



## NEWSLETTER NUMBER 5 FEBRUARY 2008

### KEEPING MEMBERS IN TOUCH

#### THE 2009 TIMETABLE – UPDATE

The 2009 timetable is the biggest change in the train service at Rugby in 30 years. After putting up with disruption due to rebuilding since 2003, can we finally look forward to trouble-free, fast, frequent journeys next year? The timetable is being finalised now. This is your last chance to influence the outcome!

- **Be informed - see inside for draft details of the 2009 timetable**
- **SIGN THE RRUG PETITION – DON'T BY-PASS OUR TOWN!**  
(see back page, or go to [www.rugbyrailusersgroup.org.uk](http://www.rugbyrailusersgroup.org.uk))

Summary of the changes for 2009:

Positives:

- More frequent trains to/from Coventry and Birmingham (three per hour off-peak)
- More connections available via Trent Valley stations (Nuneaton, Tamworth, Stafford)
- Regular (but slow) through trains to Milton Keynes and Watford

Negatives:

- A reduction in services to London during the morning peak
- A severe reduction in services to Preston and the North
- No increase in the frequency of fast trains to/from London

#### **RRUG is concerned about the negative changes. What have we done about this so far?**

As well as responding to the DfT's 2006 "Progress report" and 2009 timetable consultation, RRUG has lobbied for support from all available sources, which in addition to media coverage has resulted in the following actions:

- **Rugby Borough Council** – unanimous support from the elected members to a motion about rail services promoted by Cllr Neil Campbell and Cllr Neil Sandison which has empowered officers to make representations to Transport Secretary, Ruth Kelly;
- **Warwickshire County Council** - emergency Cabinet report resulting in a letter to Ruth Kelly expressing concerns about rail services at Nuneaton and Rugby;
- **Jeremy Wright MP and RRUG Chairperson Stephanie Clifford** met with Rail Minister, Tom Harris on 15 November at the DfT;
- **Jeremy Wright MP** raised the issue of Rugby rail services in Parliament on 8<sup>th</sup> January;
- **Mark Pawsey** (Rugby's Conservative Parliamentary Spokesman) and **Stephanie Clifford** met with Stephen Hammond MP, Shadow Rail Minister on rail issues at Rugby station on 26 September.

## Details of the draft timetable for 2009 – taken from the DfT website

RRUG does not guarantee the accuracy of this information.

**RRUG's main concerns - capacity and overcrowding** - there is growing concern about overcrowding on trains between Rugby and London, particularly in the morning peak, but also at other times. The DfT's proposals show no change in the number of trains on this service, which is a poor return for Rugby from the £8bn investment in the West Coast modernisation programme. In the crucial hour between 07.00 and 08.00, the number of departures from Rugby to London has reduced from five in 2004, to four now and only three in the draft 2009 timetable. Some trains from Rugby to London are already full now upon arrival at Rugby in the morning. This situation will be further exacerbated by:

- The increase in commuting generally;
- The increase in population of Rugby, with 10,000 new homes planned;
- **Passengers interchanging to/from the train to Nuneaton, Tamworth & Lichfield because this runs slow from Rugby to London;** and
- **Construction of a multi-storey car park at Rugby station.**

### Peak London-Rugby train service in 2009 timetable - from DfT document 20/9/2007

		LM	VT	LM	VT	LM	VT	VT	LM	VT	LM	VT	LM	VT	LM	VT
			2x221		0504		0534	0610		0635						
			Tilting		Manc		Prestor	Manc		Manc						
			Voyagers													
Crewe	dep				0535					0638			0756	0733		
Nuneaton	dep				0616					0802				0902		
Birmingham NS	dep		0530			0553			0653		0750	0753				0850
Birmingham Int	dep		0540			0605			0705		0800	0805				0900
Coventry	dep		0551			0621			0721		0812	0821				0912
<b>RUGBY</b>	<b>arr</b>		<b>0601</b>		<b>0629</b>	<b>0632</b>	<b>0705</b>	<b>0728</b>	<b>0732</b>	<b>0751</b>	<b>0817</b>	<b>0822</b>	<b>0832</b>	<b>0843</b>	<b>0917</b>	<b>0921</b>
<b>RUGBY</b>	<b>dep</b>	<b>0520</b>	<b>0603</b>	<b>0613</b>	<b>0630</b>	<b>0633</b>	<b>0707</b>	<b>0729</b>	<b>0733</b>	<b>0752</b>	<b>0818</b>	<b>0823</b>	<b>0833</b>	<b>0845</b>	<b>0919</b>	<b>0923</b>
Northampton	arr	0542		0634		0654			0754		0840		0854		0940	
MK	arr	0601	0623	0653	0650	0717			0818		0900		0918		1004	
Watford	arr	0634	0644								0927		0955		1030	
Euston	arr	0652	0703	0742	0725	0805	0757	0819	0910	0845	0946	0913	1014	0936	1049	1012

