

Operating times

Ground level railway

We operate the railway every Sunday from around 1.00 to 4.00 pm

(Weather and staff permitting)

Raised track

The raised track operates every Sunday afternoon from Easter until the end of October, 1.00 to 4.00pm

(Weather and staff permitting)

There is no charge for rides on either railway. Any donations kindly provided go towards the maintenance, fuel and upkeep of the railways in the Park.. Society members provide public rides as part of their hobby and do not receive any payment or grants for this activity.

We welcome new members and if you would like any information on the Society or the railways—please ask..

We would be delighted to talk to you.

Royden Park

Until the mid-nineteenth century the site of Royden Park was largely farmland. However, by 1844 there was in existence areas of 'plantation' which were to form the basis of a parkland landscape which still exists today. The land was purchased in 1865 by Septimus Ledward Esq. J. P. who built a sandstone house called 'Hillbark' on the site of an ancient tithe barn. The house was erected between 1868 and 1870 and the surrounding grounds were laid out with gardens and glasshouses, a dovecote and a bowling green.

The present house of Hillbark was erected in 1931 by Sir Ernest B Royden after whom the park is named. This mock-Tudor building, originally known as Bidston Court, was built near Bidston Hill in 1891 for the soap manufacturer R. W. Hudson. It was moved brick by brick to its present commanding position. Following the death of Sir Royden the park was acquired by the Council for use as a 'public open space'. Hillbark is now an hotel and conference centre.

(Information taken from the Royden Park guide - with acknowledgement)

You may like to join the friends of Royden Park. For further details please contact the Rangers.

Contact

For further information 'phone
John Meadows, Society Secretary
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Wirral Model Engineering Society

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Wirral Model
Engineering Society

Steam and Royden Park Miniature Railways



Wirral Model Engineering Society

The aim of the Society is to foster and promote the hobby of model engineering in all its aspects and to help, encourage and provide facilities for its members.

The Wirral Model Engineering society was founded by Mr Harry Roberts in November 1961. The first meeting took place at his home and a society was formed. Over the years the membership has increased and the society now meets in the WI Hall at Thornton Hough. Meetings are held on the first and third Thursday of every month.

Talks are given on a wide variety of topics together with demonstrations of members work and interests. Visits to exhibitions and places of interest are arranged where sufficient numbers are forthcoming. Social events are also popular.

Membership is not confined to those with engineering experience. The society has the expertise and resources to offer all who would like to become involved, young or old, encouragement, advice and help to participate in a worthwhile activity—leading to a lifelong hobby.

See our website at

www.wirralmodelengineersociety.co.uk

A photo gallery and other items of interest are available to view on line.



A 3 1/2" gauge 4-6-0 Stanier Black 5 model locomotive

The raised track

The first raised track was constructed in the Park in 1966 following planning permission from the then Hoylake UDC. The track catered for 2 1/2" and 3 1/2" gauge locomotives which operated around a basic circle. The practice of giving rides to the public came into being and with the donations provided by the public, sufficient funds were raised to extend the railway. The enlarged track of some 1200 ft was completed in 1980 and included a 5" gauge rail so that larger locomotives are able to operate on it. New passenger trucks were built and the raised track has continued to provide many people with an enjoyable ride behind scale miniature steam locomotives.

The locomotives

The locomotives that operate on the raised track are usually fine scale models of full size engines. The steam locomotives are fired using good quality coal and produce the steam just like the real thing. Many people are surprised that such small engines can provide sufficient power to give rides to so many passengers.

It takes skill to fire and drive the miniature locomotives and this is a very enjoyable part of the hobby. The Society has a locomotive available for members wishing to learn to drive and operate miniature steam locomotives.



Opening the regulator!



Leaving the station

The ground level railway

The 7 1/4" gauge ground level railway was constructed by Society members following the granting of planning permission in 1999. By the 9th July 2000 1899 ft of track had been laid and the track was officially opened.

The miniature railway, running to narrow-gauge practice, proved very popular with the public and has been in action every Sunday since then, weather and staff permitting.

Work on the railway continued and in 2004 the track length was increased to 2267 ft. Over the years snowdrops, daffodils and bluebells have been planted by the Royden Park Project and the flowers provide a much admired display throughout the year. On your trip around the meadow you will catch glimpses of the distant shores and possibly see the wind turbines rotating.

As you will appreciate there is a lot of 'behind the scenes' work required to maintain and operate the railway. Should you be interested in joining and assisting us with the miniature railway we would be pleased to provide details.

Traction Engines

From time to time you will see miniature traction engines working in the Park. Some may provide rides but all are fascinating to watch in operation. They are scale models of the full size engines that worked long ago.