

Around the Ecclesbourne Valley

Ravenstor

Some nine miles from Duffield is Ravenstor platform, our station for the High Peak Trail, the National Stone Centre, the Derbyshire Eco-Centre, Black Rocks Picnic Area, Middleton Top Visitor Centre and the Steeple Grange narrow gauge railway. There are many fine walks up to and along the High Peak Trail and around the villages of Middleton by Wirksworth and Bolehill, which are nearby.



The National Stone Centre seen from the High Peak Trail

Wirksworth: Gem of the Peak

Pendleton's History of Derbyshire says: "Even more picturesque than Ashbourne is Wirksworth, with its irregular streets, odd nooks and corners, and houses dusky with age. Lying in a quiet fertile valley, edged about with great limestone rocks... in comfortable contented serenity."



The Almshouses, Wirksworth



Wirksworth is the most venerable of the Peak District's towns with origins far back in antiquity.

The area was famed from Roman times for lead mining, on which the prosperity of the town was built.

The town is recorded in the earliest genuine charter of the Peak District by Abbot Cynewaru in 835AD as "my township of Wirksworth".

In looking around the town, you can start either at St Mary's church in its wonderful, small cathedral-like precinct, or visit the Heritage Centre in Crown Yard, where you can learn how lead mining and quarrying played such a role in the town's history from the days when it was probably the most important town in the Mercian kingdom's province of the Peak District. Wirksworth has many fine walks and views, especially around Greenhill and the Dale, and Stony Wood, once a quarry and now a lovely greensward where music and theatre productions are staged in the summer. The town has many good pubs, cafes and shops, and you can while away a pleasant afternoon pottering around and exploring.

Idridgehay

A small quiet village, still with its church and shop, Idridgehay sits at the centre of the Ecclesbourne Valley, from which there are pleasant rambles such as that up to Alport Height, from where five counties can be seen on a clear day.

Duffield

Now a large village, Duffield lies mainly around the banks of the River Ecclesbourne. It was mentioned in Domesday Book and once there was a great castle here, a seat of the de Ferrers, Norman lords of the manors of Wirksworth and Ashbourne, and Earls of Derby. The castle site, now a grassy mound, is looked after by the National Trust and can be found a short walk from the station.



Duffield Eyes Meadow by the river

Duffield is a curiously spread-out village, with the parish church being nearly a kilometre from the station, but it was perhaps built to be near a ford of the Derwent, now Duffield Bridge, where the former Roman road from Little Chester is thought to run through the Bridge Inn car park before crossing the river further north at Milford, on its way to Wirksworth. At Duffield, you can wander through the village centre with its shops and pubs and follow the paths to Eyes Meadow. This is between the railway and the River Derwent, where you can stretch your legs, and where there are the local football and cricket pitches and a nature reserve. You can see where the River Ecclesbourne flows into the Derwent as it makes its way to Derby.

Charter your own train for as little as £35

For a minimum of 10 adults special trains can be organised at a suitable day and time. Pre-booking is easy. The minimum group fare is £35 for a round trip to Ravenstor; £90 for a round trip to Duffield or £100 for both lines. A deposit of £35 is required.

Catering, groups and visits

Refreshments are normally available at Wirksworth Station on operating days in our buffet car, which is open to the public and to passengers. Refreshments include teas, coffees, sandwiches, cakes and other items.

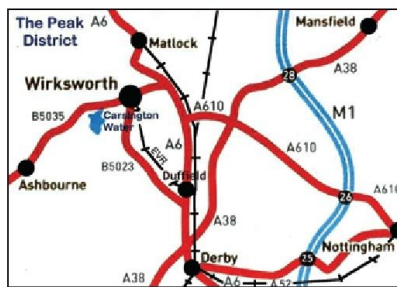


The interior of the private saloon

If you wish to bring your party or group to the railway for a train ride and to include refreshments please let us know. Groups of 10 or more people should be booked in advance. Catering for groups includes not only the regular buffet service but you can also book an afternoon tea or buffet lunch to suit your party's needs and we are happy to provide sample menus of our services. Groups can be booked any day, but you should allow two weeks in advance so we can ensure we have both train crew for your journey and so as not to clash with other groups or events.



