

news



A brighter welcome for rail passengers arriving at Queenborough

Passengers arriving at Queenborough Railway Station are now greeted by a cheery welcome as they head towards the town.

The old "teardrop" traffic island in the station approach road has been landscaped and planted up in a nautical theme.

Using two boats provided by "Queenborough In Bloom", Swale Borough Council have used gravel, grass and pebbles together with embedded ropes to transform an area that was previously uncared for and driven over by vans and lorries.

The project has been facilitated by the Kent Community Rail Partnership and was completed in time for the recent Sheppey Rail 150 celebration.

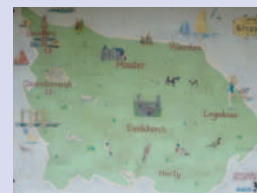


Queenborough Approach Road – Showing the approach road and "teardrop" before and after the landscaping project. Southeastern staff Paul Wiles and Duty Station Manager Caroline Wallis are delighted with the new feature.

Sheerness Station mural launch

The Mayor of Swale, Cllr Stephen Worrall officially unveiled the newly installed station mural at Sheerness Station on Friday 10 September

The previous map, now removed.



He was joined by around 60 pupils and representatives from the three schools involved in the project to produce this mural, together with local councillors and members of the Kent Community Rail Partnership who commissioned this piece of artwork.

The Mural takes the form of a mosaic using 2,600 photographic images provided by pupils from the Isle of Sheppey Academy, St. Edwards Catholic Primary School and Richmond First School. These have been cleverly applied to produce a Welcome Sign and outline of the Isle of Sheppey when viewed from a distance, and to then allow close scrutiny of the photographic images at close range.

As part of the project, school pupils have had the opportunity to take photographs of Sheppey

used in the mural, partake in a museum visit and to have a round trip on the Swale Line, courtesy of Southeastern.

This new piece of artwork replaces an earlier map of the island which was recently removed because of its poor condition. It had been in place for almost 30 years.

The Kent Community Rail Partnership is grateful for funding received following support from local councillor Adrian Crowther for a grant from the Kent County Council Local Engagement Forum Scheme, and from the Small Stations Project Fund of ACORP (the Association of Community Rail Partnerships). Further financial and other support has been kindly provided by Swale Borough Council and Southeastern.



Cllr Jeffrey Andrews, Mayor of Queenborough, Cllr Mike FitzGerald (Chair of Kent Community Rail Partnership), Cllr John Wright (Chair of the Swalerail Line Working Group), Cllr Steve Worrall (Mayor of Swale) and Mrs Theresa Davies (Mayoress of Swale) with a group of pupils representing the three schools who helped produce the mural.

150 years old and still going strong

Monday 19 July saw the 150th anniversary of the opening of the railway line between Sittingbourne and Sheerness

This anniversary has been marked by a series of events organised by the Sheppey Rail 150 committee, led by Jonathan Fryer and assisted by the Kent Community Rail Partnership.

A commemorative plaque was unveiled at Queenborough Station by Sarah Boundy, Head of Communications at Southeastern witnessed by almost 60 people from Sheppey, Network Rail, Swale Borough Council, Southeastern and the Kent Community Rail Partnership.

"The Sittingbourne to Sheerness line has played a central role in the lives of the communities

it serves for 150 years." Said Sarah. "I am sure it will continue to do so for many more years. Southeastern is delighted to be associated with these celebrations as well as the many improvements that are being made to services and facilities on Swaleroil."

Councillor Steve Worrall, Mayor of Swale and Cllr Jeffrey Andrews, Mayor of Queenborough also praised the role of the rail line and young Ethan Collier, a pupil at Queenborough Primary School read out a poem he had written about train travel. Southeastern have undertaken to frame his poem and display it at the station.



Above – Close up of plaque fitted to the wall in the booking hall at Queenborough Station.

Below – As part of Sheppey Rail 150 Jonathan Fryer led several combined rail journeys/walks that examined the history of the line. He is seen here with one of the groups outside Sittingbourne Station.



Left – Just some of the local people and railway representatives who attended the unveiling of the commemorative plaque at Queenborough station.

Kemsley Station seeks "green fingers"

Can we make Kemsley Station more attractive? SwaleRail is looking for individuals or a group that might be interested in "adopting" the station and doing some landscaping work. Some capital funding may be available. Please contact Ian Paterson (details below) if you would like to know more.



Above – Ethan Collier proudly displays his poem.

Contact us

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The Kent Community Rail Partnership is hosted by the registered charity Action with Communities in Rural Kent, The Old Granary, Penstock Hall Farm, East Brabourne, Ashford, Kent TN25 5LL Tel: **01303 813790** Charity No. 212796.

By working together we aim to encourage greater use of the line by local people and visitors and to improve the station environments and facilities on offer.

Other useful contacts

For National Rail Enquiries call **08457 48 49 50** or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk

For local bus information call **0871 200 2233** or visit www.traveline.org.uk

For details of engineering works visit southeasternrailway.co.uk

For travel facilities for disabled passengers call the Assisted Travel Line on **0800 783 4524**

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