



Kent Community  
Rail Partnership

# Winter 2024

## NEWSLETTER



**Santa at Maidstone West**  
Courtesy of Dominic Noades



**Sheerness-on-Sea Station**  
Courtesy of Colin Whitbread



**Lenham Station**  
Kent CRP

## Chairman's Report by Chris Fribbins

The consultations on the future of ticket offices have concluded that they provide a vital service for passengers, especially those who face barriers to accessing rail travel.

Whilst the headline is good news, we wait to see what will happen next. We hope that Continuing current ticket office arrangements will not mean cuts elsewhere, the best way to reduce Taxpayer contributions is to grow the fare box – with a reliable, welcoming railway providing services that encourage more passengers to make more journeys.

The 750,000 response to the proposals contain a wealth of information about what passengers,

particularly those who need help to travel by train, want and need to travel successfully. It is essential that data is used effectively in planning the future of the railway.

Fares reform remains essential. A new structure is required that is logical and understandable to the average traveller.

Simplification is often mapped to there being just a few fares – whilst a very considerable reduction (from 2,822 ticket types on National Rail, with 901 names and 665 restriction codes) is essential, the number that remain is less important than that they make sense and the trade-offs between price, time of travel and flexibility are coherent.



### Snodland Over 55's Advice Fair

We were delighted to accept an invitation from Tracey Crouch MP to attend the over 55s Advice and Information Fair at Snodland on Monday 23rd October.

We were one of eighty organisations at the event, working with Southeastern to share information and ideas to inspire people to Give The Train A Try, promote the British Transport Police 61016 service and listen to the concerns of rail users.

We engaged with over 120 people, promoting Railcards, assisted travel services and the beautiful countryside that can be explored on a Rail Ramble from our stations.

## Award Nominations For Hollingbourne



Hollingbourne Station has received a "Highly Commended" accolade at the 2023 National Railway Heritage Awards.

On-line submissions detailed how the project has taken the station building from being a derelict shell to a thriving community hub, and judges came to the station to see the transformation that has taken place before deciding to shortlist the project.

The nomination recognises the huge dedication shown by the local community to re-imagine this space and the ongoing work to bring it into regular community use



with film nights, community events and the launch of the Signal Box café which opens regularly on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6:30am-8:00am for the early risers and 9:30am-4:00pm.



Following on from this success Hollingbourne Station was nominated in the category "Most Enhanced Railway Spaces" for the Community Rail Awards 2024. Winners will be announced on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March.

## Posters at stations



Southeastern have kindly donated poster space at some of our stations to advertise for new volunteers.

Let us know if you spot one on your travels.

We would like to express our gratitude to Southeastern, the Railway Heritage Trust and the local community for all their support.

## Community Litterpick at Strood Station

On a very chilly Sunday morning at the end of November, we were joined by volunteers from the Friends of Broomhill park to tidy the public areas outside Strood station.

The team were supported by Medway Council who provided guidance, equipment and arranged collection of the bagged waste.

Two hours work by the group saw 18 bags of litter and a few larger items left on the verge for pick up, tidying the carpark, pickup-and drop-off areas and the approaches to the station.

We would like to thank everyone who came along to help us deliver this great piece of community action.





## Travel Safe Travel Smart Sheppey College



At the end of November we took a group of thirteen students from Sheppey College to the Travel Safe Travel Smart rail safety centre at Margate.

The learning began as we travelled, with reminders to keep behind the yellow line on platforms and to let

people off of the train before boarding. Coaching was provided on the use of display screens to check which platform your train is leaving from and the time it is due to arrive.

Once at the centre Nicola Dooris and Catherine Lamb led sessions designed to raise awareness of the dangers of trespassing, facilities available to make your journey easier and how to get help from railway staff and the British Transport Police. Hard hitting videos from the You vs Train educational resources reinforced the messages to keep off the tracks and stay behind the yellow line as being key to staying safe from the dangers of moving trains and the electricity that powers them.

On the journey back students were asked if they felt scared about using the railway. Everybody said that they were now able to use the railway safely, understood the dangers of trespass and knew how to get help and assistance should they need it.



## Kent Rail Summit

### 15<sup>th</sup> Kent Rail Summit

Invitation and speakers list for Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2023, starting at 6 pm



There were a fantastic range of engaging speakers and topics at the 15<sup>th</sup> Kent Rail Summit in October.

We heard updates on e-ticketing, the Thanet Parkway story and progress on restoring international rail services to Kent.

Maidstone Borough Council outlined their ambition to place a new station at the heart of proposals for Heathlands Garden Community to the west of Lenham.

## Ashford College – Christmas Karaoke



At the beginning of December, students held a successful Christmas Karaoke event at Ashford International.

Everyone was rocking around the Christmas tree!

## Dates for your diary

### January

- Action Planning for 2024/25 begins
- Whole Group and Line Meetings Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024

### February

- Election of Chairs and Deputies



Keep up to date! Visit our website: [www.kentcrp.org.uk](http://www.kentcrp.org.uk)

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