

MID CHESHIRE RAIL REPORT

No. 110

WINTER 2020-2021

ISSUED FREE TO MCRUA MEMBERS

The Newsletter of the Mid Cheshire Rail Users Association, the Voice for Users of the Manchester-Stockport-Altrincham-Knutsford-Northwich-Chester and Crewe-Winsford-Hartford-Liverpool Lines.

Visit our website at www.mcrua.org.uk. We are also on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/Mid-Cheshire-Rail-Users-Association-MCRUA-124008736132899>.

***** MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL MEMBERS AND FRIENDS ****

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS by John Oates

We are pleased to provide our latest *Rail Report* to coincide with the introduction of the Winter **Mid Cheshire Line timetable from 13 December** – Northern are again not printing copies, so the Community Rail Partnership has funded a print run; a copy is enclosed for those who receive our *Rail Report* by post and for others it is available at – <https://www.midcheshirerail.org.uk/timetables/>

The plan for the Winter Timetable was for the Mid Cheshire Line to move on from its very restricted COVID-19 timetable with no peak hour extras and only trains every two hours off peak to an hourly service, though still without all but one peak hour extra. At very late notice, Northern let us know that due to concerns about staff shortages a number of lines were having temporary adjustments made to the plans until 25 January, the Mid Cheshire Line being one.

The revised plan is the hourly service is reintroduced apart the 1402 and 1801 from Chester and the 1541 and 1940 from Piccadilly. Northern kindly told us in advance (and fortunately before the CRP had sent their timetable to the printers). We pointed out that the 1541 and 1801 were poor choices and suggested other trains in the middle of the day be chosen. The 1541 is the train used by 50+ scholars returning to Cheshire from Altrincham and Hale. Omitting this until late January has the effect of losing this scholar traffic for the Spring Term. Equally, the 1801 is the main commuter train from Chester, the 1702 being too early with Chester being a 15-20 minute walk from the station. However, Northern has not been able to change their revised plan. We understand train services will in the main return to being 2 coaches long, though we hear the 0709 from Piccadilly will remain as 4 coaches due to the absence of the peak hour extra that follows it and therefore being the main train for 150+ scholars from Greater Manchester to Knutsford and also for the 200+ scholars into Greenbank. The 1502 back from Chester is to be a 2-coach train, though as the 30+ Grange, Hartford scholars tend to return on the 1602 this may only be crowded as far as Lostock Gralam. Northern have said they will be monitoring loadings on the 1502.

Thus, Mid Cheshire gets its hourly service back from 25 January, though with only one evening peak hour extra meaning the problem of Knutsford scholars from Cheshire having to wait an hour in Knutsford between the arrival of the train at 0733 and Knutsford Academy school gates opening around 0835 continues due to the following arrival being at 0844. All this on a line that was scheduled to have a franchise-committed half-hourly service all day from December 2017, as well as an hourly, instead of a two-hourly Sunday service. Our understanding remains that the Sunday service will go hourly from December 2021 (4 years late!) and the extra half-hourly semi-fast service will run only between Altrincham and Chester once Network Rail complete upgrade works on three “user-worked” (farmers) crossings. These works were to have been completed by November 2020, but we are told that work has been delayed. Network Rail will be providing the Community Rail Partnership of which MCRUA is a funding partner with an update at its Stakeholder Meeting on 16 December.

The **Crewe-Liverpool line timetable** (Liverpool-Crewe-Birmingham) continues as an hourly service, meaning that Hartford has pretty much half the normal service. Winsford has an hourly service as normal. Acton Bridge has an hourly service in and near the peaks and one train every two hours away from the peaks, which is in fact the full normal service and much better than a few years ago. London Northwestern say that they will operate most trains with 8 coaches.

With the reduced train services running on our lines, we have little to report, though see the Community Rail Partnership report below.

