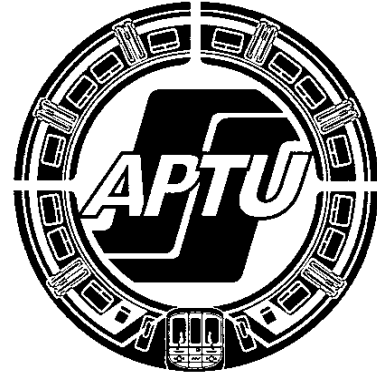


Dear Member

December timetable change

The main features of the timetable change in December are as follows:

- Additional 4 class 319 trains available to FCC, increasing a number of services from 4 to 8 cars
- The opening of St Pancras International (see below)
- The introduction of a Sunday evening service on the Wimbledon loop.



I've listed all the changes at the bottom of this email.

St Albans station redevelopment

The St Albans City station redevelopment will be starting in January 2008. Work includes lifts to all platforms and major changes in the ticket concourse. The ticket concourse changes sound major - ticket sales are to move to the opposite side and there is to be a Marks & Spencer Simply Food. We've asked FCC for an update on practicalities and will be in contact when there is more to say.

Season Tickets and central London destinations

Like me, you may have a ticket to one destination beyond Kings Cross (Moorgate in my case) and use it to go elsewhere (City Thameslink, in my case). Normally those on the barrier are happy, but from time to time they may tell your ticket is not valid. *I am told by FCC that in many cases it is valid.* I believe there are two key tests - is the fare the same and is it to a non London Underground destination. So this means that a Moorgate ticket is deemed valid at City Thameslink and Blackfriars, but this doesn't work the other way round. Following recent problems I've suffered, FCC have been asked, and have agreed to, remind barrier staff of the validity rules. If you suffer problems, do let us know.

Medium term (May next year??), this problem may go away, since FCC hope to switch to a generic "London Thameslink" destination, but progress is slow since it is bundled with the desire to preserve travel rights to Moorgate once the branch is closed in December 2008.

St Pancras International

FCC have told me in the last week or so that this station is still due to open on time on 9 December. Should you wish to be on the first train, this will be the 08:10 from Bedford on Sunday 9th December. Compared to Kings Cross Thameslink, accommodation will be palatial, but it will (a) be a considerably longer walk to the tube [particularly the Victoria and Piccadilly Lines] and it will be necessary to pass through two sets of barriers (my recollection is that the full Thameslink programme may overcome this).

Weekend engineering work

From 29 December to 23 March 2008, then on some Sundays in April & May, there will be no cross London service on Saturdays and Sundays. There will be a limited service (2

trains per hour) in to St Pancras International (Midland Main Line platforms). I am waiting for more details, but it appears that some stations south of Mill Hill may have no service.

Practicalities

I've sent this email out to all known addresses, and this means a number of you will have received it twice. If you only want to receive it once, please let me know. Be aware that current Committee members are not in a position to resume Adrian's major problems emails so I have integrated these addresses into the main list.

Thameslink route changes from 9th December 2007

Weekdays

07.44 St.Albans - Wimbledon to be strengthened to 8 coaches
08.02 Luton - Moorgate to be strengthened to 8 coaches
08.22 St. Albans - Sutton to be strengthened to 8 coaches
08.40 Bedford - Brighton to be strengthened to 8 coaches
15.35 Bedford - Wimbledon additional service calling at Luton, Luton Airport Parkway, Harpenden, St Albans, St Pancras International and all intermediate stations to Wimbledon.
16.23 Wimbledon - Bedford to be strengthened to 8 coaches
17.48 Luton - Sutton to be strengthened to 8 coaches
17.44 St.Albans - Wimbledon to be strengthened to 8 coaches
15.07 Brighton - Bedford to be strengthened to 8 coaches

Weekends

06.10 and 07.10 SUN Bedford - Brighton will call additionally at Hassocks
08.20 hourly to 19.20 SUN Bedford - Brighton will call additionally at Hassocks
20.10 and 21.10 SUN Bedford - Brighton will call additionally at Hassocks
05. 46 hourly to 23.46 SUN Brighton - Bedford to start at xx.44 and call additionally at Hassocks
16.00/16.30/17.00 SUN Bedford - East Croydon to be diverted to Sutton via Wimbledon
17.50/18.29/18.50/19.20/19.50 SUN Luton - East Croydon to be diverted to Sutton via Wimbledon
18.42/19.12/19.42/20.12/20.42/21.12 SUN East Croydon - Bedford to amended to start from Sutton via Wimbledon.
21.10 Sutton - Bedford additional service calling all stations via Wimbledon as per pattern.