

# WEST SUSSEX RAIL USERS ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER No 4: SEPTEMBER 2017

## **Industrial action**

As with my 31 August e-mail, this part of the Newsletter contains some bad news and some good news. The bad news is that the RMT has announced further one day strikes of its conductor members on Tuesday 3 October and Thursday 5 October. Similar strikes have been announced on Northern Rail and Merseyrail. The good news from Southern is at <http://www.southernrailway.com/your-journey/dispute>. This indicates that Southern plan to run all services on the Arun Valley line from Southampton/ Portsmouth and Bognor to Victoria and London Bridge. On the West Coastway almost all services will run. The exceptions to this are that most of the Brighton to Hove shuttles are cancelled together with a couple of West Worthing to Brighton trains. At the west end of the Coastway there are two cancellations - the 15.57 Littlehampton to Portsmouth and the 16.59 Portsmouth & S to Littlehampton. Also the 17.41 London Bridge to Littlehampton via Worthing is cancelled. Finally, there will be a limited peak hour Southern service on the West London line between Clapham Junction, Kensington Olympia, Shepherds Bush and Watford Junction, details of which are on the web page mentioned above. Alternative services with other Operators will be available from Clapham or Euston. These are Southern's plans and their advice us to keep an eye on their journey planner page on the day in case of last minute changes. Separately, the Southern website reports that further discussions between ASLEF and GTR have taken place and that significant progress has been made. GTR are now in the process of finalising a proposal for agreement.

## **Annual General Meeting**

This is a preliminary notice that the 2017 AGM will be on Saturday 11 November at 10am in the Studio of the Capitol at Horsham (the Horsham Arts Centre). A formal notice of the AGM will be issued during October giving details of those standing for office. Our guest speaker from Southern 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.

## **2018 Timetable**

The second stage of the consultation on the 2018 timetable has ended and we are awaiting confirmation of the changes agreed and which were detailed in the July Newsletter. In addition to agreeing to a stop at Amberley for the 18.03 from London Bridge, the timetable team has provisionally agreed to Amberley stops in other peak time services. When confirmed, this will give Amberley a half-hourly service in the morning and evening peaks. We are grateful for the separate campaign waged by Amberley rail users in achieving this enhanced service and your Association has benefited with some 20 new members from the Village. We are also waiting for details of Saturday and Sunday services. We hope to have all of this in time for the October Newsletter

## **Membership Renewal**

Most members have now paid their 2017 subscriptions. If you have not paid, a renewal form is enclosed and we would be grateful if any outstanding amounts could be paid as soon as possible or, at the AGM if you attend. If you no longer wish to remain a member, please let me know by e-mail, post or telephone.

## **Finally, some sad news**

Ron Martin, our Chairman for many years passed away in Felpham on 23 September. A good friend and a great man who will be sadly missed. R.I.P.

Trevor Tupper  
Secretary/Treasurer