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Tickets and Travel Information

Latest information on train times and fares for any rail operator in the UK can be obtained from National Rail Enquiries on 08457 484950 or via the website www.nationalrail.co.uk

Tickets and Fares

Tickets can be purchased from ticket offices, or ticket machines. When travelling from a station with ticket selling facilities you must purchase your ticket before you board. For certain ticket types it is cheaper to book in advance on line.

Off Peak Tickets

Travel from 09.00 on weekdays. Off Peak Day tickets do not have evening peak restrictions so the return journey can be made at any time, including from London. There are also special tickets available off peak.

Super Off-Peak Day Tickets

When travelling to London or Stratford these tickets are valid on the first train that arrives in London after 12.00 on Mondays to Fridays. The return journey from London may not be made between 15.59 and 19.01 inclusive. Tickets which do not involve travel to, from or via central London are generally restricted to the morning period only. At weekends Super-Off-Peak tickets may be used at any time of day so are the best value option.

Group Save Tickets

Get a third off peak fares for groups of 3-9. Group save is available at all stations across the Greater Anglia network.

Child Tickets

Children aged 5-15 travel for half price and children under 5 travel free. Off peak up to four kids aged 5-15 inclusive travelling with a fare paying adult travel for £2 each on Greater Anglia network.

Railcards

Various railcards are available where you can get up to a third off the price of off-peak tickets.

- 16-25 Railcard - for anyone aged 16-25
- Senior Railcard - for anyone aged 60 or over.
- Friends and Family Railcard - for family groups.
- Network Card - anyone aged 16+ travelling in the South East (minimum fare applies weekdays).
- 2 for 1 offers at London attractions, theatres, restaurants, galleries, museums, tours and events.

Visit www.greateranglia.co.uk/offers/2for1-offer

Full details of Greater Anglia Services, train times and ticket bookings can be found at: www.greateranglia.co.uk

Information correct at time of printing April 2017 please check with Greater Anglia for any service changes.



The Flitch Line

Your guide to the Braintree branch line and surrounding area, for a great day out by train

for a great day out by train



Train Services Provided by Greater Anglia



Attractions on the Flitch Line

Witham

Dorothy Sayers birth place

Dorothy L Sayers was one of the first women to receive a degree from the University of Oxford. She was most famed for her detective novels featuring the characters Lord Peter Wimsey, Harriet Vane, and Montague Egg, but she was also a successful playwright, noted theologian, and scholar of Dante's poetry.

She moved to Witham in 1929 after her marriage to Arthur Fleming, and lived in Newland Street until her death in 1957.



Witham Library holds a reference collection of her works, press-cuttings, reviews and letters in the Dorothy L Sayers Centre, jointly managed by Essex Libraries and the Dorothy L Sayers Society, held in a specially furnished room on the upper floor (tel 01376-519625).

The statue of Dorothy L Sayers is located in Freebournes Court. Reference: www.witham.gov.uk

White Notley

John Ray Walk

John Ray (1627-1705) born in village of Black Notley, Essex) pioneered the classification of plants and animals he was also an influential philosopher and theologian. He is often referred to as the father of natural history in Britain.

To celebrate the life and achievements of this great man, the John Ray Walk has been devised. This 9 mile linear walk, linking the towns of Braintree and Witham, passes through the delightful countryside of the Brain Valley, the birthplace and home of John Ray.

The walk also provides a link between the two former railway lines, the Flitch Way (Braintree to Bishops Stortford) and the Blackwater Rail Trail (Maldon to Witham). These disused railway lines are now managed by Essex County Council as Country Parks. Since their demise as railways, nature has reclaimed them to provide excellent homes for many plants and animals. Foxes make their homes in the disused drainage pipes whilst slow-worms and snakes take advantage of the grassy banks for basking in the sun. You can explore and enjoy these wildlife havens, as no doubt John Ray would if he were alive today.

For more information on John Ray and the John Ray Walk please view: <http://johnraytrust.com/>

Cressing

Cressing Temple

Cressing Temple takes its unusual name from the medieval monks of the Knights Templar who founded the two vast wooden barns, which form the centrepiece of this delightful rural estate.

Nestled to one side of the barns is the Walled Garden. Inspired by an age when gardens combined beauty and functionality, it is the result of painstaking research and archaeological excavation, and is filled with species widely cultivated at the time.

As you step within the Tudor walls, you step back in time. Here plants have been carefully grouped according to medicinal, culinary and dyers' plants, a potager and a small orchard and nursery. The nosegay garden is a fragrant delight with a wealth of sweetly scented plants that were grown for their perfume, whilst the arbour is planted to recall Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream with its profusion of roses, woodbine and oxlips. At the centre of the garden is the font, on which four spouts take the form of the green man, the spirit of vegetation frequently found in medieval carvings.