The Pacers have again retired from use on the Mid Cheshire Line (their previous retirement being on 31 December 2019), as far as we know the last Pacer in use on the line being 142094 coupled to a class 150 Sprinter on the first train up from Chester on 25 November. 142094 is the last Pacer of the 94 class 142s. On 27 November, the final Pacer-worked service for Northern was on a Kirkby-Manchester Victoria service worked by one of the first built, 142004 in conjunction with a class 150. 142004 has always been a Newton Heath-based unit since introduced in 1985 originally being painted in Greater Manchester PTE orange and brown livery. 35 years' service for a train with basically a bus body on a freight wagon chassis planned to last for only 15 years is service indeed. Passengers won't miss their bumping and lurching, and passengers and local residents won't be missing their squealing on the tight curve between Deansgate Lane signal box and Skelton Junction!

MID CHESHIRE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP (CRP) NEWS by John Oates

The CRP were delighted to welcome Sarah Morgan as our new Community Rail Officer (CRO) on 23 November. Sarah provides more information about herself below.

The CRP has been without a CRO for 21 months. Despite this, through solid volunteer support the CRP has achieved much in that time as regular readers will know. The CRP's immediate focus now is to strengthen relations with all our communities along the line which inevitably had reduced without a CRO as well as due to COVID restrictions. The CRP is also now focusing on formal accreditation of the CRP under a new scheme introduced by the Department for Transport around two years ago.

More recently, the CRP's Cheshire's Wildlife Exhibition at Tatton Park has been so successful that it has been extended to Friday 12 February 2021. If you have not yet visited the [Gallery in the Gardens](#) at Tatton to view the 12 wildlife railway posters, you're missing a treat! Recent excellent news is that the CRP were awarded a £2,500 grant from Community Rail Network to fund partnership working on this project with Tatton Park, the Cheshire Wildlife Trust as well as local primary schools.

A few weeks ago the Mid Cheshire Line and Crewe-Liverpool lines picked up Special Awards and commendations in the **Cheshire Best Kept Stations Annual Awards**, this year held very differently due to COVID restrictions. The [30 minute video](#) is well worth watching and shows the tremendous work being carried out by Community Rail volunteers and rail staff across Cheshire. This year there were special commendations for individuals. We were delighted when not only our volunteer **Jon Leigh from Hale** received a Personal Commendation for the restoration of heritage station benches at Mouldsworth, Hale and Mobberley stations, and but also **Lisa Magee and Niki Abnett from the Avanti West Coast staff at Stockport** station received awards for the excellent work they put into the Stockport Community Rail Days.

Whilst mentioning Jon Leigh and Mobberley, many of you will know that Jon Leigh's latest renovated Mid Cheshire Line station bench is now installed on Mobberley Station's Manchester-bound platform alongside the bench that was already there. It looks magnificent in Cheshire Midland colours as is the first one Jon renovated for Mouldsworth. The CRP are delighted with Jon's work and thank the Mobberley villagers who donated the bench to the CRP for its restoration and rededication after it with two others was sold off by British Rail in the 1960s. The intention is to have a "rededication" of the bench once COVID restrictions are removed. For this I'd been looking for a DVD version of the 1985 VHS production "Paddy's Engine". This covers Mobberley resident, the late Paddy Smith's purchase of LMS Black 5, No. 5407 (BR 45407)

and its return to service to be used on Scotrail's Fort William to Mallaig new steam initiative in 1985 together with another Black 5, 44767. It runs for 40 minutes with footage of Mobberley village, signal box (including in operation with signal levers before being modernised) and station, Manchester Oxford Road and plenty of footage both at Carnforth and of the wonderful scenery along the Fort William to Mallaig line. I have the VHS version but nothing to play it on and not being able to find a DVD version I contacted Nick Dodson who produced it as one of his first commercial videos for Railfilms. I'm delighted to say this has led to Nick "remastering" the programme onto DVD. It will be available through the usual distributors from early in the New Year, but if anyone particularly wants a copy prior to that at the standard £15 price, please email me and I'll put you in touch with Nick.

