



RRUG UPDATE

LONDON MIDLAND - order for new trains confirmed

The Department for Transport (DfT) has confirmed an order for 10 new class 350 trains for London Midland. Transpennine Express will also get 10 similar trains as part of the same order to enable them to introduce electric services between Manchester and Scotland from December 2013.

The new class 350s will have 110 mph capability. Along with some of the existing fleet which will be modified for 110 mph running, this will allow London Midland to introduce more and faster trains between London, Rugby, the West Midlands and Crewe under their 'Project 110' scheme.

The Track Access Application (TAA) for 110 mph running has been with the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) for approval since November and its approval is awaited. In December the ORR issued a "minded to" statement saying they were minded to approve the application, which allowed LM to order the new trains required for this. Now that this order has been placed, acceptance of the TAA is awaited which would London Midland can progress its Project 110 scheme to fruition.

For further details go to:

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/news/press-releases/dft-press-20120229/>

Sponsors required!

RRUG wants to distribute copies free to people using Rugby station and other facilities around the town.

With limited funds, any donations towards print costs would be gratefully received, possibly through sponsoring an issue and having your name included.

If you're interested please send an e-mail to RRUG on secretary@rugbyrailusersgroup.org.uk.

RRUG Members' Meeting and AGM

The next Members' Meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th March at Age UK, The Claremont Centre, 43 Clifton Road, Rugby CV21 3QE at 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. The meeting will finish at 9.30pm. Car park access is off Bath Street.

The plan for the evening is to start with a question and answer session with representatives of Virgin Trains and London Midland and finish with the 2012 AGM. The meeting is open to all RRUG members, but non-members can join at the door by paying the £5 annual membership fee.

DO YOU HAVE A WEST COAST STORY TO TELL? Your Chance To Be On TV!

Following on from RRUG's contribution to a recent BBC TV Panorama program, we have now been approached by another film company, Century Films, for help with input to a documentary they are making about the West Coast Main Line (WCML) railway.

The film is intended to be broadcast on the BBC early next year and is aimed at telling the story of the WCML and showing its importance as one of the key transport links in the Country.

The film company want to talk to people who use the WCML to London, to Birmingham, to the north and to Scotland to hear how important the line is in supporting people's lives. They are especially interested in anecdotal stories and travel experiences.

If you have an interesting story to tell and be willing to be interviewed for this film please send an e-mail to RRUG Committee member Jerry Thorne at jgthorne@ntlworld.com and he will put you in touch with the film's director at Century films.

www.rugbyrailusersgroup.org.uk



MILL ROAD TUNNEL TEMPORARY CLOSURE

Warwickshire County Council propose to make a Temporary Traffic Order closing Mill Road Tunnel, Rugby to all traffic. The closure is expected to take place at the end of March for renewal of street lighting within the tunnel.

The order will commence on Monday 26th March 2012 and will last for a period of 18 months, or until the works are completed, whichever is the earlier. However, WCC anticipate that the road will only be closed from 09.00 to 16.00 each day and that work will be completed by Friday 30 March.

The Council regrets any inconvenience that may be caused. The persons dealing with this matter at Warwickshire County Council are Kath Preston, County Highways (Tel: 01926 412515) and Simon Moseley, Street Lighting (Tel: 01926 736549)

All road users travelling to and from the station who would normally go through the Mill Road tunnel at these times will therefore have to allow extra time for their journeys.

An alternative route will be signed and is available via Murray Road, Clifton Road and Butlers Leap.

Stagecoach bus services 4 and 12 will also follow the diversion, meaning there will be no regular bus service to the station during the closure.

Pedestrian access to and egress from properties and land situated adjacent to the length of road to be closed will be maintained at all times. Vehicular access will be maintained where possible.

WHAT IS RRUG ALL ABOUT?

Formed with the help of Rugby's then MP Andy King back in late 2004, the Group aims to:

- Fight on your behalf to improve and maintain the Rugby rail service, the station and its environment.
- Act as a voice for Rugby rail users.
- Collect your views and feed them into discussions with Virgin Trains, London Midland and Network Rail.
- Take the longer term view of Rugby rail services by taking part in consultations run by the Department for Transport (DfT), Network Rail, Passenger Focus, Local Authorities and others.
- Maintain links with other Groups through membership of Railfuture.
- Provide members with information by e-mail, post, meetings and via RRUG's website.

Everyone is busy so we understand that it's difficult for you to find time to get actively involved in the campaign to improve Rugby rail services. We'll take the strain and fight on your behalf, but we can't do it without your support. You can:

- Join Rugby Rail Users Group today for just £5 to help with administrative costs (membership form on the back page of this newsletter).
- Come to periodic meetings held with the train operators and other key organisations - we will e-mail or post details to all RRUG members.
- Help with publicity and spreading news about the Group to other rail users.

