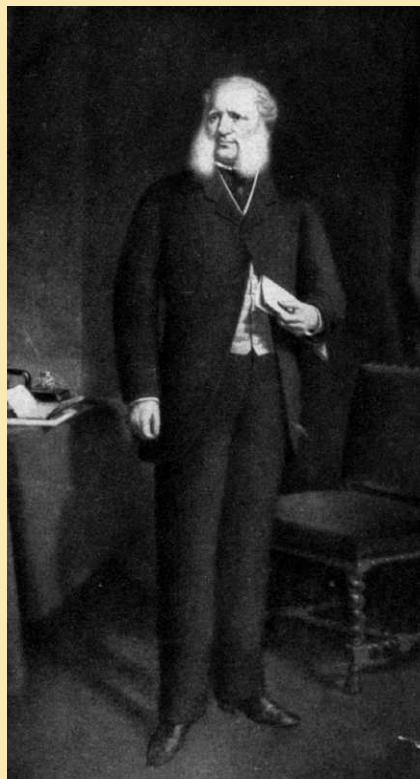




# High Hazels Park

a short history





**High Hazels Park** located in Darnall, in the East of Sheffield was once regarded as one of the largest and finest parks in Sheffield. Officially a district park, High Hazels is the major open space in this area of the city and has always been of great importance to the local community.



Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, the areas of Darnall and Tinsley were well known across Sheffield for the coal and steel industries. The immediate area around High Hazels Park was mined for coal, iron and stone, which were worked in the adjacent woodlands.

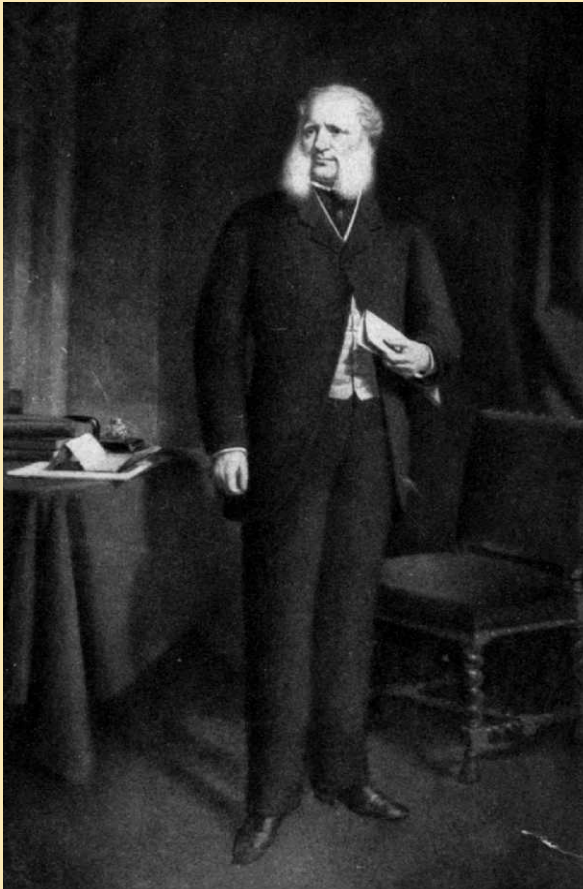
Given the industrial nature of the area, High Hazels Park offered a welcome contrast to the surrounding hard landscape and provided local residents with an escape from the built up environment.



The Park offered a vital link to the natural world, and was a much-valued place for relaxation, participation in sports and family pursuits for people from all over Sheffield.



**The Jeffcock family** moved into the area around 1814. John Jeffcock was head of the family, and made his name in the coal industry. The family resided in High Hazels for around fifty years. It was William Jeffcock, John's son, who built the impressive House.

