



BARKING – GOSPEL OAK RAIL USER GROUP



www.barking-gospeloak.org.uk
info@barking-gospeloak.org.uk @RidingtheGoblin

BARKING – GOSPEL OAK RAIL USER GROUP BULLETIN 8TH OCTOBER 2015

EDITORIAL

I am working on a press release to announce the welcome news that our electrification is going ahead! The news was slipped out on Monday 28th September by *Construction Enquirer* which announced that J. Murphy & Sons had secured a £57m contract from Network Rail to electrify Barking – Gospel Oak. The following day Rail technology Magazine backed up the storey, reporting that the contract had been awarded three months late. The industry press is mystified by the lack of any official announcement from DfT, NR or TfL. The only explanation seems to be a reluctance to detract from *Northern Powerhouse* related announcements at the Conservative Party Conference. Further details and comment in the press release but there are two urgent matters this weekend that I have to draw to your attention.

MAYFLOWER RETURNS!

Those of you who enjoyed the spectacle of steam locomotive 61306 *Mayflower* hauling the *Cathedrals Express* special train from Southend to Bath and Bristol over the line on 7th March will be pleased to learn that the loco and train is paying a brief return visit to the line on Saturday, 10th October. Hauling the *Cathedrals Express* from Warminster to Ely, *Mayflower* is routed on quite a ‘round London sightseeing tour’ following the North London Line from Acton Wells to Stratford, then looping back along the Lea Valley Line via Lea Bridge, Coppermill Junction, South Tottenham, Seven Sisters and the Southbury Loop before rejoining the Lea Valley Line at Cheshunt. The return working is more direct via the Great Northern route (ECML), North London Incline and Camden Road.

1Z82 06:30 Warminster to Ely	
West Hampstead	10:28 - 10:30
Stratford platform 12	11:03 – 11:10
Temple Mills East Junction	11:15
Coppermill Junction	11:22
Tottenham South Junction	11:25
South Tottenham	11:28
Seven Sisters	11:30
Bury Street Junction	11:37
Cheshunt	11:45
Broxbourne Down Passenger Loop	11:57 – 12:25



B1 Class 61306 *Mayflower* at Wanstead Park with 1Z21 Southend – Bath/Bristol *Cathedrals Express* on 7th March 2015. Photo: Rose Stephens

The return train 1Z84, is booked at Finsbury Park at 19:07-19:09 and Camden Road at 19:19. Full details available from www.steamdreams.com or www.CathedralsExpress.co.uk . Do not forget that in the event of *Mayflower* failing her fitness to run examination on Saturday, another steam loco or a diesel locomotive will be substituted.

WEEKEND LINE CLOSURES START THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday sees the start of a block of weekend line closures lasting up to 29 November. Also this Sunday there are rail replacement buses on the District Line between Dagenham East and Aldgate East and the Hammersmith & City Line is withdrawn between Barking and Liverpool Street.

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The TfL 6-month look ahead list of track closures (link from our website) is subject to regular change at the moment, but the following list is correct as of today:

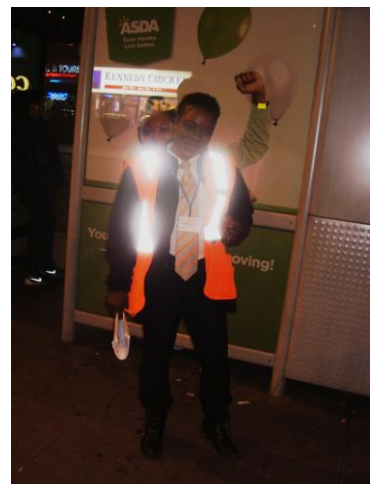
Day/Date	Closure details
Sun 11 October	Barking - Gospel Oak
Sun 18 October	Barking - Gospel Oak
Sun 25 October	Barking- Gospel Oak
Sat 31 October - Sun 01 November	Barking - Gospel Oak
Sat 07 - Sun 08 November	Barking - Gospel Oak
Sat 14 - Sun 15 November	Barking - Gospel Oak
Sat 21 - Sun 22 November	Barking - Gospel Oak
Sun 29 November	Barking - Gospel Oak
Sun 06 December	Barking – South Tottenham until 12:00
Sun 27 - Mon 28 December	Barking - Gospel Oak
Sun 10 January	Barking - South Tottenham until 12:00
Sun 17 January	Barking - Gospel Oak from 12:00
Sun 24 January	Barking - Gospel Oak
Sun 31 January	Barking - Gospel Oak
Sun 07 February	Barking - Gospel Oak until 12:00
Sun 14 February	Barking - Gospel Oak until 12:00
Sun 21 February	Barking – Gospel Oak until 12:00
Sun 28 February	Barking – Gospel Oak until 12:00
Sun 20 March	Barking – Gospel Oak until 12:00

The rail replacement bus timetables for the Sunday services are attached, the Saturday timetables will follow in due course. Details from www.realtimetrains.co.uk.

With LO rail replacement buses now on *i-bus* and *countdown*, the Gospel Oak – South Tottenham bus service is now christened Route 'J'. Route 'T' (Barking – South Tottenham) passed to the third contractor this year on 13th September and we hope that their drivers will have learnt the route by now! BGORUG members having to assist drivers *and* navigators with directions on their first day! There were a couple of hour long gaps in service too. It was a shock to find a LOROL Customer Services Assistant at Barking! She was doing a splendid job dealing with passengers, considering she had no information on where the buses were!



Contractor number three takes over Route T



LOROL Customer Service Assistant at Barking

13th September 2015

Glenn Wallis
Secretary