

WHITEINCH

Whiteinch's past and some of the 214's younger "Fossils"!

This photograph taken in 1977/78 was provided by John Roderick MacLeod and was named by him as The Fossil Grove. It was for us a reminder of the many 214 band photographs taken in Victoria Park and also of the importance of The Fossil Grove not only to Glasgow but also to the geophysical history of Scotland.



Seen here, back row from the left:-

Davie Scott, Duncan Masson, Donald Ian MacLennan, Ronnie Peacock, Stevie Littlejohn, Alistair Morrison and Davie Kyle. Front row Alex M. MacIver, Murdo Macdonald, Finlay MacLennan, Dougie Orr, John Roderick MacLeod, Iain MacLeod, Brian Fitzsimmons and Dan Finlay.

The photo below is dated April 1979 was taken prior to the annual inspection at St. Thomas Aquinas School.



Back row from the left:

(shadowed) Finlay MacLennan, John Roderick MacLeod, Alan Davidson, George Gray, Murdo MacDonald.

Middle row:

Ruairidh MacKenzie, Gordon McDougall, (AKA Dougie Souness was road manager of Wet Wet Wet), Alasdair MacKinnon, Brian Fitzsimmons and Alan McColl.

Front row:

P.M. MacIver, Ross Wyllie, Finlay Urquhart and Harry Ball.

Alan McColl is web master and secretary of the 214 ex-members Association. Alan Davidson is Alex Ibell's great nephew and J.R.MacLeod was the last piper recruited to Strathclyde Police by P.M. Ian MacLellan B.E.M. before his retiral.

Alex MacIver seems to be exactly the same in every photo!



The Fossil Grove in Victoria Park, see later notes.

You will find it difficult to find more “past” than this! Whiteinch was part of the expanding city of Glasgow in 1912, and part of the Parish of Govan. It was originally an island in the Clyde, called Whyt Inch, (inch being an island in Scots). However, this was during the time when the Clyde flowed naturally as a shallow and wide river. When it was dredged and narrowed as a man-made enterprise to allow for shipbuilding, the island disappeared, but the name lived on in the area that now sat on the north bank of the river.

And so Whiteinch as we know it evolved as a “Shangri La” nestling between Partick and Scotstoun.

The lands of Whiteinch were once part of the Scotstoun Estates and some of the cottage-style houses on Dumbarton Road were a planned development built by the Estate to house their workers.

This development also included the former Gordon Park Church, shown below, which was the Ancestral and Spiritual home of the 214 Glasgow Company of the Boys Brigade. Mark you the church was as described but the epicentre of The Band of the 214 BB was the first floor flat of no. 9 Haldane Street, the home of Alex Ibell!



Summerfield Cottages were constructed on land which was the estate's Summer Field, in which was its Summer House. The population increase of Whiteinch was linked to industrial growth, primarily shipbuilding. The Clydeholm shipyard of the Barclay Curle Company opened in 1855 occupying much of the Whiteinch riverbank.

Whiteinch was an important Clyde ferry crossing. A rowing boat ferry was replaced by a steam ferry in 1891 and the Clyde's second vehicular "horse" ferry was introduced in 1905.

Both passenger and vehicle ferries, which ran from the foot of Ferryden Street, were withdrawn in 1963 with the opening of the Clyde Tunnel. Besides having a football club called Whiteinch F.C. between 1874 and 1879, Partick Thistle F.C. played in the Whiteinch district for a short while. They played at Jordanvale Park in the area from 1881-1883, when they moved to Muir Park in the centre of Partick. They then returned to the Whiteinch area in 1885 when they moved into the Inchview home of their by now defunct rivals Partick F.C., which is near the location of the Clyde Tunnel's north entrance.

In early 2007 the Victorian Bathhouse on Medwyn Street was torn down to make way for a new townhouse complex that is part of the Clydeside Redevelopment Project.

Whiteinch is notably home to the Fossil Grove, a site within Victoria Park, discovered in 1887 and containing the fossilized stumps of 11 extinct Lepidodendron ("Giant club moss") trees. Fossil Grove is Glasgow's most ancient attraction. It is a unique treasure, situated in the beautiful Victoria Park in Whiteinch; the fossil trees uncovered by removal of the surrounding rocks are the remains of an ancient forest more than 330 million years old. Scottish National Heritage has designated the grove a site of Special Scientific Interest.

These fossilised tree stumps were discovered in 1887 when an old quarry was being landscaped as part of the work during the creation of the park. Careful excavation of the site uncovered the fossil remains and a building was erected to protect them from the elements.
