

WEST SUSSEX RAIL USERS ASSOCIATION

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In this newsletter there are some details of the new timetable being introduced on 20 May, wifi on trains, 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. For once, there is no mention of industrial action although the RMT have had recent strikes over changes to the role of guards on Northern, South Western Railway, Greater Anglia and Merseyrail. Until the disputes with these other operators have been settled we think there is still a risk of further action on Southern.

New timetable from May 20 2018

Details of the new Monday to Friday timetables of services from May 21 can be downloaded from this GTR website: <https://www.railplan2020.com/timetables>. There are no firm details of weekend services yet, although we do know that Saturday services will replicate the off-peak Monday to Friday service. On Sundays, the Portsmouth, Chichester to Victoria services will cease to run via Worthing and will, instead, be attached to the existing Bognor to Victoria service at Barnham. More details about this will be given on the GTR website and we will also let you have details on our website and in a later Newsletter. There is a lot of information in the 21 pages of the London and West Coastway timetable on the GTR website mentioned above and so I have produced the attached summary showing just the services on the Arun Valley line and I hope you will find it helpful. Hopefully, the usual pocket timetables will be available from stations before May 20 when you can discard our version. West Coastway services have changed a little, but the website timetable sets out the new timetable quite clearly. Our summary does not include the stopping services from Horsham to London Bridge. The new timetable on the website for London to Redhill, Reigate, Tonbridge and Horsham gives details of the Monday to Friday services which are still half-hourly in the off-peak but operated by Thameslink and all running beyond London Bridge to Blackfriars, St Pancras and Peterborough.

Wifi now on Southern trains

Southern class 377 units are now being fitted with wifi on a rolling programme. Those so far fitted have a wifi sign on the entrance doors and my experience suggests that the signal is strong and reliable.

Improvement Works aka Engineering Work

As members may have noticed, Network Rail has embarked on a major programme of work on our lines and on the Brighton mainline (BML). If you are planning to travel at weekends, please check the Southern website beforehand. There is a backlog of maintenance on the BML in particular, and to get on top of it that line will be closed over the October 2018 half-term (20-28 October) and again in February 2019 half-term (16-24 February). This will inevitably disrupt our services and we will give you more details as these become available.

Membership Renewal

Our membership year runs from 1 March and subscriptions for 2018-19 are now due. Many members have already paid their subscription either directly or by standing order. Also, the subscriptions paid by those new members who joined the Association in the second half of 2017 will cover the current year as well. 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 direct bank credit or by standing order, the renewal form gives details of all these options. A few did not pay their subscription 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.

Trevor Tupper (Secretary/Treasurer)