

FoSBR NEWSLETTER. July 2010
World Cup Issue. Trains are coming home!



Photo by Rosana Torres

FoSBR and Glamour combine in Brunel's boardroom.



STOURBRIDGE TOWN'S Parry People Mover.

Also inside;

NORTH SOMMERSET: A WURZEL TIGER WITH PORTISHEAD LINE.

SEVERN BEACH SUNDAY SERVICE MARKED BY FoSBR PICNIC.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: STALL LOCATION AND OTHER DATES

Photo by EPW

Next FoSBR General meeting. 10th July , Yatton Methodist Church Hall (6' walk from station). 6:15pm to 9:00pm
Recommended train from Temple Meads; 1725 arrive Yatton.

FoSBR AWARDS



TRAINS WIN PRIZES: SEVERN BEACH LINE MOVERS, SHAKERS AND ARTISTS SHOW OFF THEIR AWARDS.

Photo by Rosana Torres

In response of the massive improvements of the Severn Beach line FoSBR felt it was time to show its appreciation to all of those who have helped improve its performance, comfort reliability and who also have been creatively inspired by the rejuvenated line.

List of Awards and Recipients

Category of Award	Winner of Award	Recipient of Award
Station Improvements	Sevenside Community Rail Partnership	Keith Walton (Chair)
Service Delivery	First Great Western	Richard Morrish (Station Manager, Bristol Temple Meads)
	First Great Western Train Drivers and Crew	Gary Abbott (Secretary, Bristol Branch, RMT)
Rail Infrastructure Improvements	Network Rail	Michelle Scoggings (Senior Programme Sponsor)
Funding	Bristol City Council	Steve Comer (Councillor for Eastville, Lib Dem)
Inspiration Awards	FOSBEER (Rail-Pub Leaflet)	Matt Redmond (Writer)
	Stapleton Road Mural	Bill Guilding (Artist)
	Fairfield High School	David Otlet (Teacher) and pupils
	Henbury School	Ben Bird (Teacher) and pupils
	Avonmouth CE Primary School	Ralph Dolling (Teacher) and pupils
	<i>Looking for Obama</i> (Play)	Jenny Davis (Playwright)
<i>The Severn Beach Line</i> (Film)	David Johnson (Poet) Diana Taylor (Director)	

TRANSPORT REVOLUTION.



Photo EPW

PARRY PEOPLE MOVER CONNECTING STOURBRIDGE TOWN

Stourbridge Town: The Service.

Stourbridge Town has been causing a bit of a spin in the rail press at home and abroad with the commissioning into full time passenger service of two Parry People Movers, which are proving to be an extremely cost effective solution for the Stourbridge branch rail lines. For Bristol a potential method of connecting the centre of the city to the national rail network via Parson Street. Despite initial teething troubles, Londonmidland have replaced an over specified DMU with two Parry People Movers to shuttle passengers between Stourbridge Town and Stourbridge junction with outstanding success. The nimble vehicle has superior acceleration and fuel efficiency due to exploiting flywheel technology compared to the DMU it replaced.

The Parry People Mover: The Product

The Parry People Mover despite its cautious styling (at least now it has some) employs a radical development in motive technology, which could (or after Stourbridge one might say has) revolutionise the running of local rail by providing a much more appropriate technical solution for the reintroduction of passenger services on a number of existing branches. Thus extending the national rail network to many more thousands of people.

