



The Duchess Of Hamilton Park

Fact File 4 – The Poem



A local family enjoying the Duchess park in the early '50s when the mound was surrounded by a wooden fence.

A poem by Anne MacGregor - "Ma Poem Fur a' The Weans o' Lang Ago" - was found while we were searching for the history of our park. Take your time and read it as it was written and appreciate how a time and place can be captured in rhyme. Thank you Anne for the memories.

The Duchess of Hamilton Park

*The Duchess Park in Avon Street
A place fit a' guid folk tae meet,
A paitin' green it used tae hae
Wi' a green widen dookit yi used tae pay,
Yin silver tanner fit a roond
Six o' yi fit hauf a croon.*

*Auld men used tae play the draufs
Wi' long hoop poles that latched lic staffs,
A hook upon yin end o' it
Tae lift the drauf tae make a fit,
The board that sat doon in the ginn
Wis twelve fit wide an' weighed hanner pnn.*

*A paddlin' pool wis also there
Weel used at the Glesca Fair,
A' off the shill we wud be
Suntanned bairns rinnin' free
Splashtin' aboot an' fivin' fun
Gloryin' in the summer sun.*

*A bon-stann that took pride o' place
Wi' trumpets gleamin' in yin face,
The Sally Ann played there a lot
Savin' songs wis whit they got
Auld folk sat in circled rows
Heids bent furit havin' a doze.*

*The toilets wis a sight tae see
No a nice place fit a wee
The smell wud fiv' knocked yi doon
Stung yin e'en an' made yi swoon
Newspaper wis yin toilet roll
Washin' yin haunds in a filthy bowl.*

*The swings wis great fit ye tae go
A hid-on boat fit ye tae row,
Sea songs that went up an' doon
Roan a boots that spun yi roon,
A skate that durted yin guid frook
A climbin' frame that wis ayenw's brook.*

*Trees an' floors wis a' aboot
The perfumed smell fit licht a cloot,
Dugs wis barkin' chasin' tails
Winnin' carrin' watter pails
Laddies cyclin', haws in the air
It wis rare at the Glesca Fair.*