



Victoria Park Heritage Trail



Victoria Park Map

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VICTORIA PARK HERITAGE TRAIL

On behalf of Glasgow City Council, welcome to Victoria Park. Please enjoy your visit.

The park is located in the Scotstoun and Whiteinch area in the West End of Glasgow. The main entrances to the park are from Westland Drive, Victoria Park Drive North and Balshagray Avenue.

The heritage trail is full of points of interest and offers a welcome retreat from the busy surrounding streets. Toilet facilities (open seasonally) are located at the West of the Boating pond, Bowling Pavilion and at Fossil Grove Museum.

Originally acquired by the Burgh of Partick, “Victoria Park,” so named by consent of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria in honour of her Golden Jubilee. The park was formally opened by Partick’s Provost Sir Andrew MacLean on 2 July 1887 and is considered to be Glasgow’s prettiest park.

It is perhaps surprising that during the explosive growth of industrialisation in the 19th century, with its legacy of slum housing and disease, Victorian Glasgow also created such a proliferation of parks and open spaces. It is claimed that there are more public open places in Glasgow than in London or Paris.





INTRODUCTION

Victoria Park is extremely popular with the public being one of the most visited parks in Glasgow. It contains extensive formal and informal Gardens, an Arboretum, a boating pond, bowling greens and tennis courts. The floral displays are among the finest in the country and considerable attention to detail is evident by the quality and diversity of the planting which boasts formal flower displays, carpet bedding and hollies. The park also contains; a museum housing pre-historic fossils known as lycopods or giant clubmosses, a recreation ground, a children's play area with equipment suitable for children with disabilities, and the park features a hidden maze, cycle route and orienteering course. No matter what time of year the park has proved a source of attraction to many thousands of visitors to the metropolis of the west. Victoria Park is listed on Historic Scotland's Gardens and Designed Landscapes Inventory. The Inventory is a growing and evolving record of nationally important gardens and designed landscapes across Scotland.

VICTORIA PARK HERITAGE TRAIL ROUTE

Beginning at Victoria Park's Jubilee entrance gates following the suggested numbered route it should take visitors approximately 1 hour and 30 minutes allowing for a brief stop at each item, through the park and back again.



MAIN POINTS OF INTEREST

1. Jubilee Gates by Walter McFarlane & Co, Saracen Works, Listed Status Category B



The principal gateway of the park in Victoria Park Drive North was erected at a cost of £200, raised by the Ladies of Partick Burgh. It consists of a main carriage entrance with a small gate at each side. The shafts of the gate pillars rest on bases and are surmounted by cornice with dentils. The centre of the shaft of the outer pillars contain medallions of 'Her Majesty, with the words "Queen's Jubilee" on the cornice in the year "1887" and above is a cushion on which rests a crown. Engraved on the shaft of the inner pillars are the Burgh Arms, with the motto "Industria Ditat" and the cornices are surmounted by ornamental lamps.

On the base of each of the two pillars are two commemorative plaques one depicting the gift of the gates defrayed by the Ladies of the



Burgh in commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee and the other commemorative of Sir Andrew MacLean Provost and John Ferguson Esq., Ex-Provost and Convenor of Park Committee. The gateway, which was constructed by Messrs Walter McFarlane & Co, at Saracen Works, Possilpark is of beautiful design. The former gateway location was situated in Balshagray Avenue and was



originally widened to 80 feet to enhance the appearance of the entrance. The carriage drive was 15 yards wide and over a mile long. On either side of the former drive at the entrance a row of lime trees was also planted by the Provost, Magistrates, Commissioners and officials of the Burgh and several Ladies.



Interestingly Bailie Dansken consulted the famous architect Mr Leiper on the designs of the Jubilee gate. William Leiper is known for a long series of churches and mansions, all more influenced by Gothic revival. Specimens of his work included Whiteinch Church, Partick Burgh Hall and more interestingly the Venetian Gothic of Messrs Templeton's carpet factory at Glasgow Green. Mr Leiper, the architect, was asked to make a design of a gate incorporating stone pillars, he is known to have submitted a design to the Convener of the Park Committee, it is uncertain if this was incorporated into the final proposal.



Architect William Leiper

Originally erected for the main entrance in Balshagray Avenue, the gates had to be relocated to Victoria Park Drive North to make way for the approach roads to the Clyde Tunnel and expressway in the 1960s

The jubilee gates were last restored in their centenary year - 1987

2. Monument to SS Daphne



This memorial erected in 1996 set within the ornate rose garden commemorates the lives lost in the world's worst shipping tragedy (at that time). On the 3rd July 1883 the Clyde shipyards suffered one of their worst disasters. The SS Daphne was a 460-ton steamer to be used on the Glasgow-Ireland run. The ship was launched from the shipbuilding yard of Messrs. Alexander Stephen and Sons at Linthouse, Govan. Within three minutes she had capsized with over 200 workers finishing the internal fittings still on board. 124 died as a result.

As was usual in the launching of ships two anchors and cables were employed to check the way on the vessel after she had entered the water.



On this occasion the checking apparatus failed to function. The starboard anchor moved some six or seven yards, but the port anchor dragged for about sixty yards and the current of the river catching the ship at a critical moment turned her over on her port side.

An enquiry was held and the yard owners were exonerated from any blame, leading to claims of a cover up. One of the outcomes of the disaster was the limiting of personnel aboard to only those necessary for mooring the ship after the launch. The ship was raised and repaired at Govan Dry Docks and emerged as the 'Rose'.



The tragedy was known as the 'Linthouse Disaster', after the area in Govan where Stephen's yard was located. An appeal Fund was launched on 25th July 1883, in an attempt to raise £40,000 for the 60 widows and 150 dependent children, and included a benefit football match between the Rangers and Dumbarton Football Clubs at Kinning Park. In the event, £30,000 was raised. Walter Wilson, the proprietor of the Colosseum warehouse on Jamaica Street, gave a 'widow's bonnet', free of charge, to 'each of the widows of the unfortunate workmen who lost their lives in this accident'.

The capsizing was one of the most tragic events in the history of Clyde shipping, and yet curiously it remained uncommemorated until the erection of this monument by Glasgow City Council. Designed by members of the Govan Practical and Historical Art Group, the main image was derived from a contemporary photograph published in the Govan Press.

Such was the scale and tragedy of the disaster that there are two SS Daphne Memorials in Glasgow - one in Elder Park, Govan and the other here in Victoria Park - both sides of the Clyde representing the loss to those communities involved.

SS.DAPHNE / DISASTER ON THE CLYDE / A VESSEL OF 500 TONS BUILT BY ALEXANDER STEPHEN & SONS FOR THE LAIRD LINE'S / IRISH TRADE, DAPHNE CAPSIZED AT HER LAUNCH ON THE 3RD JULY, 1883. SHE / KEELED OVER AND SANK AS SHE ENTERED THE WATER AND 124 WORKERS OF VARIOUS / PROFESSIONS PERISHED. INCLUDING WERE A NUMBER OF APPRENTICES AGES RANGING / FROM 14 TO 20 YEARS. MOST WORKERS WERE TRAPPED BELOW DECKS IN HOLDS / ENGINE ROOMS AND CABINS IN WHICH THEY WERE WORKING; (2) COMMISSIONED BY; GLASGOW DISTRICT COUNCIL / DESIGN BY; GOVAN PRACTICAL AND / HISTORICAL ART GROUP

The bronze relief was placed on the slightly inclined upper surface of the granite base, and depicts the partially submerged hull of the cargo vessel SS Daphne in the River Clyde. In the background can be seen the various dockland buildings of the north bank of the river, opposite the Govan shipyards. The chequered based tiling is a reference to the former giant chess set on this site. There is also a magnificent obelisk monument located in Craigton cemetery to commemorate the dead.

