



William Frost

South Park in Macclesfield, was opened a hundred years ago by the donor William Frost, but what do we know of the person who gave the park to Macclesfield?

William Frost was born on 24 June 1858 and baptised on 1 September 1858 at Park Green United Methodist Free Chapel, the son of William and Susannah Frost of 42 Byrons Lane, Macclesfield.

In 1871 William was a scholar at Macclesfield Grammar School, living at 52 High Street, Macclesfield with his parents and a brother and six sisters.

In 1873 William began working at William Frost and Sons, silk throwsters, Park Green Mills, founded by his father William.

Together with his brother Joseph George, he continued working in the business, until 1926.

On 5 October 1889 William married Hannah Grindey the daughter of William Grindey, a farmer, at St Bartholomew's Church, Longnor, Staffordshire.

In the 1891 census William and Hannah were living at Earmont, Oxford Road with their son William Knight Frost, aged 3 months. William Knight Frost was born on 15 Dec 1890 and baptized on 30 July 1893 at Park Green United Methodist Free Chapel. William Knight Frost, the only child of William and Hannah Frost, died on 12 April 1906 aged 15. He was a pupil at Macclesfield Grammar School.

William Frost gave a great deal of his time and energy to public works. In 1910, he served as Mayor of Macclesfield and on 19 May 1913, he was appointed a Justice of the Peace for the borough. He was described as head of the well known firm of William Frost and Sons, silk throwsters, Park Green Mills living at The Rowans, Byrons Lane, an Alderman and leader of the Liberal party on the Town Council. From 1915 to 1931 William served as a Member of Cheshire County Council for the Macclesfield No 4 Division.

He was also keenly interested in sport and was President of both the Schools Sports Association and the Amateur Swimming Club.

But William Frost should be best remembered for his gift to the town of 120 acres of land, part of the Ryles Park Estate, for a recreation and sports ground, with tennis courts, bowling greens and a bandstand. On 18 August 1922 South Park was opened.

His wife Hannah Frost died on 26 April 1916 aged 59.

In 1926 William retired from William Frost and Sons of which he was a director.

Not only did William undertake much public work but he was also influential in the silk industry. He was a foundation member of the Textile Institute and was Honorary Secretary from 1914 to 1932. He was also Vice President of the Silk Association of Great Britain and Ireland and a member of the Joint Industrial Council of the Silk Industry. Until 1933 he was President of the Macclesfield Silk Trader Employers' Association.

He died on 16 July 1934 aged 76 and was buried at Macclesfield Cemetery.