Categories 3/4 - Best Website
RailFuture - Rail User Group Awards 2015 nomination

Great Western Passenger Forum – the Coffee Shop

Submitted by: Graham Ellis, one of the web site admins on behalf of the moderator team
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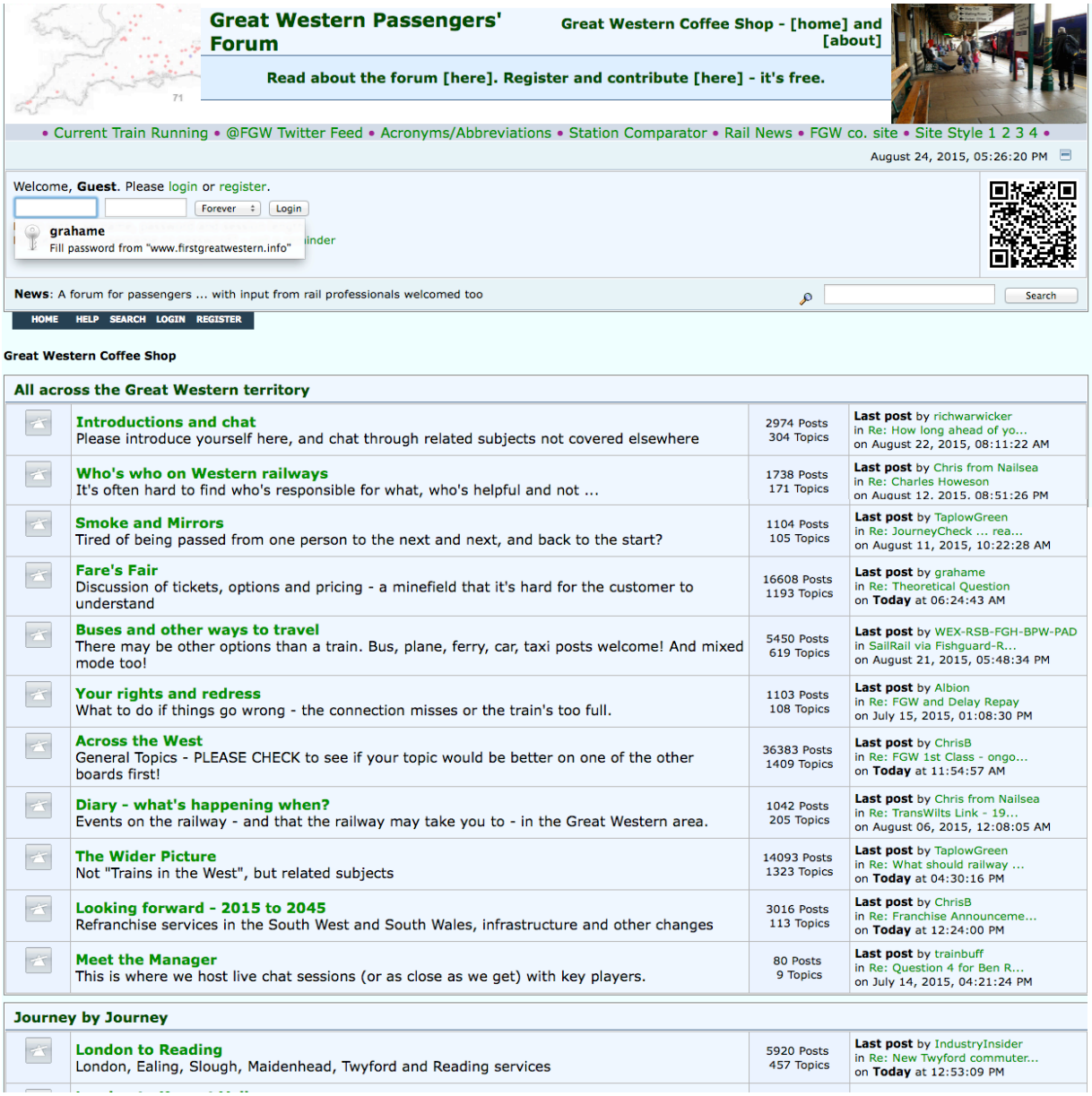
http://www.firstgreatwestern.info

The Coffee Shop is a forum based web site where (mainly) First Great Western customers can access a resource of over 170,000 messages to find out just about anything there is to know about travel by train in the Thames Valley, the West of England and South Wales.

Members can post questions, chat about what's going on, get help with travel plans, and look forward to the future. The forum is provided by and moderated by passengers, but welcomes and has significant rail industry and governmental input. Messages are added at a rate of 60 or 70 a day, almost all of them being readable by any visitor to the site, whether or not they have signed up for membership.

