



Press Release

Release date: 10th July 2016

Art in the Park

Sittingbourne's Steam Railway will be operating a Park & Ride & Park service on Saturday for Art in the Park.

Due to the restricted parking at Milton Creek Country Park, Sittingbourne's Steam Railway is offering an hourly train service from Sittingbourne Viaduct to a pop-up station called Country Park Halt, a few minutes walk from the activities within the Park for Art in the Park. This means you can Park and Ride and [Art in the] Park!

Trains will depart Sittingbourne Viaduct station hourly 11am-3pm (this is different to previous announcements which stated a 10am train will be running - the event doesn't start until 11am so the 10am train will not run). Trains return from Country Park Halt hourly 11.40am-3.40pm.

Diesel locomotive 'Barton Hall' will be operating the trains all the way through to Kemsley Down, passenger are welcome to come along for the ride but all facilities will be closed. Souvenirs and information can be obtained from the Railway's stand at Art in the Park.

Special fares apply for this event - adults £5, accompanied children travel free.

For more information 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 about 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/](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](mailto:stopem@stopem.net)