



Roger - the roaming pen

Hello, well here I am at last, a new name and a new (ish) face, I am really delighted to hop on board this great new organ - whoops - publication I mean, which looks like its gathering such momentum it was get on now or miss the opportunity.

So who am I, you may well ask, I have lived in Kemp Town for 25 years, the previous 40 or so where spent in the wilderness of Hove and Preston Park. Know a few people and done a few things around the town, in my own small way contributing what I could to the community.

Now, way into my 3rd Age, as we now must call getting 'on a bit' I have been travelling and finding some quite interesting facts about cheap fares and ways to access them. I will be reporting on some of the hidden deals and other related news that may be of use.

The big travel providers, train and bus companies, have to offer very affordable fares but, of course, they don't want everyone to know about them. A classic example being the Southern Railway DaySave tickets, just £10 for a whole day anywhere on their network, you can break your journey wherever you like and so long as you avoid peak commuter hours it's a bargain. But initially they kept this very quiet, now most people know about them but did you know about the Advance tickets, which for just £3.00 each way you can do the same journey.

So cheap train fares are available, it's official and are usually booked online, expect with Southern

Railway of course where you have to go to a One Stop Travel shop in person.

Until May finding the best fares was very complicated as each company gave their tickets different names and hedged them round with all sorts of conditions. From 18th May all fares from all train operators were simplified and given the same names to make it easier to find the best fares. They are now called 'ADVANCE' 'OFF-PEAK' and 'ANYTIME' but finding them is not easy. Virgin Trains will take you to Birmingham from Euston for £6.85 each way, so with the £6.00 return from Brighton - Brighton to Birmingham New Street for about £20.00 if you take the cost of the Victoria - Euston tube transfer. Not at all bad, but you can beat even that.

Chiltern Railways that operate the St Marylebone - Birmingham Moor Street route will sell you an 'e' ticket for £10.00 return, take the text to mobile option and they send you your ticket right to your phone, all you do is pass the text message over the special reader at St Marylebone and off you go. Birmingham Moor Street Station is great; straight out of 'Brief Encounter' it's a listed building that has been preserved in its original 30's style. What's even better it is right opposite the entrance to Selfridges in the Bull Ring.

So you can get from Brighton to Birmingham for £16.00 return, the No. 2 bus will take you direct from Victoria to St Marylebone and if you are lucky enough to have reached your 60th birthday and have your new National Bus Pass, that bit is free.

**WE ARE IN NEED OF:
WRITERS DISTRIBUTORS**
call: 07875 769423
editor@kemptownrag.co.uk

On my next attempt to buy Advance tickets this time at the One Stop Travel shop on the Old Steine, which I was surprised to find open on a Bank Holiday, I was able to buy £3 ticket to Victoria but there were none available for the return three days later. The helpful staff member was completely puzzled as he admitted that these tickets should be available, he could see them on his system but could not sell them.

I called Southern on their unpublicised 0800 138 1016 number to ask the reason. Sam answered the call, she was the classic 'company' girl and quoted - three times - that their web site says that these tickets were subject to availability. Fine, but what does availability mean I asked as I have yet to see an off-peak train with no available seats at all. She didn't know the reason and said she would take my query further and would get back to me. They did and this time it was a William Henry, informing me that they offered 6 or 7 (note the accuracy) of these tickets on some trains.

You can travel very cheaply by train, but it depends entirely upon the individual operator on how easy they make it to get hold of find them, it can take a long time.

TSSA, the transport union, have conducted a survey and have accused the train companies of deliberately misleading the public and state that these deals are a mirage.

Watch this space.

L.A. N.Y. LONDON KEMPTOWN SALVADORE GUTIERREZ PRESENTS:

"Salvadore Gutierrez has vast experience in the hair & beauty industry, specialising in hair colour.

Having moved to Kemptown recently, Salvadore has set up shop in the comfort and most importantly, the privacy of his own home. Every creature comfort is on tap, and no expense has been spared, including a state of the art shampoo bowl.

This is a great opportunity to have your hair done by a world-reknown celebrity hairdresser, who splits his time between London and his home in Kemptown. Complimentary refreshments served with every visit, including wine & beer."

Debit & credit cards
Prices may vary according to length of hair
20% off first visit
01273 530081
07957 622347
Sunday appointments available



-specialising in color, color correction and hair cutting-



We professionally clean...

ovens
hobs
microwaves
extractors
ranges
Agas and
Rayburns

...using non-caustic,
non-toxic cleaning
products in your home.

01903 813886

info@ovenheaven.co.uk
www.ovenheaven.co.uk