Some Sample Pages – the home page as seen by a guest:



Sample page from a "Meet the Manager" evening in conjunction with First Great Western:

Chris from Nailsea
Administrator
Hero Member
Posts: 14414

I am not railway staff

Question 3 for Ben Rule - 19.24 - Future changes to cope with continued growth
« **on:** July 13, 2015, 07:24:57 PM »

Question from **BerkshireBugsy**

Given the growth of passenger numbers in the FGW region, but mainly on the route between Reading and London does Ben foresee a time in the next few decades where a radical change in the infrastructure or train design will be needed to provide capacity and if so, using his crystal ball, what changes will be needed ?

Alternatively does he think the answer lies in a change of working practices to help relieve congestion on both the rail and road networks ?

Logged

William Huskisson MP was the first person to be killed by a train while crossing the tracks, in 1830. Many more have died in the same way since then. Don't take a chance: stop, look, listen.

"Level crossings are safe, unless they are used in an unsafe manner." Discuss.

BenRule
Jr. Member
Posts: 23

Re: Question 3 for Ben Rule - 19.24 - Future changes to cope with continued growth
« **Reply #1 on:** July 13, 2015, 07:33:44 PM »

Quote from: Chris from Nailsea on July 13, 2015, 07:24:57 PM

> Question from **BerkshireBugsy**
>
> Given the growth of passenger numbers in the FGW region, but mainly on the route between Reading and London does Ben foresee a time in the next few decades where a radical change in the infrastructure or train design will be needed to provide capacity and if so, using his crystal ball, what changes will be needed ?
>
> Alternatively does he think the answer lies in a change of working practices to help relieve congestion on both the rail and road networks ?

Clearly if we keep getting growth at the current rates we would need further infrastructure enhancements in the future. There are further plans already on the drawing board. Western access to Heathrow for example will help connectivity to the airport, but also opens other journey opportunities and timetable opportunities that could help.

However, there is much we can do with the existing fixed infrastructure. I see the SETs as a great opportunity to make our operation slicker. For example the door operation on SETs will be much quicker than an HST. By reducing dwell times and making them more consistent we may be able to tighten the timetable in the Thames Valley. Especially with ETCS coming we should be able to see tighter headways on the busiest bit of the network.

Our new EMUs will give a significant increase in capacity in the Thames Valley. I am really looking forward to running our first 12 car EMU. Having previously worked in Liverpool Street I miss 12 car trains.

Logged

BerkshireBugsy
Hero Member
Posts: 1280

Little Berkshire Bugsy at Didcot (composite pic)

Re: Question 3 for Ben Rule - 19.24 - Future changes to cope with continued growth
« **Reply #2 on:** July 13, 2015, 07:39:58 PM »

Thank you very much for taking the time to answer our questions Ben.

My suspicion is you may win a prize for the most posts on the forum by noob in one evening

« Last Edit: July 14, 2015, 08:04:12 AM by BerkshireBugsy »

Logged

Do you have something you would like to add to this thread, or would you like to raise a new question at the Coffee Shop? Please [register] (it is free) if you have not done so before, or login (at the top of this page) if you already have an account - we would love to read what you have to say!

You can find out more about how this forum works [here] - that will link you to a copy of the forum agreement that you can read before you join, and tell you very much more about how we operate. We are an independent forum, provided and run by customers of First Great Western, for customers of First Great Western and we welcome railway professionals as members too, in either a personal or official capacity. Views expressed in posts are not necessarily the views of the operators of the forum.

As well as posting messages onto existing threads, and starting new subjects, members can communicate with each other through personal messages if they wish. And once members have made a certain number of posts, they will automatically be admitted to the "frequent posters club", where subjects not-for-public-domain are discussed; anything from the occasional rant to meetups we may be having ...

And some more samples:

« previous next »

Pages: [1]

REPLY | NOTIFY | MARK UNREAD | SEND THIS TOPIC | PRINT

Author | Topic: Reliability of an hourly TransWilts service (Read 285 times)

grahame
Administrator
Hero Member
★★★★★
Posts: 12758

Reliability of an hourly TransWilts service
« **on:** August 11, 2015, 11:01:06 AM »

Quote Modify Remove Split Topic

How was the single line from Thingley Junction to Bradford Junction going to cope with hourly passenger trains each way, together with the usual mix of freight stuff? I have to admit we wondered - but it's coping well. I've used RecentTimeTrains to look at all services that have run (so far) this month, looking at whether they've been on time. For the record (as this is useful evidence for the future ...

