



Press Release

Release date: 27th June 2016

Steam & Beer

Sittingbourne's Steam Railway will be holding its annual Steam & Beer event this weekend, Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd July.

Trains will depart Sittingbourne Viaduct station:

- Saturday: 11am, 11.20am then every 40 minutes until 6pm, then hourly until 10pm
- Sunday: 11am, 11.20am then every 40 minutes until 4pm then 5pm.

The confirmed beer list includes 36 real ales from across the UK, from 'Merry Maidens Mild' by the Coastal Brewery in Cornwall to 'Hiphopoptamus' by the Ayr Brewery of Ayrshire as well as are Kent-brewed beers.

There are special fares for this event:

- £11 for adults including first drink
- £9 for senior citizens including first drink
- £9 for CAMRA members including first drink
- £8 for young adults aged 13-18 years
- £5 for children aged 3-13 years
- Under 3s travel free
- Family, single and rover tickets are not available.

On Saturday, there will be live bands from midday until 10pm featuring the following bands:

- Boneyard Junction
- John Doe Blues
- Simon Hurst
- CJ and Friends
- The Munzies
- The Midnight Blue

In addition to the Footplate Café, barbecue food will also be available.

On Sunday, we have a more relaxed family day, with our Captain Jack Sparrow lookalike entertaining everyone, there will be prizes for those dressed to join Jack's scurvy crew, a treasure hunt and pirate-related crafts.

Please note that there will be no access to Kemsley Down other than by train as this is where the festival is being held.

For more information including the full beer list and timetables visit www.SKLR.net or call the Talking Timetable on 01795 424899, email info@SKLR.net, follow [@SandKLR](https://twitter.com/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 fifteen

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 over 50 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. Press releases can be downloaded from the Railway's website: <http://www.sklr.net/latest-news/press-releases/>
6. 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.
7. Media enquiries to Paul Best, Press Officer, telephone 07973 192938 or email stopem@stopem.net