



Message from the Chair

I seem always to start my "piece" in the same way – how busy we all are with new projects as well as keeping pace with existing ones! Therese Hammond has been a welcome addition to our team becoming instantly part of it.

We have met with each of the three bidders bidding for the new South Eastern franchise at least twice and could happily work with any of them in a productive way.

Both Swale Rail and Medway Valley line meetings continue on a regular basis and are well supported. We continue to look for volunteers who might be interested in station adoption and who might also like to help out at our various events.

Recently, we have become more involved in looking at planning applications for housing developments on or close to our lines and offering advice to planning officers as to what could be done to encourage new residents to leave their cars at home and use the train instead.

Sarah Deakin continues with her successful schools programme and I'm pleased to say that the poster competition we ran with British Transport Police will shortly be unveiled in Strood and the Medway Towns.

Never ever a dull moment!

Sue Murray, Chairman, Kent Community Rail Partnership

Schools News



What a fantastic start to the Smarter Journeys Programme and a Big Welcome to new schools, Cuxton & Holborough Lakes.

They are going to have to get their skates on as Aylesford Primary have just rolled on to win Overall Eco Transport Award & Best Cycling Award at the KM Schools Green Awards 2018. A rollin' result— Congratulations Aylesford and here's to next year!

Emily Rubbins & Tom Edwards receiving the awards.

Gearing up now for the Smarter Travel Challenges in June with new school Invicta Grammar, Maidstone on board. Sarah Deakin was lucky enough to present her work on this challenge at the Public Health England Conference 2017 and there are plans to do a webinar soon.

Strood Station has reopened and has been adopted by Bradfields Academy who have big plans for re-developing the front of the station.



1st Aylesford Cubs undertake Personal Safety Badge

A thank you from Barney Elliot:

"Thank you for organising the train trip. It was great fun. It was quite interesting to hear about all the security at the train station to keep people safe. If you delay a train by 1 minute it costs £2000! The drivers have to have very good eyesight to look out for people on the track.

We also had a talk with the police and learnt all about Volts and what AC and DC do.

It was a really good trip and I'd like to do it again. It was really exciting to go past my own house on the train!"



If you run a cub/beaver group and would like to get involved in the Personal Safety Badge, please contact sarah.deakin@sustrans.org.uk.

Did you know you can adopt a rail station?

Station adopters can get stuck into a variety of activities ranging from looking after their station to making their station a nicer place through gardening or arts projects or improved signage etc.

Adopted stations are less likely to be vandalised and an increase in use has been seen at these stations. Anyone can adopt — Individuals, groups and schools, and the adopters are supported by Network Rail and Southeastern.

Do get in touch to find out more.

Our 2017 Awards

Community Rail Awards

First place for Best Community Engagement Event :

Ambulance Train

Second place for Most Enhanced Station Buildings :

Snodland Station

National Transport Awards

Highly Commended

Snodland Station

National Cycle Rail Awards

Southeastern

South East Rail Franchise Update

The Kent CRP response document containing a 'wish list' of proposals for the new franchise has been favourably considered and we are optimistic that most if not all of our 'wishes' will be granted. These proposals include many aspects of improving the passenger experience. A copy of the response document can be found on our website.

- The Partnership is undertaking its third round of discussions with the 3 remaining bidders.
- The bids are to be submitted by 14 March 2018.
- The new franchise begins on 1 April 2019

A Reflection on the last 3 months

Halloween train A packed train of 108 witches and wizards left Maidstone West Station for the ride of their life on the Medway Valley Ghost Train. Brave souls took part in face painting, balloon modelling and the really brave put their hand in go to find the spider! A free event which raised £58.42 for the Railway Children.



Strood Rail Trail Over 30 walkers joined us on our annual Medway Valley Rail Trail Walk from Strood station. It was a cool, bright morning for the 7.5km circular walk which took us past historic landmarks and through pockets of stunning country side. Graeme Jenkins from Medway Ramblers led the walk.



Visit Santa This exciting event was attended by over 100 Children who listened to St. Michael's primary school choir whilst enjoying craft activities prior to visiting Santa in his grotto on the station platform. This was a free event which raised £150 for Railway Children.



Events coming up—full details on our website

Come along to one of our exciting events and experience the delights of the Medway Valley and SwaleRail lines.

20 April E-Bike ride - Cycle along the beautiful River Medway from Electric Bikes Kent nr Allington Lock to Maidstone West Station and back. Starts 10:30 and is FREE! Sign up via our website — limited spaces

4 to 6 May — Queenborough Charter Celebrations — see website for details

Keep up to date !

Website www.kentcrp.org.uk

Facebook page [Kent Community Rail Partnership](#)

Twitter [@kentcrp1](#)

Contact us

Sarah Deakin - Engagement Officer - sarah.deakin@sustrans.org.uk 07920 184060

Therese Hammond - Project Officer - therese.hammond@sustrans.org.uk 07917 131248

Linda Bell - Project Support Officer - linda.bell@sustrans.org.uk 07920 088441

Chair **Sue Murray**