{like} liked by bignosemac

TOC	Scheduled Times d SWI	a WSB	Dur	Count Ran	% Svc Ran	% Arrivals RT-10m late	Actual Arrival Average
GW	05:54	06:36	42m	2	100%	100%	06:36 RT
GW	05:56	06:38	42m	5	100%	100%	06:38 RT
GW	06:20	07:01	41m	2	100%	100%	07:04 3½L
GW	07:19	07:59	40m	7	100%	100%	07:59 RT
GW	08:19	08:59	40m	7	100%	100%	09:02 3L
GW	08:47	09:28	41m	7	100%	100%	09:29 1L
GW	08:59	09:47	48m	2	100%	100%	09:47 RT
GW	09:17	09:58	41m	2	100%	100%	09:59 1L
GW	09:22	10:00	38m	7	100%	100%	10:01 1L
GW	09:21	10:05	44m	2	100%	100%	10:06 1½L
GW	10:18	10:56	38m	2	100%	100%	11:01 5L
GW	10:19	10:59	40m	6	100%	100%	10:59 RT
GW	10:22	11:01	39m	2	100%	100%	11:01 RT
GW	11:18	11:59	41m	2	100%	100%	12:03 4L

Chris from Nailsea
Administrator
Hero Member
★★★★★
Posts: 14414

I am not railway staff

Re: Corsham Station reopening
« **Reply #46 on:** September 03, 2014, 09:09:41 AM »

Quote Modify Remove Split Topic

From This is Wiltshire:

Quote

Crucial meeting over re-opening Corsham railway station 'within a month'

This Is Wiltshire: Michelle Donelan, Ben Howlett, Professor Christina Slade and Devizes MP Claire Perry at Corsham

A crucial meeting between government officials and campaigners about the re-opening of Corsham railway station will take place within a month, says Devizes MP Claire Perry.

The new Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Transport was at Corsham on Friday with the ConservativeÃƒÂ¢Ã¢â€šÂ¬Ã¢â€žÂ¢s prospective parliamentary candidate for Chippenham, Michelle Donelan.

SandTEngineer
Hero Member
☆☆☆☆☆
Posts: 757

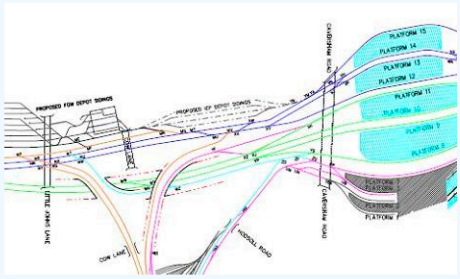
Re: Reading Station improvements
« **Reply #3261 on:** August 13, 2015, 02:41:15 PM »

Quote Modify Remove Split Topic

Quote from: SandTEngineer on August 13, 2015, 01:44:54 PM

I have seen an early plan that shows a number of IEP sidings in the Reading depot area. I'll see if I can dig it out.....

Found it. Health Warning: This is a *very* old concept drawing for the Reading Remodelling Project and should not be taken as gospel



{like}

Report to moderator 86.170.189.198 (?)

You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today
[Abraham Lincoln US President 1861-1865]

And the most recent subjects on some of the boards:

Pages: [1] 2 3 ... 71 — MARK READ | NOTIFY | NEW TOPIC | POST NEW POLL

Subject	Started by	Replies	Views	Last post
Across the West	grahame	1	8505	January 01, 2008, 01:18:42 PM by grahame
FGW 1st Class - ongoing discussion of the benefits and their apparent reduction new « 1 2 ... 62 63 »	Mookiemoo	936	68521	**Today** at 11:54:57 AM by ChrisB
First Great Western rebrands to GWR « 1 2 ... 9 10 »	bignosemac	140	5770	**Today** at 06:41:43 AM by grahame
First Great Western - industrial action in 2015 - merged topic new « 1 2 ... 18 19 »	Adelante_CCT	277	9537	**Today** at 05:20:50 AM by ChrisB
Problems with the FGW sleepers - December 2014 onwards new « 1 2 ... 20 21 »	bobm	307	18046	August 21, 2015, 06:04:36 PM by phile
Crossrail - ongoing discussion, merged topic new « 1 2 ... 38 39 »	tom-langley	580	67682	August 19, 2015, 02:34:01 PM by Electric train
May 2015 timetables, including new services for Maidenhead / Thames Valley new « 1 2 3 »	Richard Fairhurst	31	2638	August 19, 2015, 12:29:14 PM by BBM
Thames Valley infrastructure problems causing delays - ongoing, since October 2014 new « 1 2 ... 59 60 »	IndustryInsider	889	47395	August 17, 2015, 09:59:30 PM by johoare
First Great Western on-board catering, HST buffets, Travelling Chefs and Pullmans new « 1 2 ... 70 71 »	inspector_blakey	1064	102737	August 17, 2015, 06:18:13 PM by Adelante_CCT
Great Western Main Line electrification - ongoing discussion new « 1 2 ... 79 80 »	willc	1190	144801	August 17, 2015, 02:56:59 PM by Four Track, Now!
Weather disruption across the FGW network, February and March 2014 new « 1 2 ... 61 62 »	Timmer	918	89098	August 14, 2015, 07:15:42 PM by bignosemac
Reading Station improvements new « 1 2 ... 217 218 »	Chris from Nailsea	3262	439309	August 13, 2015, 03:21:42 PM by stuving
Comments on Journey Taplow Basingstoke pm 11th August	eightf48544	8	312	August 12, 2015, 01:21:56 PM by paul7755
BITE card - discount card for use at railway station outlets « 1 2 ... 6 7 »	matt473	100	13132	August 10, 2015, 07:40:05 PM by grahame

