

Music train on the Mid-Cheshire line from Manchester, Stockport and Altrincham - to visit the Golden Pheasant at Plumley on Wednesday 24 September.

Multi-instrumentalist folk singer Geoff Higginbottom is playing and singing on the music train and at the pub. . No need to book and no charge for the music - just buy a train ticket and catch the 18:24 from Manchester Piccadilly to return at 22:36.

The music and the musician



Geoff plays 6 & 12 string guitars and bodhran as well as singing unaccompanied, and performs a wide variety of material.

He sings traditional songs (his powerful voice being ideal for the chorus songs he loves) and also contemporary song on a wide range of subjects and from a variety of different sources.

He has recently started to include more of his own material in his repertoire - two of his most recent recordings covering the stories of the Busby Babes and the Peterloo massacre in song, poetry and prose.

His whole act is spiced with a delightful sense of humour. A great evening of songs to join in with and a really great entertaining line in banter.

The pub

The Golden Pheasant is a traditional pub in the heart of rural Cheshire serving fresh, quality food and well-kept J W Lees's real ales. It is close to the station (it was originally the Railway Inn) and has recently been refurbished by new management. (See weblink for recent reviews). It is a popular dining venue with an attractive beamed interior. It serves traditional bar food alongside some great homemade dishes at lunchtime and in the evenings on weekdays and all day at weekends. The normal menu is extensive and runs alongside a fantastic selection of regularly changing blackboard specials (which use the best of seasonal local produce) to choose from.

http://www.onionring.co.uk/restaurants/restaurant_info.asp?RID=2275

The Train

The Mid-Cheshire line passes through beautiful, scenic countryside and historic towns, linking Manchester, Stockport and Altrincham to Chester. It is a vital route for commuting to work but also has many opportunities for leisure journeys for shopping, outdoor pursuits and cultural activities.

The music train uses one of its regular hourly services which stops at all stations on the line. It is arranged by the Mid-Cheshire Community Rail Partnership. <http://www.midcheshirerail.org.uk>

How it works

The music starts on the train from Manchester. At Plumley everyone alights to visit the Golden Pheasant for drinks and good food – and there is a further session from Geoff.

There is no charge for the event - just the price of your ordinary train ticket. Your 'admission' is the train fare. Other than drinks and food, there is nothing else to pay. On the return journey there is more music and a collection for Bernard.

Train times to Plumley: Manchester Piccadilly 18:24, Stockport 18:34, Navigation Road 18:49, Altrincham 18:51, Hale 18:54, Ashley* 18:57, Mobberley* 19:00, Knutsford 19:04, Plumley 19:08 (*request stop)

Train times from Plumley: Plumley 21:35, Knutsford 21:40, Mobberley* 21:44, Ashley* 21:48, Hale 21:51, Altrincham 21:56, Navigation Road 21:58, Stockport 22:12, Manchester Piccadilly 22:26 (*request stop)

Tickets and fares: Buy your ticket from Manchester and Stockport at the station. At other stations just board the train and buy your ticket from the conductor with cash or card. Example fares are;

Manchester Cheap Day Return £7.40, Railcard £4.90
Northern Duo (two people travelling together) £5.55,
Stockport Cheap Evening Return £3.70
Altrincham Cheap Evening Return £2.35
Hale Cheap Evening Return £2.15

The Mid Cheshire Railway Line is operated by Northern Rail and provides rail links to the national rail network at Manchester, Chester and Stockport and with the Metrolink Tram network at Altrincham. www.northernrail.org

More music trains in 2009?

For news of events on the line watch the Community Rail Partnership's website www.midcheshirerail.org.uk.

The Crewe2Manchester line www.crewe2manchesterrail.org.uk and the High Peak and Hope Valley lines www.hvhptp.org.uk have more music trains in 2008.

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