COMMUNITY RAIL OFFICER'S REPORT by Sarah Morgan

In my first two weeks as CRO I have had the pleasure of visiting several stations along the line to meet with volunteers and station staff who have all been so welcoming. John Oates has introduced me to lots of important contacts and has been a fantastic support. John and I are planning a trip to the south of Knutsford once the hourly service commences. I am fortunate to be familiar with many of the stations as a former commuter into Trafford and regular user of the railway with my family.

John Hulme has also been incredibly helpful in getting me set up with the essentials for my home office and we have started to discuss ideas for social media and the refreshed CRP website, plans for which will be going into the new action plan, that will form the basis of accreditation of the community rail partnership with the Community Rail Network. Key benefits of accreditation are that it can support funding applications by demonstrating that the CRP is meeting high standards. The action plan, which will be reviewed annually, will also show that the CRP is achieving outcomes which align with the DfT objectives. I am writing a draft plan for review in the coming weeks with the aim of working towards achieving accreditation early in the new year.

I have also been in touch with several councils and the Northwich BID (business improvement district) who have agreed to include Northwich station in the Northwich in Bloom entry in future years. Whilst the station is outside of the BID area, the importance of the connection from the station to the town centre, and the value of promoting the use of sustainable transport to customers of the BID was acknowledged. I have shared our media links with the BID to help them to integrate this into their visitor information.

The BID run a community art project which is displayed in the shop windows and the potential of extending this to the station was also discussed. A large notice board needing a new home will be installed at Northwich for displays of the artwork and other promotions materials for the CRP. I was delighted to be invited to be involved in the presentation of the Cheshire Best Kept Stations Awards having only just started and I am working out a plan for these to be presented at the six stations in January. After such a challenging year, this is a great motivation to the station volunteers.

Following the press release to the Northwich and Knutsford Guardian about me starting as CRO, I have been contacted by a resident of Northwich who had asked for support with improving the disabled access at Northwich station, which is currently so inaccessible that the resident cannot travel to Chester by train. I am looking forward to working in partnership with MCRUA and Northwich Town Council members on matters such as this, which are so important but potentially challenging to resolve.

Please get in touch with me by email or phone if you would like to bring anything to my attention and suggest items for the 2021 action plan. You can contact me by phone on 07825 815442 and email: sarah.morgan@midcheshirerail.org.uk.

DECEMBER 2020 TIMETABLE by Andrew Macfarlane

A new national rail timetable starts on Sunday 13th December. What becomes the 14.40 from Manchester Piccadilly to Chester will no longer wait at Navigation Road for 7 minutes unlike the previous 14.41 from Piccadilly. The wait was to pick up schoolchildren from Wellington School but very few if any were catching the train between 15.07 and 15.14. The Mid Cheshire Line train service generally reverts to an hourly one on Monday to Saturday except that four trains will only run from Monday 25th January due to a

shortage of train crew. These are the 14.02 from Chester to Piccadilly, the 15.41 from Piccadilly to Chester, the 18.01 from Chester to Piccadilly and the 19.40 from Piccadilly to Chester. Only one of the peak hour extra trains is reinstated from the December timetable change, the 17.19 from Stockport to Chester.

CHESHIRE'S WILDLIFE PROJECT by Michael Ross

This project by the CRP grew out of an idea by Nicky Thompson, the artist who created the Marvellous Days Out posters. It promotes the Mid Cheshire Line through a series of posters of Cheshire's wildlife developed in partnership with the Cheshire Wildlife Trust. There are twelve of them – striking and colourful art capturing the spirit of our animals and birds – like Tatton's Red Deer and Cheshire's well-known Great Crested Grebe. You can see them in poster cases along the Line – and of course you can see them all if you visit the gardens at Tatton Park.

The project was launched at Tatton in a COVID-careful manner by David Briggs, Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, with only five other people present. Visitors to the Gardens receive a copy of the free booklet and can buy posters and sets of postcards in the Tatton shop. More details on the Marvellous Days Out website www.marvellousdaysout.org.uk/cheshires-wonderful-wildlife

In COVID times this project has been developed as a way of promoting the existence of the Line without, at the moment, encouraging people to use its services. By raising awareness it will hopefully make people aware of where the Mid Cheshire Line runs and the towns it serves so that, when we can encourage journeys again, more people will use the Line.

