



WELCOME TO THE BLUEBELL RAILWAY FOR OUR STARLIGHT STEAMLIGHTS EVENT



Do please take the time to read through this letter, as you will find information that will make your evening more comfortable and enjoyable

All details are of course correct at the present time, but are subject to alteration if there is a change in regulations which is out of our control

Please check your tickets carefully for the correct date and time – all the SteamLights trains run from and return to Sheffield Park Station TN22 3QL where there is ample car parking.

The whole experience will take around **1 hour 30 minutes**. The time on your ticket is the event start time and the station will be open from 3.30pm each day. Please be aware that our trains must leave on time, and we will be unable to refund should you miss the departure.

On arrival, please have your ticket information to hand, in particular the number of your compartment.

Children might like a ride on the carousel before entering the station.

On the platform you will find a special kiosk selling hot & cold drinks, savoury snacks, confectionery and Churios. The Bessemer Arms Restaurant and Bar will be open for Mulled Wine and Boozy Hot Chocolate, but no hot food will be available.

A stall from which you can purchase a selection of specially designed SteamLights souvenirs is open on the platform. Leave time to visit our shop where you can start thinking about Christmas presents. Card or cash payments are acceptable. SteamWorks will also be open, should you wish to look round before the event begins.

This year we have a very special Wishing Tree standing in the forecourt of the station. You will be able to purchase a Starlight Bag containing a magic star to hang on the tree as you leave the station, making your very special Christmas Wish which we hope will come true!

Once on the platform you will be advised of the area in which to stand for the grand count-down ceremony leading up to the spectacular switch-on when the whole train will be illuminated before your eyes. Boarding will take place immediately, so have a note of your private compartment details.

Any pre-ordered food and drink will be waiting for you in your compartment, and you are welcome to bring your own if you wish. There will not be an on-board drinks service, but you can order drinks in advance through the website. Please note that all pre-orders for food and drink must be completed by midnight on 5th November. Owing to the current constraints within the hospitality industry, we regret we are unable to offer alternatives or variances to the published menus.

Once the train departs, you will journey through the Sussex countryside under cover of darkness, surrounded by a shimmering display of light and colour as you go. Enjoy festive scenes beside the track along the route and a colourful light show played against the trees and clearings, orchestrated

in time to music. The exterior lights on the train will be extinguished just before a lineside tableau comes into view and the train will slow down considerably, introduced by the special starlight theme-tune each time.

The train will travel very slowly past the displays, and the lighting in your compartment is kept low to give you better enjoyment of the spectacle.

At Horsted Keynes you will be able to get off the train to take photos of the engine as it passes slowly through the station to rejoin the front of the train.

You will have 30 minutes at Horsted Keynes – enough time to buy a glass of our famous Mulled Wine or Hot Chocolate. Card or cash is acceptable.

Your return trip will take 20 minutes, and you will be entertained with festive music and songs – join in as loudly as you like in your private compartment!

Unfortunately, dogs cannot be permitted on this service, apart from assistance dogs, and you will find it much more comfortable in your compartment if you leave pushchairs and buggies safely with the station staff on the platform at Sheffield Park at the start of your trip. Platforms are very narrow, and safety is of prime importance.

Please be aware that unfortunately Santa is unable to appear at this event, as he is very busy packing presents and feeding reindeer ready for our Santa Special trains!

Currently, we are still at the mercy of supply and delivery problems, and whilst we will do everything we can to deliver all aspects of this event as advertised, we do ask for your understanding should certain changes have to be made at the last minute.

After yet another difficult year for everyone, it is a real pleasure to welcome you all once again to the Bluebell Railway to put some well-deserved sparkle back in our lives!

We hope you have a wonderful evening of starlight and colour with us.