3. Site of Former Bandstand



In years gone by, Partick Burgh was keen to provide a variety of entertainment for its people. A bandstand, combined with a bowl house and shelter, was opened on 19th May 1908 at a cost of £1,900. The first band to play was the 6th Battalion Highland Light infantry with pipers. The bandstand had a dome topped with a large crown and stood near the memorial to the Daphne disaster.



The bandstand in later years was converted into a pavilion which provided changing facilities for the former football pitches. Sadly during the late eighties/early ninety's the building was burnt down and had to be demolished.



4. Former Flagstaff and Pavilion



View of flagpole from Fossil Grove

There once stood a handsome flagpole in this location of the park, 90 feet high, topped with a copper crown, with pavilion and bandstand at the base in octagonal shape with canopied roof supported by eight columns, 22 feet in diameter, erected at the highest point of the park. The flag pole featured a bronze plaque bearing the inscription "Presented by John Ferguson Esquire, Ex Provost, Convener of Parks Committee, June 1887, ".The late ex-Provost Ferguson, who deserves much credit for the purchase and for the laying-out of the park, unfortunately did not live to see the result of his labours, he sadly died shortly before the park was opened. From the flagstaff's former location you would have been able to take in the fine unspoilt long distance views of the surrounding scenery. To the north and west lie the hills of Kilpatrick, Campsie and Strathblane while from the front are the wooded slopes of Jordanhill. Away to the south west are the Gleniffer Braes and Neilston

In 1930 another bandstand and amphitheatre was built on the hill beside the flagpole with seating for 2,000 people. This was again later replaced by the installation of a crazy golf course during the late seventies.

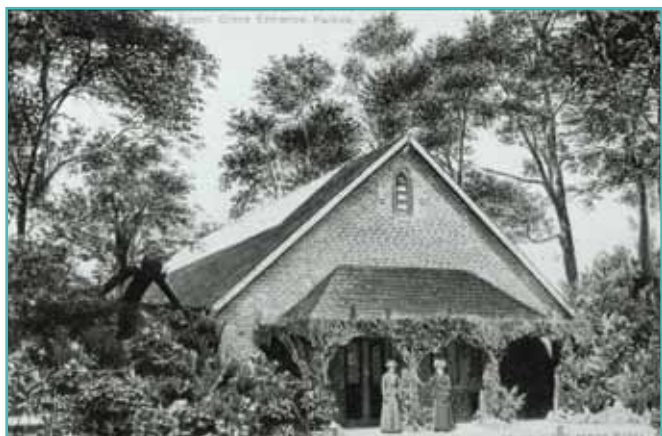


5. Fossil Grove Museum

During the construction of Victoria Park in the late 19th century, when a pilot channel for the road was cut through an old quarry, the builders discovered beautifully preserved fossil tree trunks. The route for the road was diverted and the rock further excavated to reveal many more fossils.



They were eventually identified as the fossilised stumps and roots of part of a forest which periodically covered much of what is now central Scotland over 300 million years ago during the Carboniferous Period. At that time, Scotland was close to the equator - it was only later that the continents drifted to their present positions. Elsewhere, the development of thick deposits of peat from the accumulation of the remains of trees like these and other plant material gave rise to the coal seams which powered the Industrial Revolution. The trees in Victoria Park, however, were preserved in their life position by the sand that surrounded them and filled their decayed, hollow stumps and roots. Through time





the sand turned to sandstone and the outer, more rigid, parts of the stumps became thin coatings of coal.

In 1889 The Partick Burgh Commissioners agreed to commission the famous Architect Peter Macgregor Chalmers (1859-1922), to design and build a Fossil-House. It was decided not to take the fossils to a museum but to leave them where they were and preserve them as a public attraction within a specially erected building which opened on January 1st 1890. Chalmers' practice was almost exclusively church work, he was responsible for over 100 commissions, his only significant secular commissions being Neptune Buildings.



In addition to the fossils themselves, there is a viewing balcony which overlooks the fossils and small displays provide information and interpret the site for visitors giving the background to their history.

Today the site is still run by Glasgow City Council who take great pride in what is one of Glasgow's major prehistoric attractions. The discovery and the trees is also described in two papers dating to 1888; one by John Young (of the Hunterian Museum) and D. Corse Glen and the other by R. Kidston. Alastair Gunning, of Glasgow Museums, wrote a very attractive booklet all about the story of Fossil Grove and its trees.

There is a spectacular group of erect stumps and root systems of the lycopod trees whose modern relatives are the clubmosses, plants generally only a few centimetres tall. There is also a large trunk lying across the floor of the quarry as well as several smaller pieces of branch and root. One small fragment of branch exhibits the characteristic markings of the lycopod,

Lepidodendron. The tree stumps were buried in sand and ripple marks on some of the beds of what are now sandstones provide evidence of water currents moving between the trunks depositing sediment as a result of a nearby river repeatedly bursting its banks.



The trees grew in a dense forest in a lowland swamp; calculations based in the number of stumps preserved at Fossil Grove suggest that there may have been about 4,500 trees per square kilometre.

During a later episode of volcanic activity, a thin sheet of molten rock (dolerite) was intruded into the rocks and can be seen cutting through the trunks. Some slight earth movements have caused the rocks (and the trunks) to tilt gently towards the NE, but the slight distortion of the trunks themselves is likely to be due to the speed of the currents that deposited the sand around them.

The site has not been without its problems. One of the trees was damaged in World War Two and a concrete spacer was inserted to replace its badly disintegrated middle section which had a very thin sheet of dolerite cutting through it.

Today the Fossil Grove is classed as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), giving the site outstanding nature conservation value. It has also been designated as a 'Regionally Important Geological Site'. The building protecting the fossils is recognised as one of the earliest developments in geotourism and conservation. The prescience of the City's Victorian forefathers should be recognised.



Improvements

The present building is essentially the same shell surviving from Chalmers' initial build but the roof has undergone some changes over the years. Old images seem to show that the original was a wooden and brick built structure with glazed sections along the apex. This was replaced by a more elaborate glasshouse type roof with metal framework presumably sometime in the early 20th century. The glazed panels were replaced in the late 1980s by insulated panels to help control atmospheric conditions within the building and protect the site. Heat loss and gain through the glazed roof was difficult to control and led to changes in temperature and relative humidity. Heating had also been installed. Initially this was by hot water pipes later replaced by the current gas fired hot air system

A series of improvements to the building to help with the visitors' experience were made in 1993. The east viewing area was enlarged and new lighting installed while small displays allowed some interpretation of the site. Importantly, a new reception and toilet facilities were provided and a member of staff is available on site to help visitors and ensure safety of the site during opening.



