

Ashford Festival of Railway Modelling returns to the Town Centre this April

The Ashford International Model Railway Education Centre (AIMREC) will be hosting a two-day festival this April celebrating Ashford's rich railway history.

On Saturday 6 April and Sunday 7 April, Ashford Town Centre will be the hub of all things model railway when AIMREC run their Ashford Festival of Railway Modelling. The weekend will feature a model railway exhibition, a photographic exhibition, museum open days and plenty of children's activities.

Over the weekend of 6/7 April there will be over 45 model railway layouts of varying sizes on display, accompanied by trade stands and heritage societies. A special section called Tracks Across the Spectrum located in the Elwick Club showcases model railways for and by people with autism. This year the photographic exhibition looks at 140 years of the Maidstone East to Ashford West line with a month-long display in Ashford Gateway Plus between the 25 March and the 27 April – entry is free but not open on Sundays.

Many locations around the Town Centre will open their doors as part of the festival, including Ashford College, The Elwick Club, Ashford Gateway Plus, The Parish Hall, Ashford Museum, The Craftship and Coachworks.

Entrance to the venues is free for under 16s and carers, for adults entry will be by wristband which can be ordered in advance on the AIMREC website, purchased at Made in Ashford, or purchased at any of the main venues on the day. Wristbands cost £10. Opening Hours are 10am to 5pm on Saturday and 10.30am to 4pm on Sunday. Ashford College, The Elwick Club and The Parish Hall will open at 9.30am on Sunday morning for people with accessibility or other special needs to enjoy the models and displays in a quieter atmosphere.

If you would like to find out more information about the festival, [please visit AIMREC's website](#).