

Press Release

7 January 2010

February Half-term Week

Free child tickets to Kent & East Sussex Railway and Bodiam Castle



Beat the winter blues during February half term with a visit to the Kent and East Sussex Railway from **Tuesday 16 to Friday 19 February**, when children can enjoy a free steam train ride and entry to the historic Bodiam Castle when travelling with a full paying adult.

The promotion is a joint partnership between the Kent & East Sussex Railway and The National Trust, which allows up to three children to travel on the railway for free with the purchase of one adult train ticket (costing £12.80). Children can also enjoy free admission to Bodiam Castle with the presentation of a valid train ticket! (Offer limited to 1 free child per full paying adult admission costing £5.80 including gift aid).

Train tickets include a return journey to Bodiam station on one of the railway's vintage steam or diesel trains, departing from Tenterden station between 10:40am and 2:45pm everyday between 16 and 19 February. To claim free tickets visitors need to print a voucher from the website www.kesr.org.uk and present it at the booking office at the time of ticket purchase.

The Kent and & East Sussex Railway is one of England's premier steam railways and visitors love the excitement of riding through the beautiful countryside on the vintage carriages which have been restored to their Victorian and Edwardian glory. Children will watch with excitement as the guard waves his flag as the train departs each station before watching out for the friendly uniformed ticket inspector who will clip the children's tickets to make the perfect souvenir to take home. Children should also keep an eye out for Mr Mystery, the railway's very own magician who's coming to entertain everyone with spell binding magic tricks.

During the week, as well as free child entry to the Castle, Bodiam Castle is also hosting a variety of events for families. For an extra £2 (plus adult entry fee) families can enjoy The Knights Trail, where they follow a special trail and claim a reward from a real knight in shining armour, and “Dress to Impress” which gives the opportunity to try on armour or medieval clothes. The last return train to Tenterden leaves Bodiam station at 3:45pm every day so everyone can be home in time for tea!

The journey to Bodiam station from Tenterden station takes 45 minutes and there is ample free parking at Tenterden station.

Half-term Week Train Times

Between 16 and 19 February trains depart from Tenterden station at 10.40am (steam) 11.45am (diesel) 1.15pm (steam) 2.45pm (diesel). In order to visit Bodiam Castle passengers will need to be on first three train departures from Tenterden. Last train departs Bodiam Station at 3.45pm.

Tickets

Kent & East Sussex Railway - up to three free child tickets with the purchase of one adult rover ticket costing £12.80.

Bodiam Castle – one free child entry with every adult ticket purchased costing £5.80 (including gift aid).

For more details telephone 01580 765155, visit www.kesr.org.uk or email enquiries@kesr.org.uk

To request an interview or images contact Caroline Edmunds at Pennington PR on

01892 616647 e-mail caroline@penningtonpr.com

Editors Notes:

- Tenterden and Northiam are situated on the A28 between Ashford and Hastings and both stations have spacious car parks which are free. Please note that there is no parking at Bodiam Station so passengers are advised to park and ride from Tenterden or Northiam
- The Kent & East Sussex Railway is operated by the Kent & East Sussex Railway Co Ltd, a charitable company, limited by guarantee and not having a share capital. Registered charity No. 262481.
- There are parking spaces for the disabled next to the platforms at Tenterden Town and Northiam Stations and toilets for the disabled at Tenterden, Northiam and Bodiam.