6. Quarry Knowe Rock Gardens



This spectacular rockery formed from the former Plantin's whinstone quarry has since been turned into an attractive rock garden. The whole area is planted with mixed deciduous and coniferous trees including Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*), Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Cherry (*Prunus* Spp), Yew (*Taxus baccata*), Maple (*Acer platanoides*), Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*), Monkey Puzzle (*Araucaria araucana*), Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*), some of which belong to the early phase in the park's development. Between these displays there are structural evergreen shrub plantings, of beautiful rhododendrons species providing an array of colour in springtime and summer. Elaborate bedding displays are laid out to the front of the Fossil Grove museum and to the rear of the rock gardens; these modern introductions follow traditional planting schemes similar to Victorian and Edwardian periods.

Another feature of the rock garden is the former small pond to the rear Fossil Grove which does not retain water and



currently the central section has been lined to try to maintain some water in the pond even in summer. Various photographs from the 1900s show an ornate small timber bridge over a stream of water enhancing the pond's natural features. Today the central part has been planted up with emergent and marginal vegetation and supports a number of Palmate Newts as well as being a spawning site for the Common Frog.



7. Play Area



Victoria Park boasts a large play area suitable for all age groups incorporating a mixture of traditional and modern play items including galleon unit, lookout tower with slide, springy, a hidden maze (constructed from beech hedging) inclusive of timber play items suitable for children with disabilities to name but a few. There is also a variety of picnic furniture on either side of the play facilities for the public to relax and enjoy the landscapes and views within the park. Upgrading of the play park in 2011 includes the installation of a variety of safe robust and exciting modern play equipment catering for toddlers and young children including, new toddler swing units, junior swings with flat seats and pendulum swings.



Toilet facilities (open seasonally) are located within the onsite portacabins and there is a snackbar providing refreshments during the summer holidays offering a welcome comfort break in the middle of the park.

8. Partick and Whiteinch War Memorial 1922: Listed Status Category C(S)



This monument by sculptor Francis William Doyle consists of a bronze female figure with outspread wings standing on a globe and holding out a wreath with both hands. A symbol of Peace Crowning the Heroes, she is dressed in an elaborate, windswept chiton, the lower part of which flutters energetically behind; only her feet and shoulders are exposed. The pink granite cenotaph is designed as a tall, slender obelisk with projecting side piers and a pulvinated roll on the upper stage and with a sword entwined with a wreath carved on the topmost block on the front east face. The wreath is identical to the one held by the figure.

The inscription on the cenotaph reads;

OUR / BELOVED DEAD/ TO THE GLORY OF GOD / AND IN / GRATEFUL
& EVERLASTING / REMEMBRANCE / OF THE MEN OF / PARTICK &
WHITEINCH / WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR / 1914 - 1918 / 1939- 1945

On the base of the monument –

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

Francis William Doyle-Jones (1873 – 1938) was born in West Hartlepool, Yorkshire. He studied sculpture at the Royal School of Art, South Kensington School under the French sculptor Edouard Lanteri. Working predominantly in bronze and granite he designed and produced busts, relief portraits and public monuments, such as the Bust of Robert Burns, Galashiels and a bronze portrait of Irish freedom fighter Michael Collins. In 1926 his work was described in the studio as illustrating ‘the tendency in modern sculpture towards an uncompromising realism.’



Following the Great War he won a number of commissions for English War memorials, such as, Sutton Coldfield (1922) and Northfleet Cement Works, Gravesend. The Partick and Whiteinch is his only known Scottish memorial. The memorial bears many similarities with the one he produced for Brighouse, Yorkshire (1922), Cockermouth in Cumbria and his South African War Memorial in Saltwell Park, Gateshead (1905).



Cockermouth Cumbria

The Whiteinch memorial was requested by James Arthur, secretary of the Partick Joint wards War Memorial Committee, who in 1921 sought permission from the City Council to erect a memorial in Victoria Park. The site adjacent to the model yachting lake was chosen which allows for uninterrupted views of the principal face of the memorial from the edge of the park.

The memorial was recently refurbished with the statue, plinth and lettering restored to its original condition during October/November 2010 in time for November Armistice celebrations.



9. Island Footbridges



Victoria Park has two small islands, the larger of which is connected on both sides by two rustic lattice style bridges. It was at a special Parks Committee meeting held on the 4th May 1887 where it was agreed by the Convener and Bailie Alexander the islands and lake should be connected with wooden footbridges (enclosed with railings on both sides) and installation of a wooden fence (now metal) on the island should be installed between the two bridges. Both Islands contain a mixture of Rhododendrons and tree plantings of Birch *Betula pendula*, and Willow *Salix caprea*.

Numerous photographs taken during the 1900s show many children from the local area enjoyed cranking the paddle boats around the pond until they were whistled in by the park attendant.

It is intended to restore these bridges in spring 2011.





10. Ornamental Boating Pond



This large ornamental lake was originally intended for sailing model boats in the summer and skating in the winter. During the creation of the park in 1886 it was suggested by the Park Burgh Commissioners to charge for skating on the pond during the winter period. The park would be closed except to those who had paid for admission to cover the privilege of skating on the pond. Two large platforms (each, twenty four feet long) were formerly installed at either end of the lake for the exclusive use for the purpose of racing model yachts by the Victoria Model Yacht Club.



According to the Glasgow Story the pond also holds fond memories for many older Glaswegian generations, including Billy Connolly: *“When I was a tiny person around seven or eight years of age I was taken to a local park in Glasgow, Victoria Park, which had a wonderful big pond on which older men raced rather beautiful model yachts while little boys like myself, armed with a cane with a little bag and shaped net on the end would fish for minnows. The most prized of these minnows were redbreasts (Ridbreests), doctors (Doakturs) and sticklebacks (same). I could not get enough of this, and watched many a prize specimen die in a jam jar on my windowsill with its diet of breadcrumbs.”*

As the pond was formerly designated for boating, there is no breeding habitat for waterbirds except on and around the islands where Little Grebe and Coot also breed. It, however, hosts numbers of Mute Swans in the winter as well as Tufted Duck and several species of gull, attracted to the pond partially because of feeding by the public. The setting is attractive with overhanging trees.

Since the small western loop of the pond around the islands is not used for boating, it is proposed to 'naturalise' the loop. This will involve creating shallows to enable planting up with emergent vegetation including colourful Yellow Flag and Purple Loosestrife. Submerged vegetation will provide habitat for aquatic invertebrates including the larval stages of damselflies and dragonflies. The project will create a more attractive, interesting place for people to enjoy as well as enhancing the biodiversity of the pond.

11. Commemorative Peace Tree

This commemorative plaque and planting of Cheal's weeping Cherry (*Prunus serrulata*) represents the park's only Peace Tree. Christian CND provides a focus for Christians who want to witness on the basis of their faith against nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, while also positively campaigning for peace.



