

Hotham Park

[Hotham Park, Bognor Regis](#)

It first became a public park on 1st January 1947 when Bognor Regis Urban District Council bought it from the estate of William Fletcher. Richard Hotham, the founder of modern Bognor Regis, built and lived in Hotham Park and gardens. The house still remains and is part of the history of the town.

Hotham Park is the only large park in the town of Bognor Regis. 23,000 people live within half a mile of the park and another 14,000 live within walking distance. The park is very close to the town centre, Butlins holiday camp, the University campus and the sea front.

Sir Richard Hotham built Hotham Park House in 1792. He lived here for seven years before his death in 1799. The fine mansion was named 'The Lodge' at that time and had its own chapel. The clock tower is the only remaining part of the chapel.

The Hotham Park Country Fair is an exciting event that usually takes place in August. There are two days of free entertainment including stalls selling goods, entertainment in the bandstand, an animal farm, Punch and Judy displays and a dog show. For children, there are quad bikes and a bouncy assault course.

There is a small boating lake next to a very popular café which serves locally made ice-creams as well as having its own pizza oven. A miniature train travels regularly around the park and is usually decorated for the Christmas and Halloween holidays. Children love the revamped play area which has separate sections for younger and older children.

Besides these busy play areas, lies the newest addition to the park, the crazy golf course - Wildforest Falls. In addition, there is plenty of space in the park for families to picnic - if the squirrels don't steal your food that is! Look carefully and you will spot wooden statues based on the Alice in Wonderland story.