



In association with:



For further information on Preston's Parks contact:

THE PARKS SECTION
Regeneration, Community & Leisure Services Department,
Preston City Council,
The Guild Hall, Lancaster Road,
Preston, PR1 1HT
Tel: 01772 203456
Fax: 01772 881716

Alternatively, you can contact the
Ashton Park Ranger on 01772
736749

For sports pitch bookings contact:
Housing & Direct Services, Works
Department, Grounds
Maintenance Tel: 01772 906141

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An Introduction to

Ashton PARK



اسٹون شہر کونسل کے ساتھ
کینڈیکئر کے ساتھ
اسٹون پارک کے بارے میں مزید
معلومات کے لیے اسٹون شہر کونسل
کے پارک سیکشن سے رابطہ کریں۔
اسٹون شہر کونسل کے پارک سیکشن
کے ذمہ داران سے رابطہ کریں۔
اسٹون شہر کونسل کے پارک سیکشن
کے ذمہ داران سے رابطہ کریں۔

HISTORY of Ashton Park

Ashton Park was formally the private estate of the Pedders family who owned large areas of land in both the Maudland and Ashton areas of the town. Today, the Pedder family name is still well known to people who visit the area. Nearby Pedders Street and Pedders Lane are testimony to the families importance.



The Pedder family made their fortune having started the Old Preston Bank located on Church Street, just in time to lend to the growing numbers of cotton manufactures who wanted to build factories in the town. The bank, now disused, can still be seen today opposite the Parish Church in the City centre. The large areas of land in their ownership, helped the Pedder's family to become one of the most powerful and influential families within the town.

Ashton Park Estate and Mansion was built for Edward Pedder in circa 1810. Edward lived in the mansion with his family until he died suddenly in 1861. Since 1846, Edward had been running the family business with his brother Henry. Following Edward's death, Henry was summoned to investigate the bank accounts. He found that there were insufficient funds to pay all the demands on the bank. It was subsequently closed. A meeting took place where the creditors demanded that Edward's mansion and estate be sold along with all his expensive antique furniture and paintings.



The mansion was then purchased by Edmund Robert Harris, who became Preston's greatest public benefactor. He left the mansion to the governors of Queen Anne's Bounty for the benefit of poor clergy, which evolved into the Church Commissioners. Following the death of Edmund Harris in 1877, the mansion was again put up for sale.

The following decades saw several changes of ownership, including many wealthy families such as the Talbets, Cliftons and Colonel Goodair, who owned several mills in Preston including Springfield Mill in Brook Street. The mansion lay empty for a period until the Calverts, who were also mill owners, tenanted it for about 30 years. At the end of World War I, the Calverts sold the mansion to English Electric. The mansion was used as a social club and for various sporting activities.



Ashton Park was the home of the world famous Dick Kerr's Ladies Football Team, who played on pitches located on the corner of Blackpool Road and Pedders Lane. The area soon became known as Lively Polly's Corner; a name that was taken from the billboards for soap powder that surrounded the corner of the park.

In 1937, Preston Town Council finally decided to buy Ashton Park for the sum of £27,500. The mansion then became the possession of Lancashire County Council who turned it into a care home for the elderly. In the late 1960's, Preston Health Corporation Department commissioned the building of Ashton Health Centre. During the 1990's Ashton House was finally sold to its present owner Kindercare Childcare Centre.

ASHTON PARK TODAY

Ashton Park contains many sporting facilities including two first class bowling greens, play areas and football pitches. There are also wooded areas, ornamental gardens and a magnificent country house. Ashton House has been restored to it's former glory and is a well used children's nursery school.

The Park is located off Blackpool Road and Pedders Lane, close to Preston Docks. Parking facilities are provided off Pedders Lane.

The Council operates a Poop Scoop scheme, where dog owners are encouraged to clean up after their dogs. The control of dogs and other issues are addressed in the Council bye-laws. A full copy can be viewed by contacting the Parks Section.



RANGER SERVICE

Preston's Park Ranger Service works throughout the City to promote, interpret and encourage everyone to use and appreciate our parks and open spaces.

Rangers organise regular community events and undertake environmental education with schools. Through regular patrols, Rangers also help to provide a reassuring and identifiable presence, promoting a sense of personal safety and confidence for park visitors.