The commemorative plaque reads;

PRESENTED TO GLASGOW BY

CHRISTIAN CND

TO MARK THEIR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 5 -3 - 1989



12. Duck Pond



There are three ponds in Victoria Park; this small duck pond located here, the large boating pond and a small hidden pond to the rear of the Fossil Grove within the Quarry Knowe rock garden. Moorhens nest mainly here on the duck pond. Look for the bright bills and white feathers under the tails of the adult birds. Mallard drakes can also be seen and look different from the ducks. The ducks are camouflaged because they incubate the eggs. Below the water surface are plants which oxygenate the water and shelter the small fish and minibeasts which live among them. Look carefully for water boatmen coming for air to the pond surface where it hangs briefly upside down.

As the growing season progresses through from Spring to Summer, the magnificent tree canopy over the island containing a mixture of weeping Willow (*Salix* sp), Cherry (*Prunus* sp), Birch, (*Betula* sp) Malus, (*Malus* sp) Larch, (*Larix decidua*) shades the island below.

This duck pond dates to late 1889 and indicates an early commitment to Conservation and Biodiversity. The former Partick Commissioners agreed to create two islets on the small pond for the better protection of the small breeding water fowl birds.



13. Oswald's Clock Tower



This description taken from Minutes of The Partick Commissioners & Committees tells of the ornate clock tower donated to Victoria Park by Mr Gordon Oswald.

“During a meeting held by the Partick Burgh Park Committee on the 2nd August 1887, the Provost stated that he had seen Mr Crosbie as to Mr Gordon Oswald’s proposed gift to the park and Mr Crosbie suggested it might be a clock with 4 dials, on pillar and pedestal.

On the 6th December 1887, the Convener then submitted a sketch of a clock, proposed to be put up by Mr Gordon Oswald in the park. It was agreed to consider a site for it at the meeting in the park. By the 4th January 1888, the Committee then recommended that the clock be presented by Mr Gordon Oswald should be put up on a site in line with Gordon Street on the north side of the pond.

At a meeting held on the 3rd July 1888 the clerk read a letter from Mr Crosbie to the Provost, handing over to the Commissioners the clock erected by Mr Gordon Oswald in the Victoria Park and expressing the hope that it might prove a useful adjunct to the park being here. Mr Crosbie stated the clock had been constructed by Messrs Alexander & son and was guaranteed by them for the period of two years. The clerk reported that he had written Mr Crosbie thanking Mr Oswald for the gift of the clock Mr Crosbie in sending the key of the clock, stating that he had arranged with Messrs Alexander & Son to wind it up till the annual period for contracting for the wynding up of the Burgh clocks came around”.



Features of the Clock Tower include:

- Four plaques on the base bear the following inscriptions denoting:
- Partick Burgh coat of arms
- Artistic floral details
- ‘Now is the day of Salvation’
- ‘Victoria reigns 1887’

14. Curling Pavilion & Rink, Listed Status Category C(S)



Within the operational depot sits this distinctive and little altered clubhouse a fine example of a relatively rare building type. The red brick, deep eaves and prominent verandah are decorative features added to an essentially functional building. The clubhouse has been little altered from its original design either externally or internally and this adds to its interest. Early 20th century sports pavilions are uncommon survivors, particularly with little alteration. The building is designed in an Arts and Crafts style which was popular in Glasgow at the time.

The Partick Curling Club was originally formed in 1842 and this is its third home. The club came to Victoria Park in 1887 and this clubhouse was gifted to the club by the then provost, Bailie William



Kennedy. It was formally opened in the 1900-1 season. The club initially used a local pond for their curling, but in 1902 M Hunter Kennedy gifted ponds to the club and a plaque commemorating this is situated on the East elevation of the building. The main curling pond was originally to the South of the clubhouse, but this land no longer belongs to the club and the members now use a curling pond to the East which used to be the practice pond. A number of 1911 cast iron lamp posts, some with decorative brackets line this curling pond.



15. Formal Gardens



Victoria Park has largely retained its original layout of Victorian character surrounded by beautiful flowers and blooms set in a wonderful setting for both formal and informal bedding displays that are immaculately laid out with seasonal floral displays.

Informally arranged garden bed shapes evolve to include scallop shaped beds, S -beds, rectangular, and circular. In larger yards these “islands” are built up to create an elaborate labyrinth. A steady supply of colourful blooms is needed for the bedding designs, which may be changed out several times during the growing season. Simpler bedding designs are sometimes more random, but more often in single



species, concentric bands, with taller plants in the centre, planted in a circle or rectangular shape. The colours are arranged for maximum colour and texture contrast (often red, yellow, and blue). The beds are densely planted throughout the season with a mixture of summer annuals, winter/spring bedding and bulbs.

The more complex decorative carpet bedding floral displays are especially popular in the park, with massive numbers of tender annuals set out in oval, crescent, and half circle shapes set in a background of evergreen hollies. They contain around 7000 individual plants that are hand clipped and celebrate a different local organisation or event every year.



Situated at the top of the knoll, seating provides stunning panoramic views of the formal gardens. This area is planted with a mixed variety of specimen trees including Limes, (*Tilia cordata*), Sycamore, (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), Norway Maple, (*Acer platanoides*), Cherry, (*Prunus* sp), London Plane, (*Platanus acerfolia*), rhododendrons and laurels.

Whenever the general public require contemplation, a wander around these quiet paths through the park and around the formal gardens usually provides peace and calm.



This brings you to the end of Victoria Park Heritage Trail why not visit the local facilities for refreshments?

In order to understand Victoria Park's significance in history, let us take a step back in time.....



EARLY HISTORY OF SCOTSTOUN

SCOTSTOUN belonged in ancient times to the great house of Montgomerie, and was held under them by a younger branch. After owning it over 200 years, the Montgomeries of Scotstoun sold it in 1634 to John Hutchison, Nottar and Town Clerk of Glasgow. His daughter Margaret married in 1636 Archibald Stewart, second son of the laird of Blackhall. Their son, George Hutchison, sold it in 1691 to William Walkinshaw, merchant in Glasgow. William Walkinshaw of Scotstoun was one of the Walkinshaws of Barrowfield, who were cadets of the old Renfrewshire family of Walkinshaw of that ilk. The Walkinshaws of Scotstoun shared the Jacobite views and the ill fortune of their Barrowfield cousins.

John Walkinshaw of Scotstoun, eldest son to William, was one of those attainted by Act of Parliament in the '1715, and he had to flee the country. Thereupon his superior, Alexander, ninth Earl of Eglinton, claimed and got the estate under the Act just passed "for encouragement of loyal superiors, vassals, landlords, and tenants in Scotland;" and on 13th August 1719 he had final decret from the Court of Session against the Commissioners for the Sale of Forfeited Estates. In 1729 Lord Eglinton conveyed Scotstoun to his grandson Alexander, sixth Earl of Galloway (then Lord Garlies), under reservation of the rights of William Wood, "Chamberlain to the Marquis of Clidsdale," holder of a bond over the lands for £20,000 Scots. And in 1750 Lord Galloway (with consent of Captain John Wood, the Chamberlain's son) conveyed it to William Crawford, merchant in Glasgow, eldest son to Matthew Crawford of Balshagray.

