



Press Release

Release date: 10th March 2014

Work Weekend summary

Sittingbourne's Steam Railway would like to thank the many volunteers who worked on and around the Railway at the weekend, especially 1st Milton Regis Scouts who planted 200 trees and bushes alongside the line.

Work was carried out across the Kemsley Down site, including the Locomotive Engineering Team tested steam locomotive 'Superb' and further preparation of the new Memorial Garden.

At Sittingbourne Viaduct station, a new banner was mounted to the Viaduct and some fencing repairs were undertaken.

Lineside, the area was prepared on Saturday for Sunday's planting of 200 trees, by 1st Milton Regis Scouts, these will form a barrier showing the Railway's boundary and is more environmentally friendly than fencing. In total, 420 trees have been donated to the Railway by the Woodlands Trust and have been planted with the co-operation of the Park Ranger at Milton Creek Country Park.

The next Work Weekend will be held on 22nd-23rd March, 10am at Sittingbourne Viaduct station.

Trains will start running again on Sunday 30th March, then every Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday until the end of September (also Wednesdays in August).

For more information visit www.SKLR.net, or call the Talking Timetable on 01795 424899, email info@SKLR.net, follow @SandKLR on Twitter or see our Facebook Group at www.Facebook.com/groups/SandKLR

(End)

Information for the media:

1. The Railway is rare in the preservation world as it was donated by the then mill owners, Bowater's United Kingdom Paper Co Ltd, in 1969 for preservation and still uses original locomotives, equipment and buildings. The SKLR is now the longest continuous operator of the railway and is operated and maintained entirely by volunteers.
2. The Railway was forced to close by its previous landlords in December 2008. Following the sale of the site to Essential Land in 2010, the Railway was able to reopen in October 2010 to celebrate 40 years of public operation. In 2011, trains operated between Milton Regis (Asda) Halt and Kemsley Down. May 2012 saw the full reopening back to Sittingbourne Viaduct station. The 2013 Season was the first full season operated since 2008.
3. The SKLR is a registered charity, number 1057079. Postal address: SKLR, PO Box 300, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 2DZ.
4. Photographs of the Railway can be found on the Press Officer's website: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/stopem/> . To download images – click on the

photo, click on 'ALL SIZES', 'Original' and then 'Download the Original size'.

Feel free to use them without fee but please credit 'SKLR'.

5. The Press Officer is available for interviews and recording sessions at the Railway or studios. Other members may be requested for interview through the Press Officer.
6. Media enquiries to Paul Best, Press Officer, telephone 07973 192938 or email stopem@stopem.net