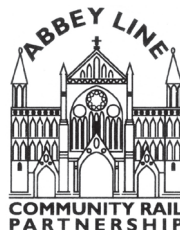


ABBHEY LINE

Community Partnership Newsletter

Issue Number 10 - Spring/Summer 2010



The Community Rail Partnership brings together the local community, businesses, local government and the railway to secure the long term future of the Abbey line railway.

Tram Consultation - Make sure you have your say

The consultation on the proposals - to convert the Abbey line from heavy to light rail to deliver a more frequent service – started in January. Don't forget you have until 31st March to give your views, so don't miss it.

Visit www.dft.gov.uk/abbeyline or write for a free copy to:
Abbey Line Consultation, Department for Transport,
4/31 Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DR

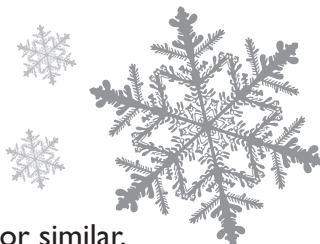
Abbey Line braves the Big Freeze

A record number of calls were received by the CRP from people wanting to check that they could still rely on the service during the snow. Despite disruptions elsewhere, the Abbey line still managed an almost completely uninterrupted service during the worst of the weather and remains one of the most reliable train services there is.

Did you know: you can register for free daily email alerts to check on your regular journey before you leave home or office, visit ...

www.londonmidland.com/alerts

for alerts to your pc, laptop, blackberry, iphone or similar.



More people are getting the Hump

Only the second of its kind in the country, the new Easier Access Area installed at St Albans Abbey Station is proving a great benefit for many, including people who have been previously unable to use the line. Watch out for a brand new waiting shelter for ramp users too. People arriving from other stations are also finding it handy as it raises the platform to a standard level so the stepping distance is reduced. This makes it easier for people with mobility issues, luggage, shopping and push chairs. Level wheelchair access is still not the intention as rail regulations require a gap between the platform and the train to ensure clearance - however, wheelchair access will shortly be greatly improved by using a mobile ramp. This is placed on the area at an angle that is Disability Discrimination Act compliant, as before it was too steep. Just telephone 24 hours in advance and specially trained staff will arrange to be there with a ramp to help. Call the Assisted Travel Team at London Midland:

0800 092 4260

All Change at Watford Junction Station

Rail users and passenger stakeholders, including Abbey line Station Adopters and members of the CRP attended presentations and workshops and were consulted on over £1 million improvements to the station at Watford Junction.

Plans included heated waiting facilities for Abbey line passengers on Platform 11, improved entrance and bus interchange and cycling provision, better toilets and disabled parking.

St Albans Abbey Station Bus Stop Improvement

Improvements are still on the way to bring better waiting facilities and interchange for rail and bus users at St Albans. An important part of this will be better drainage to tackle the problem of flooding on the highway and puddles for pedestrians to negotiate.

Bricket Wood Station News

A local independent group formed to champion the renovation of Bricket Wood Station is keeping a watch for developments expected following planning permission granted for it to be used as a café. It is hoped that the last original railway building on the line may now be saved. Watch this space.

Watford North Ticket Machine

Passengers who have found it difficult to buy a ticket in the limited time on board the train can now look forward to a new ticket machine at Watford North. It will be card only payment for security reasons.

White Christmas for Santa Special success



Friends and supporters of the Community Rail Partnership, including Abfly, Round Table, Station Adopters and others ensured that Santa and his Helpers' Christmas visit to the Line for 2009 was a complete success.

Even the train announcer entered into the spirit of it all and London Midland staff were on hand to help. This time the snow made it even more special. Children all received goody bags of presents to amuse them and kick off their Christmas.

At just normal fares this really is one of the best Christmas treats there is – roll on December 2010!



How friendly are you?

Did you know that people like you help to look after and improve all the Abbey line stations? Volunteer 'Station Adopters' take it in turns to keep an eye on 'their' stations to make sure any problems are spotted early. Their comments and weekly reports go direct to the CRP and train operator or Network Rail for action to keep things looking and running the best for everyone.

After a short safety briefing at your station of choice you could take a few minutes a week to really make a difference. Be a friend – ask about adopting a station. Contact the CRP below for a warm welcome!

contact details:

Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership Liaison: John Gunner
Community Rail Partnership Liaison
Hertfordshire County Council (Passenger Transport Unit),
PO Box 99, County Hall, Pegs Lane
HERTFORD SG13 8TJ

M: 07770 993162

E: crp@hertscc.gov.uk



www.intalink.org.uk

tel: 0300 123 4050

traveline: 0871 200 22 33

The CRP attempts to check the accuracy of any information but neither it nor its members and officers can accept liability for any errors or omissions which may occur. It is always advisable for readers to make their own enquiries

