



# Press Release

Release date: 15th February 2014

## 2014 Season

The Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway is pleased to announce the dates and special events planned for the 2014 Season, which will start on Mother's Day Sunday 30th March.

Trains will depart Sittingbourne Viaduct station, in Sittingbourne Retail Park, at 1pm, 2pm, 3pm and 4pm every Sunday from 30th March until the end of September.

Special events this year include:

- **Easter Weekend (18-21st April)**
  - Good Friday - trains will be running every hour from 11am until 4pm
  - Easter Saturday - trains will be running hourly 1-4pm
  - Easter Sunday - trains will be running hourly 11am until 4pm and there will be an Easter Egg Hunt at Kemsley Down
  - Easter Monday - trains will be running hourly 11am until 4pm
- **Jack the Station Cat Weekend (4/5th May)**
  - children's book favourite 'Jack the Station Cat' will be visiting the Railway for some fun and games at Kemsley Down
  - trains will be running hourly from 11am until 4pm
- **Community Weekend (25/26th May)**
  - this is a new event to highlight the good works of other local voluntary organisations and charities
  - trains will be running hourly from 11am until 4pm
- **Steam & Beer (5/6th July)**
  - our annual beer festival at Kemsley Down will see a large variety of real ales, ciders etc

- there will be live music on the Saturday
- Everyone's favourite pirate, Captain Jack Sparrow returns to the Railway for the Sunday to provide entertainment - dress as a pirate to join Jack's crew and you may win a prize!
- a special timetable will be in operation for this event, details will be available on the website nearer the time
- **Ivor the Engine Weekend (24/25th August)**
  - TV favourite 'Ivor the Engine' returns to Kemsley Down for some bank holiday fun!
  - 'Ivor the Engine' DVDs and souvenirs will be available at the Railway Shop
  - trains will depart hourly 11am until 4pm
- **End of Season Gala Weekend (27/28th September)**
  - we hope to have a Bowater's theme to this year's event to celebrate the Railway's roots as the Bowater's Light Railway
  - a special timetable will operate for this event, please check the website nearer the time

Trains will be hauled by steam locomotives 'Leader', 'Melior' or 'Superb' for the two mile journey that sees the train climb the gradient out of Sittingbourne Viaduct station onto Milton Regis Viaduct, a kilometre-long reinforced concrete structure that used to wind its way over bustling streets and houses but now crosses the industrial side of Milton Creek. At the end of the viaduct, the train passes through the site of Milton Regis (Asda) Halt station, it is hoped that we can reopen this station later in the season as it is currently too badly damaged by vandals to be used. The train then passes through Milton Creek Country Park as it crosses the marshes, passes under the Swale Way bridge and arrives at Kemsley Down station, within Kemsley Paper Mill and on the creekside. There will be time to explore Kemsley Down, visit the museum, Footplate Café, Railway Shop and award winning Wildlife Garden. The train will then return you Sittingbourne Viaduct station, the round trip taking about an hour but you are welcome to return on a later train.

The fares for 2014 will be £6 for adults, £3 for children (3-13 years), £4 for concessions and £17 for families (2 adults and up to 4 children). Under 3s travel free. Special fares apply for the Steam & Beer event.

For more information visit [www.SKLR.net](http://www.SKLR.net), or call the Talking Timetable on 01795 424899, email [info@SKLR.net](mailto:info@SKLR.net), follow @SandKLR on Twitter or see our Facebook Group at [www.Facebook.com/groups/SandKLR](http://www.Facebook.com/groups/SandKLR)

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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. The Railway was forced to close by its previous landlords in December 2008. Following the sale of the site to Essential Land in 2010, the Railway was able to reopen in October 2010 to celebrate 40 years of public operation. In 2011, trains operated between Milton Regis (Asda) Halt and Kemsley Down. May 2012 saw the full reopening back to Sittingbourne Viaduct station. The 2013 Season was the first full season operated since 2008.
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 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](mailto:stopem@stopem.net)