



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, beautiful 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, both inside and out, has resulted in the revival of this remarkable building, with many of its wonderful original architectural features maintained. Coupled with contemporary style inside, Station House now offers visitors a flavour of the past alongside great modern day facilities.

## Station House... just the ticket

Whether alighting from a train or arriving under your own steam, Irlam Station House is a most welcoming sight with its gleaming paintwork in the London, Midland and Scottish Railways colour-scheme from 1923. Free parking for more than 60 cars, a cycle hub, pedestrian footpaths and enhanced security lighting means visitors can take safe, low carbon transport options.

Inside the building the sumptuous period décor provides a relaxing atmosphere across two floors. Upstairs the mezzanine floor and Cheshire Lines Room are just as inviting as the cosy carriage booths, Coal Yard room and bar areas on the ground floor.



Visitors are welcome to stroll around the Station's building, external exhibits, or its Station Art Park at leisure to fully take in the fabulous array of attractions on offer... and all for FREE!

Or you can simply sit back and relax in the Station's Café Bistro with its warm welcome and friendly atmosphere.



Whatever the reason for your visit... a return ticket is guaranteed!

# First class dining *at the Station's Café Bar*



Overlooking the platform the Café Bar offers a unique 'dine in' experience, with the resplendent ambience and comfort of the Victorian era combined with 21st century facilities.

The scrumptious food offering includes freshly prepared sandwiches, soups, salads, paninis and a variety of snacks as well as delicious pastries and cakes. Like so many who visit, you may find that the popular breakfast or famous pie and peas offering may be just the thing to whet your appetite!



To quench your thirst there is a range of mouth-watering aromatic coffees, teas, smoothies and soft drinks for you to enjoy. If that's not your tipples, then why not try the selection of real ales, lagers, wines and spirits available.

For an experience that evokes the romance and adventure of the great age of steam... look no further! The 'Carriage' inspired by the Irlam Soap Works Special, a local passenger train from the past, is perfect for relaxing and enjoying a meal or afternoon tea.





A truly distinctive venue that has something for everyone

A special venue  
*that stands out from the rest*

**Brian Chronicle**

Published by the Brian Chronicle Company  
The Historic Day for Brian Station



1923  
By the Grouping Act, 1923 the  
Companies were formed into  
LMSR · LNER · G

Available for private hire  
meetings or intimate gatherings

## **A venue for everyone... whatever the occasion**

**Irlam Station is a unique destination like no other. As well as welcoming pop-ins, the Station House is also available for private hire or to reserve for those smaller intimate gatherings.**



**Whatever your particular requirements, you are guaranteed a warm welcome in a truly distinctive venue.**



**The Station House even has a wedding licence so can offer that extra special place to tie the knot! Whether for a wedding breakfast, family party, christening, business meeting or funeral reception the catering service offers a wide range of delicious hot and cold buffet options to meet your needs.**



**For a room with a view, and something completely different, enquire about taking afternoon tea in the station's Signal Box.**

A photograph of a historic railway signal box at Keighley Junction. The building is a two-story structure with a gabled roof and a sign that reads "KEIGHLEY JUNCTION". It has several windows and a set of stairs leading to the entrance. The scene is set outdoors under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. To the left and right of the building are various railway signaling equipment, including semaphore signals and a red spherical marker on a white post. The ground is paved, and shadows of the equipment are cast on it.

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.**



## More than just a station

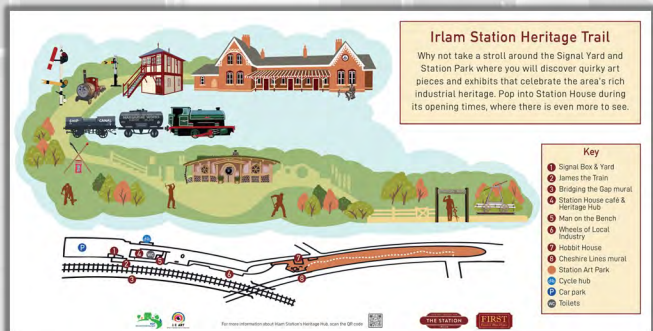
Being a heritage hub, the station offers so much for visitors to enjoy. Whether you are a keen railway enthusiast, an art lover or interested in local history, you're sure to find something at Irlam Station that draws your attention.



With its rich history and enduring sense of community, Irlam and its wonderful station is the ideal place for bringing the area's past to life. With a range of captivating artefacts and railway memorabilia, restored 1907 clock, historical photos and art pieces there's something of interest for all.

On stepping outside Station House you can continue the enlightening historical journey. A magnificent Signal Box, grand Signal Yard exhibit, art murals, railway displays, heritage boards and 3D sculptures all tell the story of the area's industrial past in an intriguing, sensory and multi-faceted way.

A heritage trail map is located outside Station House to help guide you to the various outdoor exhibits. Be sure to allow time to have a good look around, both inside and out, to make the most of your visit.



**It's guaranteed you won't be disappointed!**

# A stroke of genius *large scale murals tell the story*

Vibrant and captivating artwork is central to the story of the railways, waterways and social culture of Irlam. The many pieces depict local history and powerfully evoke a feeling of the district's industrial past. Wherever you look, inside or out, they will catch your eye and spark your imagination.



