



Newsletter

December 2009

Christmas Comes Early To Walkden !

This month's big news is of course the announcement that GMITA will fund **Sunday services** from Walkden, starting next May.

Restoration of Sunday services – dropped a generation ago when the line itself was in danger of closure – has been a top priority of FOWS for the last 3 years, and we are delighted the break-through has finally been made.

Sunday services will run on a trial basis for one-year, so it'll be up to the people of Walkden, Swinton, Atherton and surrounding communities to make sure the service is well publicised and well used.

Our second early Christmas gift from the ITA is the **station tannoy**. It's been a long time coming with various hitches and hold-ups during the installation, but now it's up and running station staff will be able to keep passengers on the platform informed about delays without having to lock up the Booking Office.

If you've not heard it yet, the tannoy is pretty loud so do not be alarmed !

Saturday crowds swamp trains

Saturday trains in December – always busier than usual with Xmas shoppers – have been extraordinarily popular this year.

Over-crowding has blighted many services and many travelers have not been able to even get on board, an intensely frustrating situation.

Northern Rail claim they simply cannot get any more carriages to lengthen the trains.

Please don't take your frustrations out on the Booking Office staff ... if there was anything they could do to help they would.

Our advice is to make sure all the people who can do something about it know about the problems – so write to your MP, your local councilors, and send a complaint form to Northern Rail Customer Services. It won't solve the problem this year, but might just help the Walkden line get more of the extra carriages due to be delivered in the next year or so.

And finally, FOWS would like to wish all station staff and passengers
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR