



November Newsletter

We are looking forward to the monthly meeting on Thursday 11th November at 2:30pm. United Church

Barry Edwards will be telling us about 'Brilliant Brunel.'

Come along and learn some new facts about this great engineer.

We are getting excited as our Christmas party comes closer.

'Spill The Whisky' will be playing entertaining music so come along' enjoy a glass of mulled wine as you listen and let your legs do lots of foot tapping.

Some may even get up and dance (more entertainment guaranteed!)

Please get your tickets soon so we can order the Christmas nibbles, polish the glasses and even sample some mulled wine!

You may pay at the monthly meeting, by sending a cheque (BoA and District u3a) to Sally Ashton, 8 Spencers Orchard, B-o-A, BA15 1TJ - please write membership number on the back of cheque, or by BACS. sort code 30 98 75 account no 43145768 please put xmas and membership number as ref.



YOUR PARTNER/FRIEND IS VERY WELCOME TO BUY A TICKET AND JOIN IN THE FUN.



HOW CAN WE HELP YOU OR CAN YOU HELP US?

Bradford on Avon Link is a community transport charity covering Winsley, Monkton Farleigh, South Wraxhall, Holt, Wingfield, Westwood and of course Bradford. **We are looking for new drivers.**

We drive clients mostly to hospital appointments, but not exclusively, where we wait and return the client to their home and at no cost, although a donation is very much appreciated.

We are also looking for coordinators. They work from their own home with our mobile phone connecting clients with drivers and logging it on a computer. Coordinators have the phone and laptop at their home for two to three days a month. Training is given. The more coordinators we can recruit the fewer the number of days. We believe several of our coordinators will be retiring soon hence the need to recruit more now.

If you would like to join us as either a co-ordinator or a driver, then please call us because we would be delighted to welcome you. You may call to get further information as well.

The number to call is 07957367124. Thank You.



Petition to keep our direct rail link to London Waterloo

SouthWest Railways (SWR) and the Department for Transport (DfT) are planning to axe the Bristol to Waterloo service which provides a direct link between our town and London Waterloo. This decision was taken without any consultation at all and comes at a time when the climate emergency means we need to get more people out of their cars and use public transport. They plan to stop the service on 12th December 2021, so time is now very tight.

The government is withdrawing the last direct train service between Bristol and Waterloo London in December unless there is strong support for keeping this service. Southwest Railway have already reduced this route to a single train a day during lockdown and are intent on ending it altogether after a long period of poor marketing and strike disruption. First Group, the majority shareholder of SWR, support the closure which will force passengers onto their more expensive Paddington trains.

We feel that this service is a vital link to South London and the Southeast for our region and should be more frequent, rather than cancelled, to encourage passengers back onto this train. This train is convenient, safer, and less expensive than going through Paddington and using the Tube. It is less expensive and is much faster than going to Salisbury and changing, where current connections to Waterloo trains take 49-59 minutes. At a time when social distancing concerns and environment issues are extremely important, it is very short sighted to end a useful train option for regional travel. It also disadvantages people who have difficulty changing trains.

If you support the continuation of this service;

Please sign the petition at <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/598397> asking for the service to continue to run pending consultation and effective ongoing provision.

Please also email or write to our MP, Michelle Donelan , at michelle.donelan.mp@parliament.uk. She is supporting the campaign but many more emails/letters will help show the strength of feeling about this.

OUTINGS PROGRAMME FOR 2022

Wednesday 27th April Tredegar House and Brecon Mountain Railway

Friday 17th June Three Counties Show (Malvern)

Wednesday July 20th Lyme Regis

Thursday 8th September Windsor and Windsor Castle

Tuesday 8th November Salisbury & Arundells (former home of Edward Heath)