Set in peaceful surroundings, the gardens make a perfect escape on a clear winter's day. The barns are open throughout the main season, and visitors can enjoy a full programme of cultural events.

- Two vast 13th century barns.
- Formal walled pleasure garden with original Tudor wall.
- 17th century Farmhouse and Tudor Granary.
- Events for the whole family.

<http://www.visitparks.co.uk/places/cressingtemple.php>

Address:

Cressing Temple
Witham Road, Cressing, Braintree, CM77 8PD
Telephone: 0333 0138156



Freeport

Freeport Shopping Village

Freeport Shopping Village offers over 80 stores with a range of men's, women's, children's, foot ware, gifts, cosmetics and designer stores.

There is a selection of places to eat and drink and after shopping why not pop over to Freeport Leisure Park and have a game of bowling or watch a film at the cinema.

For more information please view: www.freeport-braintree.com

Braintree

Warner Mill

Located at Warner's Mill, Silks Way, the Warner Textile Archive is of national importance, but its roots are firmly here in Braintree.

The archive is a unique record of the history of textile manufacture and design since the 18th century. It includes almost every example of woven and printed fabric produced by the Warner company as well as original artwork by leading designers commissioned to furnish palaces, stately homes, liners, hotels and ordinary homes.

The Gallery

Open to the public three days a week, the Gallery is a celebration of the diverse collection of fabrics and designs within the Warner Textile Archive.

Colour, Shape and Texture are the key words to describe the Gallery. Every drawer and display case takes the visitor on an exciting voyage of discovery from Warner's unique three-pile velvets, the intricate woven silks of Owen Jones and the cutting edge designs of the 1920s and '30s through to the boldness of the '50s and the iconic creations of the late twentieth century.

Address:

The Warner Textile Archive, Silks Way
Braintree, Essex, CM7 3GB
Telephone: 01376 557741
Website: www.warnerarchive.co.uk

Braintree Museum

At Braintree District Museum the story of the District and its diverse industrial and cultural history unfolds. The Main Galleries examine the development of the area from prehistory to the twenty-first century, focusing upon the textile and manufacturing industries of Courtalds, Warners and Crittalls, as well as displays of Castle Hedingham pottery, the work of the Great Bardfield artists and Essex straw and lace. A vibrant calendar of temporary exhibitions complements the Main Galleries throughout the year.

The Museum is housed in the converted Victorian Manor Street Junior and



Infant Schools that were built in 1862 and 1897 respectively. The main building is home to the Museum Reception and Shop; Temporary Exhibition Gallery; Main Galleries; Victorian Schoolroom and John Ray Gallery, and opened in 1993. The second building was converted in 2002 and contains the Cafe and the Learning for Life Centre.

Address:
Braintree District Museum,
Manor Street, Braintree, Essex, CM7 3HW
Telephone: 01376 325266
www.braintreemuseum.co.uk

Great Notley

Country Park

Great Notley Country Park covers some 100 acres of open space, which is managed for the benefit of wildlife and the community. The site was formerly arable farmland and has been transformed into a mixture of wetland and open grassland. Each of these habitats provides a haven for a variety of species.

The park includes a number of mature species of native trees. Elsewhere, bats have made their homes in the grassland and wildflower meadows.

Walking, cycling, jogging and horse riding can all be enjoyed in the park and beyond with its links to the Flitch Way in the north and the bridleway in the south. A variety of activities and events are held throughout the year. Families can picnic or fly kites or, for the more energetic, there is an all-weather, multi-activity, floodlit pitch and two grass football pitches. There's also an excellent visitor centre, housed in the award-winning Discovery Centre. An outstanding example of sustainable architecture, this has been designed with construction materials, which ensure low maintenance and energy consumption to reduce the impact on the environment.

Address:
Great Notley Country Park, Great Notley, CM77 7FS
Telephone: 01376 347134
www.visitparks.co.uk/places/great-notley-country-park

Flitch Way

The Flitch Way passes through 15 miles of countryside along the former Bishop's Stortford to Braintree railway in the heart of rural Essex. Its name comes from a medieval ceremony, which originated in Little Dunmow and which still takes place every four years. The ceremony involved married couples trying to prove that they hadn't argued for a year and a day - if successful they were awarded with a Flitch (or side) of bacon.

The route of the Flitch Way has a multi-user surface making it accessible for all throughout the year. Much of the route can be explored on foot, bicycle or horseback taking you through wildlife-rich railway cuttings, past Victorian stations and over embankments with views across impressive farmlands, villages and woodland. Cycling the 8 mile route from Braintree to Little Dunmow is particularly ideal for families as it is completely traffic free giving everybody the opportunity to discover the wildlife.

The start of the Flitch Way route at Braintree is adjacent to the Railway Station.

