



BARKING – GOSPEL OAK LINE USER GROUP

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BARKING - GOSPEL OAK LINE USER GROUP eBULLETIN 31 AUGUST 2012

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ANOTHER APOLOGY

An unplanned stay in hospital and IT problems upon my return home have caused this e-bulletin to be ten days later than planned, thus frustrating plans to list likely destinations for a leisure trip on the line over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

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❖ **BARKING – GOSPEL OAK LINE IN THE PRESS**

Back in the early 1990s the Barking – Gospel Oak route was considered an unnecessary, obsolete, irrelevant, mill stone as different railway managements played “pass the parcel” with a line that no one wanted and no one had any money to spend on and by 1993 plans were being made to close the eastern half of it.

Now the line is a vital transport link for increasing numbers of the denizens of North-East London and a refuge for more and more freight traffic as the North London Line is transformed into a passenger *metro* operation. Yet old habits die hard and while the new rail industry acknowledges the line’s importance, there is still a marked reluctance to spend money to make the fit for its new role.

This month, the line appears in print in two of the leading UK rail journals, demonstrating the growing acceptance of its vital, growing status.

RAIL 703 (22 August – 4 September, £3.40) has a four page (pages 66-69) article on the line, *Spreading the Gospel*, which was compiled with assistance from BGOLUG. The article reviews the recent success of the line which has left surprised operators and planners playing “catch up” and discusses the current impasse over electrification, which is accepted as desirable, but which no one wants to pay for. *RAIL* magazine is stocked by W.H. Smith and increasingly by the larger supermarkets.

The Alan Williams column of the September issue of *Modern Railways* (£4.20) also reviews the political deadlock over electrification (page 97), stating that Barking – Gospel Oak only confirms his belief that over the years politicians have consistently caused delay to electrification and other schemes without adding any value. Roger Ford, *Modern Railways* Industry and Technology Editor’s *Informed Sources Preview* is included as part of this dispatch.

❖ ELECTRIFICATION: POLITICIANS RALLY IN SUPPORT

Since our 17th July eBulletin (see www.barking-gospeloak.org.uk) when we reported that our long-time supporter, Islington North MP, Jeremy Corbyn had undertaken to seek a meeting with Secretary of State for Transport, Justine Greening, MPs Stella Creasy (Walthamstow) and Stephen Timms (East Ham) and London Assembly Members Caroline Pidgeon (Transport Committee Chair), Val Shawcross (Transport Committee Vice-Chair), Jennette Arnold (Hackney, Islington & Waltham Forest) and John Biggs (City & East) have all rallied to support the electrification issue. As the House of Commons resumes next week we look forward to receiving some positive news.

❖ OVERGROUND GAMES TIMETABLE IN FORCE AGAIN

Readers are reminded that London Overground's special 2012 Games Timetable (www.barking-gospeloak.org.uk) operates from 29th August until 9th September for the Paralympic Games. This means that the 07:59 SX Woodgrange Park – Hampstead Heath *PIXC-buster* is again cancelled to provide crew and paths for the Games service. Apart from the special Southeastern *Javelin* service, it appears that c2c are the only other train operator operating enhanced services for the Games.

It was interesting to note that London Overground operated a Games style service on the North and West London Lines on Sunday 26th August for the Notting Hill Carnival, does this set a precedent for intensive services and extended operating hours after the Games have finished we wonder?

❖ SEPTEMBER EVENTS (see www.barking-gospeloak.org.uk/links)

- 1-2 September Waltham Forest Council **Forest Film Festival**
Leyton Cricket Ground, High Road, Leyton E10 6PY. Walk or take 69 or 97
Bus from **Leyton Midland Road** station.
- 2 September Pump House Museum **Local History day/Great Eastern 150**
South Access Road, Markhouse Avenue. Walk or take W19 bus from
Walthamstow Queen's Road.
- 9 September Parliament Hill, **Wellbeing Festival Legacy Event**, 13:00
Adjacent to **Gospel Oak** station.
- 15 September Railway Fields Nature Reserve, **Meet the Bats!** 19:30
Across the road from **Harringay Green Lanes** station.
- 15 September Lee Valley Park **Summer Wildlife Spectacular**
Waterworks Nature Reserve & Golf Centre, Lammas Road, Lea Bridge
Road, E10 7QB. Follow the Lee Valley Pathway from **South Tottenham** or
Blackhorse Road stations or walk from **Leyton Midland Road** and catch
a 48, 55 or 56 bus from the *Bakers Arms*.
- 22-23 September Markfield Beam Engine & Museum, **Open House London** special steaming.
Markfield Park, Crowland Road, next to **South Tottenham** station.
- 29-30 September Lee Valley Park **Countryside Live**
Waterworks Nature Reserve & Golf Centre, Lammas Road, Lea Bridge
Road, E10 7QB. Follow the Lee Valley Pathway from **South Tottenham** or
Blackhorse Road stations or walk from **Leyton Midland Road** and catch
a 48, 55 or 56 bus from the *Bakers Arms*.

Glenn Wallis
Assistant Secretary
Barking – Gospel Oak Line User Group