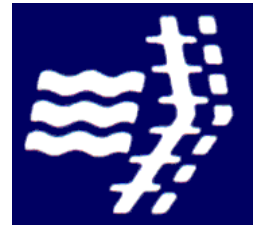


# MARLOW - MAIDENHEAD PASSENGERS' ASSOCIATION

*Newsletter 183 March 2020*

Newsletter Editor Robert Latham *Email: [newsletter@mmpa.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@mmpa.org.uk)*



Meet the senior managers from GWR and Chiltern Railways, MTR Crossrail and Network Rail (subject to confirmation)

Non-members welcome at the MMPA AGM Friday 27 March, 2020 7.45 pm at the Bourne End Community Centre.

## **50th Annual General Meeting – Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence:
3. Approval of 2019 AGM Minutes (distributed electronically)
4. Reports
  - Committee (distributed electronically)
  - Accounts for year end 31 December 2019 (distributed electronically)

### 5. Election of Officers

The current & proposed Committee members standing for election are:

- John Marsh (Chairman and Honorary Treasurer)
- Richard Porter (Webmaster and Membership)
- Robert Latham (Newsletter Editor)
- John Fowler (MTR Crossrail liaison)
- Martin Coker (Cookham Station Rep)
- Nigel Phillips (Bucks County Council liaison, High Wycombe Station Rep)
- Eileen Bune (Cookham Parish Concil rep)
- Geoff Herbert (Taplow Station Rep)

We have the capacity for up to 3 more committee members including a rep for Marlow Station and would welcome the participation of members who might be interested in helping out in this way.

6. Presentations by MTR Crossrail, Great Western Railway, Chiltern Railways and Network Rail
7. Questions and Answers
8. Any other business

## Membership Matters

It's that time again! Membership subscriptions are due on 1st April but will be very welcome in advance or at our AGM on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March. A membership reminder is enclosed or attached. The fees are £5 for individuals and families and £10 for businesses. Cheques should be payable to "MMPA" and sent to MMPA Membership, 23 Switchback Road North, Maidenhead, SL6 7UF.

If you wish to pay by internet banking or Paypal please email me first so that I can give you the necessary information. Data Protection Act - members' names and addresses, including email addresses if applicable, are held on computer and we will not pass them to third parties unless we are required to do so by law.

Richard Porter: ricp@mmpa.org.uk

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## Taplow Station

Operation of Taplow Station has been transferred to TfL (Transport for London). Before and during the handover from GWR, MMPA reported frequent issues with ticketing to the relevant operator. The Ticket Office is now not opened until 06.30; until then the ticket machines do not operate.

The permanent replacement footbridge is now open including access to platform 1 and the south car park but the lifts only work intermittently at present.

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## Overcrowding on the Main Line

The 08.02 fast service to Paddington in particular suffers from severe overcrowding and boarding difficulties. MMPA had previously persuaded GWR to start the this service from Twyford to ease overcrowding from Maidenhead. The December timetable restored the start to Didcot (with connection from Oxford) resulting in severe problems at Maidenhead. As a result the scheduled dwell time at Maidenhead in the morning peak had now been officially extended, thus recognising the reality of the situation. MMPA is pressing for a return to the Twyford start for this service.

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## Parliament debate

In Parliament on 5 February, Theresa May gave a very strong presentation to the Rail Minister regarding rail services for Maidenhead, Twyford and linking branch lines. She raised the issues of loss of fast services and emphasised the lack of seats and toilets on Crossrail which MMPA has continued to publicise. The Rail Minister in response stressed the upgrades to Maidenhead Station being undertaken and planned for completion mid 2021 including Ticket Hall upgrade, lift to platform1 and changes to Customer Information and CCTV. The Minister said he was not aware of some of the issues raised regarding services and would look into them.

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## Bourne End upgrade

The land survey and track layout design for Bourne End required to improve Branch services to half-hourly is understood to have been completed. It is understood the signalling design and approval to enable construction work to commence is slowly in progress.

## Cookham Station

Repairs to the station building have been completed and the Millenium clock is once again in working order.

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## Ticket Machines

Installing a ticket machine at Furze Platt is still being considered.

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## Crossrail

MMPA still considers the omission of toilets from 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 and Crossrail it increases the pressure on them to reverse the decision and retro fit toilet facilities.

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## High Wycombe

Our main issue with Chiltern has been, and continues to be, the inordinate length of time required to change from platform 1 to platform 3 to catch the stopping service towards London. We are continuing to press Chiltern and Network Rail to come up with a sensible solution.

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## Easter Travel

If you plan to travel between Reading and Paddington during the Easter period we are advised that there will be changes to services so please make sure of train times and connections before you travel.

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## TRAVEL INFORMATION

Arriva Buses Beds & Bucks	01622 697000	0900-1700 Mon-Fri
Chiltern Railways	03456 005165	0830-1730 Mon-Fri
Carousel Buses	01494 533436	
Courtney Buses	01344 482200	
First Berkshire & Thames Valley Buses	01753 524144	
National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950	24 hours
Traveline (premium rate)	0871 200 2233	0800-2000 daily
Traveline London	0343 222 1234	24 hours
Transport for London & MTR Crossrail	0343 222 1234	24 hours
BBC Radio Berkshire Travel	01189 311333	
Car Parking (APCOA)	01249 444538	

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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