



IRLAM STATION

Worth more  
*than a brief encounter*

# On the right track for a memorable experience



Irlam Station House is a magnificent combination of exuberant Victorian style, architectural flair and traditional community pride.

Built in 1893 during the golden age of railways, this flamboyant red brick structure was the first impression visitors got of Irlam at the height of the industrial era.



Extensive restoration work has resulted in this remarkable building combining original architectural features with the introduction of some great new facilities offering visitors a taste of the present and a flavour of the past.

## The Station House is just the ticket – inside and out

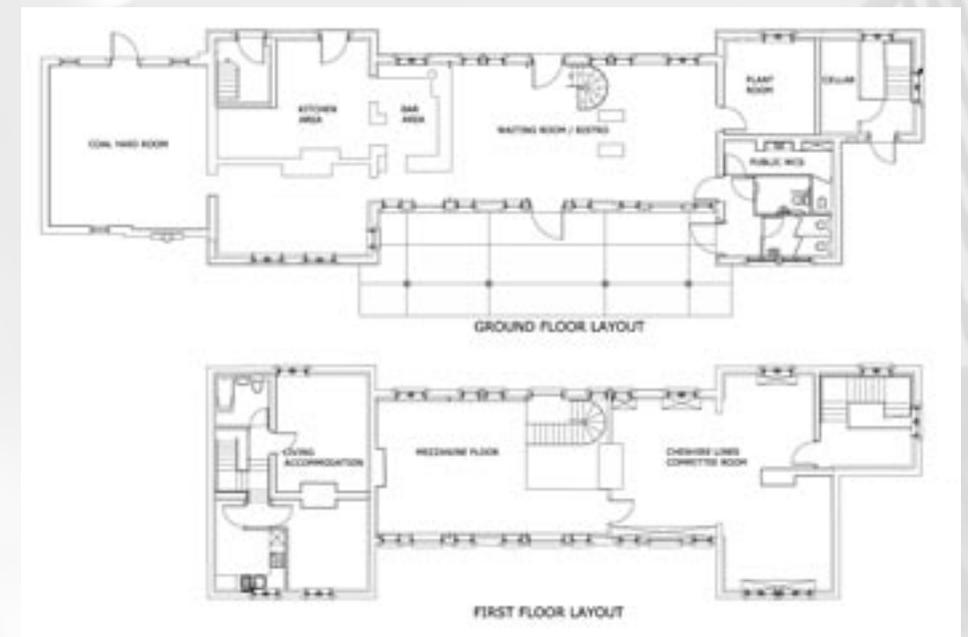
The exterior of the building looks much as it did when it was first built: original roof slates, vivid brickwork, gleaming paintwork in the London, Midland and Scottish Railways (LMS) colour-scheme from 1923, and a magnificent canopy providing visitors with shelter on rainy days and welcome shade from the hot sun.

Inside the building the sumptuous period décor provides a relaxing and absorbing atmosphere across two floors. The 1923 Café Bistro serves freshly prepared food and drink in a stylish environment where you can wait for your train, access new



toilet facilities, enjoy free wifi and gather with family, friends or colleagues in extraordinary meeting spaces.

Throughout the building there are fascinating artefacts, memorabilia and artwork illustrating Irlam and Cadishead's impressive industrial heritage. Be sure to have a good look around.



# First class dining at the 1923 Café Bistro



Overlooking the platform, the 1923 Café Bistro offers a unique 'dine in' experience, with the resplendent ambience of the Victorian era combined with 21st Century facilities.

The food offer includes freshly prepared hot and cold food options, as well as delicious pastries and cakes. There is also a range of mouth-watering aromatic coffees, teas, smoothies and soft drinks. If that's not your tipples, then why not try

the selection of real ales, lagers, wine and spirits available.

'The Carriage' is a boothed seating area within 1923, where people can meet up, relax and enjoy a meal. The design, inspired by the Irlam Soap Works Special,



a local passenger train from the past, evokes the romance and adventure of the great age of steam.



There are also great corporate food and drinks packages and buffet options for that special gathering in one of our private rooms available for hire.

And that's not all! The station is also a destination for live music. Follow 1923 on Facebook and Twitter to keep up to date with forthcoming events.

## **A venue for social and family functions that has no equal**

1923 Café Bistro is ideal for anyone looking for a social function venue that stands apart from the rest, and is available for private hire or to reserve

for smaller intimate gatherings within the individual areas. Whether it's a wedding breakfast, christening, funeral reception or family party, the catering service offers a wide range of delicious buffet options to meet your needs.

