**175th Anniversary of the Gainsborough Line**

**And Chappel Viaduct**

**Programme of Events 29th and 30th June 2024**

**Saturday 29th June 2024**

**Chappel and Wakes Colne:**

**10.15 am:** An ideal opportunity toleave the car at home and travel by train to walk in the footsteps of the original celebrations of the opening of this beautiful railway line. The walk is starting at Marks Tey Station and ends at Chappel and Wakes Colne station. It will be led by Hugh Turner a relative of the viaduct designer Peter Bruff. Meet in the car park behind the station alongside platform 3. Participation in the walk is free. Refreshments will be available for purchase at Platform2 café at Chappel and Wakes Colne station after the walk. You can stay for the day or return by train from Chappel and Wakes Colne.

**2.30pm:** Imagine ‘Steaming through 175 years of the Stour Valley Railway’ a talk given by Nathaniel Dodd at Chappel and Wakes Colne Village Hall. Entry is free.

**7.00pm:** Go back in time! Travel on theMusic Hall train arranged by Essex and South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership (ESSCRP). The entertainment will be led by a music hall chairman and accompanist. Train leaves Marks Tey at 7.01pm and you enjoy two return trips Sudbury to Marks Tey. Dress up in Victorian costume if you wish and join in the old songs. Words provided. Tickets £5 for adults £3 for children available from the ESSCRP website (<https://esscrp.org.uk/events/old-time-music-hall-train/>

**East Anglian Railway Museum:**

Revel in memories of steam and diesel travel. The museum will be open as usual running a diesel and steam train. Visit the exhibition of local artist Waj Mirecki’s amazing pictures of the arches of the viaduct, and a collage made by the school children. Entry to the museum costs £11.50 for adults. £8.50 for children. Book online in advance for 5% discount. For more Museum event details see <https://earm.co.uk/events/chappel-175>

**Bures:**

**Mid-morning onwards:**

Bures Station Adopters warmly invite you to view a display of art work from Ferriers Barn, the school and different groups in the village. The exhibition is in the barn on the common. At the station admire the garden constructed with the help of Bures Scouts.

**During the weekend take a ride on a train along the line and see the great work of the station adopters and the ways in which they, together with members of their communities are celebrating this significant milestone in their station gardens and platforms.**

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**Sunday 30th June 2024**

**Chappel and Wakes Colne:**

**1.30pm:** The opening ceremony will take place under the canopy of the goods shed on the East Anglian Railway Museum site. Our guests include the Mayoress of Colchester, Sir Bob Russell (High Steward of Colchester), Alan Neville (Greater Anglia) and older residents in the community. The children from the school will celebrate by singing, playing instruments and reading some of their work.

**2.00pm** Come with the family and picnic in the grounds of the East Anglian Railway Museum. Our fantastic picnic organisers have arranged an exciting programme of games and activities for you to enjoy.

**East Anglian Railway Museum:**

Delight in viewing artefacts and carriages from the past. The museum will be open running a diesel and steam train. There will be many additional attractions, including model railways, shire horses and a steam fairground organ. Vintage carriages will be on show, and members of the EARM team will be able to share their knowledge of the history of the displays. Don’t forget to drop into Waj Mirecki’s and children’s exhibition too. Entry to the museum will be free to local people bringing clear proof of residence with a post code, otherwise £13.80 for adults £9.50 for children. Book online in advance for 5% discount. For more Museum event details see <https://earm.co.uk/events/chappel-175>

**Sudbury: Gainsborough House**

To help celebrate the 175th anniversary of the Gainsborough Line, Dr Steven Parissien presents two lectures: the first exploring how the coming of the railway completely changed the lives of every Briton, the second analysing the changes in taste, style and ambition of English railway stations.

11am: Coming of the Railway, lecture 1: 11am-12noon

2pm: Exploring British Railway Stations, lecture 2: 2pm-3pm

Lectures are £18 each or £30 for both. When booking both lectures, your payment includes standard admission to Gainsborough’s House for you to explore between each lecture. For more information: <https://gainsborough.org/event/175th-anniversary-celebrations-of-the-opening-of-the-chappel-viaduct-and-marks-tey-to-sudbury-line>

**Leave the car at home and travel there by train!**