

Saturday 4 March

RAILWAY 59

| | | | |
|-------------|------|------|----------------|
| Derby | | 0829 | |
| Sheffield | 0900 | 0911 | via Scunthorpe |
| Cleethorpes | 1052 | 1114 | via Brigg |
| Sheffield | 1317 | 1336 | |
| Derby | | 1407 | |

You can get from Derby to Cleethorpes via Sheffield and Scunthorpe or via Lincoln. A Senior return is valid either way for £21.95. On a Saturday you can also go via Sheffield, Kirton Lindsay and Brigg, but there are only three trains in each direction. Since Covid they have hardly run at all, and every Saturday there seems to be at least one cancellation - so we'll need to do some careful planning. Check the 0753 from Sheffield via Brigg has left before you leave home - if it runs to Cleethorpes, the chances are it will run *from* Cleethorpes. Leave home, but without a lot of time in hand. Use the ticket office as we want to keep them open -



and she sells me a Derbyshire Wayfarer for £7, then a Sheffield-Cleethorpes return for £12.25. The only problem, which I realise after departure, is that that ticket is only valid via Brigg - the guard agreed he wasn't going to charge me more.

Easy to Sheffield, then onto Transpennine. It is pretty grotty as far as Doncaster, and doesn't get much better. Scunthorpe, Grimsby and the approach to Cleethorpes is hardly "England's green and pleasant land". However the stretch beside the Stainforth and Keadby Navigation is fun and there are still proper boxes. I remember going in to Godnow Bridge and Medge Hall one day while exploring from Lincoln. Somewhere I have a photo of Hannah and Gareth in one of the boxes. Apparently this Godnow Bridge box was built in 2000, but the barge boards, finials and name board were reused. Photo taken 28 June 2018. Medge Hall photo taken 29 March 2021. I didn't note if the gates are still in situ - I assume they are. Both boxes are due to go in the next couple of years.



cc-by-sa/2.0 - Godnow Bridge Crowle Isle... by Bob Pearce - geograph.org.uk/p/5824119



cc-by-sa/2.0 - Bridge and signal box at... by steven ruffies - geograph.org.uk/p/6790330



The boxes at Barnetby, Wrawby etc. are as impressive as ever, even though the semaphore signals have gone. I still need to do the Barton line and I was glad to see the pub at Habrough station still looks open and welcoming - in my Lincoln days you could have a pleasant evening riding Up to Newark, then Down through Lincoln on the evening HST Humber-Lincs Executive as far as Habrough. Quick drink in the pub, and the last train home. No HST any more. Photo Wrawby Junction, 1 August 2006.



cc-by-sa/2.0 - Wrawby Junction Signal Box by David Wright - geograph.org.uk/p/212709



No jokes about 22 minutes in Cleethorpes being 21 minutes too long. Time for a loo (very clean), cross the road to the beach, then tea and doughnuts from a café next door. A remarkably well-filled train, which makes no sense at all - the TP gets to Sheffield more quickly. More people on at Grimsby, and I decided I have to relax when I am on trains with my fellow-man. Most people seem incapable to listening to their phones via headphones, one chap spent the whole journey asking his angel where he was going to meet her when he got off the train, and some of the other conversations were hardly edifying. I must be getting old. Quite a lot of young ladies got on at Gainsborough for an afternoon/night in Sheffield - and they weren't wearing vests.



Brigg's old white gates have gone, but both Brigg and Kirton Lime Sidings box still survive. The uncredited photo of Brigg dates from 2015. The Kirton box dates from 2006 - I must have my own photos somewhere, but my indexing is not good enough. Station photo 2021.





cc-by-sa/2.0 - by David Wright - geograph.org.uk/p/138365



cc-by-sa/2.0 - Kirtlington Lindsey Station by Richard Croft - geograph.org.uk/p/6780669



A change at Sheffield and easily home by 1430. I offered J a romantic evening in Buxton using my Derbyshire Wayfarer ticket on the bus. She declined. I found a Lincolnshire signal box dvd.