The deeds bear that the loyal superior had done diligence for Scotstoun "really and without colusion." In this his Lordship had stretched his conscience to help a poor broken man; for a back letter declared that the estate (less the Chamberlain's bond, which may or may not have been bonâ fide) was held in trust for Walkinshaw of that ilk, who held it for John Walkinshaw. And the conveyance by Lord Eglinton, then an old man near death, to his grandson was no doubt for the purpose of putting a young life on the trust. But the kindly plan failed. Like their Barrowfield cousins, the Scotstoun Walkinshaws were past saving.



After the 1715 had blown over, John Walkinshaw reappeared on the scene, and claimed under the back letter. He was opposed by Matthew Crawford of Balshagray. The two had been partners together in the old ropework of Glasgow (which survives in Ropework Lane), and some money stood there at John Walkinshaw's credit. But Crawford had counter claims against Walkinshaw, and the whole matter was ultimately referred to arbitration. The arbiters, "Mr. Robert Craigie of Glendoick and Mr. Henry Home, Advocats," found that on a general count and reckoning Crawford was owed £3,000 sterling, and, failing the money by a named day, was entitled to have the land. The £3,000 was not forthcoming, and Lord Galloway conveyed Scotstoun accordingly, not to Matthew, but at his request to his son, William Crawford. On the same day he also conveyed to him certain shares in the Ropework, which he had held under a similar trust and the ruin of the Walkinshaws was complete.

The Crawfurds thus held both Scotstoun and Balshagray (forming the bulk of the existing estate). But they were not long able to hold either. In 1751 Richard and Alexander Oswald, merchants in Glasgow (who had already acquired the Chamberlain's bond), bought Scotstoun, and in 1759 they had a Decree of Sale for Balshagray. One glimpse more we get, years after, of the unfortunate John Walkinshaw. In 1764 he - then described as "merchant in Borrowstouness" (which sounds poor) - granted the Oswald's a ratification of their title "for any right he had in the lands." It is hard to see what right he could have had in them. Perhaps the deed was a delicate excuse for some benefaction to him from his successors. They were rich and kindly men, and would think all the better of him for his Jacobite doings.

THE OSWALDS OF SCOTSTOUN

Richard and Alexander Oswald were the first comers of a family of Caithness origin, which was long connected with Glasgow, and is represented now by Oswald of Scotstoun and Oswald of Auchincruive.

Neither man married and on the death of Richard in 1766 the estate passed to their cousin George Oswald. He had seven children, one of whom, Elizabeth, born

at Scotstoun in 1767, lived on the estate all her life and died there in 1864. It was she who added a new front to the house in 1825, designed by David Hamilton. She followed the family tradition of carrying out charitable works and it was said that at 90 she never seen a doctor and at 95 she still retained all her powers of mind and body.

When she died in 1864 the estate passed to James Gordon Oswald, the grandson of her sister. On his death his son, James William Gordon Oswald, inherited the estate, although like his father he never lived at Scotstoun. He preferred to travel abroad and when in Scotland spent much of his time at his estate of Aigas in Beaully. Although not resident at Scotstoun, James Gordon Oswald still maintained a strong interest in the area. He was a keen evangelist and built Anniesland Hall as a mission hall for the people of the estate, maintaining the property at his own expense until his death at Aigas in August 1937. He and his wife had no children so the Scotstoun estate passed to Lieutenant-Colonel Adrian Gordon Paterson DSO, son of his cousin Alice. One of the conditions of his bequest was that in feuing, selling or letting lands that formed part of the estate there should be a clause prohibiting the sale or traffic in any spirituous or fermented liquor; this meant that Whiteinch and Scotstoun were 'dry' well into the late twentieth century.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VICTORIA PARK

In 1885 the Partick Municipal Authorities negotiated with Mr James Gordon Oswald of Scotstoun to acquire the land for a public park. The work of laying-out was commenced in November, 1886, when there was a depression in the shipbuilding trade, and large numbers of men almost in starvation were looking for employment. The scheme was suggested by the Burgh of Partick – Public Park Committee authorities, chiefly to give work to the unemployed of over 1000 men, and in connection with it nearly £4,000 was spent in wages in creating the park, making carriage drives, walks, and lakes. The old Whiteinch quarry, lying conveniently within the area of the park, supplied both soft whinstone for the bottoming and the sharp whinstone for metalling the drives and walks.



The park is bounded on the east by Balshagray Avenue, and extends due west, almost parallel to the Dumbarton Road.

There are four entrance gates at various points,

the principal one being from Victoria Park, North Drive.

There is a spacious carriage drive all round the park in

graceful curves. It is about a mile in length, and there

are also upwards of two miles of walks. A boundary

of trees and shrubs surrounds the park, and there

are numerous plots of flowers and rhododendrons in

various parts. An amoebic-shaped lake is situated at

the south-eastern end of the park. At one end of the

lake, islands have been formed which are joined by

two iron bridges. A small pond with rockwork from the

former quarry lies to the north of the lake. This is planted

with weeping willow (*Salix vitellina* 'Pendula'). There

is also a smaller lake,

which has an island

specially constructed

for the protection and

breeding of water-fowl.

The water is supplied

from local springs in the

neighbourhood.



Near to Balshagray Avenue spaces were originally let to Partick clubs for the purposes of lawn tennis and curling.

There has been sixteen acres added to the park on the

north side of the park providing additional recreation

ground. At the south eastern end of the lake, Mr.

James William Gordon Oswald of Scotstoun presented

the artistic clock, which had been formerly erected on

an elevated flower border and now sits partly hidden

amongst beautiful Maple, (*Acer platanoides*), Cedar

(*Cedrus* sp), Pines, (*Pinus sylvestris*), and a variety of

shrub plantings in close proximity to the lake; the clock

is both ornamental and useful.

The Ladies of Partick

deserve a special notice

for their gift of the

handsome ornamental

gates with pillars at

the former location of

Balshagray Avenue



(now sited at Victoria Park Drive North), upon which there is a suitable inscription to commemorate the golden jubilee year of Queen Victoria.

It was at a meeting held on the 4th January 1887 the Convenor informed that in addition to the design by Messrs Walter Macfarlane he had also received designs of gates from the Sun Foundry, Mr Findlay, Buchanan Street and Messrs McCallum Hope, Cadogen Street and these designs would be submitted. From this meeting it was agreed to recommend to the Commissioners that the design of Macfarlane be adopted with some minor alterations which the latter were willing to agree to.

The most interesting part of Victoria Park, from a natural history and geological point of view, is the Quarry Knowe, elevated some 55 feet above the sea



level, and upon which there is a handsome group of large beech, and plane trees. The knowe is composed of whinstone rock, and has been, for a long period, utilised as a quarry, principally for the purpose of obtaining metal for the repairing of roads.

Several examples of similar fossil trees have also been found in quarries around Glasgow, specially at Gilmorehill and Kelvingrove Park; but this discovery at the Victoria Park is considered the most important which has been made in the West of Scotland, and is specially valuable on account of the limited area in which it is situated.

The Partick authorities purchased four waterproof covers for the protection of the fossil trees when first discovered and then the Committee further recommend the Commissioners to protect the fossils by an adequate layer of leaves, dry grass and straw covered by a simple shed roof of sarking and light framing, and supported so as to serve not only for the protection of the fossils during the winter, but also while the work of a permanent house was proceeding.

