

The Peel of Kirkintilloch

World Heritage Site



Lion Foundry bandstand, presented to the people of Kirkintilloch by Basil David Purry in 1905. Site of the castle keep to the right.

Modern History of the Peel

It is clear that Kirkintilloch people have always appreciated the significance of the Peel. However, by the nineteenth century it was in use as a dairy farm and inaccessible to the general public. This shortcoming was made good by the local Commissioners of Police (Town Council) in 1897, when they purchased the lands of the Peel for purposes of public amenity, in honour of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. A public park was laid out the following year. The Town Council decreed that it should be called 'Victoria Park', but the people of Kirkintilloch would not accept this name. Many years later officialdom relented, and the name was changed to 'Peel Park'.

The Lion Tradition

Business records and patterns of the local Lion Foundry are held in Kirkintilloch. Together they form one of the best ironfounding collections in the country. It is therefore appropriate that two examples of the foundry's product, a fountain and a bandstand, can be seen at the Peel. They were both presented to the people of the town in 1905. Optimistically, the woman portrayed on the fountain was claimed to be a likeness of Faustina, wife of the Emperor Antoninus Pius.

Inscription

In 2003 Scottish Ministers decided to propose that the Antonine Wall be put forward for consideration as a World Heritage Site. Nomination documents were submitted to UNESCO at the beginning of 2007, formal inspection was carried out later that year, and a successful outcome ('Inscription') was announced in July 2008. With its central location, the Peel of Kirkintilloch seems certain to become one of the most visited sites on the frontier.



Holy Family and St Ninian's Church, which probably occupies part of the Roman fort site.



War Memorial gates, erected in 1925.



Fountain presented to the town by Robert Hudson, a director of the Lion Foundry Company, in 1905.