

Carry On Sunday Trains !

Trial service extended for next 2-years

Passengers at Walkden, Swinton, and Moorside stations are celebrating the survival of Sunday train services to Manchester and Wigan following a successful 2-year trial.

Sunday trains were re-introduced in May 2010 with a subsidy provided by Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive (now Transport for Greater Manchester – TfGM). The subsidy was only available for 2-years leading to fears that the popular service would be scrapped amidst public spending cuts.



Peter Aust (FOWS), the then Mayoress and Mayor of Salford, and Cllr Keith Whitmore (GMITA) cutting a cake on the day Sunday trains returned to Walkden in 2010. The service had been withdrawn in 1968 by British Railways.

Picture courtesy of Daniel Eden at [Eden Photography](#).

with TfGM to enable what has become a popular service to continue. We recognise the importance of good transport links in the economy of Manchester and to help get people to where they want to be."

But transport chiefs at TfGM and Northern Rail have reached a new deal to secure the Sunday service until the end of Northern Rail's franchise in April 2014. The deal has been made possible by closer co-operation between TfGM and Northern Rail which has led to reduced operating costs. In addition, the trains are proving more popular than had been forecast in 2010.

Mark Barker, Northern Rail's Community and Stakeholder Manager said "Northern are delighted to have been able to come to an agreement

FOWS Secretary Neil Stapleton said "We applaud Northern Rail and TfGM for 'going the extra mile' to make the Sunday service such a runaway success – in December the demand was so high Northern Rail even doubled the length of

some Sunday trains ! It's not easy to get a new railway service started in England and this would not have been possible without creative thinking and determination to improve train services from Northern Rail, TfGM, and various councillors and MPs representing the communities served."

FOWS intend to safeguard the future of the Sunday trains after 2014 by campaigning for the service to become a mandatory component of the next franchise contract.

About the Friends of Walkden Station (FOWS)

FOWS is a community volunteer group that campaigns for improved services and facilities at Walkden station in Greater Manchester. The group perform voluntary activities such as gardening, litter collections, and cleaning to improve the station environment.

FOWS works in partnership with Salford City Council, Greater Manchester Integrated Transport Authority, and Northern Rail.

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