

OCTOBER 2019

Hello All

It's getting colder and darker, so Autumn is definitely here! It also means most of the events and activities, relating to the HLF Activity Plan, have now (successfully) been completed. The Activity Plan enabled members of the public, local schools and business to see the restoration project from start to finish and to learn about the history of the station and surrounding area. The final HLF Activity Plan event will take place on 9th November (see Event section).

NEWS

- INTERPRETATION PANELS



Two beautiful new interpretation panels have been installed inside the Station; the first is in the café area which shows an illustrated timeline with significant historic dates and events, the second panel in the booking hall has six short stories about various characters associated with the Station. Both panels were illustrated by local artist Georgie Bennett.

- BAT & BALL FILM

The premiere of the 'Bat & Ball film' based at Bat & Ball Station was shown to 80+ people at the Stag Cinemas. The film was created by and starred members of the Stag Youth Theatre and was shown alongside a 'Making of' documentary. Don't worry if you didn't manage to join us at the premiere as you can check out the film on YouTube. Follow the links - for the Bat & Ball Film <https://youtu.be/vfmGRIHnFvs> and the making of documentary <https://youtu.be/k5NPnF2YQVI>

- **HERITAGE OPEN DAY**



Over 250 people attended this free event on 21st September. The weather was perfect, and the sun shone all day, Go Coach staff and volunteer bus drivers gave free bus rides up to Knole Park using eight different vintage buses. We had talks by costumed volunteers from the Crampton Tower Museum and families made train inspired arts & crafts. The Mayor unveiled two brass plaques, to commemorate the previous royal visits, and a community artwork 'Queen Victoria's dress' which will now be displayed in the booking hall. This was a great 'finale' to the Restoration Project. **Thank you to all those involved in helping to deliver such a successful event.**

- **THOMAS CRAMPTON TALK**

Local historian Roger Johnson gave an excellent short talk about the work of the English engineer Thomas Crampton and his connection with Bat & Ball Station. Those who attended were sure to have discovered a lot more about this rather unknown local hero!

- GARDEN VOLUNTEERS (below left)

Thank you to Elliott Waters from Southeastern for delivering a health & safety training session to the latest Garden Volunteer recruits.



- RAMP AND ACCESS TO PLATFORM 1 (above right)

Monday 30th September saw the Mayor of Sevenoaks, Sir Michael Fallon and distinguished guests attend the ribbon cutting of the new ramp, which joins the community centre car park to platform 1 of Bat & Ball Station. The ramp, which has been eagerly awaited, will enable easy access for wheelchair user and parents with buggies.

EVENT

- ‘Grief Encounter’ Murder Mystery event – Saturday 9th November 7-10.30pm

Trouble on the tracks! Join us for a whodunit in which not everything is black and white! A fun evening with a 1950’s theme (dressing up encouraged!). Fish & chip supper (alternative options are available) and one complimentary drink are included in the ticket price. Tickets are available from Eventbrite. For more information please go to the events section on the Bat & Ball Station website or email heo@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Thank you to all staff, volunteers and Friends of Bat & Ball Station who have been involved in the HLF Restoration Project and helping to make it possible to complete the Activity Plan.

Linda Redden – Heritage Engagement Officer.