



**191
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NEWSLETTER

www.mmpa.org.uk

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AGM 2022

NOTICE is hereby given that the postponed Annual General Meeting of the Marlow - Maidenhead Passengers' Association will be held at the Bourne End Community Centre, Wakeman Road, Bourne End SL8 5SX on Friday 23d September 2022 at 19:45 hrs.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the 2021 AGM held on September 24th 2021 (Newsletter 189) ¹
3. Chairman's Report (Newsletter 190)
4. Financial Report for the year ended 31st December 2021. (Newsletter 190)
5. Re-appointment of Wilkins & Co as Independent Examiners
6. Election of Committee Members. ²

The following are offering themselves for re-election:

Eileen Bune - Cookham PC rep.

John Fowler - MTR Elizabeth Line liaison

Geoff Herbert - Taplow station rep.

Rob Latham - Membership Sec., Maidenhead station rep. & acting Treasurer

Nigel Phillips - Chiltern Railways liaison, Bucks C.C. liaison and High Wycombe station rep.

Richard Porter - Newsletter Editor, Webmaster and Furze Platt station rep.

7. Any Other Business

Presentations, Q & A

Following the formal AGM we have invited representatives of our train operators to give us updates and take questions.

Notes to the Agenda

1. www.mmpa.org.uk/newsletter/nl189.pdf
2. John Marsh stepped down as Chair on 30 June but is willing to serve as Bourne End station rep. and Community Association liaison but not on the Committee.

Posts vacant:

Chair, Hon. Treasurer, GWR Liaison, Marlow station rep., Bourne End station rep., Cookham station rep., Community Association liaison.

We desperately need more volunteers to fill these posts, which can be shuffled if necessary. If you can help in any way please contact us before the meeting if possible. (info@mmpa.org.uk) .



Sadly there is one other change to the committee due to the death of our Cookham representative, Cllr. Martin Coker (above).

Strikes Update from GWR

You may have seen that further strike dates have been announced in the coming weeks. On Thursday 15th September, ASLEF (train drivers), Unite (Train Care Depot staff) and the RMT (on board and station staff, and Network Rail signallers) will be on strike. TSSA (managers and office staff) will also be taking action short of strike on the 15th.

The RMT and Unite will also be striking on Saturday 17th September, and TSSA will be on strike for 24 hours across Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th September.

Our teams are working as quickly as possible to confirm the train plan for all four strike days. Our advice will be not to travel unless absolutely necessary, and there will be no rail replacement bus services in operation. We recognise the severe impact this has on our customers, especially now that schools and colleges have returned, and there will also need to be timetable changes on the days before and after the strikes. We will be in touch with further details of the train plan. Our dedicated industrial action webpage at www.gwr.com/strike will also be updated with the latest news.

We thought it might also be helpful to share the comments made by Steve Montgomery, chair of the Rail Delivery Group which represents train operators and Network Rail following the RMT's announcement:

These strikes are cynically timed to cause maximum disruption to the very passengers the industry depends on for its recovery. From those left out of pocket because they can't get to work, to people missing vital appointments and thousands of children and young people who depend on the train to get to school, the union leadership's actions have very real consequences.

We want to give our people a pay rise and we know they are facing a squeeze - but the RMT must recognise that with revenue consistently at 20% below pre-covid levels, the only solution lies in long-overdue reforms that will put the industry on a sustainable footing and improve services for passengers.

Everybody wants to see the industry and its people thrive - we ask the RMT to do the right thing, call off these damaging strikes and work with us to make that happen.

Jane Jones,
Head of Public Affairs, GWR

Toby Elliott, Head of Communications,
Network Rail Western

NEWS

GWR managed to keep the Thames Valley branches running on the RMT strike days but very limited services operated over the rest of the network. The Elizabeth Line operated a half-hourly service on the Western section.

Chiltern operated hourly services to Oxford Parkway, Banbury, Aylesbury via High Wycombe and Amersham to Aylesbury Vale Parkway.

No GWR trains ran on ASLEF strike days.

Crossrail - the next phase

Through Elizabeth Line services between Reading or Heathrow and Abbey Wood, and between Paddington and Sheffield are set to start on Sunday 6th November, along with the opening of Bond Street station.

