

NEWSLETTER

*Swanley Park
Heritage
Open Day
vintage car
show*



HERITAGE OPEN DAY

After 2022 cancelled event due to Queen Elizabeth II death, we were ready for this year's Heritage Open Day event to go ahead! Bat & Ball Station decided to collaborate with Heritage Open Days themed 'Creativity Unwrapped', linking with Swanley Park's own Heritage Open Day Vintage car show event. Both events were based around Heritage, and aimed to have a 'bit of something' for all age ranges.

We were lucky enough to have our own Queen Victoria and Prince Albert make an appearance, bringing their royal gowns and memorabilia from the Victorian era. They swanned around the event greeting people whilst inviting visitors to a show and tell of Victorian artifacts or even take a photo with her. We also displayed a selection of our own Victorian clothing for children to try on and learn a little bit more about the different persons from the Victorian era.

In our Luggage Room, throughout the day we had talks from Thomas Crampton museum volunteers, who even dressed up in Victorian clothing to match the Heritage day. For those of you who don't know, Thomas Crampton was the railway engineer who designed locomotives and the Darent Valley Railway Line. The museum is solely run by volunteers and showcases a great collection of model railways, memorabilia, and records- worth a visit if you're over in Broadstairs!

In the main hall along with Queen Vic, we had a selection of Victorian inspired inventions; the telephone, the steam engine, the gramophone, and the camera; miniature displays of these items, with small activities to go along side. The Tonbridge Model Engineering Society kindly volunteered to bring along their societies loco River Class tank engine No 800 River Cray; this is a Southern locomotive which was involved in the 1927 derailed crash between Dunton Green Station and Sevenoaks Railway Station, killing 13 and injuring many more.

There were many activities for the family to do on the day, a discovery map with points of interest around the station.

Alongside this, at Bat & Ball Station we wanted to showcase the

(continued...)



*Queen Vic
and Prince
Albert with
Tonbridge
MES*

grand history which is all around the Station; the old Signal Box, the location of the old Water Tower and Goods yard, the waiting shelter, and the various Station Masters. Many of these buildings are sadly long gone, which is why it's important to remember them. We also designed an interactive kids friendly trail with clues needing to be found along the day giving children a playful insight in their local history.

It was a wonderful day to celebrate Bat & Ball Stations Heritage, with over 300 people attending from not only Sevenoaks but broader Kent. We hope to host another Heritage Open Days event next year, if you missed it- come along to the next!



*Crampton
Museum
Volunteers Talks
at the Heritage
Event*

All are welcome at our Forget-Me-not dementia cafe

Our dementia Forget-me-not café this year has been off to a good start, with lots of unique speakers and presentations. Throughout the year we've had talks from old Sevenoaks Station Manager Elliott Waters, a well known presenter within the community Phil Raymond, and ex-chronicle writer and local historian Bob Ogle. We were also lucky enough to receive funding from Helping Hands for our Forget-Me-Not cafe into 2023; all of this funding has helped us put on paid talks, activities, and provide cakes from our Station café or volunteers.

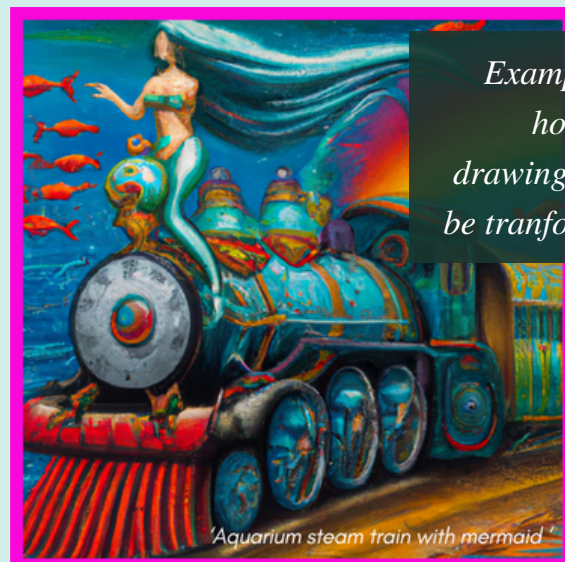
For those who'd like to join our next few dementia café mornings 10:30am - 12:30pm before the end of the year, we have:

- 8th November - 'Comedy stars of the TV and theatre from the 50s to the 80s' by Phil Raymond
- 13th December - Creative Minds Christmas art session

Poster Competition!

As part of Heritage Open Day festival, we're hosting a railway poster competition for any young persons (under 25's including SEN) to 'Dream your own train for the future'. The drawings will then be transformed into realistic designs for the poster. You're invited to imagine and change the way we travel by train...

