

# Newsletter Supplement

## Swapping over the Town Car by Keith Flinders

The Stourbridge Town service is Britain's most intensive rail service. There are 214 trains a day. For comparison, the Train Operating Company, East Coast, which runs The Flying Scotsman, only has 165 trains a day. Such an intensive service owes its success to the reliability of the Parry People Mover. There are two vehicles, one in use and the other under maintenance in the little shed at the south end of Platform 3 at Stourbridge Junction.

The swap is seldom seen, as it usually happens early on Sunday mornings before the service begins with the 09.43. The PPM going out of service runs onto the Town branch and parks near the signal box. The other car then comes out of the maintenance shed and runs the length of the platform. It goes onto the connecting line that leads to the down goods loop and stops by the catch points. The signaller changes the points again and the first PPM goes to the shed. Finally, the car coming into service runs back into the platform.

It's almost the only use of the connecting line past the signal box. Perhaps the weed killing train will use it. Before long, even the town car won't, as a new maintenance depot to the west of Chiltern's sidings will replace the Platform 3 shed.



*Never the twain shall meet – two Class 139 vehicles ready to change places. (Picture by Keith Flinders)*