The posters and postcards sets are for sale online through the Crewe Heritage Centre's webshop at www.crewehc.co.uk They are available in A2 and A3 sizes and prices include postage in a protective tube. (You can order the Marvellous Days Out posters and mugs from the Heritage Centre shop as well). The free booklet is available at Knutsford and other staffed stations. It includes miniatures of all the posters as well as information about the wildlife and Cheshire Wildlife Trust.

ANNUAL REPORT by Paul Wilkinson

The last Rail Report included an Annual Report to members to replace the physical AGM for 2020. We asked for members to accept the process for this paper based Annual Report to replace a physical meeting, and to accept the financial report and the current committee for a further year. Thanks to the 36 replies we received from Members which were all positive - some adding their thanks to the committee for the report and their work. Therefore the committee now has a mandate to continue its work.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS by Paul Wilkinson

Thank you for your continued support. Membership subscriptions for 2021 fall due on 1st March 2021.

If you received this Rail Report by Post: Please check your membership number shown on address label /email address line. If it starts:

2099x you pay by Standing Order - do nothing as we will collect from your bank on 1st March

19xxx you are in arrears, please catch up for 2020 and renew for 2021 by 1st March 2021, please.

20xxx your membership will run out and you need to renew by 1st March 2021, please.

21xxx your membership has been renewed, thank you - do nothing.

If you received this Rail Report by email, you will also receive the appropriate renewal form.

MCRUA complies with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

There are three ways we send information to our members:

A: All Members will receive **BY POST** Rail Reports and other information sent by MCRUA.

B: You can **OPT-IN** to receive this information **BY EMAIL** or

C: **OPT IN** to receive this information **BOTH** by post and by email.

You can change your preferences at any time by contacting the **Membership Secretary, 48 Romana Square Altrincham WA14 5QB.** membership@mcrua.org.uk.

Please note: To reduce costs, electronic distribution (Option B) is preferred.

MCRUA WEBSITE by John Hulme

MCRUA are currently looking at enhancing its website and are seeking digital images of the stations and services on the Mid Cheshire and Crewe to Liverpool lines. If you can help and are happy to have your photos published on the website please forward your images to john.hulme@mcrua.org.uk.

MCRUA IS NOW ON FACEBOOK by Simon Barber

Members may know, or even have contributed to, our Chairman's Blog on the MCRUA website. The Blog has been rather quiet recently, something we don't like, because it looks as if MCRUA is not doing much - which isn't the case! Part of the reason is that we've been having difficulty with the software platform that the Blog runs on. We know how to fix it but it would cost us a three-figure sum annually to maintain it thereafter. Fortunately, we have now found the answer, and to my surprise, it's Facebook.

We have set up a MCRUA page on Facebook which we will use to post about our activities and the two railway lines we support, and Facebook users can start discussions about our posts. In effect, it's the Blog by another name. If you are on Facebook, you can find us quickly, simply by clicking on search and typing MCRUA. Please visit our page, 'like' it, and return to it to look for news - and to comment. We think that we will reach more people this way, youngsters especially, than via our web site, but we'll be keeping the website (minus the Blog) as a repository of information.

Perhaps like me, you make good use of the internet but have doubts about Facebook. In fact I still have doubts about Facebook's business model but that applies to many global companies. I was encouraged to get a Facebook account by friends who told me about interesting groups there, such as 'Manchester's Railways' and 'Cheshire's Railways' where new and historic photos are posted almost daily. There are many organisations now who update their Facebook page more often than their website, so it's become a useful tool, especially for local information. I got an account to browse pages of interest to me, not to post about my life. I haven't shared personal information and Facebook hasn't taken over my life! I encourage other doubters to try it.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR TRAIN AND METROLINK SERVICES by Andrew Macfarlane

These are the changes for the Christmas and New Year period:

Train services.

Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December: last trains 20.40 from Piccadilly to Chester, 21.02 Chester to Piccadilly. Christmas Day and Boxing Day: No Service. Bank Holiday Monday 28th December: normal Monday train service. New Year's Eve Thursday 31st December: last trains 20.40 from Piccadilly to Chester, 21.02 from Chester to Piccadilly. New Year's Day Friday 1st January: normal Friday train service on the Mid Cheshire Line but starting later. First train from Chester is the 08.02 to Piccadilly. First train from Piccadilly is the 08.08 to Chester. Saturday 2nd January onwards: normal service.

Metrolink services.

Christmas Eve Thursday 24th December. Last trams 20.12 from Piccadilly Station, 20.11 from Altrincham. Christmas Day: No Metrolink services. Boxing Day: normal Sunday service (7am to 11pm with trams operating every 15 minutes). Bank Holiday Monday 28th December: Sunday service. New Year's Eve Thursday 31st December: normal Thursday service. Last tram 23.32 from Piccadilly Station to Altrincham. Friday 1st January: Sunday service. Normal service from Saturday 2nd January onwards.

LATE NIGHT ENGINEERING WORK IN DECEMBER AND FEBRUARY by Andrew Macfarlane

From Monday 21st December to Wednesday 23rd December (inclusive) the 22.52 train from Chester to Piccadilly and the 23.41 train from Piccadilly to Chester are both replaced by buses as happens to one or both of these trains every six weeks (normally from Monday to Thursday). As usual, each train is replaced by two buses. One bus leaves Chester at the normal train time with another bus running at 23.37 from Knutsford to Manchester. Similarly one bus leaves Piccadilly at the normal train time with another bus running from Knutsford to Chester departing from Knutsford at 00.25. The same will happen from Monday 1st February to Thursday 4th February (inclusive) when the 22.52 train from Chester and the 23.41 train from Piccadilly will again be replaced by buses.

MOBILITY SCOOTERS ARE NOW ALLOWED ON NORTHERN by Andrew Macfarlane

Northern announced recently that mobility scooter users can now travel between 140 stations on the Northern network. A new scooter permit scheme has been rolled out across 21 routes including the Mid Cheshire Line. Further routes are to be added to the scheme in the near future as more stations are made accessible. Passengers can apply for a permit and their scooter will be assessed to ensure that it is safe to take on board Northern trains. Each user will be given a personalised sticker that can be easily identified and placed on their scooter, and this will be accompanied by a card which the user can carry if their scooter does not have a suitable place to display the sticker. Only class 2 scooters which can travel at no more than 4mph can be carried on Northern trains. Scooters must also have anti-tip wheels at the back, have a turning circle of no more than 1.5 metres and be able to fit within the standard wheelchair footprint of 1.2 metres by 0.7 metres. Folding scooters can be carried without a permit if folded, however. Full details of the scheme including an application form and an interactive map showing the lines and stations covered can be found at www.northernrailway.co.uk/mobilityscooter. The local stations currently included in the scheme are: Manchester Piccadilly, Stockport, Navigation Road, Altrincham, Hale, Ashley, Mobberley, Knutsford, Plumley, Delamere and Chester.

A LETTER FROM MCRUA MEMBER JON LEIGH

Hello,

I am Jon Leigh who has been restoring various station benches on the Mid Cheshire line. I am interested in obtaining one (or more) of the "twig" style, Midland Railway bench cast iron end supports, in any condition, even broken (provided all the main parts are there). This will allow me to keep going in getting more benches of the period style available for stations along the line. I can arrange to collect from a reasonable distance (Covid regulations permitting) or arrange for shipping.

If anyone has one that they wish to keep, but would be willing to loan for a period, then I would be interested in that arrangement. If anyone can assist, you can email me on jonleigh299@btinternet.com.

