



PEMBROKESHIRE RAIL TRAVELLERS
ASSOCIATION.

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NEWSLETTER 78.

July-2008.

THIS ISSUE CALLS ON REQUEST AT:

EDITORIAL.

Editor's notes

On holiday on the Somerset Levels we decided to take the train instead of driving; riding from Bridgewater to Tiverton Parkway when going out in the evening to meet an old buddy. Bridgewater is on a loop and so doesn't get the fast trains calling – it's a large station with impressive buildings but the booking office closes just after lunch – run by First Great Western it has a private security guard on duty who takes a keen interest in the clientele making sure they stay behind the yellow line on the platform. Our trip started off a little on the wrong foot – the first thing you see on the platform is a ticket machine saying you must buy a ticket or risk a £20 fine – we did – the machine was unable to issue 2

tickets with a railcard but managed them singly. Our journey plan was to change at Taunton in the outward direction – we had 15 minutes – when we'd bought the tickets I read the train was running 9 minutes late; so slight hassle – we crossed over to the Westbound platform – no monitor + the announcements from the automated train CSI were too faint to hear over there and had some anxiety when the train came in 12 minutes late. It was a couple of 2 car pacer units – pretty down at heel – the doors whistled loudly in our car until it got up to full speed but it ran very smoothly on the GW main line. No ticket inspection as presumably the conductor was marooned in the other 2 cars. No need to worry the train picked up time – I assumed that it had recovery time in the timing as it terminated at Taunton – “your train on this platform” the platform guy told me and we soon boarded a sveltie Arriva Cross Country unit running from Manchester to Penzance – it was right on the advertised. Going back later 1GW were fielding a Paddington all stations which again was right on time although there was some hanging around as the platform monitor didn't flag the train up although it was in situ with several doors open. So all in all a change from driving and a reasonable trip – unfortunately the price was horrendous – no cheap day return – in fact no day return of any sort – just a saver – distance is about 28 miles – 56 mile return trip – full fare for two £22-80 – we paid R/C £15-20 – my car would do that on just over a gallon of petrol.

Interesting note for narrow gauge pufferers – Narrow Gauge News reports of a narrow gauge line constructed on the island of Skokholm. Built to aid the erection of the lighthouse in 1915 the line continued to be used for supplying stores with donkey, horse and finally tractor power. In 1983 the lighthouse was automated so it may be that the railway became disused then – the writer thought it might have been two foot gauge – it certainly would have ended when helicopters came into use. There is no mention of it on the Ordnance Survey's 2 ½" map of the area.

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Advertisement. - The Taberna is in the Good Beer Guide for 2007

AIMS of PEMBROKESHIRE RAIL TRAVELLERS ASSOCIATION:

- 1. To Press for improvements to rail and associated bus
 services in
 The area West of Carmarthen.*
- 2. To encourage greater use of the current services*
- 3. To assist in the improvement of the railway environment in
 particular at stations*
- 4. To liase with other pro - rail organizations.*

THE PEOPLE.

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 Milford Travel. Charles Street, Milford Haven 01646 692268
 Milford Station Office [open mornings] 01646 693460
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 Transport for London 02072221234
 Great Western Ticket Line 0845 7000125
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 Great Western group travel 0845 7413777
 Great Western Plus Bus www.plusbus.org.uk check add -on fares
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www.transport-direct.org.uk public transport info
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 Bus users UK www.bususers.org
 Acorn Travel 01348 74728 www.acorntravel.com
 Trans Wales Bus – www.trawscambria.info
 South West Wales Integrated Transport Consortium: SWWITCH
www.swwitch.org.uk
www.Seat61.com –a useful site for overseas rail travel
 Llandrindod Wells Booking Office – Kelsham Hannah 01597822053

CALL TO ACTION

Seen any vandalism lately? – seen any graffiti operators? – people behaving suspiciously around the railway?

DIAL 0800 405040 - HELP THE RAILWAY TO TAKE CARE OF ITSELF

###This is especially important now: the price of scrap metal has reached enormous heights and cable and other thefts are plaguing the track maintainers daily.

JOIN US

Fees are: £4 electronic [all communication electronically] £7 standard[MAIL]/Corporate and Group: £5 electronic[all communication electronically] £10 standard [mail] [50% AFTER July 1st] No joining fee.

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ASSOCIATION

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PRTA: A voluntary lobby for public transport since 1989.

