



## **Kent Community Rail Partnership Press Release**

### **For immediate release**

## **Kent Community Rail Partnership Volunteer of the Year**

Norman Kemp has been awarded Kent Community Rail Partnerships (Kent CRP) prestigious Volunteer of the Year award 2021.

Norman has contributed to numerous areas of Kent CRP; a well networked, long standing and active member who often informs the partnership of valuable insights and ideas. Norman is focussed on improving onward journeys from our stations and connecting rural communities.

He recently provided and drove a bus for 19 members of Kent CRP to audit the stations along the Kent Downs Line (Ashford to Otford). This was an extremely useful day which provided time for members of the Kent Downs Line to visit each station, hear about the projects taking place at each station and to provide ideas for future station improvements. Audit results are being compiled into a report which will shortly be available on the Kent CRP website [www.kentcrp.org.uk](http://www.kentcrp.org.uk)

There are currently 17 projects taking place along the Kent Downs Line including community gardens at Charing and Borough Green & Wrotham and bringing back into use rooms and station buildings for the communities at Harrietsham, Hollingbourne and Bearsted.

Kent Community Rail Partnership, hosted by Sustrans, operates on three rail lines; Medway Valley Line, Kent Downs Line and Swale Rail Line. Its core aims are to promote local rail lines in rural Kent and Medway for the social, economic and environmental benefit of residents and visitors, and to support the social well-being of the communities served by those rail lines.

Chris Fribbins, Chair Kent Community Rail said, "The Community Rail organisations across the country rely on volunteers for much, or all, of their community activities and it is a pleasure for the Kent CRP to award a special shield each year to the individual or group that has excelled in the previous year. Norman has been a long term member and supporter of the Medway Valley Line CRP and has also joined the new Kent Downs CRP. He brings extra experience and advocacy for Public Transport both personally and through his company Nu-Venture."

Matt Fraser, Southeastern's Community Relations Manager said, "We value all the contributions made by volunteers and I was delighted to see this award presented to such a worthy recipient."

Therese Hammond, Sustrans Lead Project Officer for Kent Downs Line said; “We are very pleased to be able to bestow this award on Norman, he has been a very valuable support to Kent CRP over many years continuously contributing information and ideas for improving rail travel and onwards journeys here in Kent. Also thank you to Southeastern for being our major funder and for enthusiastically supporting our activities.”

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