		VT	LM	VT	LM	VT	VT	VT	LM	VT	LM	VT	LM	LM
Euston	dep	1603	1546	1633	1554	1703	1733	1803	1724	1833	1754	1903	1824	1846
Watford	dep				1611				1743		1811		1844	
MK	dep		1625		1649				1820		1847		1918	1933
Northampton	dep		1643		1717				1841		1917		1937	1951
<b>RUGBY</b>	<b>arr</b>	<b>1649</b>	<b>1704</b>	<b>1720</b>	<b>1738</b>	<b>1749</b>	<b>1821</b>	<b>1849</b>	<b>1902</b>	<b>1921</b>	<b>1938</b>	<b>1949</b>	<b>1958</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>RUGBY</b>	<b>dep</b>	<b>1651</b>	<b>1704</b>	<b>1722</b>	<b>1738</b>	<b>1751</b>	<b>1822</b>	<b>1851</b>		<b>1922</b>	<b>1938</b>	<b>1951</b>	<b>1958</b>	<b>2017</b>
Coventry	arr	1701			1749	1801		1901			1949	2001		2028
Birmingham Int	arr	1712			1803	1812		1912			2003	2012		2045
Birmingham NS	arr	1725			1816	1825		1925			2016	2025		2101
Nuneaton	arr		1717										2011	
Crewe	arr		1901	1814			1914			2014				

LM – London Midland

VT – Virgin Trains



## RRUG's main concerns – Removal of fast through services to the north

RRUG is appalled by the plans to remove all fast trains to Crewe and the Northwest (currently an hourly service). The alternative put forward by DfT of using the new London Midland service to Crewe is not a viable option since the decision was made to route via Stoke, with four additional stops and a journey time of 100 minutes. This is a well-established route from Rugby: figures obtained by RRUG under Freedom of Information show that in excess of 100,000 journeys to/from Rugby via Crewe are made per year. RRUG is still pressing hard for some of these services to be retained.

### Example hour from the off-peak Rugby train service in 2009 timetable - from DfT

		VT	LM	LM almost via Stoke all stations note X	LM three extra stops Note Y
Euston	dep	1103	1046		1054
Watford	dep		1101		1111
Milton Keynes	dep		1125		1149
Northampton	dep		1143	1158	1217
<b>RUGBY</b>	<b>arr</b>	<b>1149</b>	<b>1204</b>	<b>1217</b>	<b>1238</b>
<b>RUGBY</b>	<b>dep</b>	<b>1151</b>	<b>1204</b>	<b>1217</b>	<b>1238</b>
Coventry	arr	1201		1228	1249
Birmingham Int	arr	1212		1245	1303
Birmingham NS	arr	1225		1301	1316
Nuneaton	arr		1216		
Crewe	arr		1337		

		LM via Stoke	VT	LM almost all stations note X	LM three extra stops Note Y
Crewe	dep	1133			
Nuneaton	dep	1302			
Birmingham NS	dep		1250	1253	1333
Birmingham Int	dep		1300	1305	1345
Coventry	dep		1312	1321	1401
<b>RUGBY</b>	<b>arr</b>	<b>1317</b>	<b>1321</b>	<b>1332</b>	<b>1412</b>
<b>RUGBY</b>	<b>dep</b>	<b>1319</b>	<b>1323</b>	<b>1333</b>	<b>1413</b>
Northampton	arr	1340		1358	1432
Milton Keynes	arr	1404		1418	
Watford	arr	1430		1455	
Euston	arr	1449	1412	1514	

VT Virgin Trains

LM London Midland

X - all stops except Hampton-in-Arden, Adderley Park

Y - also calls Tile Hill, Hampton-in-Arden, Marston Green

**SIGN THE RRUG PETITION TO IMPROVE THE 2009 TIMETABLE**

**DON'T BY-PASS OUR TOWN!**



## 2009 TIMETABLE REDUCTIONS - SIGN OUR PETITION NOW!!!

Rugby Rail Users Group is organising a petition to oppose the negative aspects of the 2009 timetable, which will see the morning peak service to London reduced and the loss of virtually all through trains to and from the North. We plan to present this petition to a representative from the Department for Transport at our members' meeting in March.

Please help us in our campaign to retain these services by signing the petition. You can either:

- Go to RRUG website and follow the link to the online petition <http://www.rugbyrailusersgroup.org.uk>
- Go to the Rugby Observer Offices, Regent Street, Rugby and sign the paper petition
- Return the slip below

Rugby Rail Users group – 2009 Timetable campaign

We the undersigned require that:

- There are four evenly spaced services from Rugby to London between 7 and 8 am
- Fast direct services from Rugby to the Northwest and Scotland are maintained

Full Name	Address with postcode	Signature

This petition is organised by Rugby Rail Users Group;

Please send completed form to RRUG Petition, 23 Park Road, Rugby, CV21 2QU by 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2008

Data Protection Act: Personal identifying information given here will not be disclosed to any third party.

### **RRUG MEMBERS' MEETING & AGM RUGBY TOWN HALL, THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 7.30PM**

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT THE 2009 TIMETABLE!

The meeting starts at 7.30pm prompt in the Seminar Room at Rugby Town Hall.

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

Members' Meeting followed by Annual General Meeting. The main part of the meeting will focus on 2009 timetable issues. Representatives from the Department of Transport have been invited to outline their proposals and answer members' questions.