



Press Release

Release date: 25th April 2016

Jack the Station Cat returns

This Sunday and Monday is Jack the Station Cat and Edward Bear Weekend, at Sittingbourne's Steam Railway, with trains departing Sittingbourne Viaduct station hourly 11am-4pm.

Jack the Station Cat appears in a series of books aimed at the 3-9 age range and feature the antics and adventures of Jack the Station Cat. Sittingbourne's Steam Railway appears in some of the books as it was the first railway to hold a Jack the Station Cat event. Jack will no doubt be getting up to mischief at Kemsley Down!

For this event Sittingbourne Viaduct station is renamed as Tails End and Kemsley Down becomes Much Purring. There will be a mouse hunt at Much Purring as well as crafts for the children.

The Railway's own Edward Bear returns for his second event of the season, he hosted the Teddy Bears Picnic in April.

A wide range of Jack the Station Cat books, toys and gifts and the Edward Bear books will be available from the Railway Shop.

Trains depart Sittingbourne Viaduct/Tails End hourly, on the hour, 11am-4pm and there is no additional charge for this event, return fares for 2016 are:

- £7 for adults
- £5 for concessions
- £3 for children aged 3-13 years
- Under 3s travel free
- £19 for a family ticket (2 adults and up to 4 children)
- Other fares, such as single or rover, are available.

A return trip can take as little as an hour but due to the nature of the attractions at Kemsley Down/Much Purring it is recommended that you allow at least two hours for your visit - why not bring a picnic or lunch at the Footplate Café.

For more information on the Railway 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

Sittingbourne Viaduct station has free parking opposite McDonalds and behind KFC in Sittingbourne Retail Park and the pedestrian entrance is behind Pizza Hut, follow the amazing mural. Sat. Nav. users should use ME10 2XD or The Wall as their destination.

The station is atop a high embankment with 22 metal steps to climb. The ticket office can be found close to the top of the steps. Please arrive at least ten minutes before departure time as there can sometimes be a queue at the ticket office to collect tickets.

The first kilometre of the journey is on Milton Regis Viaduct, this reinforced concrete structure consists of 118 spans and six bridges. Constructed a hundred years ago. The Railway has invested a further £20,000 into maintenance of the structure during winter 2015/16.

Kemsley Down is the main base of the Railway, here you will find the Footplate Café, shop, toilets, picnic area, museum, displays, wildlife garden and see the other steam locomotives at the engine shed as well as two standard gauge locomotives.

The Railway's SOS Campaign has an aim to raise at least £75,000 to provide decent staff and visitor facilities at Sittingbourne Viaduct station including an access ramp. Donations can be made regularly or one-off at www.justgiving.com/SKLR and UK tax payers can contribute even more by choosing to Gift Aid their donation as the Railway is a registered charity. The Railway is also keen to hear from any companies who would like to sponsor it, please contact info@sklr.net to offer your support.

The fundraiser to return steam locomotive Premier back to its 'as built' condition is progressing well, with 55 of the 70 boiler tubes sponsored - visit www.sklr.net/Premier for more information.

(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. Following a fire in June 2014, the last of the Railway's usable buildings was destroyed at Sittingbourne Viaduct, prompting the relaunch of the Railway's

SOS Campaign - this time to Sort Out Sittingbourne - with the aim of raising £75,000 to improve visitor and staff facilities at Sittingbourne Viaduct station.

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 a 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