

Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership

E-NEWSLETTER
September 2008



Graham Ellis, Mark Miller, John Aplin and South West Trains' Phil Dominey at the Chandler's Ford station adoption

Welcome to the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership e-newsletter, which is full of reports about our most recent activities, and information about some of the interesting projects that we have coming up.

Chandler's Ford station adoption

Back in April this year, the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership were very proud to officially 'adopt' **Chandler's Ford** station. At a short ceremony held just after the morning commuter rush was over, representatives of South West Trains and Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership signed the adoption document to much applause from invited guests. "By officially adopting Chandler's Ford station, we can now feel that it is really part of our local community, and by working closely with South West Trains, we can promote use of the station more widely," said Mark Miller, Community Partnership Rail Officer. Mark went on to add, "The station was re-opened five years ago after years of closure. This was the result of much hard work and determination from the local community. It has proved to be a resounding success, and we can all be very proud of 'our' station." Already a small group of volunteers has taken the station under their wing - distributing publicity, undertaking surveys and organising litter picking rotas.

Mottisfont & Dunbridge station was also adopted shortly before **Chandler's Ford** at a meeting at the Mill Arms, with a First Great Western Trains representative in attendance. The station now has its own band of enthusiastic volunteers, who, like those at **Chandler's Ford**, are undertaking litter picks, publicity distribution and generally keeping an eye on the station.



Left: Ian Johnson, Customer Services Director, South West Trains and Nick Farthing, Chair, Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership, sign the Chandler's Ford station adoption document, watched over by station volunteers Graham Ellis and John Aplin (also above, signing the document).

Our website

Train information, maps and useful links are featured on this website. Why not explore www.threeriversrail.com and see what you can find out?





One of the new hanging baskets at Romsey station

Flowers brighten up local stations

Passengers using **Romsey, Dean** or **Mottisfont & Dunbridge** stations will notice that there is a new splash of colour brightening up the scene. Our local stations are something everyone should take a pride in. **Dean** and **Mottisfont & Dunbridge** now have lovely planters full of colourful flowers.

At **Romsey** station, we now have some new hanging baskets (*above*) swinging in the breeze under the entrance canopy, making the station look very appealing. We have also filled platform tubs (*right*) with summer blooms. Thanks to First Great Western, ACoRP (Association of Community Rail Partnerships) and the Romsey & District Society for their support and financial contributions to this project. Thanks also go to Choice Plants, Timsbury for supplying the plants, and thanks to our volunteers who are now keeping all tubs watered.



Litter removal smartens stations

Nobody likes to see litter spoiling otherwise pleasant areas, and so it was very cheering to see groups of our volunteers take part in litter pick sessions at **Chandler's Ford** and **Mottisfont & Dunbridge** stations. Much of the litter collected was recycled.

By keeping the area tidy, not only does it make the station more pleasant for passengers, but a smart and clean location tends to make those considering dropping litter think twice.



The Mill Arms

Have you seen the attractive Mill Arms pub (*right*) when passing **Mottisfont & Dunbridge** on the train? Perhaps it has looked very tempting on a hot summer's day, or even on a chilly winter's evening. If you have yet to visit the pub, either for a refreshing pint, or to experience the superb standard of catering for which the pub is famous, then perhaps you should try it out this year. With trains calling at the station every day of the week into the evening, there is no need to take your car.

For more information visit www.millarms.co.uk or call 01794 340401

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Members of Swaythling Scout Group prepare to distribute train timetables door-to-door

Scouts Distribute Timetables

As part of the work towards their 'community help' badges, Swaythling Scouts (*above*) spent a sunny evening in July delivering our **Swaythling** summary train timetables to houses near the station. The scouts were very enthusiastic, and thanks to their efforts, local residents received free information which should encourage them to try the train.

Volunteer efforts such as these go a long way to raising awareness of the train service in the local community.

Three Rivers Line Guides

There is so much to see when you are travelling along the 'Three Rivers' route. To help passengers explore and learn more about what they can see from the train window, we will shortly be publishing a series of **Three Rivers Line Guides**. These will feature details of attractions along the line and within easy reach from the stations, plus useful contact details. Interesting facts, nature notes and some nuggets of local history will be included. The Guides will be available from stations along the route, in local libraries, Tourist Information Centres and on our website.