The route passes through historical towns and villages allowing you to explore places such as Great Dunmow or to combine a walk/cycle ride with refreshments being served at Rayne Station. The station was built in 1866 and was one of the busiest on the line. Renovated in 1994, it is now the Visitor Centre and Ranger base for the Flitch Way.

The Flitch Way forms part of the National Cycle Network route 16 www.sustrans.org.uk

The Flitch Way also links with other countryside attractions such as Great Notley Discovery Centre and Hatfield Forest.



Welcome to the Flitch Line

History of Braintree Branch Line

By the 1830's the industrial progress in other areas was beginning to leave Braintree behind. Isolated amidst a network of Turnpike roads, and without access to rivers and the sea, firms in Braintree depended upon carts to bring materials in and send out finished goods to their customers. Silk manufacturers such as Courtalds, one of the largest local employers, packed their cloths into large willow hampers which were loaded onto horse-drawn wagons. With the arrival of the Eastern Counties Railway at nearby Witham, in 1838, pressure grew in the town for a rail connection.

Anticipating the arrival of the railways, Samuel Courtald was quick to take advantage and repurchased his fathers mill at Chapel Hill in 1843. The original terminus station had been transformed into a goods depot from which private sidings extended into a cluster of industrial enterprises that had developed in the immediate vicinity. The railway goods handling facilities included cranes and trucks designed for very heavy goods. Immediately to the north of the goods station lay Crittall Windows new Manor Works. A railway siding had been laid across Manor Road into the rear of the factory. The factory was designed to produce components for shipment by rail. Crittall's railway street siding took in raw materials such as iron bars and consigned to their customers completed products such as industrial and commercial window units and later, agricultural equipment. To the east lay the maltings, suppliers to the towns breweries. Maltings were found in most large towns as large quantities of beer were consumed by working men at this period. Maltings were heavy freight users handling bulk grain products.

Alongside lay Braintree Gas Works which had superseded the original works in New Street to take advantage of easy access to coal supplies from the railway goods yard. The Gas Works roasted coal in huge retorts, producing coke, a bulky by-product and town gas which was stored in a huge gasometer to the south of Manor Road. The largest factory



Braintree goods yard about 1956



Braintree passenger train going to Witham about 1956

10 Facts about the Braintree Branch Line

- 1 The Braintree - Witham line was opened to passengers on 2nd October 1848.
- 2 The line was originally double track but one set of rails was removed in 1854 for use in Crimean War!
- 3 The Braintree station was originally known as 'Braintree and Bocking' until 1970, and Cressing Station was 'Bulford' until 1911.
- 4 For many years Braintree had an engine shed and turntable. Both these facilities ceased in the 1950s when steam trains were withdrawn.
- 5 Between 1958 - 1963 all passenger services were operated by a 56 seater German built rail bus. Today peak period services are formed of 8 coach trains with seating for 600 passengers.
- 6 The line was threatened with Dr Beeching's axe in the early 1960's. Campaigning and promotional work by the Campaign Committee, chaired by Thomas Bunn, increased passenger numbers and the line was saved from closure.
- 7 Cressing and White Notley Stations were lit by oil lamps until the 1970's.
- 8 Braintree signal box was dismantled in 1978 and can now be seen at the East Anglian Railway Museum at Chappel and Wakes Colne Station.
- 9 When the line was electrified in 1977, 21 miles of wire, 300 cubic metres of concrete and 179 steel masts were used.
- 10 A diverse variety of freight has been despatched from Braintree over the years including window frames, bailey bridges, fertilisers and bananas.

Walks and Cycle Routes

John Ray

The John Ray Walk is a 9 mile linear walk with distinctive directional plaques with buttercup logos and arrows linking the towns of Braintree and Witham passing through the delightful Brain Valley and the birthplace and home of John Ray.

For more information ring Public Rights of Way on 0345 603 7631

Flitch Way

The Flitch Way follows 15 miles of countryside along the former railway line between Bishop's Stortford to Braintree. It is completely traffic free and can be explored on foot, bicycle or horseback. The route passes through historical towns and villages allowing you to explore places such as Great Dunmow or to combine a walk with refreshments being served at Rayne Station. Bike hire is available at Great Notley Country Park.

For more information ring Country Parks: 0345 603 7624.

'Designer Shopping and Country Living'

Braintree and Great Dunmow

Short cycle routes varying from 6 miles to 20 miles exploring the area and attractions around Braintree and Great Dunmow such as Cressing Temple, Freeport, Warner Mill, Hatfield Forest, Flitch Way, Saling Hall Garden, Blake House Craft Centre.

Or ring 0845 600 7373 and request your FREE 'Cycle Essex' pack.

Braintree Town Trail

A one hour leisurely walk through the historic town of Braintree.

Tourist Information - Witham
61 Newland Street Witham Essex CM8 2FE
Tel: 01376 502674

You can view all above leaflets at www.visitessex.com

