

MARLOW - MAIDENHEAD PASSENGERS' ASSOCIATION

Newsletter 174 May 2017

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



Summer Timetables

The new summer timetables for GWR and Chiltern start on 22nd May. There is an additional morning service from Marlow to fill the previous large gap but at the expense of losing the through trains to Paddington. The new service leaves Marlow at 09.05 and arrives in Maidenhead at 09.28.

There is also the hoped for introduction of the new electric (Electrostar) services, with toilets, from Maidenhead. GWR is planning more electric services will operate from Maidenhead from July. Next January the electric services are expected to be extended to Didcot. Chiltern Railways are planning to eliminate printed timetables in future. Catering services are also being removed from their trains. If this inconveniences you please advise MMPA so we may gather enough objections to enable us to press Chiltern to reverse their decision.

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Taplow Footbridge

We have been advised that removal of the Taplow footbridge for repair is not imminent but is likely to happen later in the summer. It is intended to return the bridge to the station when it has been repaired. We anticipate notice from Network Rail of its removal so that we can let local residents know what is happening and people don't get alarmed when they see that the bridge has been taken away.

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Half-hourly Marlow Service

Some progress has been made on the proposal for modification of the track layout at Bourne End Station to allow the introduction of a half-hourly service from Marlow throughout the day.

GWR have not been able to progress with the survey work yet due to the absence of a formal agreement with Network Rail. They are targetting completion of the agreement by the end of May and the contractor will then be able to book the necessary possessions to undertake the survey work.

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Crossrail

With Class 345 trains for Crossrail now being tested in the U.K. we remind members that we have a number of concerns about the Crossrail project:

- 9-car trains with fewer seats than a 5-car Networker Turbo formation.
- No toilets provided on these trains. We understand that the carriage design does allow for toilets but TfL has no intention of installing them.
- Calling at all stations - alternative fast and semi-fast services must be provided from Maidenhead to Paddington.

MMPA continues to press DfT and Crossrail for the trains to be fitted with toilets. We do not consider such an omission is warranted in the 21st century. Please let MMPA have your thoughts on any of these issues.

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AGM report

The Association Annual General Meeting held in March at the Bourne End Community Centre was well attended and following formal AGM business presentations were made by GWR and Chiltern with support from Crossrail and Network Rail regarding performance over the year and forthcoming plans.

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Penalty Fares Notices and Ticket Machines

MMPA was alarmed at the aggressive wording of penalty fare notices which had been displayed at some stations, threatening penalty fares for passengers who did not purchase a ticket in advance of travel and advising them to go to a staffed station if necessary. The Branch is a paytrain service; booking offices are only open for a few hours in the morning. Only Bourne End has a ticket vending machine but these have been promised for Cookham and Marlow by December. The notices were clearly in breach of the penalty fare regulations and have now been taken down. New portable ticket machines have appeared on the Branch which accept contactless payments.

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End of an Era

Two class 121 vintage DMUs (Diesel Multiple Units), often referred to as 'Bubble Cars', regularly operated by Chiltern Railways in the Princes Risborough area will be withdrawn this month.

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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.

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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.

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