



Pearson Park

A place where we feel at home

An Exploring and Belonging Reading Resource
created by



In collaboration with refugees and asylum seekers
living in Hull

Entry 2+





Welcome House

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This is an Exploring and Belonging MESH project resource, supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The Exploring and Belonging project encourages refugees and asylum seekers to think about what is of value as local heritage in the place they live in the UK.

Participants visited, researched history and wrote about places. They discussed what it was about these places that gave them a sense of belonging.

This reading resource has been created by MESH in collaboration with these participants.

With huge thanks to all those who took part in this project.



Pearson Park is a big park close to the centre of Hull.



It is a place where people go to relax and play.

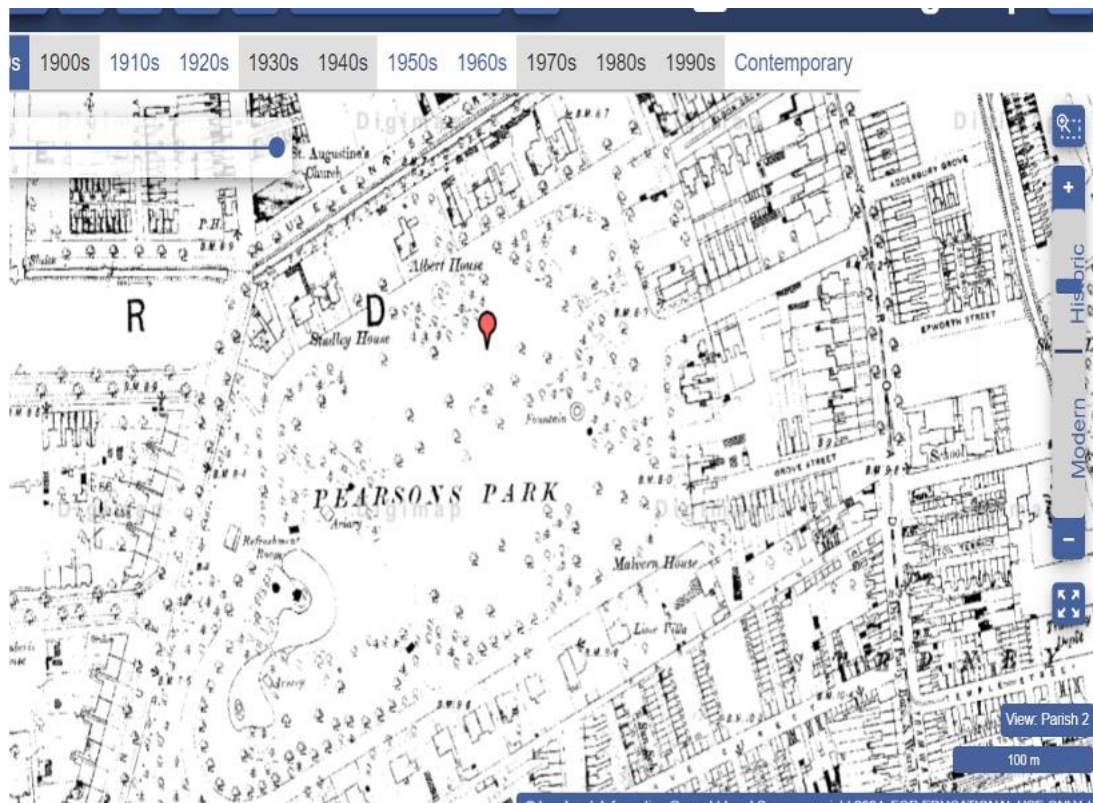
The park is beautiful and green. It is full of nature - birds, flowers, trees and water. There is a lake.

In 1850, there was no park in this area of Hull.



You can see from the old map that there were only fields here.

In the 1860s, a rich sea captain called Zachariah Pearson gave the land to the city of Hull for a park.



You can see from this map of the 1890s that lots of houses were built around the park.

Zachariah Pearson's house was one of them.

The park was built in Victorian times. Here is a statue of Queen Victoria.



Ordinary people in Hull worked very hard in the port or in factories.

Many people did not have gardens.

Victorian people needed the park to go to exercise and relax, just like we do today.

They would put on their best clothes on a Sunday afternoon, and walk around the park.



This is a bandstand, where a band would play music for people to listen to.



Victorian people liked to collect plants from countries far away. Many Victorian parks had greenhouses.

Perhaps these plants arrived into Hull dock on a big ship with lots of other goods.

When I visit the greenhouse, I see some plants from my home country.

The air smells sweet and fresh, and I feel relaxed.

I can sit and listen to music, or paint pictures of the flowers.



This is an old-fashioned,
Victorian water fountain.

Now, we can fill our water bottles
in train stations and libraries.
But the water fountains are not
as beautiful as this!

Zachariah Pearson was not always rich. His business failed and he lost his money.

This reminds us that in life, sometimes difficult things happen.



He gave this park to Hull, and he is remembered for that.



The park is full of wildlife. It is a peaceful place.

Being in the park is good for our physical and mental health.

You can visit it any time!




Participants said:

'I like Pearson Park. I like the green trees, the fountains, and the geese'

'Every day I take the bus around Pearson Park. I think it's really beautiful. It's there for people to relax, walk dogs and look at the flowers.'

'I live next to Pearson Park. Sometimes I go there twice a day!'





Pearson Park is a
great place. It helps
us feel like we
belong here in Hull.

MESH

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Exploring & Belonging Project

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