

Pollok Country Park History

History

This magnificent countryside park with its superb walled gardens and woodland walks was once part of the Old Pollok estate and was the ancestral home of the Maxwell Family for seven centuries. The parkland and house was gifted to the City of Glasgow in 1966 by the Maxwell Family along with the remainder of the estate being used for farming and recreation, particularly golf.

- The Park has been the site of three castles
 - The first a wooden structure dating back to 1160 which was located on the banks of the White Cart Water
 - The second was a fortified tower with a moat and drawbridge and was built around 1270 by the first Maxwell on high ground where the woodland garden is now located
 - Around 1500 it was replaced by a new castle named Nether Pollok Castle built on the banks of the river where the Old Stable Courtyard now stands
This castle was destroyed by fire in 1882 and the area was cleared and the stable courtyard built
- Pollok House was built in 1752 and this became the family's main residence
 - Pollok House is regarded by many to be an example of one of Glasgow's most elegant family homes
 - It was built by successive generations of the Maxwell family, which are known to have lived at Pollok since 1269
 - It is believed that this fine example of a country house is the fourth residence of the Maxwell family to be built here since its establishment in the 13th century

Outstanding Features

- The Walled Garden contains many features of interest to gardeners of all ages. Mature yew hedges section the garden into compartments containing seasonal bedding, collections of plants such as Hosta's, Fuschia's and herbaceous displays, which are complimented by the displays within the adjacent glasshouses.
- Woodland garden with its woodland walk is accessed via the Library Garden at Pollok House. The garden contains many Rhododendron cultivars and species reflecting the deep interest of Sir John Stirling Maxwell in the subject. Sir John was not only a plant collector but also a Rhododendron breeder and expert. He named many of the Pollok bred cultivars after his friends and acquaintances.