underground water recycling system and a new water proof lining was also added to the water basins".*

*"Now for the first time in its long history the fountain will operate in a sustainable manner."*

Lord Provost Bob Winter, who switched on the fountain and officially unveiled a new commemorative plaque said: "The Stewart Memorial Fountain is a lasting legacy to the late Lord Provost Robert Stewart whose drive, determination and energy brought clean water to the people of Glasgow. I believe that single deed made the biggest impact on the citizens of this city in terms of health, wealth and improvement of social conditions, than any other.

*"I am certain it will become a wonderful attraction in much the same way as the Doultou Fountain in Glasgow Green."*

In conjunction with the official opening of the Stewart Memorial Fountain, restoration works to several statues in the park took place. The Lord Kelvin, the Lord Lister and the Bengal Tigress were all restored complementing recent restorations to the Cameronians Scottish Rifles and the Highland Light Infantry monuments.

Further information on the restoration of the Stewart Memorial Fountain and Interpretation can be found at:

[http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/en/Residents/Parks\\_Outdoors/stewartmemorialfountain.htm](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/en/Residents/Parks_Outdoors/stewartmemorialfountain.htm)

## Friends of Kelvingrove Park

The Friends of Kelvingrove Park was formed in 1993 with the objective of maintaining the environment and amenity of Kelvingrove Park, one of Glasgow's oldest and most popular public parks.

The conservation of architectural features of the park and the conservation and enhancement of wildlife habitats are important aspects in the achievement of this objective. This is in line with the Wildlife and Nature Conservation policy of the City Council. It is an important function of the Friends to assist the council in the implementation of this policy. Over many years of public canvassing, and local surveys etc., we have found that a peaceful and tranquil environment is definitely a priority for park users.

Kelvingrove Park has become a key part of the 'wildlife corridor' through Glasgow's West End - a rare place where workers / students / locals / tourists can retreat from the rat-race and see a Heron or a Kingfisher.

You can see our other activities such as Wildlife Walks, Heritage Trails, Woodlands Fun Days and the Bandstand Restoration Project if you browse around our website. The Friends have been actively involved with the Council as part of the recently completed restoration of the Stewart Memorial Fountain.

If you support these aims and wish to join the Friends of Kelvingrove Park, details can be found on our website **[www.kelvingrovecpark.com](http://www.kelvingrovecpark.com)** or email **[friends@kelvingrovecpark.com](mailto:friends@kelvingrovecpark.com)**

## Publications

Since the last issue Land and Environmental Services Parks Development team have been involved in preparing further trail booklets leaflets.

**Stewart Memorial Fountain**  
**Calton Heritage Trail**  
**Bridgeton Heritage Trail**



# Clean Up Glasgow

## Rosshall Park

Land and Environmental Services, Community Action Team co-organised with the Friends of Rosshall Park and Gardens, and Glasgow Community Safety Services, to clean up this beautiful historic park. The recycling and litter pick event was held on Saturday 27th March and was well attended by local residents and while the weather was not favorable everyone involved fully participated. Participants, including members of the friends group, staff from Rosshall Hospital, who were all very enthusiastic and passers by also stopped to help.

Local Councillors Alistair Watson and Iris Gibson took part alongside James Kavanagh, Chair of the South Cardonald and Crookston Community Council who all expressed their enthusiastic approval of the event. The Community Action Team was on hand to give advice on recycling.

Rosshall Park is a much loved park by all the community and we hope that this event and tremendous effort put in by everyone involved will encourage the community to help keep it clean in future, by working together, local people and the council can create a cleaner Glasgow.



## News

### Auchinlea Park



A project to provide a more natural habitat at Auchinlea Park pond was carried out during winter 2008/2009. The former boating pond had steep sides which prevented ducklings and young frogs getting out of the water and there were no aquatic plants to provide cover for the waterbirds and insects. The naturalisation project was undertaken to solve some of these issues and importantly make the pond a more attractive place for people walking around it.

The work included creating shallows round part of the sides of the pond providing planting areas for hundreds of aquatic plants including Yellow Flag Iris, Bulrush, Water Forget-me-not and many more. In places the shallows were extended up to the path level round the pond and were seeded with wildflowers. The ramps created all access to and from the water and the flowers provide nectar for species such as bees and butterflies and a colourful sight for park users to enjoy in spring and summer.

The project was funded by Glasgow City Council and Scottish Natural Heritage.

# Achievements

Congratulations to the Friends of Kings' Park who won the Herald Society Awards for Community Project of the Year in October 2009. The Award acknowledged the work of the group over the past two years in projects providing summer cycling; Santa Claus in the park, clean ups and play Area improvements.

To achieve regeneration of the park, cooperation was developed with the local primary and secondary schools. The Friends hoped to encourage the younger generation to make an investment in the park and feel a sense of ownership of this vital community resource.

In 2008 the group purchased bicycles, jackets and helmets and 30 children received cycle training twice a week. In 2009 the project was continued, with the local cycling club the Glenmarnock Wheelers providing tuition.

At Christmas 2008 in order to help the local community have an alternative to commercial and expensive Santa Claus venues the Friends decorated and staffed a Santa's grotto in the park. This project was repeated in 2009 and some 460 children received a free gift and quality time with Santa.

