

FEBRUARY 2019

Hello All

The facilities at the station will be opening very soon but, in the meantime, please keep spreading the word about Bat & Ball Station – a fantastic local community resource.

NEWS

January Open Day

We opened the doors of Bat & Ball Station to the public on Saturday 19th January. Over 300 people from the local community attended and were able to see the restored station building for the first time. Information was available about the hiring facilities and we have had many enquires already. Children took part in a variety of art activities and the café was serving tea, coffee and cake.

We asked attendees to complete a survey for evaluation purposes. Here are some comments from the public:

"A high-quality restoration of a lovely building"

"The building has been developed as a community facility while still preserving the railway connection"

"Making good use of a building which otherwise would be left to decay and blight the neighbourhood"



Molly – one of our first dog visitors to the station (above left)



Jennie & James welcome visitors to the Café @ the Station (above right)

New bike racks have now been installed outside the station (see below).



WEBSITE - www.batandballstation.com

As a result of the Open Day more people are discovering about the station via 'word of mouth'. This is evident from the latest website stats which show we had 758 visits during January. Let's hope visits continue to grow over the coming year.

FUTURE EVENTS

- STATION OPEN DAY - Saturday 16th February - 10am- 12pm

The station building will open again for the public to view before it officially opens. Staff and volunteers will be on hand to share information about hiring facilities, volunteering opportunities plus there will be lots of books and photographs to help people discover all about the history of the station and the refurbishment project. There will also be some free art activities for children and refreshments available from the café.

- COMMUNITY ART WORKSHOP - Thursday 21st February – 10am- 2pm

Families can take part in creating pieces (postcards, labels, images) to be used to make a dress for Queen Victoria. The final artwork will be unveiled at the official opening later in the year and will then be displayed inside the building for all to see.

We still need your 'used' lottery tickets to help with this project. Please bring any used lottery tickets to the Town Council offices.

- VOLUNTEER COFFEE MORNING - Thursday 14th March 10am

If you are interested in finding out more about the various volunteer roles we have available or to ask any questions regarding volunteering and what it involves please join us for a coffee and a chat.

If you would like to attend, please email heo@sevenoakstown.gov.uk or telephone 01732 459953 to book a place.



- HERITAGE TALK by Edwin Thompson - Thursday 21st March 7-8.30pm

If you would like to attend this talk, please email heo@sevenoakstown.gov.uk for a ticket.



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If you have any news items to include in the next newsletter, please email Linda Redden, Heritage Engagement Officer heo@sevenoakstown.gov.uk by **27th February 2019**.