

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

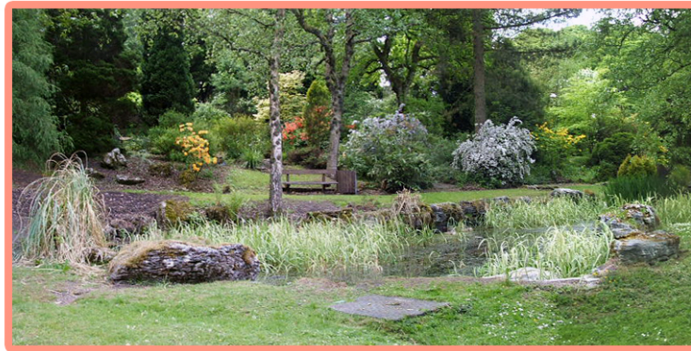


OAK HILL PARK

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.



The Parkinson Memorial Rock Garden.



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



- YELLOW WALK 406 metres
(approx ¼ mile)
- ORANGE WALK 762 metres
(approx ½ mile)
- RED WALK 826 metres
(approx ½ mile)

KEY

1. Oak Hill Mansion
2. Disabled Patrons' Car Park
3. Multi-use games area
4. Children's Playground
5. Tennis Courts
6. Bowling Green
7. Rock Garden
8. War Memorial
9. Band Stand
10. Duck Pond
11. Works Building

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



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 hosts the annual 'Mela' festival, which is a free community festival featuring live music of an array of different musical styles and is held in August each year. It also includes stalls and other entertainment and is widely advertised leading up to the event.