To enjoy the fantastic variety of art pieces on display make sure you visit Station House, both upstairs and downstairs, and allow a little time to take a stroll along the platforms as well as a short meander to the Station Art Park.

Famous people from the world of music and stage who were born and bred in Irlam, like Russell Watson, are proudly celebrated in the artworks. Engineers, industrialist and entrepreneurs whose influence and skills have helped shape the area, are also captured in paint and displayed for all to see.



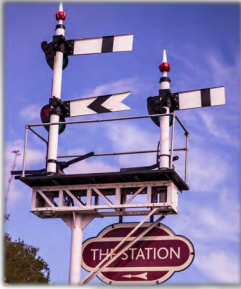
## Art that sparks the imagination

Take a short stroll to Station Park to enjoy quirky 3D sculptures nestled amongst the trees and wildflowers. The unique art pieces have been lovingly created by local artists and community volunteers.

Transformed in 2019 from an overgrown embankment, Station Park is now an enchanting green space that is open and free to visit all day, every day.



# Take Two *for a trip down memory lane*



So much has changed at Irlam Station and around the district over the years. To ensure the past is not forgotten, local charity Hamilton Davies Trust (HDT) set up the heritage hub at the station to bring the present and past together in a place that has been key to the area for centuries.

Working alongside the local history society and other partners, HDT have been able to access and showcase old images, information and wonderful artefacts that truly reflect the rich and fascinating heritage of the area.



Guided tours of Irlam Station and its unique surroundings are available, courtesy of the Friends of Irlam Station. Being passionate about the station and the district they are eager to share their love and knowledge of the station and local area, past and present.



To capture the station's interesting transformation and history, several video presentations and virtual tours have been produced and are available to view in the Station House or on YouTube.



To enquire about a tour, contact the Hamilton Davies Trust - see the back page of this booklet for contact details.

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



Many Irlam Station visitors make a return visit, which is no surprise, given the warm welcome and beautiful environment which always leave you wanting more. Individuals and groups return to the station time and time again to enjoy the unique atmosphere.

Whether before, during or after a train journey, walk or cycle ride, its so easy to kick back, relax and enjoy a welcome break at the station. Make sure you allow enough time though, as once you get there you won't want to leave!



Special family friendly days and themed events are held throughout the year and are a popular draw with all ages. Make sure you don't miss out and keep up to date with what's happening by visiting the station's website and social media - see the back page for details.



Whenever you visit Irlam Station you'll be sure of a right royal welcome, just like HRH the Duke of Gloucester who visited Irlam Station in 2019 to officially open Station Park.



# *Within easy reach.....*

Whilst a unique destination in itself, Irlam Station is also within 10 miles of many other interesting places to visit. The map indicates a variety of locations that showcase the history of cotton, coal and canals, and also identifies nearby nature reserves, woodlands and gardens to discover - something of interest for the whole family.



For keen walkers or cyclists, most of these places can also be reached and explored via footpaths, cycle routes and towpaths.



On Irlam Station's doorstep is Chat Moss, an ecological green heartland of some 10.6 square miles. The beating heart of an urban area, peaceful Chat Moss encompasses wetlands, woodlands and wide open landscapes that support an abundance of wildlife. The area is freely accessible for all to enjoy.



Chat Moss is well documented in the local history books. Once an inhospitable landscape it was known only to turf cutters and other labourers living on its borders. In 1805 work commenced on reclaiming a large part of the peat bog to turn it into prime agricultural land.

In 1830 the Liverpool to Manchester Railway, the world's first intercity track and floating railway was opened across Chat Moss. George Stevenson used the floating method, wooden hurdles sunk into the bog using stones and earth, to provide a solid foundation for the track. It was the steam-driven locomotive 'Rocket' that hauled the first passenger train over its 31mile length. The track across Chat Moss still floats on these hurdles today, supporting engines 25 times the weight of the Rocket.



Leigh Spinners Mill



Lancashire Mining Museum



RHS Bridgewater



Pennington Flash



Chat Moss



Rixton Claypits  
Nature Reserve



Irlam Station Heritage Hub



Lymm Dam



Dunham Park NT

Whether hopping on a train to Irlam, exploring the area by car, or making your way on foot or bike, this complimentary booklet will help put you on the right track for a great day out!

# IRLAM STATION

IRLAM STATION - STATION ROAD - IRLAM - M44 5ZR

To find out more about Irlam Station visit  
[www.thestationirlam.co.uk](http://www.thestationirlam.co.uk) / call 0161 222 1923

[facebook.com/TheStationIrlam](https://facebook.com/TheStationIrlam)

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For more information about the heritage hub and artwork visit  
[www.hamiltondavies.org.uk](http://www.hamiltondavies.org.uk)  
call 0161 222 4003 / email [hello@hamiltondavies.org.uk](mailto:hello@hamiltondavies.org.uk)

To book a tour email [bookings@irlamstationtours.co.uk](mailto:bookings@irlamstationtours.co.uk) / call 0161 222 4003