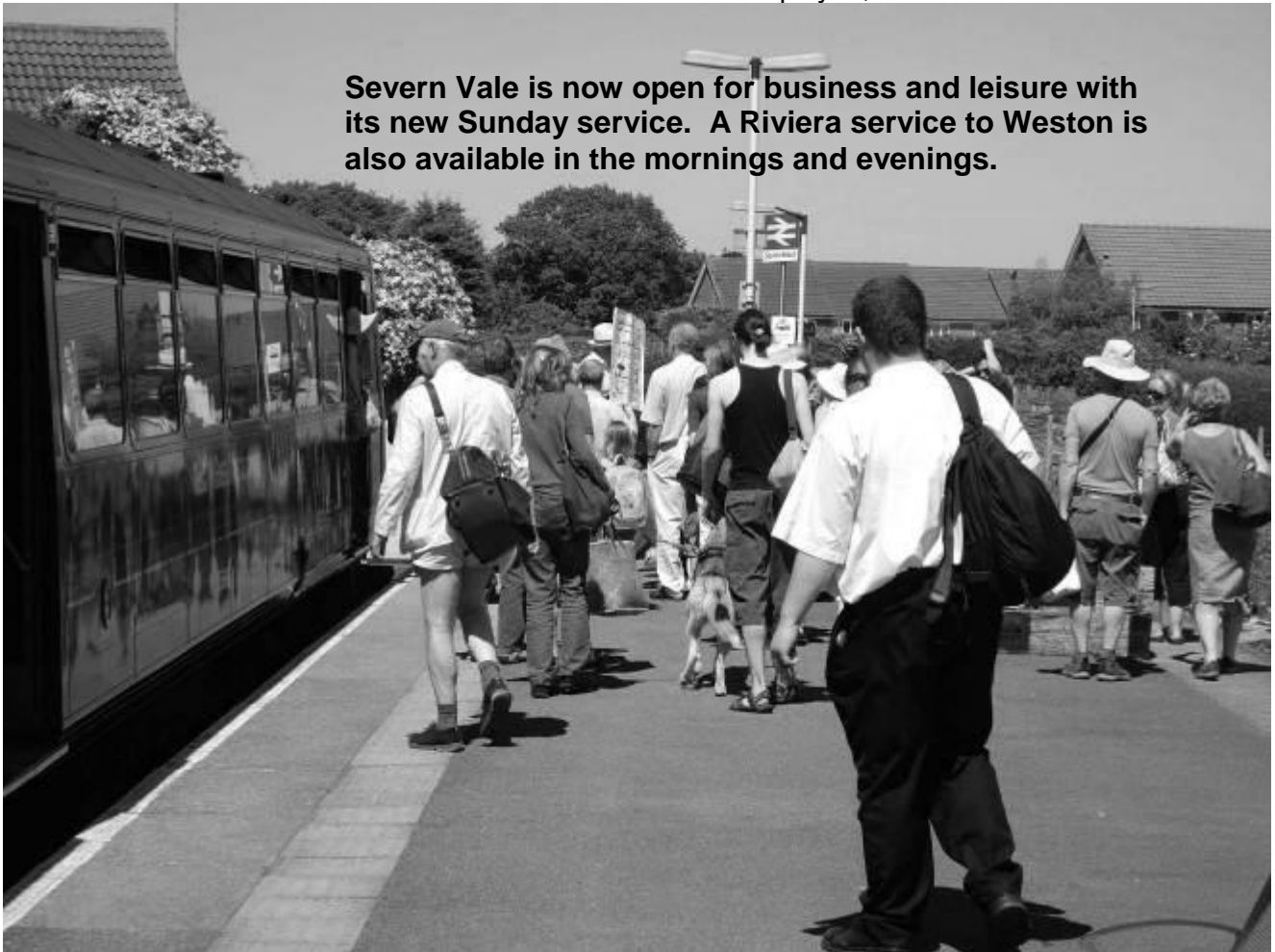
What is so special about the Parry People Mover is the successful application of a kinetic energy storage device (flywheel) into a surface transport vehicle. This means that the need for a large diesel (or electric) motor to accelerate the vehicle is replaced by tapping directly the kinetic energy in the flywheel that has been charged when the vehicle has been at rest or through regenerative braking. The result is a rail vehicle that is claimed to be 5 times more fuel efficient, almost as quiet as an electric train and a contender for tram running by charging the flywheel electrically at stops the requirement for overhead wires is eliminated.

The classification by the rail authorities of the mover on the Stourbridge branch as a Class 139 makes it a ready to go solution on any national rail spur that can run vehicles separately from other trains. First Great Western who seems to be taking a more enlightened approach to local Bristol services could follow Londonmidland's lead and run People Movers from the dockside to Parson Street if the connection to the dock line is reinstated. (Ashton Gate would be the obvious choice but we have to wait for the reopening of the Portishead Line before that can happen). It could also be used to run a shuttle service between Thornbury and Yate. Thus reconnecting Severn Vale's premier market town to Suburban Bristol's expanding local rail network.

Severn Riviera: Severn Beach to Weston Super Mare.

South Gloucestershire have realised what an asset is has in a rail line still running to Severn Vale, and have put money where their mouth by contributing to a summer Sunday service to Severn Beach. Also there are now earlier and later trains running on the Severn Beach line which are specially useful for returning from weekends away and catching a Sunday evening service from Temple Meads to London (Leave Severn Beach 1943 and arrive London Paddington 2308). But that's not all, North Somerset is included. The first and last trains form a direct service to Weston Super Mare: A Severn Riviera! It has been reported that trade has already picked up in Severn Beach with the shops and Shirly's café extending their opening ours. Sadly the Severn Salmon Pub is no longer with us, but there are some excellent pubs in deepest Severn Vale in Aust, Olveston, Pilning and Littleton that make excellent rest stops for walkers and cyclists be they on or off road. (Let us not forget that Pilning has its own station currently one train a week subject to further coverage)

FoSBR marked the first day of this improved service by holding a celebratory picnic in the glorious South Gloucestershire sunshine at Severn Beach. Rounder's played, Pimm's drunk.