The construction of the Fossil Grove building consisted of a substantial erection of brick, wood, and glass, 75 feet long by 34 feet broad, constructed so as to protect these unique specimens of a long past vegetation.



Several important cinerary urns belonging to the later Stone Period were also found when levelling a portion of the top of the knowe, near where the trees are seen. One of

the urns was found in perfect condition, and in close proximity to it, was found a quantity of calcined human bones, and also a small beautifully-formed stone hammer, polished on its surface and ornamented. This would seem to indicate that the knowe formed a place of interment during the Stone Period, and probably before the last rise of the land in Scotland, when the eminence would be an island a little above the water. The date of the urns has been fixed by scientists at about 1000 B.C., and this find of human remains shows that cremation was used in olden times to decompose the dead.



Bailie Storrie of Whiteinch, and Mr. Duncan, curator of the park, deserve credit for the discovery of the fossils, urns, and human remains, and also for the planting and general laying-out of

the park, especially in the way of aiding nature in the neighbourhood of the old quarry by judicious planting.



It is worthy of note that the streets have been liberally treated by Mr. Gordon Oswald, and have been planted with avenues of suitable shade trees, which give quite a character to this interesting suburb of Partick.

Victoria Park is well suited for an industrial community such as Partick, which has increased very rapidly during the last 200 years. The authorities of the Burgh deserve every credit for having secured this beautiful park as a place of amusement, recreation, and instruction for the inhabitants of Partick for all time coming.

The War Memorial, 1922, at the opposite end of the lake comprises a granite cenotaph surmounted by a figure of Victory by F W Doyle Jones. Towards the eastern perimeter of the park the former utilitarian Glass-house (now demolished) and Works Yard and the 19 century Curling Club Pavilion are sited.



Bowling greens, sports pitches and other sporting facilities to the north of the Fossil Grove cover almost half of the total park area. This was the result of the expansion c1894-1909. To the east of the park, the Club Pavilion and old practice rink of the 19 century curling ponds remain in place and in use when conditions allow. An amoebic-shaped lake is situated at the south-eastern end of the park. Between the lake and the Operational yard to the east are bold bedding displays, including scallop-shaped beds with clipped holly domes. These carpet bedding displays have formerly included commemorative coats of arms, some of which are planted on sloping ground around the edge set in a background of evergreen hollies.

During the 1960's the building of an interchange for the A814 (Clydeside Expressway) and Clyde Tunnel involved loss of the south-east corner of the park to the roadway

A perimeter path runs around the park and a straight axial path links the fossil grove area with the lake. A cross path running north-south cuts across this area and a lime tree avenue forms the main entrance to the park from the north. All the paths



are of tarmacadam. New tree plantings within the park include Oak, Lime, Pine and Japanese hornbeam.



A more modern feature of the park includes a leaf trail; this community project was developed by local people through the Millennium Awards scheme. The trail consists of 8 granite stones generously donated by Land Engineering Scotland Ltd, each with an impression of a leaf native to the park and an accompanying poem. It is a tactile trail sited throughout the park. It is also a source of education and enjoyment for all children; they are able to take crayon or pencil rubbings for school projects or just for fun.



On each stone there is also the Gaelic name for the tree.

The artistic layout of the poems and leaf motifs have been created and carved into stone by the late Colin McLeod and his team at GalGael in Govan.



Today the park is at the centre of a vibrant community, hosting many local events and has formed a “Friends of Victoria Park” group established in 2009 to encourage the involvement of local residents in the future development and preservation of the Park. It organises and supports events and applies for project funding whilst working closely with Glasgow City Council and local groups such as Housing Associations, community groups, colleges, schools and local businesses. The group aims to raise the profile of the Park by promoting a greater awareness towards the protection and conservation of the Park’s natural history and heritage.

SIGNIFICANT CHARACTERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF VICTORIA PARK



Sir Andrew McLean



P.M. Chalmers
Fossil Grove Architect



Ex-Provost Ferguson



Talbot Crosbie

THE GLASGOW HERALD MONDAY 4TH JULY, 1887
REPORTED ON THE INAUGURATION OF VICTORIA
PARK as;

OPENING OF VICTORIA PARK

PARTICK.

“The new Park at Partick constructed at the cost of ratepayers, and Her Majesty’s consent named the Victoria Park in honour of the Jubilee, was formally opened on Saturday afternoon by Sir Andrew MacLean, Provost of Partick, and with the inauguration ceremony was associated the Jubilee of Her Majesty’s Reign. The Park was described in the Herald three weeks ago, and it is only necessary now to mention its principal features. It’s situated in the western part of the Burgh, near Whiteinch, on ground feuded on advantageous terms from Mr James Gordon Oswald, superior of the Scotstoun estate. In extent it is 46 acres, being half a mile long and 250 yards broad. In November, 1886, the work of forming the park was commenced. All material needed was got within the boundaries and the work of laying out the park afforded



employment for a large number of men, who were thrown out of their ordinary occupation by depression of trade, a sum of fully £4000 being paid away in wages alone over a period of about two years. The Ladies of the Burgh with the view of signalling the Jubilee year, raised £200, and with the sum had a cast iron gateway of appropriate designs placed at the principal entrance in Balshagray Avenue, and on it placed a suitable inscription. The Park has all the usual adjuncts for the attraction and enjoyment of the people, including a miniature lake for model yacht sailing situated 400 yards from the Gateway and in addition there is an old quarry with special features inviting the attention of Geologists, and a number of old trees not altogether uninteresting to Arboriculturists. The ground is nicely undulated, and on the top of the highest mound a flagstaff has been raised, and around its base has been constructed a Pavilion and bandstand. These were erected by the late ex-Provost Ferguson. The ground, of course, is nicely laid out plants, and the genial weather of the past month, with the flowers in full bloom and the trees richly clad in foliage, presents an attractive appearance.

STREET DECORATIONS AND PUBLIC PROCESSION

Although Saturday was not observed as a holiday in the strict sense of the term, the events were signalled by a profuse display of flags, not only from public buildings, but also dwelling houses. Dumbarton Road, the main thoroughfare, presented quite a gay spectacle as here and there, lines of flags spanned the streets, while the buildings were plentifully, if not very artistically, adorned with bunting. The people, too, gave expression to their good wishes for their Sovereign Lady in mottoes prominently displayed. The day's proceeding's commenced at three o' clock, at which hour cake and wine were served in the Burgh building, Maxwell Street, to a number of gentlemen invited to take part in the proceeding. Meanwhile a procession of Trades and Societies was being organised in Maxwell Street and thoroughfares adjoining, the Grand Marshall being Major H. D. Robinson, who was assisted by several others. Shortly before four o' clock the procession left the Burgh buildings and marched through the principal streets to the park. A detachment of Police formed the advance sound guard, after which came the Partick Corps of the 1st L.R.V. leading the provost magistrates

and Commissioners of Partick and guests, seated in open carriages, in the first of which were seated Provost Sir Andrew MacLean, Bailies Dansken and Alexander, and ex-Provost White, and in the second Mr A. Craig – Sellar, M.P. for the Partick Division of Lanarkshire, Lady MacLean, Mrs John Elder, and Mrs Wilson. Following the carriages was the Partick Fire Brigade with a steam engine and two machines. Then came a band proceeding the workman in Messrs Robinson, Dunn & Co's Sawmills, some walking, and others seated on lorries, beautifully festooned with evergreens, and drawn by horses nicely decorated. The employees of Meadowside shipbuilding yard, Messrs D. & W. Henderson & Co's were in lorries decked with floral devices surmounted by a crown. After a number of bread vans belonging to the Castlebank Bakery came several lodges of Shepherds, headed by the Band of the 1st R. and D. A. V., and carrying several artistically painted banners. There was also a large turnout of Free Gardeners. The men in Messrs Wylie & Lochhead's works at Whiteinch made a fine appearance. Representatives were also present from various other local works, the processionists numbering in all over 2000. The route traversed was down Hamilton Street, along Dumbarton Road westwards to Balshagray Avenue, by which the procession entered the park, and afterwards marched round the carriage drive.

