



Rugby Rail Users Group

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 13: November 2013

KEEPING MEMBERS IN TOUCH

WHAT IS RRUG ALL ABOUT?

Formed in 2004, the Group aims to:

- Fight on your behalf to improve and maintain the Rugby rail service, the station and its environment

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 key organisations

RRUG activities 2013:

Committee News: RRUG committee members have been very active in representing the group. Members have attended London Midland, Virgin Trains, Campaign for Rail, Railfuture and Passenger Focus. Meetings. The group has campaigned tirelessly for the reinstatement of fast services to the Northwest and Scotland since their loss from Rugby's timetable. We achieved a Rugby to Glasgow service (06.45) in late 2008 and we are delighted that there is now a through train from Glasgow Central (17.30) to Rugby in the evening. Moreover, the December 2013 timetable sees introduction of some through services from Scotland to Rugby at the weekend – see website for details.

Members Events: On 4th November 2013 RRUG members visited the Siemens' train care depot at Northampton which maintains and services the LM units. It was a most illuminating visit to a state of the art facility. We were hosted most hospitably by senior management and were shown and given incisive briefs on all aspects of the operation; including a very convincing explanation of why leaves on the line really do cause problems! RRUG hopes to offer members more such "behind the scenes tours" soon.



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Latest news

Advance warning: Next year Network Rail starts work on an upgrade of infrastructure at Watford. The majority of the work will be carried out August 2014 with further work taking place Christmas 2014/early 2015. During the works a section of the WCML at Watford will be blocked to passenger trains in both directions. Blockade dates are as follows

2014, 3-5 May (May Day bank holiday)

2014, 9-25 August

2014, 25-29 December

2015, 14-22 February (half term holiday)

2015, 3-6 April (Easter weekend)

RRUG is working hard to find out what the contingency plans will be in place for Rugby passengers during each blockade – more news to follow

06:51 Virgin Train to Birmingham New Street to be withdrawn. From December 2013 the 06.51 Rugby to Birmingham service will no longer run. Instead there will be a Virgin train from Rugby to Birmingham at 07.13, arriving Birmingham 07.45 –RRUG is investigating this change in service pattern for Rugby – more news to follow

Lost Days replaced by Delay Repay- as of March 2013 the lost days scheme for season ticket holders has been replaced by delay repay. The new rules require season ticket holders to apply for compensation for each journey where they are delayed by +30 mins . This can be done using the Delay Repay form available from the ticket office or via the Virgin Trains website <http://www.virgintrains.co.uk/contact/> -RRUG would be interested to hear if you experience problems using this service

Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) has rejected Virgin Trains' application for new services to Shrewsbury/Blackpool. This is bad news for Rugby which would have been served by the proposed new services. Although Virgin are hopeful of getting agreement for May 2014, Network Rail have not changed their position so Virgin will probably have to wait until the next major timetable change due in 2016.



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Latest news

Virgin to run West Coast until 2017 : Department for Transport have published a revised programme for rail franchising. As a result, Virgin Trains will now be running train services on the West Coast Main Line until April 2017. **London Midland** have also had their franchise extended to June 2017. RRUG will be keeping a close eye on the franchising process and fighting for more Rugby services

New concourse and entrances are now open at Birmingham New Street and the existing concourse and entrances to Birmingham New Street station have been closed. However, access to the Bull Ring is still available. During this stage of the project, passengers interchanging between New Street and Moor Street stations will need to allow a few extra minutes for their journey due to the revised walking route.

*****Check out our Website for all the latest news** www.rugbyrailusersgroup.org.uk.
Thanks to RRUG member Robert for hosting the website.
If you have a question, query or a point of view you'd like to raise with RRUG please , contact us secretary@rugbyrailusersgroup.org.uk

Upcoming RRUG members events

The next RRUG Members' meeting will be held early in the New Year and a programme of events will be issued shortly. Check the RRUG website for details.

The £5 annual membership fee for 2013 is due.

All members will receive a letter in the post with stamped addressed envelope for returning cheques payable to "Rugby Rail Users Group". However, 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 please send an e-mail to Jerry direct at igthorne@ntlworld.com.

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 - , Rugby Rail Users Group, Highgate House, Ivy Grange, Rugby, .	
Important: if paying by bank transfer, please send the form to the address above and tick here: <input type="checkbox"/>	
I normally travel to: <input type="checkbox"/> London <input type="checkbox"/> Birmingham <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>)	
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	