

THE LAKE

The lake was dug in a boggy area in the Lower Park through which the diminutive River Birkett ran on its way from Caldys Hill to Orrysdale Road where it surfaces today by West Kirby Waste Recycling Centre. As such, the location was ideal for construction of a Park lake. Drains from around the park were laid to provide a water supply. The Borough Surveyor, Thomas Foster, commented that a beautiful park had been created from a swamp through the efforts of Mr Stanley the Park Keeper.

The lake was edged with sandstone walling, much of which survives on the Westbourne Road side of the park. The depth is no more than waist deep. Periodically the water is drained out and weed, leaves and mud are cleaned out. An early feature was a duck platform or refuge which was built a few years after opening of the park. An island (still there today) was built in 1952 when cleaning was underway to provide a better refuge for birds.



The Lake, circa 1906

In early years the lake was graced by swans donated by local M.P. Cummins Macdona of Hilbre House but these were removed as they proved too

aggressive for the Edwardian ladies and children.

Skating was a regular occurrence when the lake froze over, lighting often being provided for illumination in the evenings. The photo shows skating during the winter of 1916.



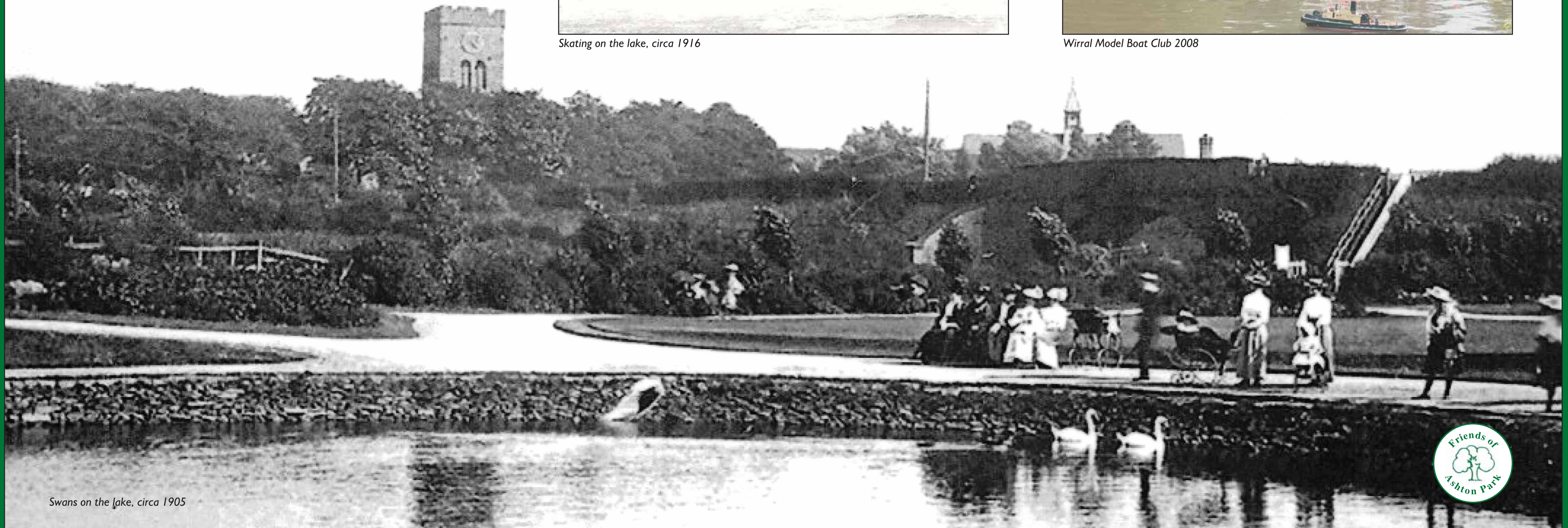
Skating on the lake, circa 1916

Model boats were sailed in earlier days. In 1935 Hoylake Urban District Council organised a concert centred on West Kirby Park lake with a silver band, soloists, choirs, fairy lights and models of the Queen Mary and Golden Hind were illuminated and positioned on the lake. Nothing of this nature was ever to return but in 1981, the Wirral Model Boat Club was formed and still sail regularly on the lake.

Donated by the Hoylake and District Civic Society



Wirral Model Boat Club 2008



Swans on the lake, circa 1905

