

# MARLOW - MAIDENHEAD PASSENGERS' ASSOCIATION

## Newsletter 168 December 2015

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### Timetables

With this issue, we are distributing, where you have indicated a requirement (opt-in), the winter timetables appropriate to your location. These operate from Sunday 13 December. Chiltern Railways timetables show a number of changes intended to ease congestion during peak periods.

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### Twyford Station retirement

Twyford's station master and all-round railway legend, Norman Topsom, decided to hang up his whistle after 53 years on the railway. GWR pulled out all the stops to give him a memorable farewell on 30th October, including naming Networker Express unit 166204 after him, commissioning a painting by local artist Terri Jones and a party at Henley-on-Thames.

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### Christmas services on GWR

#### All services

Thursday 24 December to Saturday 26 December

Services will finish earlier than normal on Christmas Eve with last trains departing before 21:30.

**There will be no trains across our network on Christmas Day or Boxing Day.**

#### Reading and London services

Sunday 27 and Monday 28 December

**No trains between Slough and London Paddington station.** In addition:

There will be 2 direct GWR trains an hour between Reading and London Waterloo calling at Basingstoke only.

High speed services will be diverted to either London Marylebone or London Waterloo. Services in the Thames Valley will operate to Slough. Replacement buses will run between Slough and Hillingdon to connect with London Underground (the Metropolitan or Piccadilly Lines into Central London) and between Slough and Ealing Broadway calling at all stations.

South West Trains will operate 2 trains an hour between Reading and London Waterloo on Sunday 27 December and 4 trains an hour on Monday 28 December.

Tuesday 29 December to Sunday 3 January 2016

Trains will run between Reading and London Paddington to an amended timetable.

#### Heathrow Airport

Sunday 27 and Monday 28 December

There will be no Heathrow Express or Heathrow

Connect services. You can take the Piccadilly Line or London Buses where tickets will be accepted. If you're travelling from the west of Reading, change at Reading for the RailAir coach link to Heathrow

### Maidenhead and Marlow Branch

**There will be no trains between Maidenhead, Bourne End and Marlow from Sunday 27 December to Sunday 3 January.**

Sunday 27 and Monday 28 December

Replacement buses will run between Maidenhead and High Wycombe via Marlow. There will also be a direct bus service between Maidenhead and High Wycombe. Tickets will be accepted on Chiltern Railway services between High Wycombe and London Marylebone.

Tuesday 29 December to Sunday 3 January

Replacement buses will run between Maidenhead and Marlow.

<https://www.gwr.com/travel-updates/christmas-travel#Maidenhead>

### Christmas services on Chiltern

**No trains will run on December 25<sup>th</sup> and limited services on 26<sup>th</sup>.** Otherwise amended timetables will operate over the rest of the holiday period. It should also be noted that some Sunday services over the period are subject to bus replacement.

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### High Wycombe Station Sign

MMPA Committee member Mike Cooper was invited together with Station Manager Rob Munday to attend the Railway Heritage Trust Awards at Merchant Taylors' Hall on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. The refurbished running-in board (station name) which MMPA and Chiltern Railways contributed to the overhaul had been submitted for a possible award. It did not win but did get into the top three projects in its category.



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## Marlow Branch Electrification Petition

MMPA Committee member Martin Coker with RBWM Councillor Simon Werner have started a petition at

<http://rbwm-ld.co.uk/enddelay/>:

*“We, the undersigned, call on the Department for Transport to move ahead with the electrification scheme on the Cookham and Furze Platt Branch Line as soon as possible”*

MMPA considers that the Network Rail reluctance to proceed with electrification of the Branch, and hence cease the operation of through trains to and from Paddington, will seriously disadvantage users of Branch services. This is likely to increase road congestion as commuters choose to drive to Maidenhead to avoid the inconvenience of changing from the Branch trains.

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## Crossrail train design

Details have been published of the proposed design of the Crossrail trains. The new train features open carriage interconnections throughout the 200 metre 9 car train but limited seating to give more room for standing passengers.

MMPA still considers the omission of toilets is a retrograde step and will continue to raise the issue.

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## Public Address on the Branch

MMPA is aware of the issues with the public address system on the Branch, particularly at Bourne End Station. We have been pressing FGW/ GWR for resolution of the problem for four months but so far without success. We will keep trying until it is resolved.

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## Hendy review

The Hendy Review has just been published by the Government/ Network Rail. Network Rail is investing in the biggest programme of railway modernisation since the Victorian era. This is an ambitious investment programme, funded by the UK Government. Sir Peter was appointed to review the enhancement programme to 2019 and re-plan it, with the benefit of a better understanding of cost and delivery challenges. The conclusion of the review is that the vast majority of programmes and projects will go ahead for delivery by 2019. No projects have been cancelled. The remaining projects will be delivered after 2019. The electrification of the Great West Main Line remains a top priority despite the technical issues and significant cost overruns.

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## Oxford - Marylebone link opens

October 26<sup>th</sup> saw the opening of the new Oxford Parkway Station by the Prime Minister, David

Cameron. This provides a link to the main line to Marylebone via Bicester and High Wycombe.

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## Railfuture Conference

MMPA is a member of Railfuture, an organisation which supports and promotes campaigns for cheap and convenient rail services for everyone; better links for buses, bikes and pedestrians; policies to get more loads from heavy lorries on to rail; new lines, stations and freight terminals - better rail service and a bigger rail system for both passengers and freight.

Railfuture recently held a conference in Bristol which we attended. The main presentation was by First Group explaining the plans for their recent Great Western franchise extension until 2019. Although assured at the presentation that the Bourne End track remodelling (to allow a 30 minute service interval on the Branch) would be considered by the Hendy review there is no mention of it in the report. MMPA will raise this with GWR and Network Rail as otherwise Branch users could lose out on two counts: no electrification and hence no through trains and loss of promised more frequent services.

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## TRAVEL INFORMATION

BBC Radio Berkshire:	95.4, 104.1 FM, DAB, or phone 08459 - 311333
National Rail enquiries:	08457 - 484950 (24 hrs) or see <a href="http://www.nationalrail.co.uk">www.nationalrail.co.uk</a> or text
Great Western Railway:	08457-000125 (0700–2200 daily)
Chiltern Railways:	08456 - 005165 (08.30 – 17.30)
Arriva Bus:	0344 800 44 11 (0800 - 1800 Mon - Fri)
First Berks Buses:	01753 524144
Carousel Buses:	01494 533436
Traveline:	0871 2002233 (0700 - 2200 ) 10p/min on BT landline
RBWM helpline	01628 796666

Also see our web site [www.mmpa.org.uk](http://www.mmpa.org.uk) for links.

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## Contact MMPA

If you have any issues or comments regarding public transport in the area that you would like to raise please use the *Contact Us* links on the MMPA website [www.mmpa.org.uk](http://www.mmpa.org.uk).

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## Seasons Greetings

On behalf of the MMPA Committee may I wish you all a peaceful Christmas, a Happy New Year and pleasant travel in 2016.

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