

WEST SUSSEX RAIL USERS ASSOCIATION

64, Brampton Court, Stockbridge Road, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 8PD

Tel: 01243 788028. E-mail: contact@wsrua.org.uk :

Website : www.wsrua.org.uk twitter.com/wsrua

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This is a short Newsletter with information on the conductor strike that RMT has announced for Monday 12 March and changes to the timetable over the rest of March and the Easter period. A further Newsletter will be issued in a few weeks with full details of the May 2018 timetable changes, membership renewal and more details of Network Rail plans for improving our lines including a closure of the Brighton mainline over the October 2018 half-term.

RMT strike on Monday 12 March

This will be the 40th day of such action. Fortunately for members, the effects of this strike will be minimal as in other recent RMT actions. Southern expect to run most services and the following details have been extracted from the Southern website: www.southernrailway.com/travel-information/plan-your-journey/dispute

A full service on the Arun Valley line between Southampton/Portsmouth/Bognor via Horsham to Victoria and London Bridge should run.

The full service will operate on the West Coastway line with the exception of the following, which will not run.

05:49 and 07:36 Bognor Regis to Littlehampton
06:35 Littlehampton to Bognor Regis
07:12 Eastbourne to London Bridge
07:45 and 08:01 Littlehampton to Brighton
15:44 and 21:53 Littlehampton to Brighton
15:57 and 18:48 Littlehampton to Portsmouth & Southsea
16:59 and 19:59 Portsmouth & Southsea to Littlehampton
18:10 London Bridge to Littlehampton

Most Brighton to Hove shuttle services and a few Brighton to West Worthing services will not run.

A limited service will operate on the West London line at peak times only. Only the following services will operate:

06:20 Clapham Junction to Watford Junction
07:30 Coulsdon Town to Watford Junction
08:14 and 08:50 Clapham Junction to Shepherds Bush
09:24 Clapham Junction to Shepherds Bush
16:13 Selhurst to Watford Junction
17:52 and 19:54 Watford Junction to Clapham Junction

It is advised to check the live running page on the Southern website for the latest information on the day.

Engineering work in March and over the Easter period

On Sunday 11 March, there will be no trains between Redhill and Three Bridges with replacement buses between these two stations. This will extend journey times by up to an hour. A similar Sunday blockade was in place on 25 February and 4 March. On the first of these Southern failed to supply sufficient buses to meet the demand and, as you may have seen in the press and on TV there were chaotic scenes at Redhill with several hundred passengers stranded there. Last Sunday (4 March) there was an hourly service from Victoria to Gatwick via Dorking that stopped only at Horsham and Three Bridges. This offered connections at Horsham to the hourly service from Bognor to Three Bridges that avoided the replacement bus and was 30 minutes quicker. This extra service could not operate on 4 March as the Dorking route was blocked by engineering work at Sutton, **but we have just heard that this additional service from Victoria to Gatwick stopping only at Horsham will run this Sunday 11 March from 07:00 to 23:00.** Timings of this on 4 March were Gatwick dep 07:36, Horsham dep 07:57 Victoria arr 08:48. From Victoria dep 07:06, Horsham arr 08:04, Gatwick arr 08:29, and hourly thereafter. Again, check on the day.

Having given you all this bad news, the good news is that there are no planned engineering works affecting Arun Valley and West Coastway trains between Good Friday and Easter Monday (30 March to 2 April) inclusive.

Trevor Tupper (Secretary/Treasurer)