

# Rides History



**DREAMLAND MARGATE**

*WE CATER FOR PLEASURE*

# Rides History

## SCENIC RAILWAY



### DESCRIPTION:

The Scenic Railway is a wooden double out-and-back roller coaster. It was built at Dreamland in 1919/1920 and opened to the public in 1920.

It is the oldest roller coaster in the UK and one of only eight scenic railways in the world. It is also the only roller coaster in the UK to receive listed status; being Grade II\* - listed in 2002.

A fire destroyed approximately 25% of the ride, including the station, lift hill and cars, in April 2008.

# Rides History

## HURRICANE JETS



### DESCRIPTION:

The Hurricane Jets is a ride of the **1950's**, and one in which the riders can control the elevation of the cars by operation of a joystick.

Supplied by the Lang Wheels Co. of Hillingdon, Middlesex, these were a popular ride at many parks, including Dreamland, although the one which has been acquired has spent its life touring with travelling fairs.

# Rides History

## 4-ABREAST GALLOPING HORSES



**DESCRIPTION:** Following the introduction of steam power onto the fairgrounds in the 1860s, it became possible to build much larger and more elaborate rides.

Prior to this hanging dobbie sets had been popular, but the natural progression was to a galloping horse. In 1885 Savages built their first Platform Gallopers for John Murphy from Tyneside. The same year Messrs Reynolds and King designed the overhead crank system which was improved upon the following year by Tidmans of Norwich. By the end of the century Crank – action Gallopers were being supplied by several British engineers, and as a ride has remained popular to this day.

Over the years there have been four sets of gallopers at Dreamland; the most recent version being a 4-abreast ride which was originally built in **1922** for London showman Harry Gray.



# Rides History

## DOUBLE DECKER RIDE



### DESCRIPTION:

An unusual children's ride which in addition to the conventional platform mounted toys at ground level, also features as an upper deck, accessed by steps, with Rockets in which children can ride. The idea was patented by North Eastern showman James A Crow in the late 1940s, and the rides were built under licence by Orton & Spooner of Burton on Trent.

The example acquired has come from Mannings Amusement Park in Felixstowe. The rides were popular in many amusement parks, with only rare examples of travelling rides.

# Rides History

## WAVESWINGER



### DESCRIPTION:

A modern development of the original Chairoplane ride dating from the 1920s. The Waveswinger variant premiered in Germany in 1972, designed by Zierer and built by Franz Schwarzkopf, brother of Anton Schwarzkopf.

In 1974 the first portable unit debuted under the same partnership. Since then Zierer has built about 200 units. Other manufacturers have followed creating their own versions including Zamperla, Chance Rides, Grover Watkins, Bertazzon, Barberi and Vekoma.

The model acquired for Dreamland is a Zierer. It was imported from South Africa where it was built in 1990 and installed at Flamingo Land in North Yorkshire.

# Rides History

## GIANT WHEEL



### DESCRIPTION:

George Washington Ferris, a civil engineer from Illinois, invented the Ferris wheel in the 1890's. The first was built for the 1893 Chicago World's Fair in 1893. The total Cost of the wheel was \$300,000.00. Mr. Ferris' invention was and still is the largest wheel ever built. It weighed 1,300 tons (that's about how much a herd of 2,000 dairy cows would weigh!). The Ferris wheel stood 25 stories high and held over 1,400 passengers. From the top of the ride, passengers could see 50 miles. It took 20 minutes for the enormous wheel to make one complete turn. After the Chicago World's Fair, the Ferris wheel was taken to the 1904 St. Louis Exposition.

The first Wheel built for the UK was for the exhibitions at Earls Court (1894) this machines were capable of carrying 1,200 passengers within its 40 carriages. Production of travelling Big Wheels began between the wars, with initially 16 car machines opening, followed by a more portable 12 car version. The recent trend has been for Giant Wheels once again, with the London Eye proving a fine example of a classic idea.

The Wheel acquired by Dreamland is 34 metres height with 24 gondolas and was build in 2003.



