

# WATAG NEWS

WEST DORSET WESTERN AREA TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP

## YOUR LOCAL BUS ROUTES

### X51/X53

Operated by First Wessex and marketed as the Jurassic Coaster.

X51 operates from Dorchester to Axminster via Bridport and Lyme Regis.

X53 operates from Weymouth to Axminster via Abbotsbury, West Bay, Bridport and Lyme Regis.

### 6/6B

Operated by First Wessex and Buses of Somerset, Mondays to Fridays.

These buses operate from Bridport to Beaminster, Crewkerne and Yeovil.

### CB3

Operated by Beaminster Town Council, every Saturday, connecting Beaminster with Bridport and Crewkerne. Currently suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions.

### 7

Operated by Dorset Community Transport on behalf of Bridport Town Council Wednesdays and Saturdays, as the 'Bridport Town Circular'.

### 9A

Operated by Stagecoach South West, this links Lyme Regis with Exeter via Axmouth, Seaton and Sidmouth

### 14

Operated by Dorset Community Transport, every Thursday, from Birdsmoorgate and Thorncombe to Chard.

### 71

Operated by Damory, on behalf of Lyme Regis Town Council, Mondays to Fridays, as the 'Lyme Regis Town Service'

### 688

Operated by Dorset Community Transport, every Thursday, from Thorncombe to Axminster.

### Plus Bus

The PlusBus service provides transport for people who are unable to easily access public transport: young or old and including those with mobility difficulties and offers a weekday trip from neighbouring villages to local destination towns. To book, call 01258 287980.

## YOUR LOCAL RAIL ROUTES

### South Western Railway

Axminster & Crewkerne to/from Exeter and London Waterloo

Weymouth, Upwey and Dorchester South to Poole, Bournemouth and London Waterloo.

### Great Western Railway

Weymouth, Upwey and Dorchester West to Bath, Bristol and Gloucester.

# RAIL FAIR

## How to save money on train fares



## SERVICE CHANGES

COVID-19 (and roadworks) affect local bus and rail services.

## BRIDPORT RENEWAL CORRIDOR

*Tram hopes for Bridport and beyond*

### CONTACT WATAG

WATAG normally holds public meetings regularly however due to the ongoing COVID pandemic this has not been possible.

Plans are in hand to conduct meetings over Zoom and details will be provided in due course.

You can contact WATAG via email or see our website.

Website: <https://watag.org.uk/>

Email: [watag@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:watag@hotmail.co.uk)

# SERVICE CHANGES

## COVID-19 continues to affect bus and rail services

Rail and bus operators have made changes to their schedules caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.



**First Wessex** continues to operate the X51/X53 from Dorchester to Axminster and Weymouth to Axminster via Bridport and Lyme Regis, Mondays to Saturdays, while an X53 Sunday service between Weymouth and Axminster continues this winter.

Their route 6/6B in conjunction with Buses of Somerset continues to operate Mondays to Fridays.



**Beaminster Town Council** have suspended the Saturday only CB3 service linking Crewkerne, Beaminster and Bridport due to the ongoing lockdown.



**Dorset Community Transport** continue to offer PlusBus services and Bridport Town service 7 as well as Thursday only services: 14 (Birdsmoorgate and Thorncombe to Chard) and 688 (Thorncombe to Axminster) during this time.



**Damory** will continue to operate Service 71 (Lyme Regis Town Service), Mondays to Fridays.



**Stagecoach South West** service 9A from Lyme Regis to Seaton, Sidmouth and Exeter continues to operate, with buses now serving the Westpoint Vaccination Centre in Exeter. Times from Lyme Regis are unchanged.



### South Western Railway

#### Weymouth/Dorchester South to London

**Mondays to Fridays:** an hourly service operates to Bournemouth where a train change provides the onward connection to London.

**Saturdays and Sundays:** generally operating a pre-COVID timetable.

#### Axminster/Crewkerne to London and Exeter

**Mondays to Fridays:** a two hourly shuttle between Exeter and Salisbury, where a connection to London is available.

**Saturdays and Sundays:** generally operating a pre-COVID timetable.

Timetables are available here: <https://bit.ly/3ppqefK>



**Great Western Railway** services from Weymouth and Dorchester West to Bath, Bristol and Gloucester are generally unchanged. **BUSES REPLACE TRAINS from 15th FEB - 21st FEB** The timetable can be downloaded here: <https://bit.ly/2Yu970N>

**For both operators**, engineering work is still on-going and you can check for future dates when train travel may be disrupted by clicking here: <https://bit.ly/3clzJJ8>

# ROAD WORKS



Wessex Water works will affect North Allington between 8th February and 12th March 2021. This means that bus routes 6/6B/7 will be affected on journeys to/from Bridport Hospital. Please see page 4 for more details

Advance Notice: Church Street, Lyme Regis closure from 1st to 28th March affecting X51/X53: services unable to service Lyme Regis Square.

