**Tuesday 26 January**

**Virgin Trains shares the love on St Dwynwen’s Day with help of local Flintshire bakery**

Yesterday, Virgin Trains recognised St Dwynwen’s Day on board its services to North Wales by handing out heart shaped shortbread to customers.

The Pudding Compartment, a bakery local to the Virgin Trains North Wales route, made the biscuits especially for the Welsh Valentine’s Day, which recognises the Welsh patron saint of lovers, St Dwynwen, who was from Anglesey.

Customers travelling between Euston and Holyhead received the romantic gift on board Virgin Trains services throughout the evening services yesterday.

Amanda Smit, Head of Catering at Virgin Trains, said: “We’re always looking at ways to support local businesses, like The Pudding Compartment. We are proud to serve local produce and champion it on board our services and at our stations.”

Virgin Trains has worked with The Pudding Compartment for over a year. The Flintshire bakery supplies shortbread biscuits that are available in Virgin Trains First Class lounges along with West Coast.

Steve West, Managing Director of The Pudding Compartment, said: “We’re proud to work with Virgin Trains on another project to surprise customers. We were particularly pleased to help with the biscuits, as we could see the trains on the North Wales route from our office windows, whilst reading tweets from Virgin Trains customers enjoying the shortbread.”

Gaynor Stewart, Customer Experience Manager at Virgin Trains said: “We’re proud to serve North Wales, so wanted to recognise a day that is important to the Welsh people. Being a day about love, St Dwynwen’s Day was a great opportunity for us to spread the love and give our customers something to show how much we value them.”

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**About Virgin Trains**

Virgin Trains is the brand name of Virgin Rail Group (VRG), which is owned by Virgin Group (51%) and Stagecoach (49%). Virgin Trains has operated the West Coast passenger train franchise since 1997, serving key UK cities including London, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool and Glasgow. In June 2014 the Department for Transport (DfT) awarded VRG a new franchise until at least April 2017.

Virgin Trains is committed to delivering a high speed, high frequency service, offering shorter journey times, more comfortable travel and excellent customer service. We provide the most frequent long-distance rail service in Europe (London - Manchester and London – Birmingham, both every 20 minutes).

Since 1997, Virgin Trains has introduced over 70 new trains at a cost of £1.5 billion. The service carries more than 34.5 million passengers a year and Virgin Trains employs approximately 3,290 staff.

Virgin Trains customers consistently rate the company as one of the top long-distance rail franchise operators in the National Passenger Survey (NPS) commissioned by industry watchdog “Passenger Focus”.

Visit the Virgin Trains Media Room - [www.virgintrains.co.uk/mediaroom](http://www.virgintrains.co.uk/mediaroom) - for the latest news, images and videos. Subscribe [here](http://www.mynewsdesk.com/follow/47939) for regular news from Virgin Trains.

Press Office: 0845 000 3333. Company website: [www.virgintrains.co.uk](http://www.virgintrains.co.uk).

**About Virgin Trains East Coast**

Virgin Trains East Coast is the brand name of InterCity Railways Ltd (ICR), which is owned by Stagecoach Group (90%) and Virgin Group (10%). Virgin Trains East Coast began operating services on the East Coast Main Line in March 2015, serving key UK cities including London, Peterborough, Doncaster, Leeds, York, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness. The franchise will last until at least 31 March 2023.

Visit the Virgin Trains East Coast Media Centre at: [www.virgintrainseastcoast.com/media-centre](http://www.virgintrainseastcoast.com/media-centre) for the latest news and images.