East Grinstead Platform Canopy Formally Opened by Town Mayor

Mr Roy Watts MBE - Chairman Bluebell Railway Preservation Society was delighted to welcome East Grinstead's Town Mayor Councillor Dick Sweatman to the railway at East Grinstead Station on Monday August 3rd.

The Town Mayor had been invited to formally open the platform canopy and disabled persons facility. At a cost of just under £50,000 the project was now complete and ready for use.

In his remarks Roy Watts recalled that when operating the Bluebell's first trains into East Grinstead on 23rd March 2013 it snowed – in fact the coldest March for over 50 years. Now at least we can provide some shelter for our passengers from the elements and in constructing the canopy the opportunity was seized to also provide a more readily accessible disabled persons facility on the platform.

The East Grinstead link had indeed changed the dynamics of where people were joining the Bluebell for a day out and also how they travelled to us. The ongoing commitment and support of the people of East Grinstead and East Grinstead Town Council were gratefully acknowledged.

The Town Mayor unveiled a plaque commemorating the event and was also asked to 'unlock' the facilities for public use!

In response Councillor Dick Sweatman stated how important for promoting tourism in the town the Bluebell Railway connection had been and that the benefits of increased visitor numbers were still accruing.

He was introduced to other members of the Bluebell Railway including the East Grinstead station staff and two of the team that built the canopy facility. Formalities were concluded just in time for the Town Mayor to see the arrival of the first up service from Sheffield Park

Roger Garman

Communications Director – Bluebell Railway Plc

3rd August 2015

Photos by Martin Lawrence

EAST GRINSTEAD
SOUTHDOWN
AND
EAST GRINSTEAD
BREWERIES LTD
WINES &
SPIRITS

CLOSING OF
EAST GRINSTEAD-LEWES
LINE
WEST HOATHLY
SHEFFIELD PARK
NEWICK & CHAILEY
BLUE BELL
TOBACCO
EAST GRINSTEAD