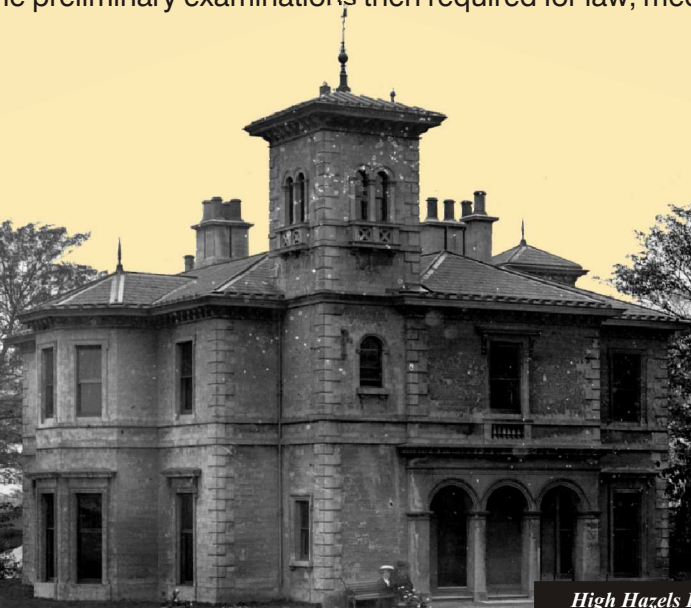


Born in the Handsworth area of Sheffield in April 1800, William Jeffcock, pictured above, became the first Mayor of Sheffield in 1843.

**In 1850** he commissioned High Hazels House, 'to be built regardless of cost'. When finished, the principal rooms were described as being 'splendidly decorated and of noble proportions'. There were numerous bedrooms, stabling for twelve horses, and a number of outbuildings. The arches that lead to the main entrance were built of the same stone as the Houses of Parliament. High Hazels House was, and indeed remains, an impressive work of design and architecture.

The last member of the Jeffcock family to live at High Hazels was William's eldest son, also called William. William junior died in 1863 at the early age of 32. For the next thirty years the house was rented 'in order that the House might not suffer the ruin which is inseparable from inoccupation'.

During some of this time, the House was used as a boarding school for 'young gentlemen'. Nicknamed 'The Towers', the school prepared its pupils for the preliminary examinations then required for law, medicine



*High Hazels House, built 1850*

**In 1894** the High Hazels estate, comprising 47 acres and several buildings, was purchased by the City of Sheffield for £10,875 and held in trust. Endowed Charities recorded the occasion, stating the purchase of this piece of land in Darnall to be “for the purpose of being used as public walks and pleasure grounds”. The High Hazels Estate officially became a public space. The mood was one of optimism, with the Attercliffe Almanac commenting 'the park will doubtless prove a boon'. The council agreed, stating ' when the park is completed it will rank as one of the finest and largest parks in the city.'

Work began on the design of High Hazels Park. It is thought that the Victorian landscape architect, Robert Marnock was involved in the original layout of the grounds. Maps dated during the 1890s show a large lake and meandering paths, including the once very popular circular walk, which are all thought to be typical of Marnock's Gardenesque approach.

With it's panoramic views across the city, the park rose above the industrial surroundings. High Hazels was soon regarded as one of the cleanest areas in Darnall and became affectionately known as the 'Hill of Health'. Some local residents believed the air at the top of High Hazels to be therapeutic.



**In 1901** High Hazels House became a museum which housed a highly valued, interesting collection with many rare pieces relating to Sheffield history. The collection included over 340 paintings, drawings, models and various natural exhibits such as collections of butterflies and moths. There were also many items of local interest relating to mining and steel workings in the area. The museum was an extremely popular attribute to the park, attracting over 60,000 visitors a year in its heyday.

Commenting in 1914, the Sheffield Telegraph stated, 'It is a revelation to find so complete a representation of the past, and professional men have found it of considerable value to be able to refer to the old plans and maps which are exhibited at High Hazels.' It was not just 'professional men' who benefited from the museum, but people from all over Sheffield. One local resident recalls '*It was the first time I saw anything like it. It was wonderful for us as kids.*'

During World War II the house was used as a base for the Home Guard with many local residents being recruited. Unfortunately the museum closed shortly after the war, and High Hazels House reopened as the clubhouse for Tinsley Park golf course.



