

BULLETIN 5TH MAY 2017



SPRING IS HERE.....

....and the 'phantom railway gardener' has struck at Walthamstow Queen's Road station's neglected Exeter Road entrance!

THE BUSES ARE BACK!



Both rail replacement bus routes *J* & *T* will be operating on Sunday 7th May as the complete rail service is withdrawn for the day:

- **Route J** Highgate Road to/from Seven Sisters every 30 minutes via Upper Holloway, Hornsey Road, Finsbury Park and Harringay Green Lanes.
- **Route T** Barking to/from Walthamstow Central every 20 minutes via East Ham, Woodgrange Park, Wanstead Park, Harrow Green and Leyton Midland Road.

Route *T* will also operate on Sunday mornings until 12:00 while the train service between Barking and South Tottenham is suspended for track inspections on 4th June, 16th July, 27th August and 1st October.

IS NO NEWS GOOD NEWS?

The 22nd March BGORUG Bulletin reported that Network Rail would be announcing its plan to complete the outstanding electrification works, including any further closures of the line at "the end of April".

On 28th April, Network Rail advised the office of Caroline Pidgeon, Chair of the London Assembly Transport Committee that "a little more time" was needed to finalise arrangements and in any case the announcement will now be postponed until after the general election on 8th June.

"Network Rail's resources during the summer are now committed to Crossrail, Waterloo and London Bridge,"



20mph Temporary Speed Restriction at the London end of Wanstead Park, note the way-beam bridges which still remain in this area. [26.04.2017]

said BGORUG Secretary, Glenn Wallis.

“It is now looking increasingly likely that the first of our new 4-carriage electric trains will arrive around the turn of the year and be diverted to another London Overground service because Barking – Gospel Oak is still without energised overhead wires.”

The first 14 of the new trains (Class 710/2) were due to be shared between the Barking – Gospel Oak and Euston – Watford Junction services, the remainder (Class 710/1) going to Romford – Upminster and Liverpool Street – Cheshunt/Chingford/Enfield Town services.



Artist's impression of the new Class 710 Aventura trains being built by Bombardier at Derby.

DELAYS TO STEP-FREE BLACKHORSE ROAD TOO

Promised by Network Rail to be completed by 14th April, the new lifts were still not available for public use on 4th May. It may be that the opening has been delayed by the recent announcement by TfL that London Overground will no longer staff stations managed by London Underground (LU). Currently, Blackhorse Road can operate with as little as one LU staff member. There are no passenger help points anywhere on the station either.



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

BGORUG held a successful Annual General Meeting at Barking Town Hall on Thursday 27th April. The existing Executive Committee were re-elected (Chair: Graham Larkbey; Secretary: Glenn Wallis; Treasurer: Jeffery Harvey; Jerry Gold & Martin Hazel), however there still remains a vacancy for Vice-Chair and another committee member. If any member is interested in filling these vacancies, please contact the Secretary. The Executive Committee usually meets at Barking Town Hall between four and six times a year.

It was announced that as well as providing meeting rooms for many years, Barking & Dagenham Council had affiliated to the Group and that Newham Council is also to affiliate. Waltham Forest Council has affiliated for some years. BGORUG is grateful for the support of these local authorities and is hopeful that Camden, Haringey and Islington councils will also give their support to the Group in the future.

Thanks were given to several members who had assisted the Group with the costs of printing Passenger Newsletters during 2016. The Committee believed that it was important to maintain a high public profile especially during the disruption to the service, to spread word of our existence among passengers and hopefully build our membership base. The Group now had over 820 followers on Twitter.

There followed a general discussion about the ongoing delay to completion of the electrification and the possible disaster of having to continue into the new year with 2-car diesel traction. Only that evening, the Secretary had arrived at Walthamstow Queen's Road for the 17:28SX Gospel Oak to Barking (due 17:47) which failed to turn up (passengers were not told it was cancelled). He was unable to board a train until the 18:05 from Gospel Oak arrived at 18:24!

Glenn Wallis, Secretary