

**There are two ways to enjoy the Easthill Park history trail.**

### **OPTION ONE**

For the full guided tour (22 mins) with music and effects go to: [portsladehistory.co.uk/park-tour](http://portsladehistory.co.uk/park-tour) or scan the QR code → → →



### **OPTION TWO**

Alternatively, below is a brief summary of the park's history.

- 1. Easthill House** was built in 1848 by the wealthy Blaker family. At this time, the whole of Easthill Park was their private gardens and stables. In 1947 the house and grounds were purchased by Portslade Urban Council, and transformed into a public park.
- 2. The Victorian Walled Garden.** Its purpose was to supply fresh fruit, herbs and veg for the owners of the house. The garden once contained greenhouses. A wealthy Victorian family would grow grapes, lemons and oranges to eat, and orchids, palms and carnations for display.
- 3. The children** of Easthill House in Victorian times had a Governess, whom taught them privately. At age ten the boys would be sent to a private school, such as Brighton College. Daughters would continue to be educated at home, learning skills such as reading, music and needlework.
- 4.** Portslade was base camp for troops in **World War One and Two**. The Village brewery building was used to site anti-aircraft guns, whilst inside, local women helped manufacture shells and bullets. The memorial contains the names of 289 Portslade men lost in both wars.
- 5.** Across the horse field is **Manor Lodge**. Built in 1785, it has been home to many influential figures in Portslade, including the Blaker family.
- 6. The Great Storm of 1987** saw sustained winds of over 80 mph, with gusts up to 120mph. By morning, 162 trees in the park had been violently uprooted, leaving only 74 trees standing. Can you spot the original trees planted in 1947?
- 7.** The **Romans** had a major port in or near Portslade following their invasion in AD43. This is how the town got its name: 'Port' is self-explanatory. 'Slade' is from the Roman-Germanic word meaning shallow valley. The **Normans** developed Portslade further with farming, stone buildings and law and order.
- 8. Two spitfires** collided over Portslade during the Battle of Britain, whilst confronting a German fighter plane. One of the stricken planes crashed into Easthill Drive. The pilot was able to bailout, but his injuries were catastrophic. He died in the arms of the Portslade Priest. Pilot John Drummond was aged 21.
- 9. Easthill Park** was officially opened in 1948 by Portslade Urban Council. In the park you will see original Victorian buildings. There is a pig barn at the north end of the park. Close to the cafe is a former stable block, where the horses and carriages were housed. The park holds Green Flag Award status.



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# Easthill Park History Trail



See over page for trail details and info



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1



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Start

5



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