# Rides History

## SHOOT UP TOWER



### DESCRIPTION:

In 1995, birth was given to the tremendously successful, and often copied, Drop Tower or Giant Drop. This new technology employed rare earth magnets, utilizing the phenomena by passing an inert blade between two rare earth magnets creating an eddy current consequently increasing the resistance and thus a braking of the movement, which results in a failsafe system without any friction or wear and tear.

The Shoot and drop tower at Dreamland is a new ride and is a **2014** model.



# Rides History

## MAGIC MOUSE



### DESCRIPTION:

In **1997**, the first Spinning Wild Mouse Roller coaster opened at the defunct Dinosaur Beach pier at Wildwood, New Jersey. The first examples were built by Reverchon, with Fabbri's version coming in the mid 2000s.

Please note this ride has not been yet purchased but is available at a very competitive price. The model available to buy is from 2010.

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## LOG FLUME



### DESCRIPTION:

The first modern day log flume amusement ride constructed by Arrow was Eldorado at Six Flags over Texas in Arlington Texas, which opened in 1963 and is still in operation. The Mill Race Arrow Log Flume number two, opened just a few weeks later at Cedar Point. Log flumes proved to be extremely popular and quickly became staples at amusement and theme parks throughout the world. The ride was so popular that some parks started adding second flume rides to help reduce the long lines. Cedar Point added Shoot the Rapids in 1967, and Six Flags Over Texas and Six Flags Over Georgia both added second flumes in 1968. When Six Flags Over Mid America opened in 1971, it featured twin flumes.

In the 1960s and early 1970s Arrow had a monopoly on the log flume business, producing over 50 flumes by 1979. In 1976, the French company Reverchon Industrie started building flumes and in 1979 HopkinsRides entered the flume building business. Other manufacturers eventually followed with Intamin building its first log flume in 1986 and Mack Rides in 1987.

The model purchased by Dreamland is from 2000.



# Rides History

## CYCLONE TWIST



### DESCRIPTION:

Debuting in 1959, the Twist has become one of the most popular and enduring rides to be found on the British fairground. Although essentially a travelling ride, it has proved just as popular in amusement parks, and most have had one at some point. The first Twists were of The Grasscutter (floorless) style, built by Edwin Hall under licence from American Company Eli Bridge, and were supplied to Butlins camps.

Floored versions followed soon afterwards which is the norm for Twists, which are still being built to this day. Several different Twists (both The Grasscutter and floored styles) have opened at Dreamland over the years. The example being considered for Dreamland was one of the original Butlins machines supplied by Edwin Hall, and later travelled for a number of years by Scottish showman Joe White.

Our model is from **1961**.



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## TEA CUPS



### DESCRIPTION:

The ride's theme is inspired by the 'Unbirthday Party' scene in Walt Disney's *Alice In Wonderland*. The attraction is called Mad Tea Party at Disneyland and the Magic Kingdom. It is known as Alice's Tea Party at Tokyo Disneyland, Mad Hatter's Tea Cups at Disneyland Paris, and Mad Hatter Tea Cups at Hong Kong Disneyland.

All five versions of the ride are located in Fantasyland, and all except the Tokyo version were opening day attractions at their respective parks. The Disneyland, Disneyland Paris and Hong Kong Disneyland versions do not have a big teapot in the centre of the ride platform.

Our Tea Cup ride is a **2015** model.

# Rides History

## APPLE COASTER



### DESCRIPTION:

The Apple Coaster is part of the most famous family coaster, “The Figure 8”. The first of its kind was built of wood.

This design was one of the first to be featured in roller coaster design, along with the out and back roller coaster. It allowed for more turns than the out and back design, offering riders an alternative experience.

An early and famous example of a Figure 8 is the Leap the Dips at Lakemont Park, in Altoona, Pennsylvania.

Our Apple Coaster is a **2004** model.



# Rides History

## MONORAIL



### DESCRIPTION

The earliest patent for a vehicle designed to run on a single rail can be traced to UK patent No 4618 dated 22 November 1821. The inventor was Henry Robinson Palmer. Throughout the 19th Century, the Palmer design was improved, with the addition of stabilising wheels and additional rails. In 1892 the Boynton Bicycle Railway was built in Long Island. Designed by Jose Ramon Villalon, who would later become one of Cuba's greatest statesmen, this railroad ran on a single rail at ground level, but with an overhead stabilising rail engaged by a pair of horizontally opposed wheels. The railway operated for only two years, but the design was adopted elsewhere.