Thank you, Jon Leigh

METROLINK NEWS by Andrew Macfarlane

The first of the 27 new Metrolink trams from Bombardier, no. 3121, arrived at Queens Road depot by road from Vienna on Saturday 14th November. The new trams are very similar to the existing fleet. TMS (Tram Management System) signals are currently being installed at Timperley to control access to and from the reversing siding. This is part of the conversion of the remaining Metrolink block signalling to "line of sight". The Network Rail signals controlling Metrolink between Deansgate Junction and Altrincham are not being changed at this stage. The Altrincham-Bury through service remains suspended with all trams running between Altrincham and Piccadilly Station from platform 1 at Altrincham. Trams are currently running every 10 minutes on Monday to Saturday with departures from Altrincham at 01, 11, 21, 31, 41 and 51 minutes past each hour. Trams run every 15 minutes on Sundays. The car parks at Radcliffe and Whitefield Metrolink stations are to be expanded by the addition of an extra deck. Metrolink has received Government funding for the period up to the end of March 2021 to compensate for reduced ticket revenue due to Covid.

FARES NEWS by Andrew Macfarlane

Friday is now off-peak all day for fares on Avanti West Coast. This very welcome change has applied since 20th November and will carry on into the New Year. Let's hope that it is made permanent. Also there will be no ticket restrictions on Avanti West Coast from 18th December to 1st January (inclusive).

NEWS FROM THE LINE by Andrew Macfarlane

The restored Cheshire Lines Committee platform seat was installed on the Manchester-bound platform at Mobberley on Saturday 10th October. The lift on the island platform 2 and 3 at Altrincham remains out of use as it has been for a very long period due to water accumulating in the bottom of the lift shaft. We are told that a possession of the line will be required to solve the issue by improving the drainage. The TfGM Travelshop in Piccadilly Gardens closed permanently on 28th November. The Travelshop at Shudehill Interchange in the centre of Manchester remains open.

CHANGES TO HS2's PLANS IN THE ASHLEY AREA

As a result of public consultation in 2019, the Secretary of State for Transport has confirmed that there will be a temporary railhead (sidings) on the west side of the Mid Cheshire Line south of Ashley as part of the construction of the new railway. There will also be a permanent rail maintenance base (IMBR) at a separate site north of the HS2 route and to the west of Ashley village. The Secretary of State has concluded that the proposed rail spur from the IMBR connecting HS2 and the Mid Cheshire Line should be removed from the design. Also the HS2 line to Manchester will now cross Mobberley Road in Ashley and the Mid Cheshire Line on a combined viaduct rather than by two separate bridges with a short embankment between the two bridges as previously planned.

LOCAL RAIL NEWS by Andrew Macfarlane

We have more details about the £4.5 million scheme which saw the replacement of the two bridges at Whatcroft on the Northwich-Middlewich-Sandbach line in August. The railway was closed for five days so that the bridges over the Trent and Mersey Canal and Whatcroft Hall Lane could be replaced using an 800-tonne crane to lift the new structures into place. The new bridges are safer and more reliable and will need less maintenance in future. They will also secure the future of this important rail freight route which is used to supply vital construction materials across the country including for the HS2 project. The work will also help the case for reopening the line to passenger trains by reducing the cost of bringing the line up to passenger standards.

A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to the association:

Mr Colin Maddocks of Knutsford

Mr Andy Kent of Northwich

DISCLAIMER

Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the MCRUA Committee.

USEFUL PHONE NUMBERS

National Rail Enquiries	03457 48 49 50 or 0207 068 0500
Avanti West Coast ticket sales (to buy any rail ticket)	0871 977 4222 (08.00 to 22.00 every day)
London Northwestern Railway ticket sales (to buy any rail ticket)	03333110006
Northern ticket sales	0800 200 6060 (0800-2100 Monday to Sunday)
British Transport Police for non-emergencies	0800 40 50 40 or text 61016.
Network Rail (to report infrastructure faults)	03457 11 41 41 or 0207 557 8000
Train Running Information - TrainTracker	03457 48 49 50 and then Option 1.
Northern Customer Services	0800 200 6060 (0800-2100 Monday to Sunday)
Transport Focus (complaints appeals)	0300 123 2350
TfGM Bus, Rail and Metrolink Enquiries	0161 244 1000 (0700-2000 Mon-Fri, 0800-2000 Sat/Sun)
Metrolink Customer Services	0161 205 2000 (seven days a week)
Merseytravel Public Transport Enquiry Line	0151 236 7676 (08.00 to 20.00 every day)
National Public Transport Enquiry Line	0871 200 22 33 (07.00 to 22.00 every day)

