

Extension of the Line

In 1986 Bluebell instigated a public inquiry into extending the railway from its initial terminus at Horsted Keynes to East Grinstead.



This was a long process having to buy back the relevant parcels of land from those who had acquired it when the line closed. The Society also had to buy Kingscote station which had been converted into a house – and to rebuild the down platform and clear the subway of accumulated brick rubble.

The track had to be relaid and bridges, tunnel and viaduct had to be repaired. The line reopened in stages to Kingscote which it reached in 1994. The final two miles were the most complicated with 12 landowners and a 1,000 yard cutting filled with household rubbish which had to be cleared. A parcel of land was given by British Railways at East Grinstead to accommodate the fine new station which you see today.

The Society has also purchased the trackbed land from Horsted Keynes to Ardingly and hopes one day to be able to run trains along it to Haywards Heath.

