

STEAM train enthusiasts who run the Kent and East Sussex Railway at Tenterden are jubilant at the news that they have won railway preservation's top award.

They have been rewarded for the marketing, engineering and management expertise involved in the £250,000 line extension project to Northiam.

The award is presented annually by the Association of Railway Preservation Societies to the private railway that has made the most outstanding contribution to preservation.

The ARPS represents the interests and co-ordinates the efforts of the 72 private railways in the UK.

The award trophy was presented to the railway's commercial operations director Mark Toynbee in Birmingham on Sunday.

He said afterwards: "It is wonderful to have our efforts recognised and to receive such a prestigious award."

"I was delighted to accept the

## RAILWAYS

award, not only on the railway's behalf but also the people of Tenterden who can share in our pride.

"Tenterden has an amenity that is one of the very best steam railways in the country. The wider our reputation spreads, the greater the spin-offs for the town."

The trophy will be displayed at Tenterden Station, where the Mayor, Cllr Henry Edwards, congratulated the railway on its achievement.

Ashford MP Keith Speed also added his best wishes saying: "I remember with pleasure and nostalgia the time some years ago, when I worked as a ticket inspector with the KESR."

"I send them my very warmest congratulations on receiving the award — it is well deserved."

The award highlights the professionalism of the voluntary staff in construction of the extension, which is due to open on May 19.

1/2/1990

## Rotarians give motorised chair to day centre

TENTERDEN Rotarians presented a motorised wheelchair to the day centre on Monday.

Members paid £120 to have the chair overhauled when it was given to them and Rotary president David Hunt and community service chairman Peter Knott handed it over to Help the Aged area organiser Carol Beeby.

She told them the chair would be invaluable to the elderly and disabled.

The Church Road centre is preparing a reminiscences exhibition dating from the early 1900s and loans of memorabilia including clothing, household goods and old hop tools and record books would be welcome.

The day centre is also holding an indoor boot fair on April 21 (tables for hire in advance, £5) and other events include a spring coffee morning on March 23 and a nearly new sale on March 31.

8/3/1990

## Club's party raises £100 for the blind

INNER Wheel members from Tenterden achieved two aims at the club's 40th birthday party.

They all had a great time and raised £100 to help the blind with a bring and buy sale and raffle.

Last Monday the money was presented to the president of the national charity Telephones for The Blind, Jean Metcalfe, who used to present BBC radio's Two Way Family Favourites.

The cheque was handed over by club president, Pam Mitchell.

Asthma Research will be this year's charity for the group.



9/3/1990

## Five top flight musicians!

8/3/1990

STAND by for take off! The RAF contingent — Tenterden's own fearless Few — have been tuning up and conquering the sound barrier.

But who said anything about flying? The World War Two airmen are now a dance band!

There are five former officers aged 64 to 74 and they call themselves Last of the Summer Jazz.

Sax player Ray Harington, 67, ex-Mosquito pilot, former architect and Glasgow University lecturer, laughs: "We wondered whether to call ourselves Rif-Raf."

John Matthews, a wartime wireless operator and air gunner, was in one of the first crews to bomb Berlin. Now 74 he plays piano and leads the quintet.

"We don't play much, we just get together for our own amusement," he said.

"We didn't know each other in the RAF. It's just coincidence we are all from the service." They met in different ways.



All set to entertain, left, Cyril Cooling, John Matthews, Alan Pickett, Bill Appleton and Ray Harington

Cyril Cooling, 66, an RAF medical officer, was later medical superintendent at Benenden Chest Hospital. He plays sax when the band entertains old people's clubs, the handicapped, church groups and any group that asks. There is no charge.

Youngest is Alan Pickett, a wartime navigator who went on to be a farmer and publisher. Now 64,

he plays the guitar.

Bill Appleton, 69, flew Spitfires. He had been on the same bomber flying course as Mr Harington but they did not meet until the band brought them together.

This week they were at Tenterden's Glebe Hall at a tea dance in aid of restoring St Mildred's Parish Church, Tenterden's west window.