Station Travel Plans

Four of our 'Three Rivers' stations feature in a list of 31 locations up and down the country that are to get help to create their own Travel Plans. The stations involved are **Eastleigh, Romsey, Chandler's Ford** and **St. Denys**. The Travel Plans will promote the use of public transport to and from the stations, working with local communities to develop improvements and enhancements, such as better bus interchange, better passenger information, footpaths and cycle storage facilities. This initiative is being led by The Association of Train Operating Companies, and is a 3 year project. Independent surveys will take place in October/November 2008, then Travel Plans will be drawn up from the results in 2009, and implementation will hopefully take place from late 2009 onwards.

PLUSBUS tickets now available



Have you heard of **PLUSBUS**? **PLUSBUS** is a nationwide initiative that offers train users the option to include local bus travel on their rail tickets. On our local services, rail passengers travelling to **Salisbury, Southampton** - and now **Eastleigh** - can opt to include bus travel for a reasonable extra charge. You can also add **PLUSBUS** to weekly, or other rail season tickets. This usually gives a saving compared to buying the bus tickets separately, especially the more bus trips you make. In most cases you must buy the combined ticket from your station or from your Train Guard.

For more information please pick up a leaflet from your nearest manned rail station, or visit the **PLUSBUS** website www.plusbus.info.

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Test Valley Community Transport Manager and volunteer FREE BUS driver Dick Hewett at Mottisfont & Dunbridge station

Successful first year of Free Bus link

Getting to the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens and Mottisfont Abbey by public transport on Sundays has been made much easier in 2008 thanks to a new free bus link.

The service was organised by the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership, and operates every Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday until 28 September 2008. The bus leaves **Romsey** station forecourt, and then serves the two attractions mentioned, before ending its run at **Mottisfont & Dunbridge** station forecourt (*above*). It runs in both directions and is timed to connect with trains to Southampton, Chandler's Ford and Salisbury.

The silver and purple minibus - supplied by Test Valley Community Transport - is fully accessible, and volunteer drivers are all trained to help disabled users. Anyone can use the service, not just rail passengers.

A timetable appears on our website, or passengers can pick up a printed leaflet locally. Alternatively, you can phone 01794 340757, or 01794 369317 / 8 for more information.

The service, funded by Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, Mottisfont Abbey, ACoRP and the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership, has been a great success, carrying so far over 300 passengers.



©. Sir Harold Hillier Gardens

For **Sir Harold Hillier Gardens** (*left*) opening times and admission prices, please visit www.hilliergardens.org.uk

For **Mottisfont Abbey** (*right*) opening times and admission prices, please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk



©. The National Trust

Encouraging new rail users to try local rail services

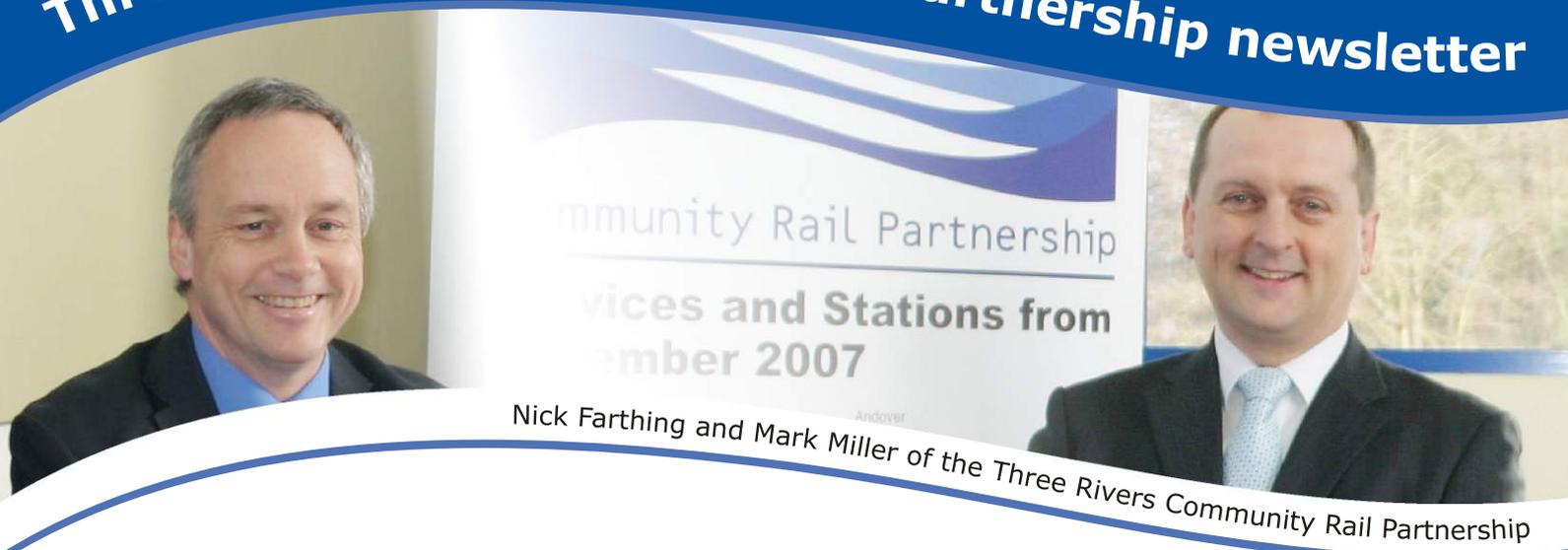
With motoring costs increasing rapidly, the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership have produced quick reference summary timetables for **Dean**, **Mottisfont & Dunbridge**, **Swaythling**, **Redbridge** and **Chandler's Ford** to help raise awareness amongst residents about the local train services. In future, we will be producing information about local fares, to show how reasonably priced train travel really is in this area.