Mention of a Monorail as an added attraction was first been made in 1981, this being an electric one. Eventually a cycle Monorail was built, where the public provide the motive power and open on Good Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 1991 in Northamptonshire.

Our Monocycle is a **2001** model.



# Rides History

## CATERPILLAR/MUSIC EXPRESS MODERN VERSION OF THE CATERPILLAR



### DESCRIPTION:

Introduced into Britain in the early 1920's and predominantly a park ride, although a few were adapted, and later built, to travel.

The Caterpillar was a popular ride at Dreamland for decades, from the 30s to the 70s.

It is a circular ride with cars running along an undulating track underneath a canopy. As part of the ride is in darkness, Caterpillars were particularly in favour with courting couples and there are only a few left operating around the world today.

As the Dreamland Caterpillar was scrapped many years ago our new Caterpillar is a **2003** model.

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## HELTER SKELTER



### DESCRIPTION:

A Helter Skelter is a ride with a slide built in a spiral around a high tower. Riders climb up a staircase inside the tower and slide outside, usually on a coconut mat.

Typically the tower is made of wooden or aluminium construction, with the chute being laminated wood.

Popular at both amusement parks and travelling fairs. The first one recorded in the UK was at Blackpool Pleasure Beach in 1906. The ride is of a design that minimise footprint space and maximise visibility. This type of ride is often known in the business as a silent thief, as with no timed ride cycle, a constant stream of riders can generate a high turnover.

Our model is a new ride **2015** and is the exact replicate of the 1920 model that was previously at Dreamland.

# Rides History

## JUMPING BOATS



### DESCRIPTION:

The Jumping Boats are the newer version of the popular rides of the 1950s, such as the Hurricane jets.

Unlike its holder version the ride is completely operated by the ride operator without interaction of the rider using a joystick.

This model is themed with Pirate décor and was build in 2000.



# Rides History

## ASTROGLIDE



### DESCRIPTION:

The earliest linear slide dates back to the 19th Century, and were popular especially in permanent parks and exhibitions.

There were some travelling examples, usually in the form of Jack and Jill slides, predominantly of timber construction. This type of ride had a rebirth in the 1970s, when the fibreglass-based Astroglide slide was conceived.

Initially built by companies such as Jacksons and Bennetts, whose successors Harry Steer, built the example acquired for Dreamland in **1975**.

# Rides History

## DODGEMS



### DESCRIPTION:

Since their introduction to this country in 1928 by Billy Butlin, Dodgems have remained the most consistently successful ride ever.

The first cars were built by Lusse, but within a short while there were many different firms building both cars and tracks with many cars being imported from European firms.

Dreamland's Dodgems were built in 1954.

# Rides History

## DODGEMS CONT.

In 1928 one of the best known of all modern fairground rides was introduced into Britain by Messrs Lusse Brothers. The origins of the Dodgem track is difficult to trace with various claims to be first, and a multitude of patents in existence, though the crux seems to be the actual development of the Dodgem as we know it - a controllable 'bumper car' and electrical pick-up to the roof 'nets'. The Pleasure Beach at Blackpool had a 'Dodgem type' machine in 1913 called the Witching Waves. It is said that the ride was replaced in 1921 by the arrival of the new Dodgems, introduced and patented by concessionaire George Tonner.

Paul Braithwaite's index of patents has various entries for Dodgems, and the first patent is simply a 'Dodgem system' in 1921, though how this resembles a modern day machine is not established. In 1923 additional patent were introduced by Lusse Brothers simply called 'Bumper Car'. Lusse Brothers provide further patents in the next few years for drive mechanism and steering, so it is clear that they are developing the DODGEM CAR, however it is unclear whether the famous electrical pick-up via pole is in operation. There then follows three patents in 1928 from different companies (including Lusse again) for Dodgem electrical apparatus, Dodgem Car power unit and Dodgem Car improved bumper. Certainly in this latter period Lusse perfected the Dodgem car as a microcosmic motor car, with futuristic designs appearing up until recent times.