Member or not, keep us informed about your rail experiences through the 'Contact us' link on the RRUG website.

LATE NEWS (extract from DfT Press Release 8 March 2012):

"RAIL fare increases will be capped at the rate of inflation under plans to help hard-pressed passengers by ensuring the rail industry brings down the cost of Britain's railways. A value-for-money study by Sir Roy McNulty concluded last year that inefficiency across the railway industry is costing farepayers and taxpayers £3.5 billion-a-year.

In her *Reforming Our Railways: Putting the Customer First* Command Paper, Transport Secretary Justine Greening today outlines how the industry will work collaboratively to reduce this £3.5 billion efficiency gap by 2019 with the savings going towards curbing fare increases while also investing in rolling stock and better infrastructure, and lessening the industry's reliance on public subsidy."

Everyone has the opportunity to comment on the fares proposals. If you wish to do this, go to <http://assets.dft.gov.uk/dft-2012-09.html>. You have until 28 June to respond.

Have you got a view, contact secretary@rugbyrailusersgroup.org.uk



On The Spot - Your Points Answered

Let us have your questions about the train services, station facilities, the station environment or other rail related issues relevant to Rugby rail users. We will then put someone on the spot to provide the answers and then report back in the newsletter. Your support is needed, so if you have any points to raise, please e-mail the Secretary via the 'Contact us' link on the website.

(Note: due to space limitations it may be necessary to summarise the contents of original e-mails. Thanks to all contributors - Ed.)

This newsletter - 'On the Spot' with RRUG Treasurer Jerry Thorne

With the £5 annual membership fee for 2012 due, it was suggested that a bank transfer facility would provide a more convenient way for some existing members to pay by internet. Treasurer Jerry Thorne has investigated and has now set up the bank transfer facility.

Jerry said, "RRUG is pleased to announce that membership fees can now be paid by electronic transfer to our Nationwide Building Society account using the following details:

Name of payee (Recipient): Nationwide RRUG

Payee Account number: 33333334

Payee Sort Code: 07-00-93

Payment Reference (Payment Description): 0503/703/769063

Members using this option must include all the information above as otherwise the transfer may not go through or fail to reach RRUG's account."

To confirm payment has been made and at the same time confirm contact details, RRUG is also asking members to complete the Membership Application Form (Page 4 of this newsletter) and return it to the Membership Secretary at the address provided, or alternatively send an e-mail to Jerry direct at jgthorne@ntlworld.com.

Members can still pay by cheque using the Membership Application Form. Payments will also be accepted at the Members' Meeting and AGM on 28th March.

December 2013 Timetable recast - RRUG writes to MP about lack of help from Passenger Focus.

RRUG has written to MP Mark Pawsey for clarification about the role of Passenger Focus (the Government sponsored body supposedly representing passengers' interests) in providing the link between rail user groups generally and the body undertaking the December 2013 timetable recast.

Concerns arose following advice from Passenger Focus (PF) that user groups should make individual approaches to the four bidders for the West Coast franchise. RRUG consider this approach to be a completely unacceptable state of affairs with PF seeming to be totally abdicating their responsibilities. While RRUG has been in direct contact with three of the four West Coast bidders about a number of issues, including the reinstatement of direct fast services to North West England/Scotland at the earliest opportunity, Mark was requested to take up at the highest possible level the apparent failure of PF to carry out their remit. RRUG understands that Mark has written to Transport Minister Theresa Villiers and a response is awaited.

In another twist RRUG will be attending a PF event to be held on Friday 30th March in Birmingham. The aim is to develop a way that PF and user groups can work together effectively in the future. **Watch this space....**

RRUG Annual Membership Fee still £5 (since 2005)



Rugby Rail Users Group – Membership Application Form

Full name:	Home telephone (optional):
Home Address:	Work telephone (optional):
	Mobile telephone (optional):
Postcode:	E-mail address (we shall use this as primary means of contact):

Annual membership fee: £5 **Pay by bank transfer or cheque (see below)**

Paying by bank transfer: Name of payee: NATIONWIDE RRUG; Account No: 33333334; Payee sort code: 07-00-93; Payment reference (must be used): 0503/703/769063.

Paying by cheque: make payable to 'Rugby Rail Users Group'.

Please send this form to: The Membership Secretary - Hilary Hall, Rugby Rail Users Group, Highgate House, Ivy Grange, Rugby, Warwickshire, CV22 7HF.

Important: if paying by bank transfer, please send the form to the address above and tick here:

I normally travel to: London Birmingham

Other (*please specify*)

I wish to become a member of the Rugby Rail Users Group in accordance with its rules.

Signed:	Date:

Data protection act: all data provided by you on this application form will only be used by RRUG for administration purposes relating to RRUG membership. Copies of RRUG's Manifesto and Constitution are available on: www.rugbyrailusersgroup.org.uk.