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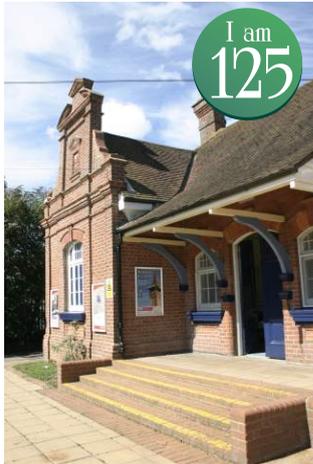


Nick Farthing and Mark Miller of the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership

Annual Stakeholder meeting

We would be pleased to see as many of you as possible at the forthcoming Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership Stakeholder meeting, which will be held on **24 September** in the **Eastleigh Borough Council chambers, Leigh Road, Eastleigh**. Start time is **10.30** in the morning. If you are coming by train to **Eastleigh** station you can cross the road to Eastleigh Bus Station and catch a bluestar C1 or C2 for a 4 minute ride to the Civic Offices. There is a bus stop right outside. If you wish to walk, please allow at least 30 minutes, as Leigh Road is very long! Buses depart Stand C at the Bus Station adjacent Sainsbury's at 10.05/10.35 going to the meeting and at 13.17/13.43 to the station. Add **PLUSBUS** when you buy your rail ticket to Eastleigh for seamless travel to and from the event.

Our stakeholders include; Hampshire County Council, Eastleigh Borough Council, Southampton City Council, Test Valley Borough Council, Salisbury District Council, First Great Western and South West Trains, plus various representatives of local tourism groups, businesses and places of interest close to the 'Three Rivers' route. Some of our volunteers are also stakeholders. If you can spare the time, the meeting should prove to be a friendly and positive opportunity to meet and chat to everyone involved in the partnership.



Stations' birthdays approaching

Two of the stations on our local route have birthdays coming up, although they will be celebrating very different ages! **Swaythling** station was built in 1883, so reaches the grand old age of 125 during October. It remains largely unaltered from when it was built, and has recently undergone a repaint, and refurbishment. We hope to hold a small party at the station on **19 October** to celebrate this milestone, so watch out for more details on this website, or in the local press.

Chandler's Ford station is very much younger, and will be marking its 5th birthday this year. The original station was demolished back in the 1960s, and the new modern station building was opened in 2003. A small event will be held at the station, also on **19 October**.



Contact us...

The Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership exists to promote the use of the rail service on the **Salisbury-Southampton-Romsey** route. Involvement from local businesses and individuals is most welcome to help us in our aims. If you have any ideas or comments on the items covered in this e-newsletter, or on how we can fulfil our role, or if you wish to volunteer some of your time to help with other projects, please contact Mark Miller: markmiller10@tiscali.co.uk or Nick Farthing: nick.farthing@dial.pipex.com

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