



# North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum Fforwm Trafnidiaeth Gogledd Penfro

## April News Briefing, 2019

### Bus News

*In Memoriam – Marteine Richards.* *The Western Mail* reported that Marteine Richards died peacefully at his home with his family at his side on 10<sup>th</sup> April. As Managing Director, along with his brothers Malcolm and Nigel, he ran the Richard Bros family business. Richards Brothers Cardigan and Newport (published in 2014 by Les Dickenson) provides a detailed history of the company's development over the years and is well worth a read.

In his Foreword to the book, Marteine Richards noted that 'William Goronwy Richards, our grandfather, started a haulage business in the mid-thirties, operating from our home village of Moylegrove which is in North Pembrokeshire. Over the last eight decades the business has grown from the single steam traction engine which he started with, developing to a company which currently operates around eighty buses and coaches and provides employment for about ninety people locally'.

He added 'Whilst the book focuses on vehicles and services, ours is also a story of people serving the people, and much of the success is due to a loyal work force'. And all of those who travel on their buses can vouch for the truth of these words.

Richard Bros has been a Corporate Member of the North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum (NPTF) since it was set up in 2000, and the Forum has valued the company's continued support for its work. The Forum will miss Marteine, but we feel certain that this remarkable family business will continue to provide excellent services that meet the transport requirements of our communities in the years to come. Our deepest sympathies have been extended to the members of Marteine's family.

### Cycling Reports

This month, in the Haverfordwest rail station, an NPTF member noted that a person who wanted to book two bicycles from Manorbier to Southsea could only book them as far as Cardiff. He left without booking, as he couldn't take the risk of not being able to take them on the Cardiff to Southsea train.

From Vancouver the cyclist son of a Fishguard resident emailed: 'Here work was done to make cycling safer and easier - protected bike lanes, redesigned intersections, traffic calming measures, a bike share scheme, green areas on the road to signify bike traffic and side roads designated as bike routes. Clearly if you build bike infrastructure people will come out of the woodwork and get on their bikes. Even I am surprised by the number of people on bikes these days, and of all ages and ability'.

### Fishguard Harbour Cruise Ship Visits

It has been announced that this year, from the beginning of May until the end of September, 29 cruise ships (of various sizes) will be calling at Fishguard Harbour. The community volunteers who greet passengers when they come ashore are already making their preparations for this year's visitors. A Forum member who worked on The Fishguard Tapestry will be among the volunteers in the Town Hall's Tapestry Gallery to welcome passengers coming to see this remarkable work of art.

Visit <http://www.culture4pembrokeshire.co.uk/content.asp?nav=7> for further information about the Tapestry.

## National Assembly – Enterprise, Skills & Enterprise Committee News

### *The Committee's May Foreword Work Programme*

- 1.05.19 Stakeholder event: Improving Public Transport White Paper evidence  
Wednesday session.
- 9.05.19 General scrutiny with the Minister for Economy and Transport and the  
Thursday Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport.
- 15.05.19 Electric vehicle charging infrastructure in Wales evidence session with  
Wednesday the Minister for Economy and Transport.
- 23.05.19 Improving Public Transport White Paper evidence session.  
Thursday

## Transport for Wales Rail News

*New map to boost disabled passengers' confidence to take the train. (17<sup>th</sup> April news release)*

The rail industry is launching a new interactive map which will make it easy for passengers to find out about accessibility at stations, helping to boost their confidence to travel by train. This is part of the industry's wider programme of work to improve access to rail and deliver long-term change.

The new 'Access Map' has information about all stations across Britain and allows people to, at a glance, identify whether any station in the country is accessible so they can plan according to their needs and have smoother and more reliable journeys.

Passengers can search for specific stations or view anywhere in Britain using Access Map, which clearly displays:

- Whether stations have step free or partial step free access.
- What facilities are available at a station, including accessible toilets and changing places.
- Where alternative accessible stations are for on-the-go planning.

Ensuring customers know what to expect at any station will give them greater confidence to travel by train. Access Map is compatible with accessible features on iPhone, Android and desktop computers, including for visually impaired people. It is also being developed as an app, which will be released in the coming months to make it even easier to use on the go, at the touch of a button.

This new map is one part of the rail industry's long-term plan to increase access to the railway, supporting more people to travel by train. The rail industry is also trialling a revolutionary app and upgrading back-office computer systems used by booking centres and station staff to speed up booking assistance. From November, people will be able to set up user profiles and spend far less time on the phone booking assistance. Beginning next year, rail staff will start using the upgraded systems and by summer 2020, the customer app will go live, helping passengers have more control over their journey.

Train companies are also introducing new, more accessible trains in the next year, which include on-board passenger information systems that provide better audio-visual information about journeys, for example the new Stadler trains for MerseyRail and Greater Anglia, the Class 800 'Azuma' from LNER and the new class 717 trains being introduced by GTR. The rail industry has delivered over £500 million of improvements since 2006 and after the government announced £300 million of additional funding, it will make 73 more stations accessible by 2024.

For further information *visit* <https://news.tfwrail.wales/news/gsdgfg>.

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The North Pembrokeshire Transport Forum is an independent voluntary group that works for the provision of an effective integrated transport system in the North Pembrokeshire area, promotes the benefits of public transport and works towards the greater use of public transport systems.

The Forum's work is supported by:

Individual Members (£5 p.a.), Family Members (£8 p.a.) & Corporate Members (£12 p.a.)

(Corporate members include town and community councils, transport operators, and groups, organisations and associations with a transport interest)

For further information, contact the Secretary, 2 Hill Terrace, Fishguard SA65 9LU  
Tel: (01348) 874217. Email: [hattiwoakes@gmail.com](mailto:hattiwoakes@gmail.com)