



Sittingbourne's Steam Railway

Registered charity number: 105 7079

Press Release

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Mid-season locomotive update

With Gala Weekend marking the end of the Season on 28/29th September, here's an update on the locomotives at the Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway.

Kerr, Stuart & Co. Brazil class locomotives 'Leader' and 'Melior' are operational and take it in turns to haul trains throughout the season.

The Railway's oldest locomotive (also a Brazil class), 'Premier', is due to be exhibited at the Gala Weekend as a rolling chassis, hopefully with the boiler in place. The boiler has been retubed and a new firebox attached at the North Norfolk Railway and is due to return to Kemsley Down in the coming weeks.

A fault was found with 'Superb' (a Bagnall Baretto class) during a routine boiler examination. The boiler needs to be removed.

Close by stood sister Baretto 'Alpha' which is undergoing a cosmetic overhaul so the boiler of this engine was inspected and found to be both in good condition but also Superb's original boiler! There will be a boiler swap in due course.

Repairs to Superb's boiler will be paid for by Tony Marten's bequest whilst fundraising continues to purchase Parts for Premier – www.sklr.net/premier

Alpha and Superb's sand boxes (which sit atop the boiler) have been removed and sent away for repairs.

The third Baretto, 'Triumph' is next in line for overhaul, hopefully starting next year. Superb and Premier are expected to return to traffic in 2020.

Diesel locomotive 'Barton Hall' is out of service due to gear box issues which has been removed and taken to a specialist for repairs. 'Edward Lloyd' will be dressed as Ivor the Engine again for the August Bank Holiday. 'Victor' is in service.

(End)

Information for the media:

1. The SKLR is now the longest continuous operator of the railway and is operated and maintained entirely by volunteers. We have some 50th anniversaries coming up:
 - a. 2019 – handover
 - b. 2020 – public trains/preservation
 - c. 2022 – Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway Ltd.
2. Postal address: SKLR, PO Box 300, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 2DZ.
3. For further information on Ivor the Engine visit <http://www.smallfilms.co.uk/ivor/> (although it is a little out of date)
4. Photographs of the Railway can be found on the Press Officer's Flickr account www.flickr.com/stopem Feel free to use them without a fee but please credit 'www.sklr.net' or '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.

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