Full details here: <https://bit.ly/2MXZTrI>

# RAIL FAIR

## Top tips to save you money on your train ticket

It is a common belief that train fares in the UK are confusing. With good reason, as we will attempt to explain!

A fare increase of 2.6% comes into effect on March, 1st 2021 so this is a good time to highlight some ways you can save money. While most readers likely will not be using trains due to the COVID-19 lockdown, we hope this information will be of use when we can start to travel again.

### WHY SO CONFUSING?

There are a combination of reasons, some of which go back to pre-privatisation days, and it is important to note that the current complications are not a deliberate attempt to confuse customers, rather, over a period of years the fare system has been adapted to suit different customers rather than rebuilt from scratch. In a nutshell, train services are different things to different people. The person travelling from London to Exeter on business is different from the person travelling to visit friends or someone joining at Axminster for shopping. So one train service serves vastly different markets and different fares are offered to attract the optimum numbers of passengers. This can mean higher fares on peak services and cheaper fares at quieter times.

To avoid having to programme fares for every train station (currently there are 2,563!) stations were grouped into zones. So stations relatively close together could be in a different zone, with very different fares.

Further, to encourage use of lesser used lines, like Waterloo to Exeter, lower fares were offered compared to the faster Paddington to Exeter route. In addition, to compete with other modes of transport, including the car, journeys stopped being based on a price-per-mile basis. So, London to Brighton (81 miles) can cost up to £30.50 while Inverness to Wick (104 miles) has a maximum fare of £22.40. The result is a plethora of rail fares for every journey.

## TIPS TO HELP YOU SAVE MONEY

1. Can you book in advance? **ADVANCE** fares offer the biggest savings, however note that you are giving up flexibility when you purchase.
2. Can you travel **OFF PEAK**? Or on a different day? Mornings, evenings, Fridays and Sundays tend to be the most popular days so cheaper fares are harder to find.
3. **RAILCARDS** can save you money - even on your first journey. See the table for the railcards pertinent to our area.
4. **SUBSCRIBE** to railway company newsletters. This way you will be the first to hear of any offers. For example, in August 2020, LNER offered tickets from London to Edinburgh for £20 for subscribers only. These fares were not available from any other place. Some people have set up a secondary email account specifically for newsletters like this.
5. **BOOKING FEE?** Have you been charged a booking fee? **There is no reason why you should pay a booking or payment fee** when purchasing tickets. Some companies also charge payment fees. These are totally avoidable by simply using **any** train operating company website. Our local companies are GWR and SWR.  
[gwr.co.uk](http://gwr.co.uk)  
<https://www.southwesternrailway.com/>
6. Check for **NEWSPAPER** offers. Although COVID-19 has suspended non essential travel it is worth looking out for promotions when travel is permitted again.
7. **SPLIT TICKETING** Many websites offer split ticketing, by checking what local fares are available for your journey. Any connecting journey booked as a split-ticket is guaranteed. Be aware that some websites charge a booking fee in exchange for finding the saving.



### RAILCARDS PERTINENT TO OUR REGION

Railcard Name	Price - 1 year	Price - 3 years	Fare Discount & Notes
16 - 17 years	£30	-	50%
16 - 25 years	£30	£70	33%
26 - 30 years	£30	-	33%
Disabled Persons	£20	£54	33% off for up to 2 adults travelling together
Family & Friends	£30	£70	33% off for up to 4 adults and 60% off for up to 4 children travelling with cardholder
HM Forces	£21	-	33% for partner and 81% discount for up to 4 children travelling with cardholder or partner.
Network (Valid in former Network SouthEast area)	£30	-	33% off for up to 4 adults and 60% off for up to 4 children travelling with cardholder
Senior	£30	£70	33%
Two Together	£30	-	33% when travelling with cardholder
Veterans	£21 (£30 from 1st April 2021)	£61 (£70 from 1st April 2021)	33% for up to 2 adults, and 60% off for up to 4 children travelling with cardholder.