- Who is your train for? Would you like to have your own private train filled with your favourite people? A snow filled train that you can sledge down the carriages... Or maybe it's a train for your pet, conducting their own train!
- How big is your train? A never ending train that chugs along wrapping itself around the world?
- How do you think your train will be powered by? Chocolate? Steam? Carrots?
- You can also think about where your train will be going...



*Example of
how the
drawings can
be transformed*

Include your name, contact details, and a little explanation of your train. Send in your own or pick up an A3 poster drawing sheet from the Cafe or the Town Council Offices. We've received such a wonderful collection of drawings already, we've extended the competition deadline to the end of October 2023.

Darent Valley Murals consultation update:

Sevenoaks Station and Bat & Ball Station

You might be aware, Darent Valley CRP received funding to install 6 murals at each station if they choose to. As well as Swanley, it was decided that Bat & Ball Station and Sevenoaks Station were going to have a mural installed along their railway bridges (A224 and A225) Sevenoaks Town Council choose to go with Ola Sielicka, a London mural artist; Ola creates enticing artwork with a combination of graphic design and illustration together. Working with the allocated budget, she's been great to work with and we're very excited for the murals to finally be installed soon.

Before we can simply install the murals, the murals went through a public consultation period in which the public can vote over a period of 6 weeks if they liked the murals or not. It was great to see (and a relief!) that both station results were with an overwhelming 'I like the planned mural'. Results:

Bat & Ball Station

Liked the planned mural: 86.54%

Didn't like the planned mural: 13.46%

Sevenoaks Station

Liked the planned mural: 91.09%

Didn't like the planned mural: 8.91%



*DVCRP
Sevenoaks
Mural
Design*

We did receive a few comments on the train models featured. We took these comments on board and asked Ola to slightly adjust them. The Sevenoaks Station mural now features the 465 class instead of the Bombardier class 375. Bat & Ball Station mural train now features the Thameslink 700 (currently running) instead of the Bombardier class 375. We've also extended the boiler of the Thomas Crampton steam locomotive, an iconic feature of the locomotive. Both we've checked with Sevenoaks Station Manager and a few train enthusiasts! (Updated versions are shown on this page)

Next stages are for the bridges to be assessed and checked by Network Rail. These next steps could take a while, but hopefully we can get the first mural installed before January 2024!



*DVCRP
Bat & Ball
Mural
Design*

Period Telephone transformed into an interactive audio point!

In the Luggage Room, we have a wonderful antique candle stick telephone from the 1930's with the nostalgic rotary dial. The reason for having this phone was to install audio from our oral memorabilia interviews, and repurpose it into an interactive point for visitors and school children. The audio is currently being uploaded to the phone and will be ready to listen to by 16th October in the Luggage Room; just simply dial the tone for the audio you'd like to listen to!

Our audio recordings are a collection of oral interviews with local residents who know the station very well. We've also uploaded the audio to our Learning section on the Station's website. Scan the QR code to listen to a few or visit our 'Learning' section on our website.



Learn with Bat & Ball Station

Out with the new and in with the old

Our platform bench really went through it this year having undergone some serious carpenter reconstruction. When the bench was damaged at the beginning of this year, it was sent off to a specialist carpenters workshop recommended to us by Railway Heritage Trust. After receiving the bench, it was clear that a lot more work was needed than expected. The legs and arms of the bench were thrown out when damaged, which meant that the design features of the bench were also missing; although the Southeastern & Chatham Railway bench was common pre- 70's, the design plans for this style were very hard to find resulting in the carpenters drawing up designs from old pre-vandal damage photos of the bench.

We also lucky enough to receive funding from Railway Heritage Trust to design a replica of the original bench. This new bench was to replace the modern metal Southeastern bench outside the café entrance.

After a few months the benches were completed, our Station caretaker painted both in their original Brunswick green colour before bolting them down to the platform.

We'd like to thank the carpenters Brian and David and Railway Heritage Trust, the benches look fantastic!



Community Garden project

At the Station we have a few green areas we'd like to transform into community gardens. These areas are quite tricky to work with as we cannot simply overturn the ground and plant into the soil, this is due to the Station having live cabling or pipe work underground which go undetected. By platform 2 ticket machine, you'll notice that the ground behind used to have planting but is now a clear area; this is due to surface cables being detected. As a result, we can only have planters on the surface and no flower beds.

A similar fate has happened to the disused area to the right of our cycle rack on platform 2. This whole area used to be where a 45 foot turntable was when the station was the passenger terminus for Sevenoaks (pre Sevenoaks Station). The area is currently being surveyed for pipes and cables by Network Rail and Southeastern.

If you'd like to volunteer to help out with our garden areas, it would be great to hear from you! Check out our 'Volunteer' section on our website or scan the QR code.

