



Sittingbourne's Steam Railway

Registered charity no. 1057079

Press Release

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Leader retires to the seaside

Steam locomotive 'Leader' will be leaving Sittingbourne's Steam Railway soon to go into safe, covered storage at the One:One Collection in Margate.

The Railway has limited covered storage for its locos and as the 1905-built Brazil class locomotive is expected to be out of service for some time, retiring to the seaside is the best option. The loco was operational until 2022, when its 10-year boiler certificate expired. It then joined the back of the maintenance/overhaul queue.

'Triumph' retired from service in 2008 to await its overhaul and returned to the engine shed for that to start last year. The damage to the paintwork and metalwork is stark and adds to the cost of the overhaul so the opportunity to move 'Leader' to dry storage was snapped up!

We would like to thank 'Leader's' hosts, the One:One Collection, for arranging for the relocation and safe keeping of the engine. The One:One Collection is a storage facility for rail vehicles that need to be stored under cover, based in the former Hornby factory.

'Leader' will be reunited with former Bowaters 'Pioneer the Second' which is now known as the Bluebell Railway's P Class No.178 which will be moving to Margate too.

(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.
2. Postal address: SKLR, PO Box 300, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 2DZ.
3. 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.sk1r.net' or 'SKLR'.
4. Press releases can be downloaded from the Railway's website:
<http://www.sk1r.net/latest-news/press-releases/>
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.

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