

A Brief History Of Oak Hill Park

The Oak Hill estate dates back to the middle of the 18th Century and belonged to the Woodward Family. In 1815 the land was leased and subsequently purchased by Thomas Hargreaves, head of the Broad Oak Print Works. The present mansion was built soon after the purchase of the land. Thomas died in 1822 and the house was passed onto Thomas's youngest son, Jonathan, who enlarged the mansion, by addition of a further wing. Jonathan Hargreaves left the area in the 1850's and Oak Hill was let to a number of tenants over the following three decades. In 1889 the estate belonged to Jonathan's son Reginald Gervis Hargreaves, who was married to Alice Liddell, the model for Lewis Carroll's 'Alice in Wonderland'. The town council, during Reginald's ownership, began the lengthy negotiations for Oak Hill Park.

The price agreed was £9,591, or one and half old pence per square yard, with Reginald Gervis Hargreaves returning £1,000 to help with the refurbishment of the grounds.

Work commenced in July 1892 on preparing the estate for opening as a park and by the spring of 1893 work was almost complete. The grand opening scheduled for Whit Monday 22nd May 1893 went ahead as planned with a street party atmosphere amongst the crowds that gathered.

Oak Hill Park in the 21st Century

The park continues to respond to the needs of the local community with new facilities being provided and existing facilities updated as opportunities arise. Recent improvements include a new bandstand built in the original style, a new play area and the most recent facility is a multi-use games area available for football, cricket and basket ball on a tarmac surface.



By Car:
Situated off Manchester Road (A680)

By Bus:
Bus number 464 from Accrington

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OAK HILL PARK

VISITORS GUIDE



OAK HILL PARK

is the main park of Accrington serving both the town and also the Borough of Hyndburn. Oak Hill Park is one of the largest parks in the Borough and has a range of features and facilities.



Floral displays found throughout the park.



Duck pond next to the children's play area.



A large playground on two separate levels for a wide range of ages and abilities.



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- ● ● ● ● YELLOW WALK 225 Meters
Approx ½ a running track
- ● ● ● ● AMBER WALK 674 Meters
Approx 1¾ running tracks
- ● ● ● ● RED WALK 930 Meters
Approx 2¼ running tracks

KEY

1. Oak Hill Mansion
2. Disabled Patrons Car Park
3. Multi-use Games Area
4. Childrens Playground
5. Tennis Courts
6. Bowling Green
7. Rock Garden
8. War Memorial
9. Bandstand
10. Duck Pond
11. Works Building
12. Community kitchen garden

A piece of Myrtle taken from Queen Victoria's wedding bouquet can be still found growing near the Oak Hill Mansion.



The impressive war memorial

Lewis Carroll wrote 'Alice in Wonderland' for Alice Liddell who was married to Reginald Gervis Hargreaves who owned the estate in 1889 prior to it becoming a public park.



The park has been host to a number of community events over the years. The bandstand is available for community groups to use, contact the council on 01254 388111 for further information.

