



Welcome to the December Newsletter.

## New Timetables

The new timetables begin on Sunday 15th December with minor changes only.

## Christmas

There'll be no trains on Christmas Day. On Boxing day Chiltern will run a service between Marylebone and Oxford Parkway calling at principal stations.

There'll be a further blockade at Old Oak Common on 27th to 29th December, meaning no trains between Paddington and Ealing Broadway. Long distance trains will terminate at Reading or Euston, and the Elizabeth Line will operate between Ealing Broadway and Reading.

## Down the Line

### Maidenhead

The new lift and staircase to platforms 2 & 3 were duely opened on 6th September, so within Autumn as promised. Unfortunately a



few days later they were out of action due to the ingress of rain water.

Despite the signage there is no lift from the subway to platform 1.

The lack of proper pick-up / drop-off bays on the forecourt has been a problem since the forecourt was remodelled by the Royal Borough. We continue to press for a solution.

The gap between train and platform, particularly near the country end of platform 3 is a serious problem for anyone with impaired mobility. Along with other organisations we've raised this with Network Rail .

### Furze Platt

We were very sad to hear of the passing of Furze Platt's ticket clerk, Janet Foote. She had been off work since the beginning of July and I'm sure customers at Furze Platt have missed her. GWR said they were training up a new ticket clerk to stand in for absentees but we have yet to see the results.

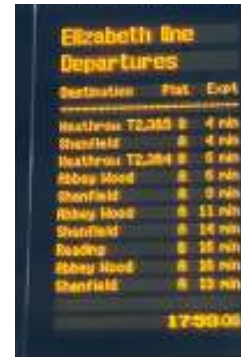
It has to be asked whether the ticket window will ever reopen as more and more customers are switching to contactless and electronic tickets.

### Bourne End

Network Rail has informed us that the remaining bit of jointed track between Cookham and Bourne End will be replaced with continuously welded rail next April, which will require a blockade for 9 days.

### Marlow

We are still looking for a volunteer to maintain the notice board and pick up any useful information. It will be useful if you can print to A4 in colour but we can send hard copy if necessary. Please let us know if you can help.



## Paddington

We've been campaigning to have Elizabeth Line platform A & B departures shown in the main line station. Well done Network Rail!

Remember "A for Abbey, B for Berks".

## New Elizabeth Line Operator

GTS Rail Operations Limited has announced the new operator for the Elizabeth Line.

GTSROL is a joint venture between Go Ahead Group, Tokyo Metro and Sumitomo Corporation. It will take over from MTR Corp. (Crossrail) Ltd. in May 2025 <sup>1</sup>.

## Elizabeth Line 4G Complete

Mobile coverage on the Elizabeth line complete ahead of festive season

TfL and Boldyn Networks have finished work to bring mobile coverage to the entire Elizabeth line, including tunnelled sections in between stations <sup>2</sup>.

## On the Buses

The changeover from Arriva to Carousel went very smoothly. At first, Carousel ran whatever buses they could scrape up, but we now have a smart fleet of refurbished Volvo / WrightBus single deckers. They look new but were in fact delivered to First Glasgow in 2011 hence the '61' registrations. Carousel acquired them from *Explore Dundee*. Thanks to Ian Rivett and others on *LondonsTransport* for the information.

- <https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2024/november/gts-rail-operations-limited-announced-as-new-operator-for-the-elizabeth-line>
- <https://tfl.gov.uk/info-for/media/press-releases/2024/december/mobile-coverage-on-the-elizabeth-line-complete-ahead-of-festive-season>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWf8LkRtgX0>

Timekeeping has improved too, probably because, with more routes to play with, Carousel can allow more recovery time at termini.

We have a Sunday service at last. Due to route variations in the Loudwater / Flackwell Heath area the buses run as 37 on weekdays, 37A on Saturday and 37B on Sunday.

Special times will apply from 24 December to 2nd January. Leaflets are available on buses.

## Last Buses - December 24 &31

36: 1850 from HW, 1930 from Bourne End

37: 1820 from HW to Maidenhead

37A: 1935 from Maidenhead to HW

HW = High Wycombe Bus Station.

## New Marlow Branch Video



There's a new video <sup>3</sup> of the branch by well-known rail vlogger Geoff Marshall with special guest Mark Hopwood CBE.

As well as a bit of the branch's history, you'll get a good idea of how it operates, including the 19th C original GWR token and staff machines for single line working.

And by the way, Mark would like the brass plate off the Marlow - Bourne End staff back. It was apparently nicked when we had an outside ground frame.

