



# Friends of Kingscote



## Application Form

(This covers the period from now until 31 July 2025)

I would like to support the "Friends of Kingscote" and become a member. The current annual subscription is £20. Any additional donation would be much appreciated by our working volunteers.

The Friends of Kingscote (FoK) annual newsletter is produced each year in August. To save costs we encourage our supporters to receive this by e-mail. If, however you wish to receive a paper version please tick this box. ☐

Name:.....

Address:.....

..... Post Code: .....

E-Mail Address: .....

We are committed to protecting your personal information, and will not share your details with any organisation outside the Bluebell Railway, which comprises the Bluebell Railway Preservation Society, Bluebell Railway Plc, the Bluebell Railway Trust and their subsidiary supporting groups. So that we may contact you using the details you have provided, please tick this Consent Box ☐

Our full Privacy Policy including your opt-out rights can be found at: [www.bluebell-railway.com/privacy-policy/](http://www.bluebell-railway.com/privacy-policy/)

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a. I wish to join and pay the annual £20 membership

b. I wish to join, pay £20 membership and make a donation, so my total payment is £.....  
(Delete a. or b. as appropriate)

And send an image of this form by email to: [friendsofkingscote@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofkingscote@gmail.com) or post it to the secretary.

Payment: We encourage all our supporters to pay by bank transfer whenever possible:

FoK bank account:	Lloyds Bank, East Grinstead
Sort Code:	30-92-92
Account Number:	01034824
Payment to:	Friends of Kingscote
Reference Box:	Your Initials and Surname

*(This will ensure the payment is properly recorded.)*

OR

Please post this form with your cheque, made payable to "Friends of Kingscote", to:

The FoK Membership Secretary,

Kingscote Station, Vowels Lane, Kingscote, EAST GRINSTEAD, RH19 4LD

We will acknowledge your payment, donation, cheque and application form by email whenever possible to save costs, so please ensure you supply an email address whenever possible.

**Thank you for your kind support to FoK & the upkeep of Kingscote Station**

If you wish to make a one off donation please use the bank details above or send a cheque to the FoK Membership Secretary, Garry Phillips, email: [friendsofkingscote@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofkingscote@gmail.com)

For more information look on the Bluebell Railway website: [www.bluebell-railway.com/volunteer-at-bluebell-railway/](http://www.bluebell-railway.com/volunteer-at-bluebell-railway/)

FoK 2025 Membership App Form and Info v6.0

dated 16 Jun 24



# Friends of Kingscote



## Some background to the Friends of Kingscote (FoK).....

The “Friends of Kingscote” (FoK) was established over 30 years ago. The main purpose of the group is to maintain the station and its immediate lineside areas as they would have been in the 1950's.

At present we have over 130 supporters who subscribe on a yearly basis. The funds generated are used for various projects undertaken by our volunteers. We have a nucleus of about 16 volunteer workers who usually meet on Tuesdays and Saturdays, so if you can spare some time, even on an ad hoc basis, please visit us. An annual Newsletter is produced which is sent to all our members each August.

Kingscote Station was part of the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway from August 1882 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 1922 after which it became part of the Southern Railway, then British Railways in 1948. In its early years the station won awards for floral displays; a tradition we still try to maintain. It finally closed for passenger traffic in May 1955. This was 8 years before the cuts put forward by Dr Beeching in his plan “The Reshaping of British Railways” in 1963. Incidentally he was a resident of East Grinstead.

In 1960 the Bluebell Railway re-opened the line from Sheffield Park towards Horsted Keynes with the ultimate aim of returning to East Grinstead. In 1964 Kingscote Station was sold and became the property of a private purchaser thus ensuring that at least the station house was preserved. It was re-purchased by the Bluebell Railway in 1985. The “Friends of Kingscote” subsequently formed and the team of volunteers set about the huge challenge of renovating the station over the next 9 years.

The railway was extended from Horsted Keynes as far as Kingscote in 1994. This involved a great deal of dedicated work mainly by volunteers. A new bridge had to be constructed near West Hoathly. At Kingscote the “down” (No 2) platform and canopy had been removed by the owner and the subway filled in. A quick glance gives an indication of the brickwork and woodwork involved in restoring that side of the station. A vast number of other tasks were undertaken including the creation of a picnic area, which proved invaluable when the station was the northern terminus for 19 years.

The first passenger train arrived at Kingscote on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1994. In March 2013 the line re-opened to East Grinstead. The station then returned to a much quieter life, rather like it would have been in the late 1950s.

Our present day volunteers are very mindful of the efforts made by our former colleagues and are determined to ensure that the station is maintained to the highest possible standard. The “Friends of Kingscote” (FoK) is always looking to recruit new working volunteers and also supporters to help with funding, thus giving our working members the backing they fully deserve. Please look in the Guards Van in the Goods Yard for more information on the FoK. If you would like to make a donation to help our work there is a donation box in the Booking Office Hall or use the information overleaf.

If you would like to become a Friend, please contact our Membership Secretary, Garry Phillips, by e-mail at: [friendsofkingscote@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofkingscote@gmail.com) or use the form on the reverse side of this page.

**Please consider making a contribution, it will be very much appreciated**

If you wish to make a one off donation please use the bank details above or send a cheque to the FoK Membership Secretary, Garry Phillips, email: [friendsofkingscote@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofkingscote@gmail.com)

For more information look on the Bluebell Railway website: [www.bluebell-railway.com/volunteer-at-bluebell-railway/](http://www.bluebell-railway.com/volunteer-at-bluebell-railway/)

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