

Rhyddings Park in the 21st Century

On 19th May, 2019 Rhyddings Park celebrated a rededication ceremony following extensive work within the park to refurbish the Coach House, community building and grounds. There is now a community run café and classroom within the restored building. There is a new glasshouse and growing area of raised beds, some of the food grown within the kitchen garden being used in the café.

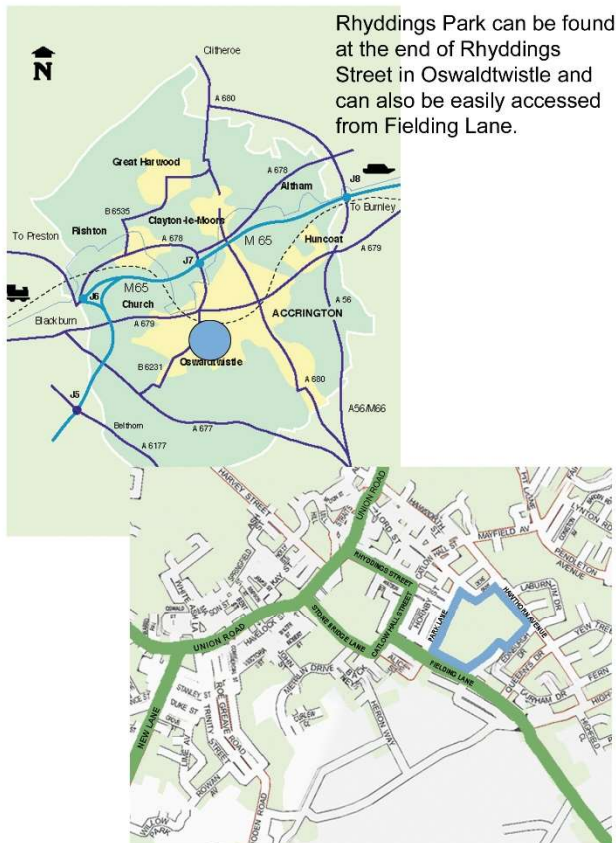
For further information regarding the Friends of Rhyddings Park and the Café check out their social media pages including Facebook. ([Search Friends of Rhyddings Park in Google](#)).



The grounds of the park have also been improved including the enhancement of the main entrances and providing a range of interesting features within the park such as an orchard, woodland walk, and formal gardens. A new events space has also been created on the oval area next to the Folly.



Some of the park's unique ornamental features have also been restored including a Japanese Lantern located in the parterre garden and the Edwardian drinks fountain, this is now in the new kitchen garden area as a focal point.



Rhyddings Park can be found at the end of Rhyddings Street in Oswaldtwistle and can also be easily accessed from Fielding Lane.

By Car:

Turn into Rhyddings Street from Union Road (B6234), turn right into Catlow Hall Street and left into Fielding Lane the park is on the left.

By Bus:

Bus number 91 from Accrington and the Hyndburn Circular bus numbers 6, 6A, 7 Mon to Sat (every 20 mins) Sun (every 30 mins)

