incorporating TransWilts Community Rail Partnership

NEWSLETTER SIXTY – OCTOBER 2025

IET call at Melksham

The 2nd September was badly affected by a track fault on the Berks & Hants line near Westbury, however there was a silver lining.

As is usual long distance trains from the South West were diverted along the single line – although for the first time they made extra calls at Melksham to take passengers to Swindon.

Staff live CIS at Melksham — Last Updated: 17:47

Code	From	To	Plat	Scheduled Arrival	Expected Arrival	Scheduled Departure	Expected Departure
2M30	SDON	WSTBRYW	1	17:59	Cancelled	18:00	Cancelled
	Last report: No report						
1A91	PLYMTH	PADTON	1	18:08	On time	18:08	On time
	Last report: Between Bruton and Westbury (17:42)						
2M23	WSTBRYW	SDON	1	18:53	Cancelled	18:53	Cancelled
	Last report: No report						
2O09	GLOSTER	SLSBRY	1	19:09	On time	19:09	On time
	Last report: No report Train stops in zones 3 and 2. Cycle space zone 2. Train formation (Zones 3 and 2) D E						
1A94	PLYMTH	PADTON		19:14	On time	19:14	On time
	Last report: Between Starcross and Exeter St Thomas (17:43)						

The TransWilts CIC, along with others. has been pressing for this to happen for a number of years and has been waiting for the first trains to call since the relevant platform signage was installed.

Three trains from the West Country called at hourly intervals to pick up stranded passengers.

Cleaning up the harbour

A group of students from Fairfield College in Dilton Marsh have taken part in an innovative scheme to help clear rubbish from Bristol Harbour. The group took a direct train from their local station to Bristol Temple Meads where they then took a water taxi to the Prince Street bridge where they met up with the SeaCycler. The craft, made entirely of recycled material, then took half the group out on the water while the other half picked litter round the landing stage before swapping over an hour later. The groups fished more than 14 kilos of debris from the water which would otherwise have floated out to sea. The project is run by Fishing for Change which is supported by a number of local organisations including GWR. It was highly commended in the recent National Rail Awards in the Environmental Excellence category.

Local youngsters enjoy a seaside day out on the train

Young people from Chippenham and the surrounding area have been given a day to remember thanks to TransWilts.

We teamed up with Great Western Railway (GWR) and Barnardo's Wiltshire Short Breaks to take 10 young people on a seaside day out to Weston-super-Mare. Taking advantage of the direct rail service, the visit aimed to give the young people, many of whom had rarely travelled by train before, the chance to build confidence, learn travel skills, and explore somewhere new.

The group, all aged between 7 and 13, was treated to an interactive train safety session, learning how to travel safely and confidently by rail, before enjoying the seaside activities led by a Barnardo's specialist play leader.

Barnardo's Wiltshire Short Breaks provides activities, outings, and support for children and young people with additional needs, giving them opportunities to develop independence and social skills in a safe and supportive environment. Funded by Wiltshire Council's Local Offer, they run regular group sessions and youth clubs during term time and additional activities and days out in the school holidays.

Liz James, Barnardo's Dorset and Wiltshire locality Children's Services Manager, added: "It was nice to be able to do something a little bit different and go a bit further. Weston-super-Mare seemed like a good place as it was easy to get to on the train and the children spent lots of the day on the beach, playing in the sand.

"Many of the children would have found it difficult to go on a trip like this, but with the support from TransWilts they felt safe and it helped build their confidence. A train can be a scary experience but everyone was really helpful and they really enjoyed the opportunity to be more independent, especially as they were out with their friends and not with their family."

Autumn Engineering work

On Sundays the 26th October and 30th November the first round trip on the TransWilts line will be replace trains to and from either Swindon or Chippenham to Westbury.

Travellers between Bath and Bristol Temple Meads face disruption between Monday 27th and Thursday 30th October. No trains will run between those stations with tickets being accepted on local buses. There will also be a reduced train service at Chippenham.

Trains will not call at Frome on the weekend of the 1st and 2nd of November while the line from Warminster to Salisbury will be shut on the 8th, 9th, 15th and 16th November.

