

# Friends of Torkington Park

## YOUR PARK NEEDS YOU!

Local people have been supporting the management of Torkington Park since the 1990's when a small group of residents focused on the restoration of the walled garden behind Torkington Lodge, now known as the 'Secret Garden'.

In 2002 community involvement was rubber-stamped with the official convening of the Friends of Torkington Park. The group has gone from strength to strength, and successfully attracted funds for a new play area which was installed in 2004. Currently the group are working towards the installation of a skateboard area for the park.

Members raise funds, get involved with task days, organise events like the Halloween Trail and Christmas carols.

If you would like to take an active part in the management and further development of Torkington Park by joining the Friends group please contact Customer Services on

**0161 217 6111**



The Friends group hold a stall at Hazel Grove Carnival

The Mayor opening the new play area in 2004



Stockport Council works in partnership with community groups to provide a wide range of outdoor recreational facilities, including:

- Allotments
- Urban Parks
- Countryside sites and country parks
- Outdoor Sports pitches
- Woodlands
- Walks and trails
- Local nature reserves
- Playgrounds
- Events

## Contacts

**Telephone:** 0161 217 6111

**E-mail:** parks@stockport.gov.uk

**Website:** www.stockport.gov.uk/parks

**A free interpreting service is available if you would like help with this leaflet. Please call the Stockport English Language Service on 0161 477 9000.**

এই পুস্তিকা/প্রচার পত্রটির ব্যাপারে আপনার যদি কোন সাহায্য সহযোগিতার ব্যবহার হয় তবে আপনার জন্য বিনা ব্যরটে দো-ভাষীর ব্যবস্থা করা হবে। দয়া করে ইকসপোর্ট ইংলিশ ল্যাংগুয়েজ সার্ভিসে 0161 477 9000 এই নাম্বারে ফোন করুন।

اگر آپ کو اس کتابچے / پمفلٹ کے بارے میں مدد کی ضرورت ہے تو مفت ترجمانی کی سروس دستیاب ہے۔ براہ مہربانی سٹاکپورٹ انگلش لنگویج سروس کو 0161 477 9000 پر فون کریں۔

如果您需要他人為您解釋這份手冊\單張的內容，我們可提供免費的傳譯服務，請致電史托波特英語服務：0161 477 9000

تتوفر خدمة ترجمة شفوية مجانية إذا تطلبت مساعدة في فهم هذا الكتيب/ النشرة. نرجو الاتصال بخدمة تعليم اللغة الانجليزية في ستوكبورت على رقم الهاتف: 0161 477 9000

આ પુસ્તિકા/માહિતીપત્રિકા સમજવા માટે મદદની જરૂર હોય તો વિનામૂલ્યે ઇન્ટરપ્રીટીંગ (હુલાયયા)ની સેવા ઉપલબ્ધ છે. મહેરબાની કરીને સ્ટોકપોર્ટ ઇન્ગ્લીશ લેન્ગ્વેજ સર્વિસના 0161 477 9000 ઉપર સંપર્ક કરો.

This information can also be made available in large print, braille and audio. Please call 0161 355 7773 for details.

The information contained in this booklet was correct at time of going to print.



# Torkington Park



# A short history of Torkington Park

Torkington park was originally part of the ancient 'Torkynton Estate' which was owned by the wealthy Legh family for 500 years through to the mid 19th century.

Torkington Lodge, the large brick mansion which overlooks the traditional parkland landscape, is a Grade II listed Regency building. The Lodge was built in 1780 by the Leghs who used it as an occasional residence. It was renovated in the 1820's and rented to the Misses Hughes. In 1837 it was established as an educational institute for young ladies.

The last of the Legh family to own it was Mr John Pennington Legh who sold it in 1858 to the Barlows, a Quaker family with local business interests.

In 1935 Hazel Grove & Bramhall council acquired the Lodge and its grounds from the Barlow family for £11,500. The council wanted to preserve this area of parkland as a recreational breathing space for local residents. The building was used as council offices and the parkland made available for public recreation.

The park has been managed by Stockport Council since 1974. Torkington Lodge now houses a department of Social Services.



## General Information



Parking is available within the upper park in a car park behind Torkington Lodge (access from Torkington Road). Another car park is situated off Buxton Road and is ideal for access to the lower park.



Bus routes 191, 192, 199, 361, 392, and 393 from Stockport run close to the park.



Some parts of the park are wheelchair accessible (some paths are steep). A disabled toilet is also available.



Toilets available during park opening hours.



Please clean up after your dog – scoop bins are provided. Dog restrictions exist in some areas of the park.