Directions



From Birmingham, Derby, Nottingham or M1:

Take the A38, A52 or A6 towards Derby and follow signs for the A6 and Matlock. Follow the A6 until you reach the outskirts of Duffield. Just past the Sunlight Laundry take a left turn at the traffic lights onto the B5023, which is signposted Wirksworth. Follow this road until you enter Wirksworth and turn right at the Red Lion. This is signposted Crich and Ecclesbourne Valley Railway. The station is in the dip at the bottom of the hill and the approach is marked Station Road. For public transport please use Trent Barton bus 6.1 from Derby.

From Ashbourne, Carsington Water or Leek:

Take the B5035 and follow signs for Wirksworth. At Godfreyhole turn right and come down into the town. At the junction at the bottom of Market Place turn left, then right in front of the Red Lion.

From Cromford, Matlock and Matlock Bath:

When entering Cromford take the B5036 at the junction of the A6, come up Cromford Hill and under the arch. Continue down into Wirksworth and turn left as you enter Market Place.

By Train:

EAST MIDLANDS TRAINS

You can visit the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway by train from any part of the country. Trains call at Duffield on the line between Nottingham, Derby and Matlock. Times can be found in Timetable 56 of the National Railway Network. The interchange at Duffield is across a footbridge (unsuitable for mobility impaired passengers - please take a taxi from Derby Station). Trains to Derby and Nottingham depart from platform 1, trains to Matlock depart from platform 2, and trains to Wirksworth depart from platform 3.

Ecclesbourne Valley Railway

TIMETABLE 2011

Duffield Line Opening *



Opening times of Wirksworth Station

The station is staffed by volunteers and is normally open from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm every day from 28th March to 31st October (and at weekends the rest of the year), to 5.00 pm in the summer, and is open for longer hours when trains are running.

Ecclesbourne Valley Railway,
Wirksworth Station, Station Road,
Wirksworth, DE4 4FB
01629 823076
www.e-v-r.com

Wirksworth
Gem of the Peak



Timetable 2011

Wirksworth to Duffield and Ravenstor
Saturdays & Sundays 9th April to 30th October
also WEDNESDAYS 27th July
and 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st August

Wirksworth	Dep	10.20	12.20	14.20	16.20
Ildridgehay	Dep	10.38	12.38	14.38	16.38
Duffield	Arr	10.50	12.50	14.50	16.50
Duffield	Dep	11.10	13.10	15.10	17.10
Ildridgehay	Dep	11.22	13.22	15.22	17.22
Wirksworth	Arr	11.40	13.40	15.40	17.40
Wirksworth	Dep	09.55	11.55	13.55	15.55
Ravenstor	Arr	10.00	12.00	14.00	16.00
Ravenstor	Dep	10.05	12.05	14.05	16.05
Wirksworth	Arr	10.10	12.10	14.10	16.10

Change at Duffield for Derby, Nottingham, St Pancras and all other stations.

We reserve the right to cancel or amend any service.
Additional trains may be run at busy times.

Special Events Timetable

On Special Events Days extra trains will operate in addition to the above services.
Special Fares apply on events days



A restful pause at Wirksworth

2011 Calendar

January							February									
Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su			
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6				
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28									
31																
March							April									
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						1						1	2	3		
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24			
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30				
May							June									
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9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30						
30	31															
July							August									
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18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31							
September							October									
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26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30			
							31									
November							December									
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						1							1	2	3	4
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25			
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31				