The judges of the Herald Awards were particularly impressed with the way in which the group kept involving young people of all ages. A link has been established with Kings Park Secondary School and a competition was held to design a carpet bed for the park. The pupils were then involved in the planting and the bed flourished and remained undamaged until the end of the season. This link was further developed and pupils have now completed eighteen months of research into suitable planting, hard landscaping and wheelchair access suitable for a sensory garden in the park.

Actual ground work should start in spring 2010. In addition, in conjunction with the local Community Council, the Friends have been involved in a major project to conserve a list B stable block in the park.

As a result of these efforts there has been a decided increase in the use of the park by families and the incidences of vandalism and anti social behaviour have decreased.

Land Services staff in the park has been very supportive and the Friends will continue to support them in the regeneration of the park.



# Events



## Glasgow Festival –

The date for the 2010 Glasgow Festival has been confirmed as the 31st July and 1st August.

Again at this event we are looking for Friends groups to form part of the friend's area within the Floral Zone marquee. Any group wishing to reserve a space should contact:

Derek Wells, Assistant Horticultural Officer on 0141 287 7028, email [Derek.wells@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:Derek.wells@glasgow.gov.uk)

## Pollok Family Day–

This year's Family Day is taking place Saturday 7th August. Again we are looking for Friends groups to form part of a marquee. As places are limited any group wishing to reserve a place should contact

Stevie Burns at Pollok Country Park, no later than end of June 2010 on 0141 636 6920.

## Biodiversity is life–

Biodiversity provides the air we breathe, the food we eat and everything we need for a healthy and wealthy life. Human activity is causing the diversity of life on Earth to be lost at a greatly accelerated rate. This is happening all over the world. International Year of Biodiversity is a chance for everyone to pull together and stop the loss. In Glasgow, a Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) has been produced to help protect and enhance wildlife habitats throughout the city.

LBAP actions include creating and managing meadows, woodlands and wetlands in Glasgow's parks.



Ponds have been transformed into wildlife havens by creating shelves and islands for wetland vegetation. The number of breeding water birds has increased since Bingham's pond was naturalised.



Young volunteer helping to create a new wildflower meadow at Spring Into Life event at Kelvingrove Park.

If you want to get out and about, and discover biodiversity in your local area come along to one of the many events and activities organised to celebrate International Year of Biodiversity. The Wild About Glasgow countryside events diary contains nearly 100 events throughout the year.

To find out more about events visit

[www.glasgow.gov.uk/parks](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/parks) or phone the Countryside Rangers on 0141 276 0924.

To find out more about biodiversity and what you can do to help visit

[www.glasgow.gov.uk/biodiversity](http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/biodiversity) or call 0141 287 5665/7026 to speak to a Biodiversity Officer.

## We would like to take this opportunity to welcome 3 new friends groups established since the last issue of the newsletter:

**Friends of Victoria Park** was founded in December 2009, with the main impetus coming from members of Whiteinch Community Council who recognized a real and urgent need for a devolved group to champion the park.

Victoria Park has been at the heart of the Glasgow West community for over 130 years. Billed as Glasgow's prettiest park, the Friends of Victoria Park aim is to rekindle the park's rich heritage and community role by preserving its historic features and applying for funding to resource and develop projects for the wider community.

Annual membership of the Friends of Victoria Park is £1.00, and as a member, you will be kept up to date with local developments, have the opportunity to get involved in new projects and community-led events, and gain satisfaction from helping to support and maintain local heritage and an invaluable area of green space at the centre of the community.

Information will shortly be available on our web page [www.FoVP.com](http://www.FoVP.com), where we will post details of meetings, projects, news and events. The next meeting of the Friends group takes place on Tuesday the 1st of June at 7 pm at Whiteinch Community Centre and we look forward to welcoming new members.

**Friends of Househill Park** – formed February 2010

**Friends of Broomhill Avenue Greenspace** – formed April 2010

## Doors Open Day Glasgow's Built Heritage Festival

15th – 19th September 2010

There is so much to do – it's all free and it's on the doorstep! More than 100 buildings from across Glasgow will open their doors; there will be a choice of more than 30 walks exploring the local history of some of the most interesting parts of Glasgow including some special Parks walks, all guided by experts; and a series of talks will take place during the week discussing different aspects of Glasgow's wonderful architecture. This year for the first time the event will introduce an 'Open Gates' section to the programme with free access to a selection of allotments across the city. Keep an eye out as we are planning a boat trip on the River Clyde creating an opportunity to take in some maritime history and all going well there will be fun to be had on the Forth & Clyde Canal. Why not take a couple of days and explore how all the different elements come together to make Glasgow a great city! If any Friends of Glasgow Parks have an idea for a new addition to our annual event we would be very pleased to hear from you.



To receive a brochure contact

[rosie@gbpt.org](mailto:rosie@gbpt.org) or call 0141 221 6061 or visit [www.glasgowdoorsopenday.com](http://www.glasgowdoorsopenday.com)

### NEWS, VIEW, OPTIONS –Write to the Project Officers

If you have any good news stories, views or opinions you would like to share for the next edition, send in your comments, images or suggestions to the Project Officers, Ian Fraser and Alex Morrison at:

Land and Environmental Services,  
Glasgow City Council,  
37 High St,  
Glasgow,  
G1 1LX

#### E-mail

[ian.fraser@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:ian.fraser@glasgow.gov.uk)

[alex.morrison@glasgow.gov.uk](mailto:alex.morrison@glasgow.gov.uk)

#### Phone

Alex Morrison 0141 287 3681

Ian Fraser 0141 287 3723

Look out for the next issue featuring Pollok Country Park