Severn Vale is now open for business and leisure with its new Sunday service. A Riviera service to Weston is also available in the mornings and evenings.

Photos Eric Wildman



There is plenty of space in the carriages for bikes, allowing Severn Vale to become a mountain and road bike paradise. With the Vale's lovely villages to explore and pubs from Almondsbury to Thornbury to visit. Bristol has truly gained an amenity for its citizens and the residents of Severn Vale too can enjoy the delights of Bristol and North Somerset.

NORTH SOMERSET. A Wuzel Tiger with Portishead on the Network? Editorial

Whilst South Gloucestershire wakes up to the economic potential of the rail assets it has within its jurisdiction. North Somerset is sitting on an economic goldmine in the form of freight line to Portishead. Were they to exploit it to the full, the North Somerset economy would boom. This continued denial to passengers of the line to Portishead is stifling the full economic potential of the whole region and costing North Somerset multiplies of what any subsidy would cost (in fact the line may not even need one in the medium term). This failure is, if anything is keeping council taxes artificially high preventing the Wuzel tigers roar being heard.

(Wuzel Tiger = West County equivalent of an Asian Tiger economy).

Julie Boston referees on the local political game, one of two halves.

On 8 May 2010 Bristol Evening Post questioned 10 Bristol MPs on what promises they would make to the people who had voted them into power.

Five of our MPs included transport in their pledges as follows :-

Tackling First Bus monopoly and opening Henbury station, FOSBR member Charlotte Leslie,

Portishead railway link, Liam Fox,

better transport, Steve Webb,

better transport, John Penrose,

'banging on about transport in Bristol forever' Kerry McCarthy.

This is good news and we look forward to watch our representatives create a frequent, reliable and affordable bus and rail passenger service. As the train operators' obligation is to make profits for their shareholders, it's hard to see how improvements can be made unless the government continues New Labour's policy of pouring money into the bus and rail industry.

How does this expenditure fit in with Coalition's plans to cut £50 billion from public spending?

How does this policy fit in with the Department for Transport's plan to give train companies a financial incentive to cut train services?

How does this policy fit in with Network Rail's decision to cut 1500 directly employed jobs this year?

The fact that five of our MPs see transport as a priority is good news. Rail passenger numbers in the Bristol area have increased substantially while bus numbers have dropped. Our MPs need to ensure that their counterparts in West of England Partnership ensure that both services are adequate for the needs of their constituents.

Julie Boston

Pints West lets the train take the strain.

FoSBEER the real ale branch of FoSBR inspired a double page spread in the summer edition of Camra's Pints West magazine. The Pints West team travelled from Clifton Down to Temple Meads and even venturing to south of the harbour to Bedminster by rail to sample the delights of some of Bristol's hostleries. The Pints West team are planning to run with this one using rail to strike out to Weston, Bath and beyond in reporting back in further additions of their fine magazine. Maybe they will become hooked on this smooth blend of Rail and Ale.

DATES for the Diary; Events FoSBR stall locations.

Date	Time	Location	FoSBR	Comments
Sat. 3 rd July	12:30 to 5pm	Scotch Horn, Nailsea. Café	Stall	
Sat. 10 th July	6.15 to 9pm. 1725 from Bristol Temple Meads	Yatton Methodist Hall 6' walk.	Public meeting	General Meeting.
Sun. 18 th July	Train departs Severn Beach at 0946 / Temple Meads 10.21 / Weston Super Mare 10.54. Returns Weston Super Mare 1614 / Temple Meads 1653 / Severn Beach 1733	Weston Super Mare.	Picnic to Celebrate Sunday service	Bring food to share.
Sat. 14 th Aug		Yatton Flower show	Stall	
Sat. 4 th Sept	10:00am	Temple Meads main entrance	River Avon and Arnos Vale Cemetery.	Keep on rambling!
Sat. 11 th Sept	10.30 - 6 pm	Bristol Bookfair, Hamilton House 80 Stokes Croft	Stall	
Sat. 18 th Sept	TBC	Victoria Park	Stall	
Mon. 29 th Sept 1995 to 2010 Friends of the Severn Beach line to FoSBR.	TBC	Avonmouth Station	15 th Anniversary of Protest at reduction of train service on the Severn Beach line	FoSBR season of celebrations.

Keep in Touch.

Send articles for next newsletter by 11th Sept 2010.

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