2011 Diary

Date	Event	Notes
January 1/2	New Year's Trains	
April 3	Mother's Day Special (Advance booking only)	
April 8/9/10	Grand Opening Weekend	DRS
April 16/17	Steam Weekend	DRS
April 22/23/24/25	Easter Open Days	DRS
April 29, 30, May 1/2	May Bank Holiday Weekend	DRS
May 7/8	Steam Weekend	DRS
May 14/15	Steam Weekend	DRS
May 21/22	Steam Weekend	DRS
May 21	Bachman Trackside 2011	DRS
May 28/29/30	Wirksworth Carnival Open Days	RS
June 12	Rolls Royce Meet	RS
June 18/19	Triumph Car Meet	RS
June 25/26	Duffield Carnival Open Days	SD
	VW Dubs Meet; 26 Austin Healey Meet	
July 2/3	Classic Transport Event	RS
July 10	Morris Minor Car Meet	RS
July 23/24	Wirksworth Bus Event	RS
August 6/7	Classic Vehicles Meet	RS
August 13/14	Home Fleet Event	RS
August 20/21	Tractor Meet	RS
August 27/28/29	August Holiday Weekend	RS
September 3/4	Austin 7 Club Meet	RS
September 10/11	Wirksworth Festival Open Days	RS
September 17/18	Military Vehicles Meet	RS
September 24/25	Vintage Farm Machinery Display	RS
October 15/16	Model Railway Weekend	RS
October 29	Halloween Trains	
December 3	Wirksworth Christmas Extravaganza	
December 10/11/17/18	Santa Trains (Advance booking only)	

Normal timetable (red days)

Extra trains may run for major events (blue days)
see website for details

Heritage Diesel Railcars will operate with

DRS: Steam trains on the Duffield/Ravenstor lines

RS: Steam trains on the Ravenstor line

SD: Steam in Duffield Station Yard

January 1st and 2nd New Year's Trains and Fizz at Wirksworth Station. Adults £8.00, Concessions £7.00, Children £4.00, Families (2+3) £20.00. Enjoy a gentle excursion from Wirksworth to Ildridgehay on our heritage railcar with a glass of Bucks Fizz for adults and Orange Juice for the children. Three trains will run. 11.00, 13.00 and 15.00 from Wirksworth both days. (from Ildridgehay at 11.40 and 13.40). Stops for photographs at Ildridgehay Station.

April 8th, 9th and 10th Grand Opening Weekend for the Duffield Line

A special event weekend to travel the newly opened line from Wirksworth to Duffield behind our visiting steam locomotive. Special prices and arrangements apply, please see our website for details. *The opening is subject to the necessary official approvals.



Opening Steam

April 22nd, 23rd, 24th and 25th Easter Open Days at Wirksworth Station. Adults £12.00; Concessions £10.00; Children £6.00; Families (2+3) £29.00. Both the Ravenstor and Duffield lines will operate over the Easter Weekend. There will be steam trains on the Duffield line behind our visiting steam locomotive. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt around the station at Wirksworth. Open 10.00 am to 5.00 pm each day.

April 29th, 30th, May 1st and 2nd Bank Holiday Open Days at Wirksworth Station. Adults £12.00; Concessions £10.00; Children £6.00; Families (2+3) £29.00. Both the Ravenstor and Duffield lines will be in operation. There will be steam trains on the Duffield line behind our visiting steam locomotive. There will be a pre-bookable guided walk "Rails and Quarries of Wirksworth" on the 30th April (12.30 start, £3.00, phone 01629 823076). Open 10.00 am to 5.00 pm each day.



A friendly welcome

May 7th and 8th, 14th and 15th, and 21st and 22nd Steam Weekends at Wirksworth Station. Adults £12.00, Concessions £10.00, Children £6.00, Families (2+3) £29.00. Both the Ravenstor and Duffield lines will be in operation. There will be steam trains on the Duffield line behind our visiting steam locomotive. On Saturday the 21st May there will be a meeting and activities for the Bachman models club Trackside 2011 at Wirksworth Station. Open 10.00 am to 5.00 pm each day.

