



# Rugby Rail Users Group

## NEWSLETTER NUMBER 1 SEPTEMBER 2006

### KEEPING MEMBERS IN TOUCH

**Over the next two or three years** there will be major changes to the shape of Rugby station and to the train services. To keep Members and Rugby rail users informed RRUG will be producing a periodic Newsletter. Issues will be sent out to Members by e-mail or post with copies made available on Rugby station.

All the latest news and details about RRUG can also be found on the website at:  
<http://www.rugbyrailusersgroup.org.uk>.

#### **Why not become a member!!!**

RRUG was formed in April 2005 and currently has 75 members. Over the last 18 months a lot has been achieved.

RRUG has built up strong links with all the main players in the rail industry, including the Department for Transport (DfT), Network Rail, Central Trains and Virgin Trains, and the local authorities, Warwickshire County Council and Rugby Borough Council. RRUG has also developed a good working relationship with Virgin staff at Rugby station.

RRUG has been directly involved in securing changes to the December 2005 timetable, and helped to convince Central and Virgin to introduce two new services that will benefit Rugby from December 2006.

Over the next few months RRUG will be trying to ensure that Rugby rail users are not inconvenienced unduly by the station improvement works. For the longer term RRUG is campaigning for the provision of adequate parking facilities and better access for pedestrians and cyclists in and around the station and the 2009 timetable.

The more members we have the more we can claim to be the real voice of Rugby rail users. Membership forms are available on the website or at Rugby station.

It costs £5 to join. Members benefit from: a strong Committee working on your behalf; free entry to members' meetings held three times a year on a topical subject with guest speakers; a dedicated website with free access to a Members only area; and a newsletter delivered directly to members.

For more details about RRUG contact the Secretary, 10 Finmere, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV21 1RT.



### **Rugby Station Works Begin**

Network Rail has announced the start of the works to improve facilities at Rugby station and relieve a historic rail bottleneck.

The works consist of a new station entrance with a purpose-built ticket hall and facilities for a café. Two new platforms will be constructed while the subway to access the platforms will be completely refurbished. New lifts to all platforms will allow full access for disabled passengers. The first phase of the station reconstruction will be completed by Spring 2007 with the track layout improvements completed by December 2008. The station will remain open to passengers throughout the project. The estimated cost is £190 million. The full text of the press release, including comments from Rugby MP Jeremy Wright, can be found via the link on the News page of the RRUG website.

The building works require changes to the road traffic access which were implemented on 13 September. The changes saw Station Approach becoming a one-way street towards Murray Road, with traffic diverted around the cattle market via Craven Road and Railway Terrace. Parking for the disabled, mother and toddlers, drop off, and taxis is maintained as well as the short stay parking. However, both facilities will be moving to the opposite side of the road from their old locations. Access in and out of the long stay car park on Station Approach remains two-way from Murray Road.

RRUG will be monitoring the works as they proceed. If you have any comments or concerns please contact the Secretary.



### **2009 Timetable**

Rugby's rail users have seen a marked decline in services since the end of 2004. The reason given was the need to improve the rail layout through Rugby. Now the works are visibly underway and the end is in sight (albeit December 2008) the question is now whether Rugby will be getting the rail service it needs as an expanding town. The answer is 'yes and no' according to the West Coast Progress Report document published by the DfT.

The good news is that Rugby is likely to be served by three trains an hour to Birmingham New Street, two local trains and one provided by Virgin. The bad news concerns the total lack of fast services to the north west and Scotland.

RRUG has written to the DfT welcoming many of the features of the 2009 proposals, but expressing concern over three main areas:

- Maintaining and improving the frequency of the peak time services between Rugby and London and vice-versa;
- Maintaining the ease of journeys between Rugby and Northwest England/Scotland; and
- Fast direct travel between Rugby and Milton Keynes/Watford.

RRUG is actively campaigning for the return of services to the north west and Scotland. In addition to the letter RRUG has held discussions with MP Jeremy Wright who is equally concerned and pursuing the matter further.

### **West Midlands Franchise**

The services currently run by Silverlink County between London Euston and Northampton and Central Trains between Northampton-Rugby-Birmingham will become part of the new West Midlands franchise in November 2007. The DfT have recently started the tendering process and invited comments. RRUG, in response to DfT, welcomes the advantages of having one train operator covering the entire London-Rugby-Birmingham stopping service provided this restores the ease of through travel which existed prior to 2004. RRUG is concerned that Centro will not be a signatory to the new franchise agreement, and that fares could rise as a result.

**RRUG's responses to the DfT** on both the 2009 timetable and the West Midlands franchise can be seen in full by going to the Members' area (correspondence section) of the RRUG website. Copies can also be obtained by contacting the Secretary.



**Dates for the Diary:**

**Members' Meetings** to be held at Rugby Town Hall, Seminar Room, 7:30pm to 9:00pm.

**Thursday 2 November 2006**, guest speakers MP Jeremy Wright and representatives from Network Rail.

**Wednesday 7 March 2007**, guest speakers (to be announced) and AGM.

Entry is free to Members. Non-members can join at the door for £5.

**Committee 2006/2007**

**Officers:**

Chairperson - Stephanie Clifford

Vice-chairperson - Hilary Bayliss

Treasurer and Membership Secretary - Mike Goode

Secretary - Alan Turner

**Committee:**

Elizabeth Parvin (media)

Claire Wells (minutes secretary)

David Cheney

Malcolm Smart (website design and hosting)

David Carpenter (website administration)

Jeremy Thorne (co-opted)

The Committee meets at Rugby Town Hall normally on the first Wednesday of the month.

Thanks to Rugby Borough Council for allowing RRUG to use the Town Hall facilities.

The minutes of all meetings are contained in the Members area on the website. Copies available by contacting the Secretary.