

# WEST SUSSEX RAIL USERS ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER No 1: APRIL 2014

This is a short newsletter with details of the AGM, membership renewal, the one May timetable change and resignalling. We had hoped to have been able to report on the new franchise award but the DfT announcement will now be sometime in May and we will deal with this in our next Newsletter and at the AGM (if an announcement has been made by then).

## Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Association will be at **10.15am on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May in the Studio of the Capitol Theatre, North Road, Horsham, RH12 1RG**. The Capitol is a few minutes walk from the main entrance of Horsham Station in the direction of the town centre. Refreshments will be available for purchase from the Capitol's own kiosk. This year our guest speaker will be David Scorey, Operations Director of Southern. Mr Scorey will address us after the formal business of the AGM has been completed and there be ample time for you to ask questions on Southern's recent performance and other matters. The formal business of the AGM will be the Chairman's report, receiving and approving the accounts and the election of the Committee. Our Chairman, Monica Edmonds is retiring as Chairman after 9 years at the helm and so far there has been one nomination, Michael Cover, currently representing Bosham. The other existing Committee members seeking re-election at the AGM are: Treasurer and Membership Secretary – Trevor Tupper (also representing stations on the West Coastway *other than* Chichester, Bosham and Bognor), Roger Leat (Bognor Regis), Jake Clausen (Littlehaven); Paul Brady (Amberley), Valerie Webb (Pulborough), Moira Tracey (Crawley), Jane Cobb (Horsham), Peter Bulling (Barnham), Roger Keyworth (Chichester), Michael Gill (Arundel), James Marchant (Billingshurst), Nigel Denton (Littlehampton and Angmering) and Kevin Gordon (Website). Nigel Denton is also our representative on Rail Future. We are looking for new Committee members to represent Ifield and Worthing.

## Membership Renewal

Our membership year runs from 1 March and subscriptions for 2014-15 are now due. Many members have already paid their subscription either directly or by standing order. If you have not paid, a renewal form is enclosed. The subscription remains at £2 and can be paid by cheque through the post, by cheque or in cash at the AGM, by direct bank credit or by standing order, the renewal form gives details of all these options. A few did not pay their subscriptions for last year and rather than deleting them as members, we are asking them to pay for 2 years and for those members the payment slip shows £4.

## May 2014 timetable changes

There is just one change to our weekday services when the summer timetable starts on 18<sup>th</sup> May. The 18.56 Barnham to Bognor will depart two minutes later at 18.58 providing a connection from the 1734 Victoria to Southampton Central service. The 5-year programme to completely rebuild London Bridge is ongoing and the next major impact on services will be in August when there will be a 9 day blockade from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> inclusive. During this period, London Bridge will be closed for all Southern and FCC trains. From 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> August our service from and to Bognor will be diverted to Victoria. FCC trains will be diverted via Elephant & Castle.

## Fares discounts

After the January fare increase, Southern has continued to offer an on-line discount of 10% on off-peak ticket and within the Southern area. This offer finishes on 1<sup>st</sup> June but will still apply for bookings made by 1<sup>st</sup> June for travel after that date

## Other matters

Bognor and Barnham will be celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their station openings in 1 June and a WSRUA presence will be at both events. We hope you will be able to join in the celebrations. The resignalling of the Arun Valley line between Christ's Hospital and Amberley was completed in March. A month earlier, the new Platform 7 came into use at Gatwick. These works have already improved performance of Arun Valley services and we have asked Southern to see whether some reduction in journey times can be made from December. More about this in our next Newsletter.

Trevor Tupper  
Membership Secretary