We will have a round up of the Christmas and New Year engineering work in the December newsletter.

All change for buses in Swindon

Swindon's new £33m interchange on Fleming Way has opened to buses.

Since September 2022 the road has been closed while contractors moved underground utilities and removed the underpass into the town centre. Now all services, both town and rural, will leave from one of the 27 stops along the tree lined road.

All the buses include real time displays and some also show departures from the railway station a short walk away.

The shelters are wheelchair accessible and include charging points for mobile devices.

The next stage of the project is to demolish the bus station which is now no longer used.

As a result of the project most cross town routes are now 3-5 minutes faster as they no longer have to go round the loop to the bus station and the congestion which occurred there.

Giving Melksham a clean

Half a dozen 4-6 year olds from Chippenham's 10th Squirrel pack took the train to Melksham one Saturday morning to clean up the area round the station. For many it was their first trip on a train as they took part in the project to earn their latest badge – Platforms for Change. After an hour they had collected three bags of discarded cans, paper and bottles.

They were the latest group to take part in work to smarten up the area around our local stations. If you are with a community group and would like to find out more about the type of opportunities available at Swindon, Chippenham, Melksham, Trowbridge or Westbury stations, please contact Sophie Martin, our Community Partnership Manager, at sophie@transwilts.org.

Success for Siemens Mobility

TransWilts Community Rail partners Siemens Mobility were honoured with the judges' special award at the recent National Rail Awards. The evening at the Grosvenor House Hotel is often regarded as the "Railway Oscars". The award was given in recognition of the contribution the company, based in Chippenham, has made to the UK rail industry.

It has invested over £340 million in the industry in this country in recent years and is in the process of building a new facility on the outskirts of Chippenham.

Picture power at Pewsey

Passengers travelling through Pewsey Station will now be treated to a colourful celebration of railway history, thanks to the creativity of young artists from Pewsey Primary School.

To mark the 200th anniversary of the railways in Britain, Wiltshire's Community Rail Partnership, TransWilts, challenged pupils to create artwork inspired by trains, travel and the rich heritage of the railway. Using a variety of media, and taking inspiration from steam engines to modern journeys, the children aged from five to 10 years, brought their imaginations to life.

A total of 20 pieces were selected to be displayed prominently along the station's platforms, bringing together transport, local history, education and art. The pupils and their teachers were invited to a special launch event, where they were joined by representatives from TransWilts, GWR, Wiltshire Council, Pewsey Parish Council and The Arts Council. Their creativity can now be admired by travellers passing through Pewsey from their seats on the train, as well as close-up by those at the station.

Paddy Bradley, Chair of TransWilts, praised the children for their creativity and contribution to the local community. "The children's artwork will be seen by thousands of people as they pass through the station, but more importantly these amazing pieces will be seen by their parents and friends and should be something that they are very proud of. We're pleased to be able to celebrate Railway200, marking two centuries of the railways in the country, by coming together with our local community in Pewsey to create something that will hopefully bring a smile to train passengers for many years to come."

GWR re-nationalisation takes a step closer

Swindon South MP Heidi Alexander, the Secretary of State for Transport, has confirmed the schedule under which GWR will enter public ownership. This will follow the transfers of Greater Anglia, West Midlands Trains, Govia Thameslink Railway, and Chiltern Railways respectively.

The Secretary of State also confirmed that the legislation to establish Great British Railways – the new public company which will take responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the railway, and bring together train operators and Network Rail – will be introduced in this Parliamentary session.

The final decision on when exactly GWR will transfer will be announced by Government in due course. In the meantime, the company says its focus will remain on providing the best possible service for customers now and in the future, while ensuring it delivers value for taxpayers with all ticket revenue continuing to be returned straight to Government.

Trowbridge Cub Scouts brighten up Trowbridge

Members of the Cub Scouts in Trowbridge have produced some artwork on the theme of flowers to decorate the town station. These were then turned into large vinyl murals which are now displayed on the waiting room and ticket office windows.