

WEST SUSSEX RAIL USERS ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER No 5: OCTOBER 2017

Annual General Meeting

This is formal notice that the Annual General Meeting of the Association will be on Saturday 11 November at 10am for 10.15am in the Studio of the Capitol at Horsham (the Horsham Arts Centre).

The AGM AGENDA is:

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Chairman's address
3. Treasurer's report
4. Approval of Minutes of AGM on 29 October 2016 and Accounts for 2016, both attached
5. Election of Officers:
 - Chairman (One nomination - Roger Keyworth)
 - Secretary/Treasurer (One nomination - Trevor Tupper)
6. Election of Committee members (Nominations for James Marchant, Michael Gill, Valerie Webb and Kevin Gordon)
7. Appointment of Accounts Examiner for 2017 (nomination - Clive Pritchard)
8. Questions to the committee
9. Close of formal business

After the formal business our guest speaker will be Angie Doll, Southern's Passenger Services Director. Angie will talk to us about GTR's plans for the future and the current position on industrial relations. There be ample time for you to ask questions on Southern's recent performance and other matters.

We hope that you we be able to attend the meeting. If you are unable to join us and have a question for the Committee or Angie Doll, please let me have the details as soon as possible.

Industrial relations

The two days of strike action did have some effect on Arun Valley services with a few trains running throughout to and from Bognor with the Southampton portions failing to run. But in general, the inconvenience was bearable.

Those strikes coincided with similar action on Merseyrail, Arriva Northern and Greater Anglia and all were concerned with the role of guards/conductors. The RMT is balloting guards on South Western Railway with a view to similar action. It looks as though the RMT are coordinating the actions on Southern with those they are taking elsewhere, and so we cannot be certain there will be no further strikes or other action on Southern.

2018 Timetable

We are still waiting for final confirmation of the planned changes to the 2018 timetable for Amberley and elsewhere. We are pretty confident that the changes will be implemented and we joined the Amberley SOS celebration at the station a few days ago. We are also waiting for details of Saturday and Sunday services and these are now expected in December.

Christmas and New Year services

Christmas is some weeks off, but we know many members need to plan ahead. With this in mind, we have put together this summary of planned changes over the festive period.

There will be no Southern, Thameslink or Gatwick Express train services on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. On Christmas Eve, Sunday 24 December, services will shut down early from 20:00.

There will be closures and major service changes between 23 December and New Year's Day over much of our network as Network Rail carries out engineering work. The details of changes for this 10 day period are:

- First, there will be no train service at Coulsdon South, Merstham, Redhill, Reigate, Earlswood, Salfords or at stations between Redhill and Tonbridge. Buses will serve these stations. Services between London, Gatwick and the coast will continue to operate, but to a reduced frequency.
- Second, there will be no Thameslink cross-London service. Please use the Tube and London buses to complete your journey. Full details of these alterations are available on the Thameslink website.
- Third, Southern and Thameslink services to and from London Bridge and London Blackfriars will be busier owing to significant alterations to Southeastern services which will not be serving many London stations.
- And finally, between the above dates, Southern services to/from Southampton Central will be diverted to Portsmouth & Southsea. Customers for stations between Cosham and Southampton should change at Fratton and use Great Western Railway and South Western Railway services to complete their journey. Buses will replace all trains between Woolston and Southampton Central, but rail connections will be available via Eastleigh. Between 09:00 and 19:00 on the working days (Wednesday 27 to Friday 29 December) a limited Southern train service will operate to/from Fareham and Woolston.
- On New Year's Day, there will be services in the early hours of the morning of Monday 1 January between London Bridge and Three Bridges. For the remainder of the day a Sunday service will operate.

Membership Renewal

I sent out a renewal forms in Septembers to those who had not paid their 2017 subscription. If you have not paid, please let me have your payment as soon as possible or at the AGM, if you are attending. If you no longer wish to remain a member, please let me know.

Trevor Tupper
Secretary/Treasurer