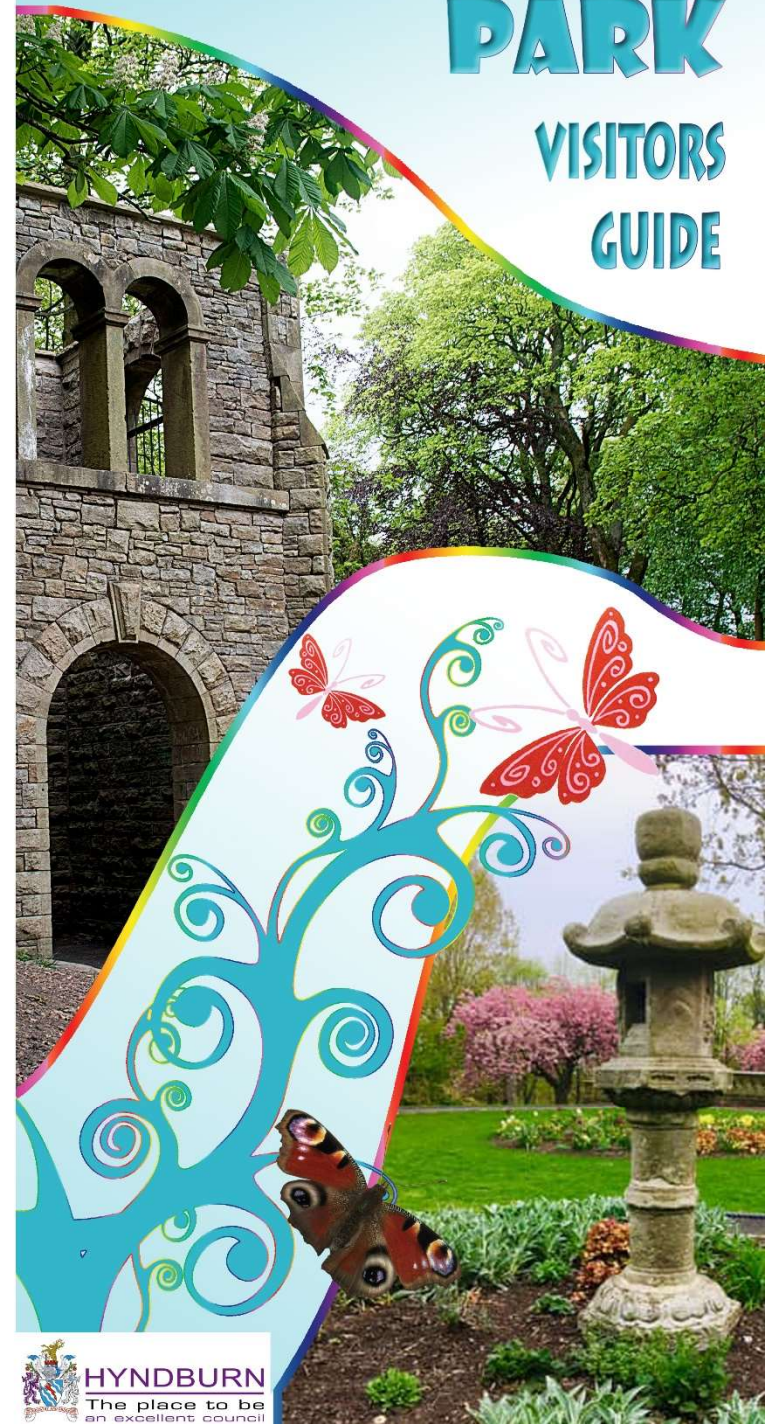
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RHYDDINGS PARK

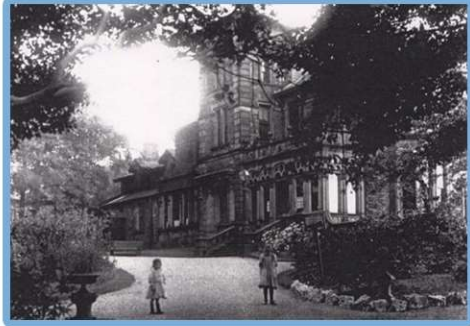
VISITORS GUIDE



RHYDDINGS PARK

A Brief History Of Rhyddings Park

Rhyddings Park was originally the grounds of a private house belonging to a local mill owning family. The first house at Rhyddings was demolished in 1853 and re-built in the style of an early Victorian country house villa for Mr Robert Watson, a local cotton magnate, who owned nearby Rhyddings Mill, and was also connected with Stonebridge Mill in Oswaldtwistle.



Today the layout of the park owes much to Mr Watson's house, which was situated behind the ornamental balustrade until it was demolished in the 1930's. Other remnants of Mr Watson's residence besides the balustrade are the Coach House, now the cafe and community building and a folly, which has been incorporated into the park as a feature. Come along and try and find the building 'footprint' and other evidence of Mr Watson's residence over 100 years ago!



1 The Folly

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Mr Watson was also a local benefactor who donated the site for the Parish Church of St Paul's, on land close to the park. Mrs Watson laid the foundation stone for the Church in 1882.

Mr Watson was also responsible for the development of housing in the vicinity of the park to provide accommodation for his workforce and thus had a strong influence on the area around the park.



KEY

1. Cafe & community building
2. Kitchen garden
3. Orchard
4. Children's play area
5. Multi-use games area
6. Events space
7. Woodland walk
8. Italian garden
9. The Folly
10. Market Cross
11. Glasshouse
12. Original location of Rhyddings Hall
13. Bowling green
14. Bowls hut



The Open day of the Park 29th May, 1909

Rhyddings Hall, as the house was known, ceased to be a private residence in 1909 when it was acquired by Oswaldtwistle Urban District Council along with its grounds, to provide a recreational facility for the people of Oswaldtwistle. The main impetus for the local Council acquiring Rhyddings Park came from Mr Arthur Hargreaves, a local industrialist and philanthropist who served on the Council between 1904 and 1922. Mr Hargreaves was the son-in-law of the owner of Moscow Mill. Also to Mr Hargreaves' credit can be attributed the establishment of the Carnegie Library in Oswaldtwistle, which was opened on 30 October, 1915. Councillor Arthur Hargreaves officially opened the grounds of Rhyddings Hall for use as a public park on Saturday 29 May, 1909.



10 The market cross in the foreground overlooking a view to Rhyddings Mill with its chimney and surrounding workers housing, in the 1950's