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

Home Realtime Info Recent Performance Timetables More...

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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