

## News from CAMPAIGN FOR BETTER TRANSPORT W YORKSHIRE October 2008

**Hello folks.** Welcome to our latest newsletter and 'Impact'. Please pass on spare copies of 'Impact' at another transport meeting (RailFuture?) or leave them at your local library. *CBT would appreciate donations and new supporters.* Ring 020 7613 0743 for details or visit the website at [www.bettertransport.org.uk](http://www.bettertransport.org.uk) **Ray Wilkes**

- **SUBS: thanks to everyone for responding to any reminders sent with the last issue.** You'll have read there that we are no longer receiving any funds from Central Office, so if you'd like to keep receiving this newsletter, it's dependent on subs being paid!
- **It is really useful** if we have your up to date postal and e-mail addresses. If we have your e-mail address you will get additional news and updates.

**Diary Dates:** *Meetings are at 19.30 in the Methodist Mission, Oxford Place, next to City Hall, Leeds, unless otherwise stated.*

**March 28th 2009** Bus Group Meeting 11.00 at Golden Lion, Swinegate, Leeds

**April 7th 2009** Annual General Meeting (*see venue, above*)

**23rd March 2009** Rail Group 19.15 at The Grove

**27th April to 1st May 2009** Living Streets 'Walk to Work' week [www.walkingworks.org.uk](http://www.walkingworks.org.uk)

**18th to 22nd May 2009** Living Streets 'Walk to School' week [www.walktoschool.org.uk](http://www.walktoschool.org.uk)

**1st June 2009** Rail Group 19.15 at The Grove

**14th June 2009** Alan Sutcliffe: Ilkley walk

**11th August 2009** To be arranged

**6th October 2009** To be arranged

**1st December 2009** Nigel Featham Arriva Yorkshire

### Developments in local transport.

**Rail.** As forecast in the October Newsletter some significant train service developments took place in West Yorkshire with the new timetable which commenced on 14 December, the highlight being the new hourly, seven days a week service operated by Northern between Nottingham, Sheffield, Barnsley and Leeds.

The service, which uses Class 158 units, was launched at Nottingham on Monday 15 December by the naming of vehicle 158791 "County of Nottingham" before it left with the 1011 to Leeds.

On arrival at Leeds Heidi Mottram, Northern's Managing Director, accompanied by the Black Dyke Band, gave an upbeat address expressing her pleasure in welcoming the new service, which restores a through link between Nottingham and West Yorkshire lost 25 years ago when the Nottingham-Glasgow trains were diverted away from Leeds as part of the run-down of the Leeds-Settle-Carlisle line. Heidi also referred to the growth of over 30% in Northern's business since the Franchise was awarded 4 years ago on the basis of NO GROWTH!

The new service supplements the hourly Leeds-Barnsley-Sheffield semi-fast service introduced in 2004, giving a half-hourly service on weekdays, whilst on Sundays the former three semi-fast trains have been replaced by the hourly Nottingham service. The new service has been warmly welcomed by the Friends of Dronfield Station, which is believed to have a better service now than at any time in history.

**Caldervale Line** The hourly Leeds-Dewsbury-Brighouse-Hebden Bridge service has been extended to Manchester Victoria whilst one of the two Leeds-Bradford-Manchester trains each hour has been accelerated to give a Bradford-Manchester time of one hour. It is understood, however, that the reduction in stops at Sowerby Bridge and Mytholmroyd has given rise to complaints.

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On Sundays the service between Leeds, Bradford and Halifax has been increased from two to three trains per hour and the York-Blackpool service has been increased to an hourly frequency between York and Hebden Bridge. From May the Hebden Bridge trains will be extended to Blackpool, giving an hourly service throughout.

**Service 500 Hebden Bridge to Haworth and Keighley** continues to give a useful Caldervale train/bus connection to Brontë attractions and the KVWR railway. Please help publicise it.

**Huddersfield Line** The TransPennine Express service has been increased to three trains per hour between Leeds, Huddersfield and Manchester from mid-day on Sundays, whilst Northern's Leeds-Huddersfield-Marsden service now terminates at Huddersfield, and the recently introduced Huddersfield-Manchester Sunday local service has been increased to an hourly frequency.

*by Alan J Sutcliffe*

**Footnote.** According to 'Airlines' newsletter of Aire Valley Rail Users Group [www.avrug.org.uk](http://www.avrug.org.uk) Cross Country trains will run all York Sheffield trains via Leeds at the year end. This will give a much needed half hourly Leeds Sheffield fast service.

**Buses.** There are more big changes. First York, Leeds, Bradford, Halifax and Huddersfield have been re-organised into one West Yorkshire company with a new MD, Dave Alexander, formerly of Transdev Blazefield (Harrogate, Keighley and Coastliner). This is a major culture change. First Leeds have also expanded their 'Overground' network from February and improved some inner Leeds orbital services. In amongst a big influx of new buses, it has now been confirmed that the erstwhile Cinderella service X84 Leeds-Otley-Ilkley-Skipton is getting new high quality leather seated buses. We will continue to see lesser used routes being cut back a little but Leeds seems to have entered an expansion phase which is most welcome.

Arriva is also buying new buses and revamping its network. Although it is still making some cuts, the network is being redesigned for growth.

**The wrong kind of snow.** Local bus and rail services held up fairly well in the recent bad weather and with cars stuck in side roads we got a glimpse of how smoothly our buses can run in the absence of congestion. The big news was the complete cancellation of London buses for one day and this overshadowed the fact that in similar weather the rest of the bus network in the South East kept running, albeit with delays and omissions of some estate roads.

**Metro Bus Maps** New editions dated February 2009 have appeared promptly for all districts and include all the main changes from that date.

**Elsewhere.** It is always good to hear our policies are practical and successful, even if we have to look outside West Yorkshire. Leicester has had ongoing 6% p.a. bus growth on both Arriva and First networks. This has led to improved services. Now a new £67m city centre bus station could be built in Leicester - to cope with *an expected 25% increase in bus travel.*

Meanwhile Bristol and S Gloucestershire councils have announced plans that will be taken forward following Bristol's designation as the UK's first cycling city. Cycling England has awarded £11.4m to the 2 councils, an amount which is being matched by the authorities' existing commitments - providing a total £22.8m. The plans will create 13 miles of new cycle track, 18 miles of improvements to the existing 73 miles of off-road track and 21 miles of on-road improvements.

**CBT Meetings** As well as the Bus and Rail sub-group meetings, the Tuesday evening 'Speaker Meetings' followed by sociable adjournment to the pub continue to be well-attended and to provide remarkable opportunities for hearing the details straight from the source, thanks to the excellent guest list arranged by Alan Sutcliffe. So far in the current season, we have been addressed by Confederation of Passenger Transport President Giles Fearnley in the Autumn and Drew Hayley and Stuart Rands of Northern this year. Both events left us feeling very positive about the messages.

We have more interesting meetings planned and details will be in the next newsletter. Remember that contributions to our newsletters are welcome.