



# THE ABBEY FLYER NEWSLETTER

## Santa Special and Round up

### Inside this issue:

Santa Special/ Round up	1
Future dates for the diary	1
Tourism/Park Street Fete	2
Integrated transport	2
Contact details	2



The Santa Specials ran on Saturday 17th December last, with 102 people on one train which is a first for a weekend. Here are a few pictures of the event which was a great success by all accounts.



The level crossing adjacent to Watford North station was successfully replaced during March and has now reopened, although not without the odd glitch.



Track has been relayed with continuous welded rail (CWR) between Bricket Wood and How Wood for a smoother ride and less noise.  
The Editor

### Special points of interest:

- The Abbey Line is one of 6 pilot community rail projects to establish best practice and reduced costs of operation with increased usage.
- The Abbey Line is one of some 53 community rail partnerships nation wide as part of ACORP.
- The Sunday service is one of 2 in Herts supported by Herts County Council, the other being the Royston-Cambridge local service.

## Future dates for the diary

The Abfly Annual General Meeting will this year be held on Thursday the 20th April 2006 at the St. Stephens Parish Centre, almost opposite Bricket Wood Station, from 7.30 pm onwards.

Easter Saturday 15th April will see the 'Easter Egg-press', with face painters and goody bags for children between 10.07 and 13.07 on trains travelling to Watford from St. Albans.

There will be a vintage bus at St. Albans and a Bunny bus at Watford Junction to connect with trains. Also don't forget Community Rail Day on Saturday 20th May and the Park Street Fete on the 21st (see p2).

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## Tourism boost and Park Street Fete

The St. Albans Carnival is to be replaced by a new St. Albans Festival in late June for 2 weeks, encompassing the much acclaimed International Organ Festival in July and the St. Michael's folk festival on the first Wednesday evening in July, with other scheduled events throughout the city, including Westminster Lodge directly opposite the Abbey station. Tourism is important to the future of the CRP, as this can create jobs and growth.

The Community Rail Partnership and Abfly will be represented with a stand at the Park Street fete during Sunday 21st May 2006, as part of the Community Rail day celebrations locally. This is being organised through David Horton whose contact details are on the panel adjacent. Please come down and if you have any spare time to help out on the stall, please let David know.

## Integrated Transport comes to the Abbey

**Yes for the first time, enthusiasts achieved fully integrated transport during Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th January 2006 when the annual model railway festival was held at the St. Albans Arena.**

**Vintage buses linked the city and Abbey stations with the venue, which was well attended on the day as the photograph indicates.**

**It is a pity that regular fully integrated transport seems to be possible elsewhere but not in Herts?**

