

# THE NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF THE LYMINGTON TO BROCKENHURST LINE



No. 64: October 2021

Dear Friends,

This is a short Newsletter with a couple of notices: First, LINE CLOSURES

Here is a helpful summary from David Mead about the **planned closures of the railway in our area at the beginning of November**. The lines in the **Brockenhurst** area will be closed **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021** due to maintenance work. If you intend to travel then, you must take some thought, as every journey will take much longer than usual, since there will be bus replacements. David's warning is as follows:

Various blockades are taking place between now and end of year.

The most significant day in our area is **Monday 1st November** when the lines between Southampton and Bournemouth including the Lymington Branch will be closed **all day**.

From **Tuesday 2nd to Friday 5th November** inclusive, the line westwards between Brockenhurst and Bournemouth will be closed, and buses will replace trains. The Lymington line will be **open** on those days. Travelling eastwards, there will be a train once an hour (at 1 minute past the hour) from Brockenhurst to Waterloo calling additionally at Beaulieu Road, Ashurst New Forest and Totton, and it would seem that there will be another, at 44 minutes past the hour, which will go non-stop from Brockenhurst to Southampton but will stop at many other major stations en route to Waterloo. So the normal service will be reduced eastwards, but not as much as originally planned.

On the other hand, services **westwards** (see below) will be seriously affected and **bus replacements** will be universally in operation. The lesson is: check the National Rail website for any journey you plan to take: <https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/> . It is very simple to use: you fill in the boxes with your start station and your destination, and the time you wish to travel. If the result is not what you want, you can click on 'earlier services': a good idea, as journeys will clearly take longer than usual.

CrossCountry services will also be affected by this work. Please see their publicity for details.

Some more details of changes during the week are outlined below:

## Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021

- **London Waterloo to Poole/Weymouth** services will terminate at **Southampton Central**. Some services will call additionally at **Shawford** and **Eastleigh**.
- A **revised** service will run between **Bournemouth, Poole and Weymouth**.
- **Winchester to Poole** stopping services will **not** run.
- **Brockenhurst to Lymington Pier** services will **not** run.
- **Buses** will run between **Southampton Central and Bournemouth**.
- **Fast buses** will run between **Southampton Airport Parkway and Bournemouth**.
- **Buses** will run between **Brockenhurst and Lymington Pier**.
- **Beaulieu Road** station will be **closed**. Passengers should use other nearby stations.

## Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2021 inclusive

- **London Waterloo to Weymouth** services will terminate at **Brockenhurst**.
- **London Waterloo to Poole** services will terminate at **Brockenhurst**. These services will call additionally at **Shawford, Eastleigh, Totton, Ashurst (New Forest) and Beaulieu Road**.
- **Winchester to Poole** stopping services will **not** run.
- **Brockenhurst to Lymington Pier** services will run as normal.
- **Fast buses** will run between **Southampton Airport Parkway and Bournemouth**.
- **Fast buses** will run between **Southampton Central and Bournemouth**.
- **Buses** will run between **Brockenhurst and Bournemouth** calling at **all stations**.
- A **revised** service will run between **Bournemouth, Poole and Weymouth**.

The idea is to have a concerted ‘blitz’ (which SWR calls a ‘blockade’) on the work during a single week instead of disrupting several weekends. SWR has discovered that mid-week commuters have not come back to train transport in the numbers they did before, but in contrast weekend leisure travel has increased way beyond its pre-Covid level.

For **return journeys**, it would seem that a service from Waterloo at 5 minutes past the hour is planned, but no further information is available at present. Ask at Waterloo when you arrive if you do not have access to the Internet before you travel.

Finally, a note about the AGM last month. The **accounts** which we distributed were in fact entirely OK, and were signed off by Mr Ronald Curtis; it was only the copy which I unfortunately gave to Robin which was the uncorrected version! We will present the corrected version at the next AGM for consideration and acceptance. It was lovely to see so many of you there.

With best wishes from the Committee,

Georgina