

# Melksham Rail User Group

## 2019 Calendar



These activities are provisionally in our calendar for public / volunteer inclusion. We expect to see significant additions in relation to supporting of other public transport promotion and development in the Melksham area, activities relating to the Melksham Station Hub, and in supporting our local Community Rail Partnerships and GWR as their activities develop.

- Peter Blackburn, Chair
- John Hamley, Secretary and Treasurer
- Graham Ellis, Vice Chair, event and press co-ordination

[info@mrug.org.uk](mailto:info@mrug.org.uk)

01225 708225

0797 4 925 928

<http://www.mrug.org.uk>

MelkshamRUG on Twitter

MelkshamRUG on Facebook

1<sup>st</sup> column – MRUG meetings and lead events

| 2<sup>nd</sup> column – public events and dates from linked / related groups

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### **5<sup>th</sup> February – Passenger Survey at Melksham Station**

9<sup>th</sup> February - Coffee Shop Forum, Constitution meeting, Westbury

20<sup>th</sup> March - Melksham Town Hall, 19:30

6<sup>th</sup> April - RailFuture Severnside, Dilton Marsh

27<sup>th</sup> April - TransWilts CIC AGM, Trowbridge

28<sup>th</sup> April - Day trip to Seaton

15<sup>th</sup> May - Community Rail in the City

22<sup>nd</sup> May - AGM- Melksham Town Hall, 19:30

29<sup>th</sup> June - TransWilts CIC Stakeholder annual Conference, Trowbridge

29<sup>th</sup> June - Melksham Carnival

7<sup>th</sup> July - day trip to Weymouth

24<sup>th</sup> July - Melksham Town Hall, 19:30

17<sup>th</sup> August – Imber Bus Running day

31<sup>st</sup> August / 1<sup>st</sup> September – Melksham Food and River Festival

18<sup>th</sup> September - Guided walk, Trowbridge to Melksham

25<sup>th</sup> September - Melksham Town Hall, 19:30

28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September – Town Crier Competiton and Medieval weekend

27<sup>th</sup> November - Melksham Town Hall, 19:30

15<sup>th</sup> December - Santa on the train

### **Limited attendance meetings early in 2019**

12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March - ACoRP National - MRUG rep as station friends group?

20<sup>th</sup> March - TravelWatch SouthWest, Taunton - MRUG representative to attend

Melksham Railway Station was closed in "the Beeching Era" - 1966. It re-opened in 1985, with British Rail, local councils and passengers partnering to bring back at least a part of the facility that had been so locally missed. Melksham Station is supported by the ....

# Melksham

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## rail user group

For the Station and Melksham service – **Melksham Rail User Group**

Next public meeting - 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019. 10 public meetings and events per year

<http://www.mrug.org.uk> / [info@mrug.org.uk](mailto:info@mrug.org.uk) / MelkshamRUG (Twitter and Facebook)

Further contact details and details of planned 2019 meetings overleaf.

For passenger to passenger enquires across a wider area – **Great Western Coffee Shop**

On line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – between 50 and 100 messages per day

<http://gwr.passenger.chat> / [forum@railcustomer.info](mailto:forum@railcustomer.info) / CoffeeShopCRP on Facebook

For current train operation – services that call at Melksham – **Great Western Railway**

Services 363 days a year, up to 9 services each way morning to early evening

<http://www.gwr.com> / @GWRHelp on Twitter / 03457 48 49 50 (National Rail)

For the line and service development – **TransWilts CRP**

Next public meeting - 27<sup>th</sup> April 2019. 2 public meetings per year

<http://www.transwilts.org> / [sophie@transwilts.org](mailto:sophie@transwilts.org)

The Melksham Railway Development Group (MRDG) is a community group that has worked hard over the years to support the station, though some times when the service was so poor it looked like it might be lost again, and indeed if it weren't for MRDG, Melksham might not have a station or train service today. Five years ago, MRDG working with the TransWilts Community Rail Partnership, persuaded Wiltshire Council to sponsor, the Department for Transport to fund and GWR to run a three year trial of additional trains, and they have been very successful – for the first time since its re-opening, Melksham now has sufficient trains for passenger numbers to have grown well, and although the group is still very much concerned with further development, it has been renamed the **Melksham Rail User Group** (MRUG)

Community Rail Partnerships (CRPs) are a partnerships between local government, the rail industry and communities. CRPs look after lines or services. Melksham falls under the **TransWilts Community Rail Partnership**. The Department for Transport strategy recognises the important role of Community Rail Partnerships in the supporting the economic and social wellbeing of local communities. Measures include the creation of a transport network that boosts people's social connections and provides opportunities for new education, employment and life skills opportunities and helping community groups to make better use of unused or under used railway property to create a local hub and facilities for local people. TransWilts strategy aligns with the Community Rail Strategy and there are a number of projects in the pipeline. Other Community Rail Partnerships sharing promotion at Trowbridge and Westbury are the Heart of Wessex Community Rail Partnership and the Severnside Community Rail Partnership.

The **Great Western Coffee Shop forum** is run by passengers, for passengers and provides discussions from the simplest though to the most technical questions. For train times and fares, though, please start with the contacts shown under Great Western Railway (above)

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Melksham Station ( postcode SN12 8DB ) is located between the A350 Beanacre Road and the A365 Bath Road just to the north west of the town – a 10 minute walk from the Town Bridge.

There is a ticket machine at the station, and a conductor on all trains if the machine does not offer the ticket you need. For longer distance journeys (e.g. to London) it can be lower cost to buy in advance, but for shorter journeys (Weymouth, Salisbury, Bristol, Swindon) it's just a cheap to buy on the day. Remember child, railcard and groupsave discounts.

Melksham Station currently has free car and cycle parking for rail users. You may take your cycle, pushchair and dog on the train. There is flat access to the platform and all trains carry a wheelchair ramp. An information point lists upcoming departures (and includes up to date information on train running). The station is unstaffed, but you can reach a central enquiry team via the help point. There are no public toilets at the station, but there are toilets on every train that calls. Timetables are displayed at the station. If you are arriving by train and require a taxi, we suggest you book ahead - 07976 165910 (Nigel), 07986 517319 (Paul) , 07894 873129 (Carol), 01225 706133 (A&P), 01225 705453 (Forest) 01225 700000 (Melksham).