Network Railcard area: <https://bit.ly/3cXtGLo>

Information from [railcard.co.uk](http://railcard.co.uk)

More information on railcards will be featured in future issues.

# SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT

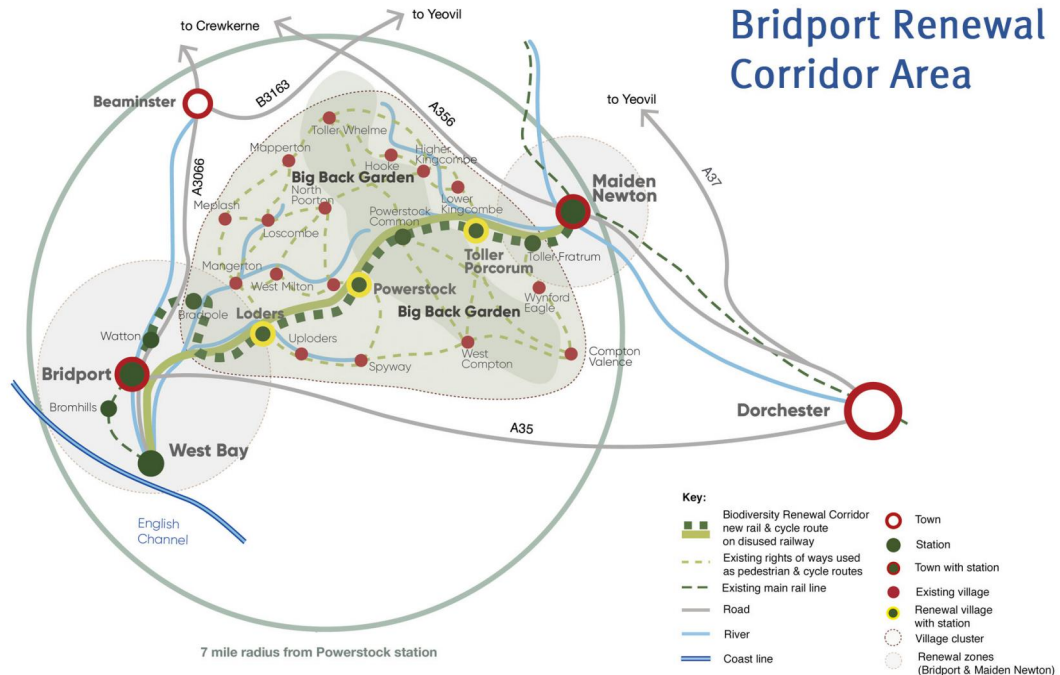
## *Trams to operate from Maiden Newton to Bridport?*

WATAG supports the feasibility study on this scheme which includes many sustainable travel ideas.

### THE SEED OF AN IDEA

The emerging idea for the Bridport Renewal Corridor is for an innovative, sustainable, and high quality “renewal” area that encompasses an area between Maiden Newton and West Bay via Powerstock and Bridport. The goal is that this will be easily accessible by narrow gauge train, by cycle, by hoof and on foot. One in which local communities, landowners and businesses can thrive sustainably, in a zero-carbon way that enhances biodiversity, wellbeing, and reduces our environmental footprint whilst honouring the outstanding natural beauty of the landscape.

[www.bridportrenewal.org.uk/](http://www.bridportrenewal.org.uk/)



**Download the full presentation here: <https://bit.ly/2M3I49X>**



### NEWS FROM DORSET TRAVEL. The travel department of Dorset Council

#### West Bay bus stop

First Wessex has reverted to the original bus stop in West Bay at George Street.

#### North Allington

Sewage repair works on North Allington will prevent service 6 from serving Bridport Hospital from 8 February to 12 March. Buses will terminate at Bridport Coach Station.



**North Allington road closure:**  
8th February 2021 to 12th March 2021  
*Services 6/6A/7 affected*

#### **SERVICES 6/6A**

**8th February to 12th March:** services start and terminate at Bridport Coach Station. Buses will not serve North Allington

#### **SERVICE 7**

**8th February to 24th February:** service 7 diverted via St. Swithins Road. Minimal impact on timetable.  
**24th February to 12th March:** no services north of Parsonage Road junction (including Hospital Lane for Bridport Hospital and Cherry Tree)

The information in this issue is provided in good faith but please do double check information before you travel as services are subject to change during the ongoing pandemic.