THE OPENING CEREMONY

A large platform was erected near the flagstaff and around the people to the number of several thousands to witness the inauguration ceremony. Previous to the arrival of the public procession the children in the Sabbath – schools in the District marched into the park and took up a position favourable for watching the proceedings when Sir Andrew MacLean, the magistrates and guests arrived and took up their places on the platform they were cordially received. Provost Sir Andrew MacLean occupied the chair and was supported right and left by Mrs Elder, Lady MacLean, Mrs Wilson, Mr A. Craig-Sellar, M.P., Bailies Dansken and Alexander, + Ex-Provosts White and Thomson, Ex-Bailie Storrie, and other members of the Partick Police Commission, Rev. Messrs T. Laurie, D. Hunter, Quintin Johnstone, Henry Anderson, and M'Ewan Morgan. Provost Ferguson, Bailies Williamson and Marr and Captains Hamilton, Govan, Provost Craig,



Maryhill, Messrs James Crichton, Govan Parish School Board, James McClelland, Chairman, Govan Parochial Board, James Dean, C.E., Clyde Trust, John Carrick, City Architect; William Gemmill, Writer, L Talbot Crosbie, Factor, Scotstoun Estate, A. C. Holm & C. Mr Donaldson Town Clerk, intimated that letters of apology for absence had been received from Sir Edward Colebrooke, Lord Lieutenant of the County. Sir James King, Lord Provost of Glasgow, Sir William Thomson, Messrs John Watson, Earnock, J. Gordon Oswald, Scotstoun, Gordon Oswald, jun Sherriff Berry, the very Rev. Principal Caird, J.L Mitchell, Provost Shankland, Greenock; Provost Thomson, Clydebank, Mr Robert Gourlay, Bank of Scotland, Mr J M Taylor & c. The proceedings commenced with the singing of the 100 Psalm, after which prayer was offered by the Rev. Mr Anderson. At this stage of the proceedings the weather underwent an agreeable change. The sky had previously been clouded and rain fell in showers of short duration but when the inauguration ceremony had been fairly begun the sun shone out with full brilliance and warmth. Sir Andrew McLean addressed the gathering, remarking that they had met for the purpose of commemorating two events, one of great national, and the other of great local importance. The Jubilee of Queen Victoria was an event which had been fittingly celebrated, not only in this country, but also throughout the world, and although for reasons which were widely known, there were some what late in the day, for it was a celebration which they as loyal subjects of the Queen were desirous of sharing in, and he knew of no manner in which the Jubilee could be more fittingly celebrated, or one which the Queen herself would consider more appropriate to the occasion, than that of opening a park for healthful enjoyment and recreation of her loyal subjects (Cheers). The gracious permission of Her Majesty for bestowing her name upon the park made the occasion all the more fitting time for the opening ceremony. The Jubilee was worthy of celebration not alone for the long period of Her Majesty's happy reign, but also for the remarkable history of the Queen herself and of the country during the past 50 years. After alluding to the principal events in the Queen's life and to her tact and wisdom, he remarked that if he was briefly to refer to the extension of the empire during that period, to the rapid progress of our colonies the improvements in machinery and the use of steam, the discoveries of science and innovative genius, the introduction of new trades & industries, the

development of steam navigates and locomotion, the wonderful discoveries in medical and surgical practice and other discoveries and improvements in industrial and other discoveries and improvements in industrial and art pursuits, the enumeration would form a catalogue far too long for that occasion.

Those who could look back upon the social condition of life during the period, would agree that there had been marked improvement – wages were higher, the hours of labour shorter, food cheaper, their dwellings better and in more healthy condition, their opportunities for educational advancement greater, the knowledge of men and things and the daily life of the world increased, while their liberties were more secured, and every man had the opportunity of having a voice in the government of the country. These were blessings which they could not say were directly due to the Queen, yet they know she was the centre and source of beneficent rule, and of great and powerful influences, which had been wisely and widely used for the good of the people, for the advancement of the nation and the material and social prosperity of all classes of her subjects. (Cheers). He believed that they would heartily join with him in the prayer that she might be spared to rule over us. (Cheers). Sir Andrew then detailed the various steps in connection with the purchase of the ground and formation of the park, referring to the untimely death of ex-Provost Ferguson who took the part of Surveyor, Engineer, and Landscape Gardener in which he was assisted by ex-Bailie Storrie. The Opening, he remarked, would have taken place a week ago, but was postponed out of regard to the memory of their departed friend, by whose death the community had lost one of its willing and kindly benefactors and faithful and wise rulers. After briefly describing the park, the Provost concluded by saying that it would be preserved and guarded from encroachment and be handed down as a pleasing resort and health – giving boon, and as a thing of beauty and delight for generations to come. (Cheers). Sir Andrew then declared the park open.

Ex-Provost White proposed a vote of thanks to Mr James Gordon Oswald, superior of Scotstoun on whose behalf Mr.L.Talbot Crosbie responded, and remarked that if the people did not provide for themselves such open spaces in populous Districts Parliament ought to compel them.

Mr Wm. Gemmell, on behalf of the Ladies of Partick,



presented to the Provost the gates of the main entrances. He remarked that, by raising funds and having the gates placed there, the Ladies had marked in a local and lasting manner the Jubilee of the Queen's reign. Before resuming his seat he presented to Sir Andrew a silver casket beautifully engraved with a view of the gates of Victoria Park, having on each end Sir Andrew MacLean's crest and monogram, and on the back the Burgh Coat of Arms. On the lid was the following inscription:-

"This box, containing the key of the gates in Balshagray Avenue, gifted by the Ladies of Partick in commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee, is presented to Sir Andrew MacLean in the occasion of his opening, Victoria Park, -2nd July, 1887."

Sir Andrew, in returning thanks, remarked that he believed they were indebted to Mrs Ferguson for suggesting the proposal to have Jubilee gates and for carrying it to a successful issue.

Rev. Mr Johnstone, on behalf of the inhabitants of Partick, proposed a vote of thanks to the Ladies for the gates, and to the family of the late ex-Provost Ferguson for his gift of flagpole and pavilion. Ex-Provost Thomson acknowledged the vote for the Ladies and Mr Wm Ferguson for his relatives.

