#### Best Website: Joint Gold Awards



Welcome to the website of the DRA. We are an all-volunteer organisation dedicated to supporting the former London & South Western Railway/Southern Railway route between Meldon Viaduct and the site of the

#### www.dartmoor-railway-association.org

#### www.bedwyntrains.org.uk

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#### Bedwyn Trains Passenger Group. Campaigning for Better Services for Kintbury, Hungerford and Bedwyn Since 2006.

Get in touch, or join our newsletter email list. We are here to help: info@bedwyntrains.org.uk Click here for the GWR Journey Planner GWR: 0345 7000 125

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[Home pages shown for each website]

Judges' comments: "Each in their own way supporting existing users and encouraging new users of their railways, Bedwyn evolving into so much more than a traditional RUG website, and Dartmoor reflecting its wider role since the restoration of regular mainline services in 2021."

**Annual General Meeting 2023 London** 

#### Best Campaign: Silver Award

#### Bedwyn Trains <u>www.bedwyntrains.org.uk</u>

**Aims:** To restore our pre-pandemic direct services to Paddington. To be a voice for Kintbury, Hungerford and Bedwyn Station passengers. To keep Bedwyn Station as a nice environment and to promote its use along with the bus connection to Marlborough. To maintain and improve train services from Bedwyn, Hungerford and Kintbury.

**Story:** In 2006 First Great Western were set to halve our off-peak service. This is something we managed to get overturned.

In March 2020 Covid hit, putting us on a diesel shuttle to Reading. This was only three months after the new December 2019 timetable, the best eastbound timetable we'd ever achieved.

Slowly we started to get our bi-mode (direct to Paddington) trains back. But in 2021 cracks were found in the IET bi-mode fleet. Kintbury, Hungerford and Bedwyn were an easy target, we were put on a diesel shuttle to Newbury while the reduced fleet was spread out elsewhere.

Slowly we started to get our bi-mode (direct to Paddington) trains back. However, in 2022, post-Covid, the DfT instructed GWR to make massive cost savings. Again our bi-mode trains were taken away and assigned elsewhere (replacing older expensive to maintain trains) and we were put on diesel shuttles for all of our off-peak and the majority of our evening peak trains.

#### **Annual General Meeting 2023 London**



Judges' comment: "Did their campaign succeed? Yes, it did. Has it all gone wrong? Yes, it has! Have they sat back and accepted it? Most certainly not; they have a plan and the knowledge, experience and persistence - and maturity of approach - to succeed again."

## Bedwyn Trains Passenger Group

#### Campaigning for Better Services for Kintbury,

Hungerford and Bedwyn Since 2006.

#### 2009

# Electrification Announced as far as Newbury

#### 2009 to 2019

A long fight...

#### 2019

## From December 2019, after a siding extension, we got our best service ever

#### December 2019

With new IET bi-modes, we had our best timetable ever – 27 weekday Bedwyn departures for Paddington (19 direct, average journey time 73 minutes across all services).

#### 2020

## Covid

#### IET Cracks

#### March 2022

## A phone call from Mark Hopwood

# They need our three IETs to replace the HSTs

## Proposed May 2022

GWR/DfT looted three of our IETs, relegating us to 20 Paddington departures (6 direct, average journey time 86 minutes).

#### Now

We now have the timetable up to 22 Paddington departures, (7 direct, an average journey time 81 minutes)

## GWR / DfT are saying

- We don't have the passenger numbers / revenue to warrant the return of our IETs in the current climate
- Okay to extend to Carmarthen!
- IET fleet problems lead to cancellations, short formations

## Lots of missed connections at Newbury

- No West Facing Bay
- Station not always staffed
- Appears to be hit or miss whether holds are implemented
- Freight and through services take precedence over us
- One Newbury to Bedwyn shuttle doesn't stop at Kintbury or Hungerford so it can make way for freight

## An example-June 15th

- The 1157 Bedwyn to Newbury shuttle was held to allow a delayed West of England through (the 0711 off Penzance).
- It was then further held to allow two freight (stone) trains through. Annoyingly the CIS screens showed a 'creeping' delay, as opposed to the reality that the signallers were aware of due to holding it to allow three trains through.
- The 1157 departed Bedwyn at 1209 and arrived in to Newbury at 1230.
- The 1221, off Newbury, connection had already left at 1222.

## Because things are so bad

- We've had to redesign our website to be give real time information on the move
- We've developed our own train graphing software so we can put forward timetable changes to GWR

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