

## **Castle Line News – January 2015**

Most Readers will know that Bob Imrie, who did so much for Collingham in general and for the Castle Line in particular, has died. I have taken his place on the Castle Line Stakeholder Board; no-one else offered to do it. The Board meets quarterly, and I will report matters relevant to Collingham after each meeting. The definitive May 2015 timetable will be issued on-line in March. It will deliver additional, more regular, and faster services between Collingham and Lincoln and Nottingham. In the Nottingham direction, Collingham trains will continue to go through to Leicester. Trains starting at Newark Castle will go through to Derby and Matlock. Use of the new Collingham station car park is increasing slowly. Surrounding roads will be yellow-lined when the County Council has completed the statutory consultation process with local residents.

Network Rail regards the Castle Line not as a merely picturesque rural branch-line but as a strategic rail corridor to be developed to meet growing freight, commuting, leisure, and shopping demands. Future years will see the re-signalling of the Newark-Lowdham stretch, and increased line-speeds (up to 75 mph) between Lincoln and Nottingham. The listed building at Newark Castle will be brought back into use. The East Coast Main Line franchise recently awarded to Virgin/Stagecoach (Stagecoach is also the parent company of East Midlands Trains) will deliver additional Lincoln-Kings Cross through services. Collingham sits on, and benefits from, a major East Midlands infrastructural asset.

Keith Burd