

Clarence Park was laid out in the early 1890s, to comprise a municipal sports ground of 16 acres and a 9 acre park and pleasure ground. The land donation, laying out, planting and construction of buildings was paid for by Sir John Maple, MP for St Albans and founder of Maple's furniture store. The layout of the Park was designed by the City Surveyor Mr G Ford.



Clarence Park

ST ALBANS



Green Flag Recognition

Clarence Park gained Green Flag Award status in 2006. The Green Flag Award Scheme recognises and rewards the best green spaces in the country and provides a benchmark against which our parks and green spaces are measured. It is also seen as a way of encouraging others to achieve high environmental standards, setting a standard of excellence in recreational green areas.

Further Information

Further information on grounds maintenance, events and sports clubs can be found on our website:
www.stalbans.gov.uk/clarencepark

If you would like to receive this document in an alternative format such as Braille, or in another language, please call **01727 819366**

For information about access to local facilities see
www.disabledgo.com

The Council's text phone number is **01727 819570**. This service is for people with a hearing impairment.

General Council number **01727 866100** or **01727 819366**

Email greenspaces@stalbans.gov.uk



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The Park was opened on 23 July 1894 by the Duke of Cambridge, accompanied by great celebrations in the City.

Lady Maple wanted to make her own contribution to the project and donated a striking water fountain. The fountain was restored as part of a major refurbishment programme, which was made possible after the award of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in 1997.

Through the grant, many of the original features of the Park were restored including the replacement of the only significant item that had been lost, the Bandstand. The works included improvements to the car park, the children's play area and new seating. Clarence Park has matured since its opening, with an abundance of trees and shrubs, but the layout remains virtually unchanged. The Park Keeper's Lodge, the Cricket Pavilion and the three timber built entrance kiosks all survive.

Added features include a very popular children's playground, sensory

garden with interpretation boards about the plants present and an artificial sports surface which accommodates hockey in the winter and public tennis courts in the summer. In one corner of the Park, former park buildings have been converted into an attractive Italian restaurant, with tables placed in the Park for refreshments to be enjoyed outdoors in a beautiful peaceful setting.

The Cricket Pavilion, built for the opening of the Park in 1894, overlooks the cricket ground and is used by both the Hockey and Cricket Clubs. Adjacent to the cricket area is a thriving bowls green with its own clubhouse, and located nearby is a well used croquet lawn. To complete the sports facilities, the ground of St Albans FC is enclosed within the Park boundary.

The Park is open from dawn to dusk all year round.



Tree Trail

The Park contains a wide variety of trees, with many unusual species. During the Park's construction in 1893, over 10,000 trees and shrubs were extensively planted around the Park boundaries and along paths and roads, leaving the open spaces and sports areas free for use. The Council has adopted a policy of taking every opportunity to increase the range of unusual tree species.

The trail has been designed to identify the more interesting and unusual trees in the Park.



CLARENCE PARK

KEY TO SYMBOLS

- Car Park
- Toilets
- Places to eat
- Park Entrance
- Notice Board
- Building of interest
- Entrance kiosks
- Access Road
- Park boundary
- BBQ Area