Cooking up a storm with Supper Club!

Our Station Supper Club, we've had some glorious dishes made by café manager Tom. He's a wizz when it comes to vegan meals such as aubergine steaks or coconut and turmeric crème brulee- yum! He's also introduced mocktails at the beginning of the night, a good way to get people settled and mingling with fellow attendees. The club has been working really well, with lots of repeat customers.



Snap shots of Supper Club dinners!



The next cafés are:
21st October, 11th November
9th December, 13th January (to be decided), 10th February, and 9th March.

If you're interested in attending, send an email to Tom at batandballcafe@sevenoakstown.gov.uk or phone 01732 920150.



Local florist at the Station

At the end of summer we had a local florist set up a stall in the doorway of the Stations Booking Hall every Friday 11:30am - 1:30pm. Ali lives in the Bat & Ball area, and grows her own organic flowers in her garden.

Ali runs a small holding of cut flowers all organically grown in her garden, growing flowers such as cosmos, dahlias, zinnias, and ammi. As we all know, flowers are seasonal and therefore she won't be able to sell the flowers during the winter but she will be back in Spring with a new crop of beautiful flowers. We're happy to have her stall for the short amount of time and support her local businesses.

www.smallgardenlife.com/

Instagram - @smallgardenlife



A fabulous bunch of flowers from Ali

A sad farewell...

And some sad news. We're sorry to say that Debbie is leaving us in Kent and heading for East Sussex! Debbie made some brilliant cakes which were highly sort after in the Sevenoaks community, supplying lots



One of Debbie's glorious cakes

of sweet treats for buffets, birthdays, and special occasions. She'll be sorely missed at the café and the Town Council, her bubbly and jovial personality made her a unique character at the café which can't be replaced!

All Aboard heritage talks

Join us for Heritage talks at Bat & Ball Station with from local historians to published authors. Running from 6:00pm - 7:30pm.

Ed Thompson: St John's Past in Pictures

An evening in the company with local historian, author, and photographer Ed Thompson. Ed will be delving into the history of St John's Sevenoaks, with excerpts from his latest book. He'll be plunging into the St Johns area as we once knew it.

30th November 6pm - 7:30pm Book through our website

Jennifer Godfrey: Suffragettes of Kent

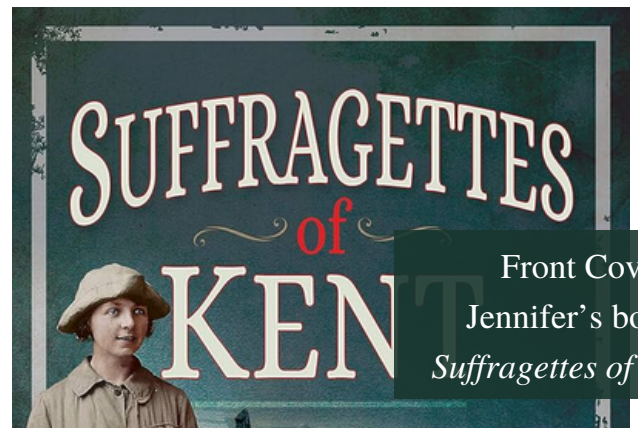
Hope, determination, and courage can be found in this book, with thought provoking insights into the many stories and journeys of Kent's suffragettes.

Hear stories of pioneers such as Emmeline Pankhurst and discover photographs of maid Ethel's imprisonment in March 1912. Join Jennifer for an evening of readings and reflection as she invites us to imagine what our lives were like for the Kent suffragettes.

29th February 6pm - 7:30pm Book through our website



St John's: The past in Pictures



Front Cover of Jennifer's book *Suffragettes of Kent*

Keep up to date with the Station

Follow us on social media:

Bat & Ball Station

- Facebook @batandballstation
- Twitter @BatandBallTrain

Cafe at the Station

- Facebook: @cafeatthestationbatandball
- Instagram: @cafe_at_the_station

Would you like to hire out the station for an event, party, or a meeting? Contact hallhire@sevenoakstown.gov.uk



**VENUE
FOR HIRE**

Bat & Ball Station, Sevenoaks,
Kent, TN14 5AP

Next Station events to keep an eye out for...

Ho ho ho, Christmas is coming with Father Christmas! Join us for a free arts & crafts morning session with Father Christmas!

**December date TBC
10:30am - 1pm**



Meet Father Christmas!

Want to find out more?

Become a friend!

Help make our Station a better community hub by becoming a Friend of Bat & Ball Station. Or help out on the ground level by volunteering at events, workshops, or as a gardener.

Thanks for reading!

Iona Green, Heritage Engagement Officer