Pages: [1] 2 3 ... 9 — MARK READ | NOTIFY | NEW TOPIC | POST NEW POLL

Subject	Started by	Replies	Views	Last post
Heart of Wessex line - General Information	Phil	0	3206	February 11, 2008, 05:04:01 PM by Phil
2E27 1608 Weymouth to Westbury - Maiden Newton 22/8	PhilWakely	1	149	**Yesterday** at 08:22:21 AM by bobm
Commuting from Yetminster to Bristol - Mad??? « 1 2 »	lulu	16	3188	August 20, 2015, 10:31:16 AM by grahame
Alcohol on trains from Weymouth new « 1 2 »	grahame	16	850	August 16, 2015, 05:53:28 AM by bobm
Lurcher and Longdog day out by train	grahame	3	403	August 10, 2015, 07:35:04 PM by Chris from Nailsea
Interesting service during East of Bath works new	Timmer	7	473	August 05, 2015, 11:23:14 PM by Palfers
Saturday HST to Weymouth « 1 2 ... 5 6 »	dorsetbeachcomber	75	18354	August 05, 2015, 10:33:10 PM by bignosemac
Lift Share Initiative for Frome Commuters new	Chris from Nailsea	1	262	July 29, 2015, 06:02:06 AM by TaplowGreen
'Chaos' at Castle Cary with the returning Weymouth Wizard - 18/7 new	PhilWakely	4	486	July 18, 2015, 10:05:47 PM by Chris from Nailsea
Bristol to Frome for 9 a.m.? new	Bmblbzzz	5	293	July 10, 2015, 08:23:23 PM by thetrout

Pages: [1] 2 3 ... 31 — MARK READ | NOTIFY | NEW TOPIC | POST NEW POLL

Subject	Started by	Replies	Views	Last post
Buses - you are very welcome to use the coffeeshop for bus discussions and qns.	grahame	0	239	December 18, 2014, 07:56:30 AM by grahame
Car parking at FGW stations	Chris from Nailsea	11	4663	August 24, 2014, 10:52:56 PM by teamsaint
By train and ferry via Rosslare new « 1 2 »	grahame	19	3222	August 21, 2015, 05:48:34 PM by WEX-RSB-FGH-BPW-PAD
plymouth park and ride for the fireworks Tuesday 18 august new	Palfers	1	133	August 20, 2015, 06:22:14 PM by bobm
Residents fear isolation after cuts to Pewsham bus services new	NickF	0	315	August 13, 2015, 10:55:01 AM by NickF
M-tickets experience new	Surrey 455	11	392	August 12, 2015, 09:16:51 AM by anthony215
First Bus X31 wrong route new	Alan Pettitt	4	145	August 10, 2015, 10:42:00 PM by Chris from Nailsea
Various open-top bus 'conversion' incidents (merged topic) new « 1 2 ... 7 8 »	Chris from Nailsea	108	16293	August 10, 2015, 02:46:38 PM by Four Track, Now!
Kennet & Avon Canal - ongoing discussion, anniversaries and incidents new « 1 2 »	Electric train	29	9126	August 08, 2015, 10:54:01 PM by Chris from Nailsea
Further bus changes in Wiltshire.	grahame	1	141	August 06, 2015, 04:29:03 PM by grahame
London Underground Industrial Action, Summer 2015	bignosemac	11	424	August 05, 2015, 09:04:22 PM by grahame
Bus link improvement - Pewsey to Devizes, and villages in the Vale	grahame	0	86	August 04, 2015, 06:22:25 AM by grahame
First Bus withdraw 234 route - Melksham Rail Link - July 2015	grahame	12	1817	August 02, 2015, 11:31:03 AM by grahame
New London 'Routemaster' bus (merged topics) new « 1 2 3 4 »	bignosemac	45	5070	August 01, 2015, 11:30:55 AM by Chris from Nailsea