

Private Parties at Stoke Park Railway

Guildford Model Engineering Society Ltd.
Stoke Park, London Road, Guildford, Surrey. GU1 1TU

Background

Stoke Park Railway is run by the Guildford Model Engineering Society. We are enthusiasts who like running miniature locomotives and trains. The parties help to pay for the maintenance and improvement of our facilities.

What we Provide

Parties are available for three hours duration at a time of your choice between 11:00 and 16:00. Unlimited train rides are available for your party guests on our ground level passenger carrying railway. We will run two or three trains; at least one will be hauled by a steam locomotive. Before deciding to book a party, we suggest that you bring your child to one of our monthly Sunday open afternoons to make sure that they actually like riding on the trains! Please note that on party days, the 00 Gauge railway layout in the clubhouse and the Garden Railways, will not be operating.

Clubhouse and Catering

We do not provide catering. We have a kitchen area with hot water urns for tea and coffee making, also kettles, a small microwave and fridges. We don't have a freezer. Please bring your own crockery and cutlery. Many people use disposable cutlery and plates which makes your clear up a lot easier. You can bring in outside caterers. People have used local pizza providers as this is popular and again makes life a lot easier for you as the organiser. You can use the tables, chairs and benches in our clubhouse or have a picnic on the grass if the weather is fine.

Use of our Grounds

There is ample room for a bouncy castle (you will have to arrange this) or other field activities. Mains electricity is available in the main field.

Dates

For operational reasons, party days are **strictly limited** to a few Saturdays from March to October. The dates are decided towards the end of the previous year.

Cost and Booking

The cost for 2024 is £350. A non-refundable deposit of 50% (£175) is payable on booking, with the balance to be paid two weeks before the event. To enquire about available dates please contact our party administrator using the email address at the bottom of this document. If we have an available date that suits you, we will send you a link to an online booking form along with our BACS details. We hold the date open for 7 days to allow time to pay the deposit.

If we don't have a suitable date available, you can choose to be placed on our waiting list for the following year. We will then email you as soon as the dates have been decided, usually around September.

Numbers

We suggest a limit of around 30 children and we ask that you come with sufficient adults to keep an eye on everyone. We recommend a minimum of one adult for every three children. Smaller children will obviously need accompanying on the trains.

[Access for setting up, and clearing up](#)

The site and clubhouse will be available for setting up an hour or so before the party and will remain open for clearing up whilst we put the trains away.

[Safety](#)

GMES takes safety on its miniature railways very seriously. Passengers are asked to sit astride the carriages facing forwards and always remain seated; keep their feet on the carriage foot boards and not drag them along the ground; not to lean out whilst taking photographs; not to lean over to try and pick passing flowers. Non-riding guests are asked not to 'high-five' passing trains (this can encourage children to lean out in response). GMES reserves the right to refuse to carry any passenger who repeatedly fails to follow our safety guidance whilst riding the trains.

[Car Parking](#)

Some parking around the clubhouse is available for the party host and their immediate family and helpers. There is a public car park just outside the site (currently free), the car parks near the Spectrum are close, and parking is possible on the surrounding roads.

[Rubbish](#)

Guests are requested to take away their rubbish as the club has no collection or removal facility.

[Pre-Party Familiarisation](#)

Visits can be arranged using the contact details below.

[Data Protection](#)

Your name and contact details will be kept on our parties database and will only be used in connection with your booking, they will not be passed to any third parties. Application for a party booking will be taken as your acceptance of the above terms and conditions.

For more details or to make a booking please e-mail our Birthday Party Administrator, Martin Parnham, at parties@gmes.org.uk