

MARLOW - MAIDENHEAD PASSENGERS' ASSOCIATION

Newsletter 170 May 2016

Newsletter Editor Robert Latham *Email: newsletter@mmpa.org.uk*



Timetables

With this newsletter we enclose the new GWR and Chiltern Railways timetables as appropriate to your location. These are effective from 15th May. Chiltern Railways timetables have had some minor changes to fit in with the new faster running Metropolitan Line stock.

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MMPA AGM

The MMPA AGM was held on March 18th with representatives from Great Western Railway, Chiltern Railways, Crossrail and Network Rail in attendance. The new Committee, much the same composition as the retiring one, was voted in. A presentation on local planned improvements was made by Great Western Railway and questions from the floor answered by the relevant representative.

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High Wycombe Footbridge

The new footbridge at High Wycombe was installed in March and was opened on 30 April.

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Marlow Branch

The recently published Hendy Report indicates delays to the completion of some Great West Main Line electrification works by up to 2 years. It is not yet clear how this will affect the start of electric services to London. Don't forget if you use the through services from the Branch to Paddington these will disappear from the start of electric services as the electrification of the Branch has been suspended. MMPA webmaster has compiled a report which shows that the submitted reasoning for not electrifying the Branch can be easily overcome. His report can be read on the MMPA website at

<http://www.mmpa.org.uk/electrif.html>.

It makes for interesting reading.

MMPA is concerned that the delay to the electrification of the Branch coupled with the failure on a number of occasions for GWR revenue staff to sell or check tickets on Branch services results in false usage figures being returned to GWR accounts. This could result in degrading and running down of Branch services with the long term implications that leads to.

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Taplow Station Issue

Following the closure of the bridge at Taplow Station, down (towards Reading) services at Taplow still stop at the Reading end of the station. When the original footbridge was open this was satisfactory. Passengers now have a long walk to the temporary footbridge towards the London end of the station. MMPA have approached Great Western Railway and requested a review of the stopping position. We do not believe there are any technical problems that could prevent its implementation and GWR have confirmed this should not be a problem to implement.

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Station Notice Boards

MMPA has requested and agreed with GWR the provision of a notice board for Taplow Station for displaying copies of the MMPA newsletters and other local information. This has still to be implemented.

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Crossrail train design

MMPA still considers the omission of toilets and minimal seating capacity in the design of Crossrail trains is a retrograde step and is continuing to raise the issue with local MPs and the Crossrail organisation. The more messages people can send to their MPs, Department for Transport and Crossrail it increases the pressure on them to reverse the decision.

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Station problems on the Branch

MMPA is aware of the issues with the public address system and Customer Information System displays (CIS) 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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Bourne End to High Wycombe Reinstatement

MMPA has strongly objected to planning applications to build more houses on the trackbed between Bourne End and High Wycombe. There is growing pressure for the line to be reopened as it will provide an essential link between the Chiltern Line and Heathrow Airport when the western link to Heathrow is built. The connection is also seen as an extension to the Windsor Link Railway project to join up the two railways into Windsor.

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Bakerloo Line closure

A reminder that there is no Bakerloo service at Paddington until August due to escalator replacement.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

BBC Radio Berkshire:	95.4, 104.1 FM, DAB, or 08459 - 311333
National Rail Enquiries	08457 - 484950 (24 hrs) or www.nationalrail.co.uk or text
Great Western Railway:	08457-000125 (0700-2200 daily)
Chiltern Railways:	08456 - 005165 (08.30 - 17.30)
Arriva Bus:	0844 8004411 (0900 - 1700 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 for links.

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.