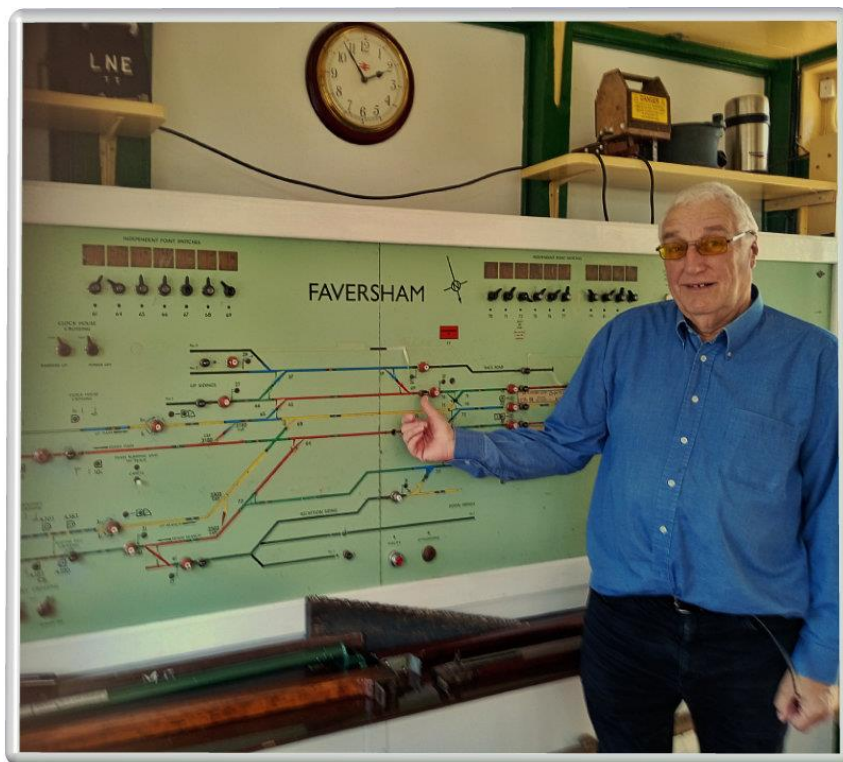




Faversham & Isle of Sheppey Summer Saturday Timetable 2025

PC Rail Signallers Guide.

By Geoff Butler - Timetable Author.

The railway in this area is now controlled by the East Kent Signal Centre at Gillingham. signal plates (EK) It controls from Longfield and Dartford to Ramsgate and Dover . Recently I found the Old Faversham Signal Panel and a photo is included at the top of the page.

Introduction

Since the last 2 timetables were made sadly freight has become extinct of the Isle of Sheppey All the yards are derelict, and the track lifted with the rail links going into them.

In Sheerness the Centre Road has also gone and the crossovers on the buffer stops. All the Steel Works area has gone and Queenborough likewise.

Sittingbourne Yard and Newington Sidings have gone as has Teynham Sidings. Faversham the Goods Shed is now in a wood derelict and a trading estate. The Creek Line and Loco Shed also gone. Only the Up Field Sidings and the Back Rd area remain. Some trains berth there overnight. So that still leaves us plenty to do in this timetable.

Trains Mainly Come from London Victoria, Cannon St, Charing Cross, and the star of the show is the High Speed 1 service from St Pancras to Ramsgate.

The main stock in use are EMUs Class 375,376 377 and 395

You have a busy day ahead as the Sittingbourne to Sheerness Shuttle Service is going to have 2 bridge lifts at Kings Ferry Bridge over the River Swale to allow shipping into and out of Ridham Docks Instructions further down on how we operate this are in the train notes. It is a road and rail lift bridge - see photos below.

The River Swale goes around the whole of the Isle of Sheppey and is tidal. Only a brief period every twelve hours either side of high tide can it be used. The river is very narrow and shipping cannot pass each other in the river in opposite directions.

The next problem is these large ships cannot stop quickly enough and if they try they could broadside or run-aground. When a ship enters or leaves Ridham Docks at least 10 minutes before the ship is due to pass under the bridge, the bridge has to be lifted. The lift takes about 10 minutes to complete then when you add five minutes for the ship passing and then lowering the bridge this will take all about 20 minutes before the railway can reopen.

Added to that the line is single line it means trains must stop at Queenborough or Swale Halt. Or held at Kemsley. Trains must be retimed or cancelled. The train notes will advise you what to do. The tides move an hour each day so it's an ongoing problem

A photo of the Kingsferry Bridge is below with the bridge down and raised.



Engineering Work

I've added a T3 Engineer's Possession so that you may learn about how it is set up, etc. It also adds interest and covers what the signallers and PW staff need to do.

I will take you through each stage as we do the simulation around 2000 hours. A T3 for all Sheerness Station.

Train Reporting Letters

B= London Cannon St to Ramsgate Seaside Extra Trains via Dartford

C= HS1 between Ramsgate and St Pancras Via Ebbsfleet.

D = Sittingbourne to Sheerness Shuttle Service

P= All Up trains to London Victoria from Dover Priory or Ramsgate

S = London Victoria to Dover Priory

F or U = Services starting at Faversham and not going to London

(IE Medway Town or Ramsgate and Dover Priory)

Faversham Today. The special is going round the corner to Whitstable and Margate.



I do hope you enjoy this timetable as much as I enjoyed making it. I drove over these routes for 6 years before going into Operations Management Posts.

So, you are running a 2025 timetable on an old layout. The yards are gone but we still have a great railway to run. A full 24-hour timetable. The old layout main line wise has survived same as the old.

That said, its time for the day trippers (nicknamed as the Bucket and Spade Brigade) to be signalled to the East Kent Coast with resorts such as Whitstable, Herne Bay, Birchington Westgate, Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate or go to Dover and Canterbury from Faversham, or holidaymakers to Sheerness for Sheppey's Caravan Parks.

Thank you to the Test Team and John Dennis for your help.

Geoff Butler

Timetable Creator

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