



Message from the Chair

At last some sunshine for all of us to enjoy and perhaps inspire a few more station adopters to come forward and help make their local station a more welcoming place.

I am delighted to report that Medway Unitary Authority has been able to grant aid us to the tune of £6K for this financial year (2018/19). This, together with SouthEastern's confirmation that their funding is secure until the end of the franchise next March and the grant from County, will enable us to carry out the programmed events we have scheduled. We have been advised by some of the Local Authorities that they could look favourably on project funding for events within their districts. We have also benefitted from grants made by various parish councillors along our lines and also individual councillors. A heartfelt thank you to all.

The three bidders – Stagecoach, Abellio and Govia – submitted their bids in March and the successful franchisee should be named by the Secretary of State in his November Statement and shortly after this announcement we will begin to work with whoever is awarded the contract.

For a little while we are going to lose the good services of Sarah Deakin as she is taking a career break, but I am pleased to say she should be back with us early in 2019.

We have a number of events coming up which are featured elsewhere in this newsletter and the events that have taken place since our last newsletter have been well supported and some good publicity received. Here's hoping for more sunny skies!

Sue Murray, Chairman, Kent Community Rail Partnership

20 April E-Bike ride - A group of us took to two wheels to ride along the Medway towpath between Allington Lock and Maidstone on electric bikes provided by Electric Bikes Kent. The bikes are, in many ways, just like any other but they have the added bonus of a



battery and motor that gives an extra boost when you need it. If you haven't tried one, definitely book a test ride on an electric bike.

The Queenborough Stn. mural celebrating 650 years of King Edward III's Queenborough Royal Charter was launched on Fri 4 May 2018. The art competition winning pupils from Queenborough and Halfway Houses Primary schools launched the mural with the Mayors of Swale and Queenborough and Swale Councilor and Swale Rail CRP Chair Mike Baldock.



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.

Wed 27 June Pop-up at Tonbridge Station with Sussex CRP 10am-1.30pm Kent and Sussex CRP's will be providing information to passengers about the travel and tourist opportunities through Kent and Sussex. Come along to find our more!

Sat 7 July Pop-up at Snodland Carnival The procession will begin at Holmesdale School, Malling Road at 1.30pm and proceed through the Town, finishing at Potyns sports ground, Paddlesworth Road. We'll have a Pop-up at Potyns sports ground from 1pm to discuss travelling and tourism in Kent. Looking forward to seeing you there!

24 July Family Bike Ride to Kent Life Catch a train and join us at East Farleigh Station bike shed at 10.35am, meet Dr Bike then at 11am ride approx. 45mins to Kent Life. Enjoy light refreshments at Kent Life on arrival, explore Kent Life before departing at 2.45pm to cycle back to East Farleigh station arriving by 3.30pm for trains home.

18 and 19 Aug Tonbridge Ambulance Train 'Tonbridge 100' is taking place in the grounds of Tonbridge Castle from 11am—6pm on Sat and Sun with vehicles, horses, search-dogs, children's assault course, soldiers, stalls and much more! KCRP will be dressing a train carriage with information covering the event, our rail lines and the part the Tonbridge trains played in WW1. The train will leave Strood at 10.04am on Sat 18 and at 9.35am on Sun 19 Aug to travel to Tonbridge. Come and join us on the train and meet re-enactors to learn more about WW1 then enjoy a fun packed day in the grounds of this historic Castle.

What is a Kent Community Rail Partnership Pop-Up?

Pop-ups are temporary travel resource centres which we deliver in various locations along our 2 rail lines. These are one-stop-shops for sustainable travel, providing a range of travel planning and tourist information in the local area. This year we are aiming to deliver 8 pop-ups providing travel and tourism information at various locations including stations, festivals, schools and workplaces.

On 14 May we held a Pop-up at the KCC Rail Summit within County Hall in Maidstone and on 16 May we held a Pop-up at St Pancras Station in London. The St Pancras Station Pop-up was part of the annual ACoRP national event, Community Rail in the City when all CRP's are offered pitches on city stations. These Pop-ups provide vital passenger engagement opportunities and at these 2 events alone we were able to engage with over 200 passengers/potential passengers. We promoted the use of our 2 rail lines and the tourist opportunities within Kent. Useful data was also collected to assist with more targeted future events.



Junction Arts at Watringbury

John Cockram, a local artist is on a mission to transform the disused Victorian Goods Shed at Watringbury station and its surrounding buildings and land for community use. Kent CRP are assisting John in facilitating the project and are grateful to ACoRP and The Railway Heritage Trust for providing the grant to undertake a Condition Survey of the buildings. The Condition Survey took place on 6 March and is providing the vital information required to move forward with negotiating the lease with Network Rail and drafting a business plan.

The vision is to create:

- **Workspaces** - for artists and craftspeople to make and sell their art/craft
- **An Exhibition and Events Venue** - for locals to enjoy a variety of exhibitions and events
- **Classes / Arts Services** - further stimulating the area's economy and creative interests
- **Outdoor Events** - focusing on Kent's 'Garden of England' heritage
- **A Café** - to serve and support the considerable footfall from the adjacent school, nearby railway line and river community



Watringbury Station Buildings

Keep up to date !

Website www.kentcrp.org.uk

Facebook page [Kent Community Rail Partnership](#)

Twitter [@kentcrp1](#)

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