Sunday services on the central core will continue from this date except for some weekend closures for software upgrades.

The full 24 trains per hour peak service between Paddington and Whitechapel is expected to commence at the May 2023 timetable change.



Branch Closure in October

Network Rail is planning a 9-day blockade of the Maidenhead - Marlow branch from 00:40 on 22nd October to 05:15 on 31st October 2022 (half term holiday week). A replacement bus service will be provided. Please watch the web site for details.

TfL Hikes Heathrow Fares

As of 4th September all fares on the Underground and Elizabeth Line to or from Heathrow Airport and involving Zone 1 are now charged at the peak rate.

This change reflects the absence of regular periods of low demand for the airport.

Journeys avoiding Zone 1 continue to have off-peak fares. That includes journeys from Maidenhead and the branch as long as you change at Hayes & Harlington.

Customers travelling to Heathrow and buying paper tickets should select "Heathrow Rail" stations when travelling on the Elizabeth line to ensure they travel with a valid ticket.

Down The Line

Furze Platt

The ticket office is closed until further notice while building repairs are undertaken.

The self-service ticket machine has still not been installed although a poster at the station suggests otherwise. We have alerted GWR.

Cookham

This may apply to Bourne End and Marlow.

Attempts to purchase off-peak tickets in time for the 08:56 Marlow to Maidenhead don't allow a Senior Railcard to be selected. We are pressing GWR for a solution.

Still receiving printed newsletters?

If we have your email address we can send you ad hoc email messages for strikes, engineering works and events of interest.

Email membership@mmpa.org.uk .

Bourne End

There was a minor issue with works carried out in the toilet but no operational issues.

Bourne End - Marlow

The Starbridge and Vineyard No. 2 footpath crossings have been upgraded to open crossings with miniature stop lights.

Marlow

We need a volunteer to serve as Marlow Representative. The duties would be to update our notice board from time to time, and report any defects. It would help if you can print A4 PDF posters and Newsletters.

Taplow

We are concerned about Elizabeth Line trains not stopping at Taplow and other smaller stations to make up time. No information about buses or taxis was provided.

This practice is done to avoid fines for the operator and is unacceptable.

The lifts at Taplow are often out of service.

Chiltern Railways

Network Rail is carrying out major track upgrades at Harbury tunnel between Leamington Spa and Banbury over the weekends of 10/11 and 17/18 September.

Replacement bus services will be provided.

Journeys will take longer and passengers should plan ahead by checking www.nationalrail.co.uk .

Customer Service Numbers

Great Western Railway	0345 700 0125
Passenger Assist	0800 197 1329
Chiltern Railways	0345 600 5165
National Rail Enquiries	0345 748 4950
Arriva Buses	0344 800 4411
Carousel Buses	0149 445 0151
First Berks & TV Buses	0345 646 0707
Thames Valley Buses	0118 973 3486

Adrian Shooter Honoured



A 9' bronze statue of railway pioneer Adrian Shooter has been unveiled at Marylebone station.

Adrian began his career with British Rail in 1970 and is considered one of the leading architects of the modern railway, with the tribute recognising his huge contribution and accomplishments in both the passenger and freight sectors.

He is a fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and of the Chartered Institute of Transport. Adrian has worked at and led maintenance depots throughout the country, managed London St Pancras station and held various senior positions within the industry.

Adrian was the founder of Chiltern Railways and the chairman of and the chairman of DB Regio UK, which later became known as Arriva Rail.

More recently he has been chairman of Vivarail, which is leading the way with battery powered trains, having delivered the UK's first diesel/battery hybrids for Transport for Wales. The company is now working on several battery train projects including, with Great Western Railway, and will be introducing a regular timetabled battery train service on the Greenford branch later this year.

He is also chairman of SLC Rail which has built on the Chiltern track record of building privately funded rail infrastructure.

The statue, which was crowdfunded by current industry leaders and close associates of Adrian was unveiled in front of 100 guests with a keynote speech by ex-Transport Secretary The Rt Hon Lord McLoughlin CH PC and a thank you from Adrian himself. *(Chiltern Railways)*