

Buzz

All change at Attenborough Station *by the Editor*

PEOPLE travelling from Attenborough Station by train are warned to make sure they have bought themselves a 'Permit to Travel' from a small ticket machine tucked away on Platform 2 for Derby/London trains.

If they fail to have this 'Permit to Travel' they could receive a £20 fine for travelling without a ticket.

People who use Attenborough station regularly are aware that there is no booking office and train tickets for legitimate travel have to be purchased elsewhere – or on the train.

Occasional train traveller Tim Sexton opted for this second alternative when catching a train from Attenborough to Derby recently, where he was

destined to spend a rare day out shopping in the city centre with his wife.

He said: "I don't often travel by train from Attenborough station but whenever I do, I always purchase my ticket on the train. There has never been a problem with this. I always have the money to hand ready to pay the ticket collector so I don't really come across as your average fare evader."

On his trip into Derby, however, Mr Sexton and his wife each received a £20 fine for travelling without a ticket.

Mr Sexton continued: "There is no obvious notice of the need to have this 'Permit to Travel' at Attenborough, which I now understand was introduced in

December 2009.

"The train pulled into the station and the guard approached us and began to write out our tickets. He mentioned the Permit to Travel, and I said we didn't know anything about them and therefore hadn't got one.

"He asked us to get on the two carriage train, perfectly normally, and said he'd come along to us in a minute.

"He closed the train doors, we pulled out of the station – and he came along and issued us with the fine of £20 each!

"He wouldn't listen to our explanation that we had no idea we needed a permit to even get on a train. I had the money for our tickets in my hand! It was as if he was determined to issue a fine, or why didn't he give us the

option of getting off the train before we left the station?"

"The 'Jobsworth' attitude of this guard completely ruined our day in Derby – £40 gone and we'd not even left Attenborough!"

Mrs Rosemary Begley of Haddon Crescent, Chilwell, also asked that this matter be brought to the attention of people using the local station.

She said: "You now have to get a Permit to Travel from the machine on the Derby platform."

There is no machine on Platform 1 for passengers headed towards Nottingham.

"A guard recommended I just insert 10p, as the cost of the permit is deducted from the price of the ticket paid for on the train and because they have a very limited

validity period. That way, you only lose 10p if the train is cancelled. Without it, you may be fined £20."

Mrs Begley continued: "I have seen no general publicity on the railway about this new system of Penalty Fares – although I do admit I'm not the most observant of people."

Asked for a comment, staff at East Midlands Trains promised to investigate and will issue a statement, which had not been received by the time *The Beeston Express* went to press.

Snippets

Information for Local Landlords

HOUSING landlords from across Broxtowe are invited to sign up for a 'Landlords' Forum' being held at the Town Hall, Foster Avenue, Beeston, on Wednesday, May 13 at 6.45pm.

Broxtowe Borough Council is hosting its fifth Landlords' Forum event, which offers free advice and help to landlords about issues affecting their properties and the tenants who live in them.

Landlords will hear presentations about grants and assistance available for energy efficiency works, a new account offered by the Nottingham Credit Union to assist with issues caused by the introduction of the Local Housing Allowance, and a talk about the different tenancy Deposit Protection Schemes available.

A local solicitor will speak about the correct procedure for evicting tenants and gaining possession of a property.

The aim of the event is to raise landlords' knowledge and awareness of issues, and to meet other landlords as well as the council officers dealing with private sector housing and homelessness prevention.

The event will finish around 9pm. To book a place, call the council's Private Sector Housing section on (0115) 917 3554.

Open Day at the Elms

The Elms, Junior School to Trent College in Long Eaton, will be holding their Summer Open Day on Friday, May 21, to which interested parents and their children are invited.

Parents can drop in between 9.30am and 2.00pm, to discover what the school for 3-11 year olds has to offer. You will be able to meet the Head and staff, view the facilities and campus, and watch the children at work.

For more details, contact Mrs Patricia Robinson, Head's PA, on (0115) 849 494.

THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR BROXTOWE'S MP

But who is it?

AS The Beeston Express went to press on Thursday, May 6, there was still another two hours before the polls closed and the counting began.

Who will be the new Beeston Express columnist?

By the time this issue of the paper reaches you, we should know.

(Unless, of course, you're one of the early birds who collects The Beeston Express as soon as it hits the streets!)

Express Letters extra

A fitting Letters overspill from page 4...

A bright new future?

DEAR EDITOR: As I thought may happen by requesting the political candidates (and readers) to express views, we have had a paper that has been at least 50 percent related to politics and all the readers letters are now also politics-related.

I hope it will be short term as I love the local issues and facts such as Tesco, Beeston Square and trams versus the bus station plus, of course, whatever else effects us all.

Trouble with politics is it's all airy-fairy words and not specific about any issues like those listed above.

Possible New Topics

I am also surprised that not one public house

either advertises or sends in articles for the readers. I'm sure I'm not the only one interested in what's going on in pubs such as, for example, there are now new owners at the Chequers with, I'm told, the ex-landlady of the Chequers moving in March to take over the well-loved and wonderful Boat & Horses in the Rylands.

The Precinct

Secondly, I think I'm going to stop walking though the precinct in Beeston because every time I do, another shop has gone. We'll be left with nothing but Argos at the top and buses at the bottom if this keeps on. It really does look derelict now and hence untidy. Not a place to walk through at night, I guess.

Charity Shops

Perhaps a solution to the above is to transfer all the charity shops into the precinct and give them a reference number and/or colour code. Then, instead of the various charities dropping bags through our letter boxes and then collecting any stuff we leave out (and there is at least one a week of these) we could use any neutral bag and label it according to our choice with the number or colour to be collected by the one and only neutral driver(s) from our houses to take up to the precinct and distribute. That would save them all a fortune in distribution costs and fill up the empty precinct.

Pete Shaw
Beeston Rylands