To check the availability of facilities, please call **0845 833 4444**

We welcome your views and suggestions about Torkington Park. If you would like to complete a park survey on-line visit

[www.greenstat.org.uk](http://www.greenstat.org.uk)

Greenstat is an independent survey which gives people the opportunity to comment on the quality of their open spaces.

**greenSTAT™**

## Facilities & Features

The park provides a much needed 'green-lung' for Hazel Grove and surrounding areas. Close to the busy A6, the park provides a calm oasis to escape the stresses and strains of everyday life.



The ideal location for gentle walks and relaxation, the park also has play areas suitable for under 7s and junior play. Picnic benches are situated close to the play areas.

### Sports facilities

- Tennis courts
- Football pitches
- Football changing pavilion
- Bowling Greens
- Bowls pavilion
- Basket Ball Key



Events take place in the park throughout the year. Past events include a summer fun play day, a visiting circus, and the annual Hazel Grove carnival.



Wushu Warriors training in the Secret Garden, Chinese State Circus.



# Torkington Park - History, Heritage & Horticulture

## The Secret Garden

### History

The Garden was originally planted as a walled fruit and vegetable garden for the adjacent 18th Century Torkington Lodge. In 1934 when the Lodge and parkland were to be taken over by the local council, the greenhouses and vines were removed and the garden was replanted as a more formal flower garden for the use of the general public.

Thanks to the vision, leadership and fundraising of three Hazel Grove residents the garden was enhanced, upgraded and extensively replanted to commemorate the Millennium Year 2000.

The garden was formally re-awakened on May 1st 2000 by the ITV celebrity gardener Jeff Turner in the presence of the Worshipful the Mayor of Stockport Cllr Ingrid Shaw, her consort and over 200 local people. Musical entertainment was provided by St Peter's Church junior choir and wind players.

### Plant species of interest

The garden is maintained to a high standard by the Parks & Recreation Service. It is replanted as required and plants are managed so that one variety does not dominate over others. Changes have taken place over the last few years however, many of the plants from the 2000 replanting continue to thrive.

### Trees

Some of the trees which enhance the site include:

- Acer 'Crimson King'
- Cedrus deodara
- Magnolia grandiflora 'Exmouth'
- Metasequoia (Redwood)
- Prunus 'Amanagawa'

- Pyrus salicifolia 'Pendula' (Weeping Silver Pear)
- Salix matsudana 'Tortuosa' (Tortuous Willow)
- Sorbus aucuparia (Mountain Ash)

### Shrubs

Shrubs which provide interest and structure include:

- Arundinaria nitida (Heavenly Bamboo)
- Choisya 'Aztec Pearl' (Mexican Orange Blossom)
- Enkianthus (Pagoda Bush)
- Garrya elliptica (Silk Tassel Bush)
- Itea ilicifolia (Sweetspire)
- Leycesteria formosa (Himalayan honeysuckle)
- Phlomis (Jerusalem Sage)
- Rosa rugosa 'Roseraie de l'hay'
- Camelia varieties
- Callicarpa
- Taxus baccata fastigiata (Irish Yew)
- Buxus (Box)
- Phormium
- Yucca
- Viburnum plicatum
- Chaenomeles varieties (Japanese Quince)

### Climbers

Climbers and wall shrubs which thrive against the warm walls of the garden include:

- Actinidia kolomikta (Painted Leaves)
- Clematis montana
- Lonicera (Honeysuckle)
- Wisteria
- Vitis coignetiae (Ornamental Vine)

### Winter flowering shrubs and plants

- Daphne mezereum
- Hamamelis (Witch Hazel)

- Helleborus (various)
- Mahonia 'Charity' (Oregon Grape)
- Sarcococca (Christmas Box)
- Viburnum bodnantense 'Dawn'

### Wildlife, Birds and Insects

Bat boxes and bird nesting boxes were introduced during the upgrade in 2000. Pipistrelle bats appear from time to time.

Birds you may be fortunate to see: Long-tailed tit, jay, nuthatch, tree creeper, sparrowhawk, Great spotted woodpecker.

The Garden supports a rich diversity of insect life with butterflies such as speckled wood, peacock, orange tip, and small tortoiseshell being easy to see. Many more moths, beetles and other insect groups are hidden in the undergrowth, or only come out at night.

Regular mammal visitors include the grey squirrel and fox.

### The Anvil

The old Anvil donated by a local resident links the Garden with its past. Hazel Grove's previous name was Bullock Smithy, and the actual 'Smithy' was sited within the park area.

### The Lamp Post

Another link with Hazel Grove's past. The restored lamp post is thought to have originally been sited at the 'Rising Sun' crossroads.

The Garden is open every day free of charge during normal park hours. Entrance is via the car park behind the Lodge or through the gate on the left hand side of the main drive from Torkington Road, accessible to wheelchair users and push chairs.

