

## NEWS RELEASE



*Fiona Harrison*

### **Steam back to the 1940's with the Kent and East Sussex Railway**

On the 15 and 16 May 2010 steam back to the 1940's with the Kent & East Sussex railway at their railway stations in Northiam, Bodiam and Tenterden.

Visitors can re-live the forties lifestyle with period vehicles, music and dancing. Period features including sand bags, taped windows, spivs, policemen and other characters as well as streams of bunting and flags will help create a nostalgic atmosphere as visitors take part in the activities. They can also enjoy a full steam train service on the railway's vintage trains over the two days.

The highlight of the weekend at **Tenterden station** will be special performances on Saturday and Sunday by Soprano, Fiona Harrison, Britain's finest professional 1940's singer. Fiona will be performing her popular show "We'll meet again" in full authentic costume. The show features all the favourite tunes of the 1940s and concludes with a patriotic finale. Graham Baldwin, General Manager of the railway said ***"After a spectacular performance last year, we are delighted Fiona is returning again to sing at our popular annual event. Fiona captivated audiences last year with her sparkling performance and stunning voice and we are looking forward to her performance here in May."***

Also helping visitors get in the swing of things will be the Cinque Ports Lindy Hoppers, who will be performing entertaining swing dances in costume throughout the weekend.

Other entertainment will include fire fighting demonstration by the Fire Service Preservation Society and there will even be the opportunity to look inside a recreated World War II Air Raid Anderson Shelter. A range of civilian and military vehicles, privately owned and fully restored to their former war time glory will also be on display.

Trade stalls such as custom made 40's and 50's clothing, and 'Cinque Ports Militaria' will be on show in addition to a display of wartime kitchen memorabilia and interesting exhibits from the Lashenden Air Museum and the Hawker Hurricane Society.

The station refreshment rooms and gift shop will be open.

**Northiam Station** will host a Tea Dance on Sunday 16 May, weather permitting!

Admission: Adult £12.80, Senior Citizen £11.80, Child (3 - 15 years inc.) £7.80 and Family (2 adults + up to 3 children or 1 adult and up to 4 children) £34.00. Please see timetable on website for times of steam train operation.

For more details telephone 01580 765155, visit [www.kesr.org.uk](http://www.kesr.org.uk) or email [enquiries@kesr.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@kesr.org.uk)

For interviews or more information contact Caroline Edmunds at Pennington PR on 01892 616647 e-mail [caroline@penningtonpr.com](mailto:caroline@penningtonpr.com)

### **Editors Notes:**

1940's weekend - Trains should run every 45 minutes from 10:30, see The Kent & East Sussex Railway's website for details.

The Kent and East Sussex Railway is one of the country's finest examples of a rural light railway. The line gently wends its way from Tenterden - "The Jewel of The Weald" for ten and a half miles, through the unspoilt countryside of the Rother Valley, to terminate in the shadow of the magnificent National Trust castle at Bodiam.

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.