



ESK VALLEY RAILWAY

PASSENGERS' NEWSLETTER

March 2015

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Extra Early Morning and Sunday Trains on the Esk Valley Line

A new **early-morning weekday commuter service** from Whitby along the Esk Valley line to Middlesbrough plus **year-round Sunday services** are to be provided by the new Northern Rail franchise, it was announced this week.

Welcoming the additional services, Esk Valley Railway Community Rail Partnership Chairman Alan Williams said:

'The new early morning service will enable commuters and students to get to Middlesbrough before 09.00 each day, and allow patients and visitors to reach the new James Cook hospital station much earlier in the day, while the year-round Sunday service will provide for the growing number of winter visitors to Whitby and the National Park.'



The new morning service will also allow much earlier connections to **Darlington, Newcastle, York, Leeds and Manchester**.

Coming almost exactly 50 years after a record number of objections from the public in and around Whitby forced a reversal of the infamous Dr Beeching's plan to close all railway lines to Whitby, the announcement is long-awaited official recognition that use of the Esk Valley line has grown considerably. In the last five years alone, the Community Rail Partnership has seen a **43 per cent growth in ridership**, and passenger numbers are expected to **top half a million this year**.

'This is great news', said Alan Williams, 'the Community Rail Partnership will now be working with those bidding for the new Northern franchise to secure further improvements to the train service, including more trains during the day and through services from Whitby to destinations beyond Middlesbrough such as Darlington, Hartlepool, Sunderland and Newcastle.'

Tour de Yorkshire 2015

1 of the three day event will be travelling through **Castleton to Whitby** before carrying on to Robin Hoods Bay and ending the day at Scarborough.

Northern Rail is busy working out a plan for extra services: more details will be posted as soon as they are finalised.



One of the hubs for watching the race on a large screen will be at **Danby Moors Centre**. There will be a host of activities during the day.



Please contact us if you can volunteer to help on that day, in whatever way. Full training will be provided by Northern before the event.

[View the Tour de Yorkshire route map >>](#)

Music Train Season and Extra Late Evening Services

We will be starting early again with Music and Ale trains running every Friday from **19 June to 14 August 2015**.

A late evening service will also run on 17 August for Whitby Regatta (Monday) but there will be no live music.



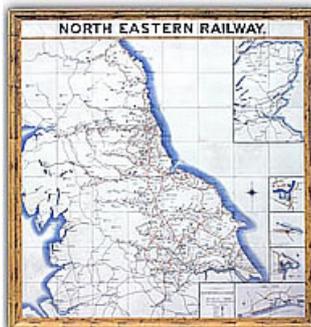
For further details of these extra evening services, please visit the [events page on our website](#) or pick up or [download a Rail Ale Trail leaflet](#) with contact details of pubs and inns along the route.

- **Departure from Whitby: 19.19 with live music on board**
- **Departure from Middlesbrough: 20.49 Live music on board**
- **Last service departing Whitby 22.25**

150th Anniversary

October 2015 marks the anniversary of the opening of the final section of the Esk Valley line, connecting Middlesbrough to Whitby.

Any ideas from our community in regards to planning a celebration of this landmark would be very welcome.

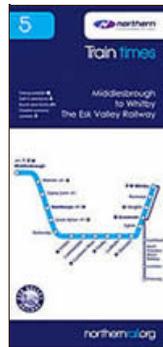


Sunday Service Resumes

We are delighted to announce that once

again Northern will be running a Sunday service between Whitby and Middlesbrough from **29th March to 1st November** inclusive.

There are four return services on Sundays.



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