May 28th, 29th and 30th Wirksworth Carnival Open Days at Wirksworth Station. Adults £10.00; Concessions £9.00; Children £5.00; Families (2+3) £25.00. Both the Ravenstor and Duffield lines will be in operation with steam trains on the Ravenstor line and there will be a range of activities in conjunction with the Wirksworth Carnival and Well Dressings. Open 10.00 am to 5.00 pm each day.

June 25th and 26th Duffield Carnival Open Days at Duffield Station. Adults £10.00; Concessions £9.00; Children £5.00; Families (2+3) £25.00. Both the Ravenstor and Duffield lines will be in operation with steam trains in Duffield Station yard and there will be a range of activities in conjunction with the Duffield Carnival. Open 10.00 am to 5.00 pm each day.

July 2nd and 3rd Classic Transport Event at Wirksworth Station. Adults £10.00; Concessions £9.00; Children £5.00; Families (2+3) £25.00. Both the Ravenstor and Duffield lines will be in operation with steam trains on the Ravenstor line and there will be a range of activities in conjunction with the Classic Transport Gala being held at the station. Open 10.00 am to 5.00 pm each day.

July 23rd and 24th Wirksworth Bus Event at Wirksworth Station. Adults £10.00; Concessions £9.00; Children £5.00; Families (2+3) £25.00. Both the Ravenstor and Duffield lines will be in operation with steam trains on the Ravenstor line and there will be a range of activities in conjunction with the Wirksworth Bus Gala being held at the station. Open 10.00 am to 5.00 pm each day.

August 13th and 14th Home Fleet Event at Wirksworth Station. Adults £10.00; Concessions £9.00; Children £5.00; Families (2+3) £25.00. Both the Ravenstor and Duffield lines will be in operation with steam trains on the Ravenstor line and our diesel railcars and locomotives on the Duffield line. Brake van rides will operate on the Gorseley Bank line. Open 10.00 am to 5.00 pm each day.

August 27th, 28th and 29th Summer Bank Holiday Open Days at Wirksworth Station. Adults £10.00; Concessions £9.00; Children £5.00; Families (2+3) £25.00. Both the Ravenstor and Duffield lines will be in operation with steam trains on the Ravenstor line and our diesel railcars on the Duffield line. Open 10.00 am to 5.00 pm each day.

September 10th and 11th Wirksworth Festival Open Days Adults £10.00; Concessions £9.00; Children £5.00; Families (2+3) £25.00. In conjunction with the popular Wirksworth Festival, the railway will be operating both the Ravenstor and Duffield lines, with steam trains on the Ravenstor line, and visitors will be able to enjoy the various trails and events around the town organised by the Festival. Open 10.00 am to 5.00 pm each day.

October 15th and 16th Wirksworth Model Railway Exhibition At Wirksworth Town Hall and other venues around the town. The annual model railway exhibition will take place at venues around the town. The full sized trains will also be playing their part at the station, with steam trains on the Ravenstor line. Open 10.00 am to 5.00 pm Saturday and 10.00 am to 4.30 pm Sunday.

October 29th Halloween Trains Dare you ride the night train into the darkness? Who knows what you might see or who you'll meet. Dress up in your best spooky outfit and meet all your witchy friends. At Wirksworth Station starting at 7.00pm. Adults £5.00, Concessions £4.00, Children £2.50. Families (2+3) £12.50.

December 3rd: Wirksworth's All Day Christmas Extravaganza The railway will be operating trains with a special service in connection with the annual Christmas Extravaganza taking place in Wirksworth town. See website for the timetable at this event.

December 10th and 11th also 17th and 18th Santa Trains at Wirksworth Station. Join Santa and his helpers for a festive time. Presents and drinks for the kids, Mulled wine and mince pies for adults. Advanced booking is essential. Tickets will be sent out on receipt of the advanced booking form (available from the station) or on our website www.e-v-r.com



Engine number 3 steams up (© George Aldridge)