USEFUL WEBSITES

www.nationalrail.co.uk (includes a journey planner which shows times and fares and a facility to obtain real time train running information for any station)

www.northernrailway.co.uk (includes details of forthcoming engineering work under "Travel" and then "Improvement Works")

www.networkrail.co.uk (includes a link to download the National Rail timetable)

www.eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk (to buy any GB rail ticket using a credit or debit card)

www.tfgm.com (the website of Transport for Greater Manchester)

www.metrolink.co.uk (shows any current problems with the tram service and details of future engineering work)

www.traveline.info (a national public transport journey planner for bus, train and tram).

www.transportfocus.org.uk (the website of Transport Focus, the statutory body for rail and bus users).

www.railfuture.org.uk (the website of Railfuture, the independent, national, voluntary body for rail users)

www.traintimes.org.uk (an unofficial website which provides rail information derived from official sources in a user-friendly format).

www.brfares.com (lists all available fares on the National Rail network).

www.railwayherald/railtours (lists special trains (both steam and modern traction) on the main line).

YOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CHAIRMAN John Oates, "Swallowfield", Slade Lane, Mobberley, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 7QN.
Tel: 07860-513309 (mobile), Email: john.oates@mcrua.org.uk

VICE-CHAIRMAN & WEBMASTER John Hulme, Brow Cottage, Leighs Brow, Barnton, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 4HT.
Tel: 01606-76092, Email: john.hulme@mcrua.org.uk

SECRETARY Paul Wilkinson. Email: secretary@mcrua.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Paul Wilkinson, 48 Romana Square, Altrincham, WA14 5QB.
Email: membership@mcrua.org.uk

TREASURER Simon Barber Tel: 01606 801606, Email: simon@antrobus.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR Andrew Macfarlane, 25 Prestbury Avenue, Timperley, Altrincham, WA15 8HY.
Tel: 0161-928-9394, Email: andrew.macfarlane6851@gmail.com.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

David Miller, 16 Primrose Hill, Cuddington, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 2TZ. Tel: 01606-888093.

Michael Ross, 80 Lache Lane, Chester, Cheshire, CH4 7LS. Tel: 01244-683477,

Email: mkk.ross@outlook.com

Harry Boardman Email: harry@hacabo.co.uk

Chris Lodington Email: chrislodington@hotmail.co.uk

Mike Battman Email: m.battman@outlook.com

Richard Bragg Email: rj.bragg@ntlworld.com

Judie Collins Email: judieco@hotmail.com

Mid Cheshire Rail Link Campaign Sub-Committee. Chairman: Stephen H Dent. Telephone: 07710 288824. Email: stephenhdent@outlook.com.

MID-CHESHIRE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

Email: railofficer@midcheshirerail.org.uk

Postal address: The Council Offices, 78 Church Road, Northwich CW9 5PB.

Visit: <http://www.midcheshirerail.org.uk>

FRIENDS OF ALTRINCHAM INTERCHANGE – Please contact Andrew Macfarlane.

MCRUA is affiliated to Railfuture, the national, voluntary body for rail users.

MCRUA MEMBERSHIP There are five classes of membership of the Association:

Individual under 21 years - £2.00, Individual 21 years and over - £8.00, Family - £11.00, Voluntary body - £20.00 and Corporate - £100.00.

You can join online at www.mcrua.org.uk/membership. Alternatively, you may pay by standing order, details available from the Membership Secretary membership@mcrua.org.uk. Standing Orders are fixed price for five years from the start of the payments.

You may also pay by cheque made payable to **Mid Cheshire Rail Users Association** and sent to the **Membership Secretary, 48 Romana Square Altrincham WA14 5QB.**

You can change your mailing option (postal, email or both) by contacting the Membership Secretary at: membership@mcrua.org.uk.