

Melksham Rail User Group – *provisional* 2019 Calendar

These activities are provisionally in our calendar for public / volunteer inclusion. We expect to see significant additions in relation to supporting of other public transport promotion and development in the Melksham area, activities relating to the Melksham Station Hub, and in supporting our local Community Rail Partnerships and GWR as their activities develop.

- Peter Blackburn, Chair
- John Hamley, Secretary and Treasurer
- Graham Ellis, Vice Chair, event and press co-ordination

info@mrug.org.uk 01225 708225 0797 4 925 928
<http://www.mrug.org.uk> MelkshamRUG on Twitter MelkshamRUG on Facebook

1st column – MRUG meetings and lead events

| 2nd column – public events and dates from linked / related groups
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2nd January - peak Swindon trains return (others remain buses)

4th January - full train service restored

23rd January - Melksham Town Hall, 19:30 (planning for 2019)

9th February - Coffee Shop Forum, Constitution meeting, Westbury

20th March- Melksham Town Hall, 19:30

6th April - RailFuture Severnside, Dilton Marsh

27th April - TransWilts CIC AGM, Trowbridge

28th April - Day trip to Seaton

15th May - Community Rail in the City

22nd May - AGM- Melksham Town Hall, 19:30

29th June - TransWilts CIC Stakeholder annual Conference, Trowbridge

7th July - day trip to Weymouth

24th July - Melksham Town Hall, 19:30

27th July - Melksham Carnival

17th August – Imber Bus Running day

18th September - Guided walk, Trowbridge to Melksham

28th September - Melksham Town Hall, 19:30

27th November - Melksham Town Hall, 19:30

15th December - Santa on the train

Late 2018

8th December - 5th Anniversary of service improvement

9th December - Santa on the train

11th December - Yearly stations stats to be published

23rd December - trains replace by buses for rest of year

Limited attendance meetings early in 2019

16th January and monthly - Melksham Rail User Group Officer's meeting

12th and 13th March - ACoRP National - MRUG rep as station friends group?

20th March - TravelWatch SouthWest, Taunton - MRUG representative to attend

Melksham Railway Station was closed in "the Beeching Era" - 1966. It re-opened in 1985, with British Rail, local councils and passengers partnering to bring back at least a part of the facility that had been so locally missed. Melksham Station is supported by the

Melksham

rail user group

For the Station and Melksham service – **Melksham Rail User Group**

Next public meeting - 23rd January 2019. 10 public meetings and events per year

<http://www.mrug.org.uk> / info@mrug.org.uk / MelkshamRUG (Twitter and Facebook)

Further contact details and details of planned 2019 meetings overleaf.

For passenger to passenger enquires across a wider area – **Great Western Coffee Shop**

On line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – between 50 and 100 messages per day

<http://gwr.passenger.chat> / forum@railcustomer.info / CoffeeShopCRP on Facebook

For current train operation – services that call at Melksham – **Great Western Railway**

Services 363 days a year, up to 9 services each way morning to early evening

<http://www.gwr.com> / @GWRHelp on Twitter / 03457 48 49 50 (National Rail)

For the line and service development – **TransWilts CRP**

Next public meeting - 27th April 2019. 2 public meetings per year

<http://www.transwilts.org> / sophie@transwilts.org

The Melksham Railway Development Group (MRDG) is a community group that has worked hard over the years to support the station, though some times when the service was so poor it looked like it might be lost again, and indeed if it weren't for MRDG, Melksham might not have a station or train service today. Five years ago, MRDG working with the TransWilts Community Rail Partnership, persuaded Wiltshire Council to sponsor, the Department for Transport to fund and GWR to run a three year trial of additional trains, and they have been very successful – for the first time since its re-opening, Melksham now has sufficient trains for passenger numbers to have grown well, and although the group is still very much concerned with further development, it has been renamed the **Melksham Rail User Group** (MRUG)

Community Rail Partnerships (CRPs) are a partnership between local government, the rail industry and communities. CRPs look after lines or services. Melksham falls under the **TransWilts Community Rail Partnership**. The Department for Transport strategy recognises the important role of Community Rail Partnerships in supporting the economic and social wellbeing of local communities. Measures include the creation of a transport network that boosts people's social connections and provides opportunities for new education, employment and life skills opportunities and helping community groups to make better use of unused or under used railway property to create a local hub and facilities for local people. TransWilts strategy aligns with the Community Rail Strategy and there are a number of projects in the pipeline. Other Community Rail Partnerships sharing promotion at Trowbridge and Westbury are the Heart of Wessex Community Rail Partnership and the Severnside Community Rail Partnership.

The **Great Western Coffee Shop forum** is run by passengers, for passengers and provides discussions from the simplest though to the most technical questions. For train times and fares, though, please start with the contacts shown under Great Western Railway (above)

Melksham Station (postcode SN12 8DB) is located between the A350 Beanacre Road and the A365 Bath Road just to the north west of the town – a 10 minute walk from the Town Bridge.

There is a ticket machine at the station, and a conductor on all trains if the machine does not offer the ticket you need. For longer distance journeys (e.g. to London) it can be lower cost to buy in advance, but for shorter journeys (Weymouth, Salisbury, Bristol, Swindon) it's just a cheap to buy on the day. Remember child, railcard and groupsave discounts.

Melksham Station currently has free car and cycle parking for rail users. You may take your cycle, pushchair and dog on the train. There is flat access to the platform and all trains carry a wheelchair ramp. An information point lists upcoming departures (and includes up to date information on train running). The station is unstaffed, but you can reach a central enquiry team via the help point. There are no public toilets at the station, but there are toilets on every train that calls. Timetables are displayed at the station. If you are arriving by train and require a taxi, we suggest you book ahead - 07976 165910 (Nigel), 07986 517319 (Paul) , 07894 873129 (Carol), 01225 706133 (A&P), 01225 705453 (Forest) 01225 700000 (Melksham).