



Pittencrieff Park restoration project

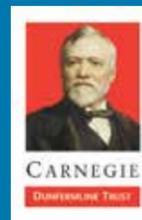
Thanks to funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund with match support from the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust and Fife Council, a £1.6 million transformation to return this much loved green space to its former glory began in Autumn 2012.

Producing information on how Pittencrieff Park became and continues to be a part of local culture and a way of life in Dunfermline is part of this project.



There are lots of reasons why the popularity of Pittencrieff Park endures. The overwhelming majority of regular visitors and residents of the town have lasting memories of their visits here.

The Glen, as it is known locally, holds a special place in the hearts, minds and culture of Dunfermline and its people.



Did you know?

- A group of peafowl (the collective name for male and female birds) is known as a 'muster' or 'ostentation'
- The elongated display feathers are moulted each year after the breeding season is over (late summer onwards)
- Peacocks are the national bird of India
- Each display feather has an 'eye-like' marking on it
- Males are territorial during breeding season but will live together for the rest of the year
- Peafowl can fly and will roost in trees but they seem to prefer being on the ground and are ground nesting

Peacocks

The famous peacocks of Dunfermline were introduced in Pittencrieff Park in 1905 by Henry Beveridge upon his return from India. Since then they have become a much loved part of the local community and are well known for strutting around the park and the town centre.

They are Indian Blue peafowl which are easily recognisable because of their iridescent blue-green plumage.

Male birds (peacocks) have elongated back feathers which they use to put on an extravagant display to attract females and in some cases to intimidate predators.

Female birds (peahens) have slightly duller coloured plumage which camouflages them during nesting. They do not have elongated feathers for display.

Peachicks usually hatch in summer (between June and August) and will not be fully mature until they are at least 2 years old.





People of Note

Being an important part of Dunfermline's cultural history, Pittencrieff Park has received visits from several well-known figures. From **Andrew Carnegie** himself to several generations of the British Royal Family, many of these visits are fondly remembered by generations of Dunfermline families. The visits have often been marked by memorial plaques or the planting of trees.

Having purchased the private land that has become Pittencrieff Park in 1902, Andrew Carnegie set to work in creating a park for 'the toiling masses' which he later gifted to the people of Dunfermline. During his last visit to Pittencrieff Park in 1904, Andrew Carnegie planted an oak tree which still stands today and has a plaque to commemorate the event.

The Glen has a long association with royalty. From **Malcolm Canmore** in the 11th century to more recent times. Royal visitors have included **King George V** and **Queen Mary** in 1904, **King George VI** and his wife Elizabeth shortly after the end of World War II, **Queen Elizabeth II** and the **Duke of Edinburgh** in 2003 and **HRH The Princess Royal** in 2013. Oak trees were planted to mark these occasions and can be found close to the children's play areas on the lawns in the north of the park.

In 2004, the **Dalai Lama** visited Pittencrieff Park during a tour of the UK. A Peace Pole to commemorate this visit can be seen on the grassed area to the south east of the Glen Pavilion. On closer inspection you will see the inscription "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in four different languages (English, Gaelic, Japanese and Tibetan).



Locomotive

Housed within the park is the No. 29 'Pug' locomotive which arrived in the park from the Bilston Glen colliery in 1988. The Pug was built by Andrew Barclay Sons & Co Ltd at Caledonia Works in Kilmarnock in 1934. Over the years it became in need of repair and repainted into its authentic livery. As part of the park's Heritage Lottery Funded restoration project the locomotive has been proudly refurbished by volunteers from Shed 47 Railway Restoration Group, at the Scottish Vintage Bus Museum, Lathalmond. Find it between the Louise Carnegie Gates and the Glen Pavilion.



Old Boys Club

The Old Boys Club was set up in 1904 by the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust at the request of Andrew Carnegie to provide retired local men with the opportunity to meet and socialise regularly. Activities such as dominoes, reading, cards and occasional outings took place for over 100 years. The club was based in Pittencrieff House until it folded in 2010. A bench has been installed in front of the house by the Friends of Pittencrieff Park to commemorate the Old Boys Club.

Statues

In 1908, the sculptor **Richard Goulden** was commissioned by the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust to produce a statue and fountain that would stand at Pittencrieff House.

This work was entitled 'Let Noble Ambition Be the Thirst of Youth Always' and shows a young lad standing on a square base, looking up to a beribboned laurel wreath. The original sculpture was removed from the park for preservation and is now located in the Carnegie Conference Centre. Goulden also produced the statue of Andrew Carnegie which still stands in the park today.



Local People

Generations of Dunfermline families remember fondly visiting the Glen as children and later as adults, parents and grandparents. With more than half a million visits each year, the park continues to be popular with local people, schools and organisations as well as visitors to the town.

Some families and friends have chosen to remember their loved ones by dedicating trees or memorial benches to them and having them placed throughout the park.

Many local people will have celebrated weddings and birthdays in the Glen Pavilion as well as attending popular events such as the Bruce Festival held during the summer and the fireworks display in November. In the past, bands performed on the outdoor stage during summer months which were greatly enjoyed by local people as were visits to the park's former paddling pools.



Photo provided by Dunfermline Delivers

Children's Gala

For more than 100 years, Dunfermline has held an annual children's gala which involves a parade of local school children and pipe bands through the town into Pittencrieff Park.

A picnic lunch and games take place with more than 3000 school children and families attending. The first gala was held in 1902 and from 1904 onwards, the picnic lunch and games have been hosted by the Glen every year with only a few years of disruption - during both the First and Second World Wars.



Ambition Statue