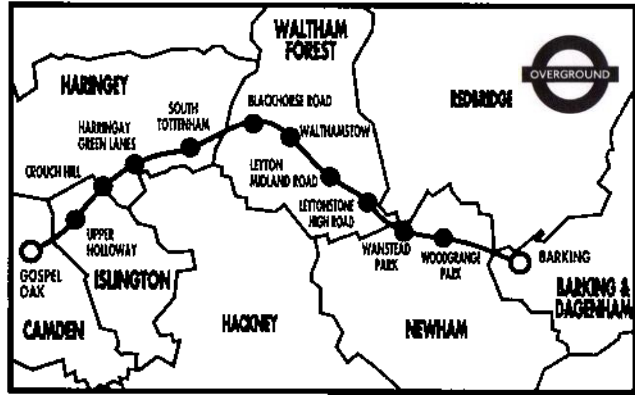


**BARKING – GOSPEL OAK  
RAIL USER GROUP**  
FOUNDED 1964

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Time	Destination	Platform	Expected	Page 1 of 1
08:50	Gospel Oak	1	On time	toc
08:52	Barking		Cancelled	
08:04	Gospel Oak		Cancelled	
08:07	Barking		Cancelled	
08:19	Gospel Oak	2	On time	
08:22	Barking	1	On time	
08:34	Gospel Oak		Cancelled	
08:37	Barking	2	On time	



**NEWS RELEASE ISSUED 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019**

**STEAM TO THE RESCUE?**



61306 Mayflower with the Cathedrals Express at Wanstead Park on 07.03.2015  
[Photo Rose Stephens]

**NO SUCH LUCK, BUT FIRST STEAM  
TRAIN ON BARKING – GOSPEL OAK  
LINE FOR 3 YEARS DUE ON SATURDAY**



NEWS RELEASE ISSUED 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2019  
**STEAM TO THE RESCUE?**

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61306 *Mayflower* at Blackhorse Road with the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2015 *Cathedrals Express* railtour to Bath & Bristol  
[Photo: Richard Long]

**The long suffering passengers waiting on station platforms between Barking and Gospel Oak for their half-hourly train service this Saturday may be forgiven for thinking that a steam train had come to their rescue!**

Sadly, this train, from Southend, will pick up special excursion ticket holders only at Barking before taking passengers on a visit to the first preserved standard gauge railway in the country, the famous *Bluebell Line* in Sussex. Whereas the Barking – Gospel Oak Line survived the *Beeching axe*<sup>[1]</sup>, the *Bluebell Line* was closed even before the famous axe man arrived on the scene and is approaching its 60<sup>th</sup> year as a steam railway operated by volunteers.

The railtour is being operated by Steam Dreams ([www.steamdreams.co.uk](http://www.steamdreams.co.uk)) under the *Cathedrals Express* banner, one of several operators running railtours, some steam hauled, to suit all pockets and interests to destinations all over the country. Some run tours to Ireland and Europe too.

The times for Saturday's train are here <https://www.steamdreams.co.uk/page.php?pageid=12>

- ENDS -

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT  
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**NOTE FOR EDITORS**

Formed in 1964 as the Barking – Kentish Town Line Committee to fight the proposed closure of the line, as part of the infamous *Beeching cuts*, the Barking – Gospel Oak Rail User Group has continued to represent the line's passengers and campaign for improved services and station facilities, and also for the electrification of what was the only non-electrified part of the London Overground network. Electrification was approved by the Government on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2013. The completed project was signed off by the Rail Regulator (ORR) in June 2018, some 12 months late. It is hoped that new electric passenger trains will have commenced operation by late 2019.

