

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

All members are members of the Rother Valley Railway Supporters Association



Full Name  
Address

Postcode  
email  
Telephone

Price of Membership  
Full Annual Adult Membership ..... £ 18.00  
Junior Members/Other Family Members ... £ 9.00

Mr/Mrs/Miss	.....	£
Mr/Mrs/Miss	.....	£
Mr/Mrs/Miss	.....	£
Mr/Mrs/Miss	.....	£
Donation		£
	<hr/>	
Total Paid		£
	<hr/>	

Cheques and Postal Orders should be made payable to

**Rother Valley Railway Supporters Association**

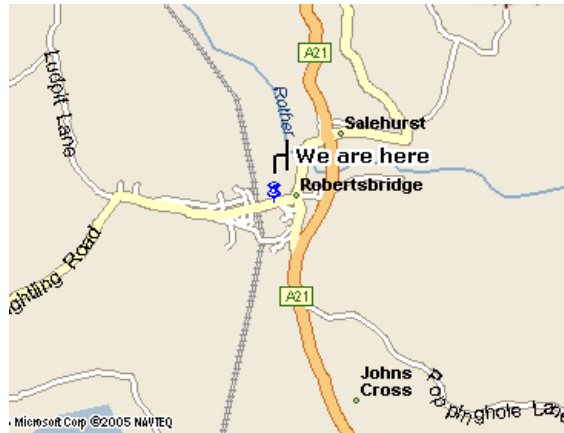
I agree to my details being held on computer files solely for the use of the Rother Valley Railway

**Signed**

**Date**



## HOW TO FIND US



**Rail**  
On the London Charing Cross to Hastings line.

**Road:**  
Robertsbridge village is just off the A21 London to Hastings road.

Robertsbridge (RVR) Station  
Station Road  
Robertsbridge  
East Sussex  
TN32 5DG

Tel.... : 01580 881833  
Email : [reception@rvr.org.uk](mailto:reception@rvr.org.uk)

OPEN EVERY SUNDAY AND BANK HOLIDAY  
Saturdays and Wednesdays please ring first



## Purpose and Mission

The Rother Valley Railway (RVR) in all its parts was created to reconnect the main line railway on the Tonbridge to Hastings line with Bodiam and the Kent and East Sussex Line together with preserving historical railway artifacts for posterity.

## The Supporters Association

To achieve this aim the Supporters Association (SA) of the RVR was formed to promote awareness and encourage volunteers to participate in the rebuilding effort. To date the achievements of the SA have been exceptional, but still more is to be done if our ambitions are to be realised.

Our main base is at Robertsbridge adjacent to the main line station.

## Volunteering

The reasons people join the RVR-SA are many, but do include learning new skills, sharing skills they already have, social, historical interest a desire to do something worthwhile on retirement or ceasing of work to keep fit, active by mind and body and agile.

The skills the Railway needs is basically everything. If you can wield a brush to paint, light engineering, heavy engineering administration, fund raising or ground clearance to name but a few we want to hear from YOU!

Contact us at [reception@rvr.org.uk](mailto:reception@rvr.org.uk) and we will ensure you are taken care of.

## History

An Act of Parliament was passed in 1896 to build a railway from Robertsbridge, on the London to Hastings line, to Tenterden (now Rolvenden). Almost as soon as the Rother Valley (Light) Railway Act had been passed however parliament passed the Light Railways Act 1896. This considerably simplified the procedure for obtaining authority to build minor railways and relieved those railways of many statutory duties and obligations making them much cheaper to construct and operate. The Rother Valley (Light) Railway Act was therefore abandoned and the promoters obtained permission instead to proceed under the talons of the Light Railway Act. The RVR/KESR is unique in that it is the only preserved railway which was originally constructed to these standards. The Company's Engineer was Holman Frederick Stephens who became General Manager in 1899 and Managing Director in 1900. The London & Scottish Contract Corporation were contracted to build the Railway, but the work was sub-contracted to Godfrey & Siddelow..

The line followed the courses of the River Rother and its tributary, the Newmill Channel. There were 24 bridges and culverts and much of the line was carried on a low embankment. All roads were crossed on the level. The rail was 60 lb Vignoles rail spiked directly to the sleepers, some of which survived some 50 years until nationalisation.

The Rother Valley Railway opened for goods traffic on the 26 March 1900 and for passengers on the 2 April 1900. In March 1903 the old (Tenterden) terminus was renamed Rolvenden and the railway was extended 1.5 miles to the present Tenterden Town station. The L&D&E of the railway was amalgamated in 1904 into the Kent & East Sussex Light Railway.

The railway was further extended to a junction with the SECR at Headcorn, opening on the 15 May 1905. It survived the 1923 grouping and remained independent until taken over by British Railways in 1948.

The railway closed to regular passenger services on the 2 January 1954, and the Tenterden to Headcorn section was lifted in 1955. Freight services continued between Robertsbridge and Tenterden until June 1961 when the line was closed completely, except for the short section between the main line and Hodsons Mill at Robertsbridge, which survived as a private siding until 1969.

A complete history of the Railway is available at the excellent Colonel Stephens Railway Museum situated at Tenterden Town Station.

The Kent & East Sussex Railway Preservation Society was formed in 1961 following closure of the line.

After many trials and tribulations, the Tenterden Railway Company Limited was incorporated in 1971 as a Company limited by Guarantee and in 1973 was successful in purchasing that part of the line between Tenterden and Bodiam. The preservationists were refused permission by the then Transport Minister Barbara Castle to take over the section between Bodiam and Robertsbridge despite taking the Minister to the High Court. The latter section was lifted and became abandoned:

A separate Company the Rother Valley Railway (East Sussex) Ltd, was formed on the 22 May 1991 with the approval of the TRC to reconstruct the railway between Bodiam and Robertsbridge. The company has since simplified its name to the Rother Valley Railway Ltd.

The Rother Valley Railway propose to restore the missing rail link between Bodiam and Robertsbridge. This is approximately a 3 1/2 mile long section. There will be an end on link with the Kent & East Sussex Railway at Bodiam, enabling through running. Trains will initially run into our own station at Robertsbridge, but our ultimate aim is once again to run KESR trains into the bay platform, which still exists as an engineers siding.

## MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS



What will you receive?

- 1) A copy of the Railway quarterly magazine "The Phoenix" posted to you (*Family members do not receive an individual copy*).
- \* You may opt to receive your magazine online instead.
- 2) An opportunity to support, to be a volunteer and be a part of this exciting Project.
- 3) Concessionary travel on the Railway.

Membership runs from the date of joining until the 31 March in any year, but after 1<sup>st</sup> October, the fee will be £1.50 (75p Junior and Family members) PER MONTH until 31 March PLUS the full annual fee for the year following

To comply with insurance and health & safety requirements, only members are permitted to work on the site or take an active part in RVR activities.

All funds raised are devoted to projects involved with the reconstruction of the Railway.

Please complete the form overleaf and forward it, with your payment, to the membership secretary;

Mr Trevor Streeter  
105 Estridge Way  
Tonbridge,  
Kent  
TN10 4JU  
[membership@rvr.org.uk](mailto:membership@rvr.org.uk)

**We welcome your support.**