Mr A.C. Holms moved a complimentary vote to the Commissioners for their Services in connection with the park, and Ex-Bailie Storrie, Chairman of the Park Committee; in responding stated that he remembered when there was only one little house in Whiteinch and none others within a radius of nearly two miles.

Bailie Dansken proposed a vote of thanks to friends, precisionists and marshals, and, speaking of the Trades indicated on the Burgh Arms and represented there that day, he said that if the yacht Thistle, which had been built in Partick, won the Queen's Cup at America he would move that they strike out the galley from the arms and put in a likeness of the thistle.

Mr Craig Sellar, M.P., in responding for friends, said he had seen a good many of the Jubilee festivities during the past ten days, but none had been more hearty, interesting, nor agreeable than that in which they were participating. For what were they doing? They were inaugurating a beautiful and valuable permanent

institution. Partick was increasing yearly in population. As Glasgow overlapped Partick, as Partick was overlapping Whiteinch, and they required a recreation ground to furnish this generation and generations yet to come with air and exercise and recreation referring to the increasing prosperity of the Burgh, he remarked that while the park was now in the country it would before many years were over be surrounded by buildings. The people had to be congratulated on their Victoria Park. The name was a most happy and suitable one, and would mark the happy year of Jubilee. Our gracious Queen herself had given her assent to the park being named Victoria in memory of Her fiftieth year of Sovereignty. But that was not only recognition which she had bestowed on Partick. In consideration of Provost MacLean's services in connection with Partick and of the part he was to take in the ceremony that day, the Queen had marked him out for special favours. (Cheers). She could not thought, have honoured a better man. (Hear Hear). After alluding in fitting terms to the demise of ex-Provost Ferguson, Mr Craig Sellar concluded by remarking that the opening ceremony of the park was a bright spot in their lives. They felt it was a source of happiness to many, both the aged and the young, who would be able to spend their lovely summer evening in that charming spot, away from the bustle of the town and the noise and worry of the streets (Cheers)

Major H.D.Robinson, Grand Marshal, acknowledged the vote on behalf of precisionists and marshals.

Rev. Mr. Hunter called for three cheers for Provost Sir Andrew MacLean, which were heartily given, and the Provost having returned thanks the proceeding terminated by the gathering singing the national anthem. There was a review of model yachts on the lake after the ceremony.





CHRONOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF VICTORIA PARK

KEY MILESTONE DATES

- 1634 – Montgomeries sell the lands of Scotstoun to John Hutchison
- 1691 – George Hutchison sells the lands of Scotstoun to William Walkinshaw
- 1715 – Alexander ninth Earl of Eglinton claims the estate
- 1729 – Lord Eglinton conveyed Scotstoun to his grandson Alexander, sixth Earl of Galloway
- 1750 – Lord Galloway conveyed Scotstoun to William Crawford, eldest son to Matthew of Blashagray.
- 1751 – Richard and Alexander Oswald purchase Scotstoun
- 1759 – Decree of sale for Balshagray granted
- 1764 – John Walkinshaw grants Oswald's ratification of their title.
- 1766 – On the death of Richard Oswald, Estate is passed to Cousin George Oswald
- 1767 – Elizabeth Oswald born at Scotstoun
- 1825 – Scotstoun House extended to designs prepared by the architect David Hamilton
- 1864 – Elizabeth Oswald died, estate passed to James Gordon Oswald, the grandson of her sister. On his death his son James William Gordon Oswald inherited the estate.
- 1883 – SS Daphne capsized within 3 minutes of her launch, 124 died as a result
- 1885 – Partick Municipal Authorities negotiated with Mr Oswald to acquire land for a public park.
- 1886 – The laying out of the park commenced giving work to the unemployed.

- 1873 – Sculptor Francis William Doyle-Jones is born
- 1887 – Fossilised tree stumps were discovered when the old quarry was being landscaped as part of the work during the creation of the park.
- 1887 – Jubilee Gates donated by the Ladies of Partick
- 1887 – John Ferguson, Ex Provost, Convener of Parks Committee sadly passed away
- 1887 – Victoria Park was formally opened by Partick's Provost Sir Andrew MacLean
- 1888 – Clock Tower is donated to Victoria Park by Mr Gordon Oswald
- 1888 – John Young and D. Corse Glen describe the Fossil Grove in two papers
- 1890 – Fossil Grove building opened to the public
- 1908 – Bandstand combined with bowl house and shelter opened
- 1922 – War Memorial erected (sculpted by Francis William Doyle Jones)
- 1930 – Second bandstand erected within the park
- 1948 – The Story of the Fossil Grove published, reprinted 1955, revised editions 1966, 1972
- 1960s – Building of interchange for A814 involves loss of the south-east corner of the park to roadway interchange
- 1987 – Jubilee gates restored in their centenary year.
- 1996 – SS Daphne Memorial erected.
- 2009 – Friends of Victoria Park formed
- 2010 – War memorial refurbished in time for November Armistice celebrations
- 2011 – Upgrading of Play Park successfully carried out
- 2014 – Victoria Park features as Commonwealth Park Twinning Venue for schools.



Historical Pictures of Victoria Park



1911 Model boats



Lady in Rock Gardens



Victoria Park Circa 1967



Fossil Grove 1905



Victoria Park Fossil Grove Circa 1905



Victoria Park Circa 1955



Travel Information

Train - there are stations at Hyndland and Jordanhill, both are approximately a fifteen minute walk away.

Bus - Service numbers 9 42 44/D 62 64 operates a regular bus service from the city centre.

www.firstgroup.com

Car - From central Glasgow on the north side of the River Clyde follow the A814, exit onto the A739 North for Aberfoyle, turn left at the first set of traffic lights, the park is located on the left handside Victoria Park Drive North, there is limited parking around the park perimeter.

Walking - Victoria Park can be easily accessed on foot from the surrounding streets of Victoria Park Drive North, Balshagray Avenue, Westland Drive and Victoria Park Drive South.

Land and Environmental Services

General Enquires 0141 287 5064

Travel Line Scotland 0871 200 2233

www.travelscotland.com



Land and Environmental Services

Glasgow City Council 231 George Street Glasgow G1 1RX

Phone 0141 287 5064

E-mail LES@land.glasgow.gov.uk

Website: www.glasgow.gov.uk/parks



Acknowledgements

D. McLellan, Glasgow Public Parks (1894)

Whiteinch Library

Public Sculpture of Glasgow, Ray McKenzie, with contributions by Gary Nisbet. ISBN

Old Scotstoun & Whiteinch – Sandra Malcolm

Land and Environmental Services, Parks Development Section

Friends of Victoria Park

Fossil Grove Trust

The Glasgow Herald 1887

Minutes of The Partick Commissioners & Committees & Reports By Their Officials From 1886, Vol 7 & 19

The Mitchell Library, The Glasgow Room, Special Archives & Collections.

Heritage and Design Team, Development and Regeneration Services

Dictionary of Scottish Architects Website

www.scottisharchitects.org

<http://www.clydesite.co.uk>

www.glasgowstory.com

<http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk>

www.historicscotland.com

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For more information or a guided tour telephone 0141 287 5064