*Members of the Home Guard*



*Dressed up for the Easter Parade c. 1920*

**High Hazels Park** was often the centre for large social gatherings, May Day Labour demonstrations, annual Easter Parades and the very popular Whitsunday Walks organised by the Sunday School Union. The Easter Parade is fondly remembered by many people as a highlight in the year's calendar and was organised by Darnall Medical Aid. People would get dressed up and take part in the parade through the streets of Darnall before entering the park for further entertainment. One resident recalls '*nearly everyone in Darnall gathered for the parade. Relatives and friends came from all over Sheffield to see the spectacle.*'



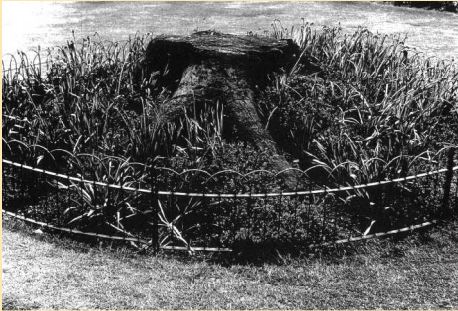
*Whit Walk in High Hazels Park, 1920*

Families were able to spend all day in the park and enjoy some of the finest facilities available.

High Hazels Park once boasted two bandstands. The second and largest of these opened in 1932 and included electrical lighting and changing rooms and was big enough to accommodate military bands. Families regularly enjoyed public meetings and many concerts in the park.



The park was a centre for almost every sport and offered tennis courts, two bowling greens with pavilion, rugby pitch, two cricket pitches and ample room for football. In 1974 a nine-hole pitch and putt course was also opened.



Another well-loved attraction in the park was the fossilised tree, pictured left, believed to be over 250 million years old. It was recovered from a local coal measure near to High Hazels and was proudly displayed near

the front of the House. The tree remained in the park until the early 1980's when it was relocated to Sheffield's Botanical Gardens.

High Hazels also had a large draughts board, on which large hooked sticks were used to move markers and there was an 'old man's shelter' used for socialising and playing dominos. A major attraction remembered by many local residents was the large boating lake. People were able to hire out the boats by the hour and race model boats. There was an additional paddling pool for children with one park user remembering *'to us as ten year olds it was like going to the seaside with the paddling pool and boating lake, it was great.'*





**The café in the park** offered refreshments, snacks, penny drinks and rows of sweets to choose from. Children played on the swings and a rocking horse in the play area opposite, as one lady remembers, *'when I was young the park was always full of life, children playing together watched over by their mothers. It was always a happy place to go.'*



Local people have fond memories of the well-maintained, colourful flowerbeds in the formal garden entrance to the park. This area was known to locals as the 'Peace Gardens' and was often used as a place for wedding photographs. One park user remembers *'the garden was a haven of tranquillity where friends used to meet and chat to each other, enjoying the pleasures of being amongst the flowers and wildlife therein.'*

High Hazels Park has a long and varied history and it will always be remembered by many people in Sheffield as one of the finest parks in the city. Writing in 1896, the Attercliffe Almanac described High Hazels as 'a place for the people.' This remains true for today as the appeal of the park, and its importance to the local community remains as strong today as it did in the past.

High Hazels Park has seen a number of changes in recent times with many of the original features being lost.

However, fundraising by Sheffield City Council and local community groups, including the Friends of High Hazels Park, has led to the introduction of new facilities and attractions.

This work is helping to regain the park's former standing as an exceptional leisure facility and to ensure it remains as such for future generations.



Information and photographs have been obtained from Sheffield Local Studies Library and kindly donated by local residents. This publication has been produced by the Friends of High Hazels Park (Registered Charity No. 1090071).

لمزيد من المعلومات عن حديقة هاي هيزل - هاي هيزل بارك - فضلا اتصل :

হাই হেজেল পার্ক সম্বন্ধে আরো তথ্যের জন্য অনুগ্রহ করে যোগাযোগ করুন:

Wixii macluumaad dheeraada ee ku saabsan High Hazels Park, Fadlan la xidhiidh:

ہائی ہیزل پارک سے متعلق مزید معلومات کیلئے، براہ مہربانی رابطہ کریں:

For further information about High Hazels Park, please contact:

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Local Heritage *initiative*



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