From the mezzanine level space, which is perfect for a family celebration, to the Cheshire Lines and Coal Yard conference rooms for training sessions and business breakfast meetings, your needs can be accommodated in a truly distinctive venue.



**Trains of thought**  
*that bring heritage to life*

Irlam Station House is not only a modern rail transport facility, but also a fully functioning social and business venue – and a local heritage hub.

The local community are proud of the area's heritage and here you can get first-hand insights into the fascinating detail of how people lived, worked and travelled more than a century ago.

**Reflections of our industrial past are there for all to see**



Railway memorabilia such as fire buckets, companies' brass plates, weighing scales and a porter's trolley are on view, alongside other historic artefacts including CWS Soap Works' packaged soaps and 'Dolly Blue' washing powder, holiday posters, a traditional red telephone kiosk and a vintage 'press button B' telephone.



match the original 1872 model. The fountain is typical of designs that were once found at most Cheshire Lines Committee railway stations but also incorporates Irlam's Coat of Arms.



Throughout the station there is also a raft of signaling equipment and vending machines from the period, as well as heritage boards providing details of the area's industrial past.

One of the most intriguing features is the drinking fountain, which has been replicated using the correct stone to



## Immaculate time-keeping after more than a century



Among the captivating artefacts on display on the first floor is the former council offices clock, newly refurbished to keep people on time, as it has for more than 100 years.



The magnificent timepiece was originally a civic landmark on the front of the Irlam Council Offices from 1907, and has been restored by master horologist Philip Irvine.



## Real life history – including how we used to ‘spend a penny’



An historic timeline of images depicting the station through the decades is featured on the mezzanine floor.



historic pictures of the Manchester Ship Canal, Liverpool Road and the Kings Highway.



In the Cheshire Lines Committee room you can see enthralling images of local industry in its heyday including the Steelworks, Soap Works, Margarine factory and fustian cutting, along with



Even a visit to the public toilets lifts your spirits with the humorous images and ‘spend a penny’ toilet lock. To view the restoration project step-by-step visit the Coal Yard where you can watch an audio-video presentation.

And that’s not all! You will find other historical pieces featured outside the building, including displays of stationary engines, amongst other things.



## Building an artistic head of steam



**Artwork reflects the development of the local community.**

Vivid, vibrant and captivating artwork is central to the story of Irlam's railways, waterways and social culture – and there is no shortage of stunning unique pictures in the Station House.

Among the impressive works is the ghost wall, which features 18th and 19th Century adverts and posters reflecting Irlam and Cadishead's past. Painted in faded retrospective colours on the red brick background they powerfully evoke a feeling of the industrial past. There is also the ticket clerk featured opposite the carriages on the ground floor.



Equally engaging artwork can be found in the Cheshire Lines Committee Room, where a painting of the commercial waterways of Irlam and Cadishead depicts how the area developed and prospered as a result of the Manchester Ship Canal.

Another illuminating panorama can be viewed on the platform, where a stunning piece entitled 'Bridging the Gap' shows the development of the area based on the people who lived and worked locally and how there is a common link through the ages.



The platform also features a life-sized metal sculpture of a flat-capped commuter sitting on a bench, entitled 'At the End of the Day'. Why not get a selfie with him?

For more information on any of the artworks, visit [www.hamiltondavies.org.uk](http://www.hamiltondavies.org.uk)

## All aboard the Environment Express!



Free parking for more than 60 cars, motorcycles, and a cycle hub mean more people can take low carbon transport options, while enhanced lighting, security and pedestrian footpaths ensure a safe, green environment.

The surrounding areas offer playful yet peaceful green spaces for both people



and wildlife, with the station garden and grassed areas, bordered with plants and shrubs, adding splashes of vivid colour throughout the year.



Children and adults can bring a little magic to their day by stepping onto Platform 9 3/4 and taking an imaginary journey aboard James the Tank Engine.

*that will make you want to stay* **The station stop**

**IRLAM STATION**

**NOT JUST THE TICKET.....BUT A LOT MORE!**

Irlam Station House is a thriving and dynamic example of how the rich heritage of Irlam and Cadishead continues to influence the local community in the modern day.

To find out more about the 1923 Café Bistro  
visit [www.1923coffee.com](http://www.1923coffee.com) / call 0161 222 1923 / email [1923@theblackswan.co.uk](mailto:1923@theblackswan.co.uk)

If you would like more information about the artwork or heritage hub,  
visit [www.hamiltondavies.org.uk](http://www.hamiltondavies.org.uk) / call 0161 222 4003 / email [hello@hamiltondavies.org.uk](mailto:hello@hamiltondavies.org.uk)

