

TravelWatch - ISLE OF MAN

Representing and promoting the interests of Isle of Man passengers

www.travelwatch-isleofman.org

BULLETIN 33 - March 2015

This year will see TravelWatch IOM clocking up 8 years of Representing and Promoting the interests of Isle of Man Passengers. During that time much has been achieved but inevitably some frustrations remain. The mostly young retirees who started the organisation are now 8 years older, and hopefully at least 8 years wiser - wise enough to realise that we need to update and re-focus for the future. We are grateful to those who have joined the Committee more recently, but we do need new, active and younger members to help us move forward.

Public Meeting and AGM - Sat 21st March 2015

At our next Public Meeting on Saturday 21st March we want to spend some time exchanging ideas with our Members and Supporters, not only reviewing what we have achieved in the last 8 years but looking at **The Way Ahead** - what we should be doing for the future - and how we might do it. Please come to the meeting with your ideas. This will be the focus for the second part of our morning - having taken the usual updates on air and sea services before the coffee break. The final part of our morning will be the Annual General Meeting - official notice for which is at the end of this Bulletin - when we will be sharing with members our plans for the organisational development of TravelWatch.

We will again be providing opportunity for a "**Brief Topics**" session enabling very short presentations (max 3 minutes) by members or supporters on any passenger transport related issue. Anyone wishing to make such a presentation should please contact TravelWatch-OM Chairman Brendan O'Friel brendan@ofriel.fsnet.co.uk (or 01624 833636) as soon as possible with details of the topic they wish to raise.

Our meeting will as usual be held at the Villa Marina and start at 10.00 (doors open at 09.30). We are grateful once again to **Novellie Verardi & Mitchell** Solicitors, Attorneys and Legal Practitioners - for sponsoring the meeting.

Go - Cards

Following the introduction of Go - Cards for school and student travel, Bus Vannin is phasing in smart travel cards (Go cards) to replace its multi-journey paper tickets. This means that the last day of sale for Manx Rider 12 journey tickets and Bus Savers will be 18 April 2015. Paper versions of the tickets will be accepted for travel until 31 May 2015. During April 2015 smart card versions of the tickets will be introduced - the reusable Go cards will be available to top-up with the required products.

We would like feedback both from users of the existing Go-Cards as well as from other bus passengers who have seen them in operation. Are they working properly or are they causing delays? It has been suggested that sometimes cards are slow to register, or not registering, despite being in credit. If you are not able to come to the Public Meeting please use the Feedback Form on our website <http://www.travelwatch-isleofman.org/> to share your views.

Airport Car Parking

Naturally we are disappointed at the loss of the free 30 minute parking facility at the airport, but we can claim to have held onto them for 12 months longer than the original Government plan. This time the Disc Zone was again under threat which could have led to substantial inconvenience for those collecting passengers who might have had to park in distant parts, but that has been avoided thanks to our involvement. The other change for arriving passengers is that those picking them up are now expected to wait in the car park (and pay the £1 fee). Comments on how you think the new arrangements are working out in practice would be welcome.

Bus timetable changes

Bus Vannin have made proposals to the Road Transport Licensing Committee for timetable changes to be introduced from 30th March. There are more details on our website <http://www.travelwatch-isleofman.org/> but if you are concerned about changes in your area we would suggest you contact your local Commissioners.

Heritage Railways

The 2015 Timetable Leaflets have now been published - see <http://tinyurl.com/ogejyyb>
Steam train departure times have changed from Port Erin, so that trains cross at Castletown rather than Ballasalla. This ought to reduce road crossing delays at Ballasalla and will enable the station there (and also at Port St Mary) to become un-manned.

Issued on behalf of TravelWatch - ISLE OF MAN

by Paul Moncaster, Membership Secretary

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The 8th Annual General Meeting of TravelWatch Isle of Man will take place at 12.15 pm on Saturday 21st March 2015 at the Villa Marina, Douglas, Isle of Man for the purpose of transacting the following business:.

- To note the Minutes of the previous meeting
- To receive a report on activities and achievements for the year
- Election of Chairman
- Election of Committee Members and Officers
- Receive the Accounts for 2014
- Appoint an Independent Examiner for 2015
- The way forward for TWIOM as an organisation
- Any other competent business for an AGM

The Committee would welcome nominations to join the Committee, either self nomination or through others (but please gain their assent before nominating anyone else). Those nominated must be - or become - members of TravelWatch IOM by the time of the AGM. Although nominations can be made on the day, the secretary would appreciate nominations in advance to facilitate arrangements - these should be sent to travelroger@aol.com marked "TravelWatch nomination" as soon as possible, and preferably not later than Saturday 14th March.

Members are cordially invited to attend the AGM at which only members are able to vote..

Roger Carey travelroger@aol.com

Secretary

There are vacancies on the Committee arising from the retirements of Paul Moncaster (who previously served as Treasurer but more recently as Membership Secretary), and Dick Clague (who has looked after Shipping and Communications). Nominations of those with Media, Website and database/ mailing skills would be particularly welcome.

Meeting kindly sponsored by

