

# **MARLOW - MAIDENHEAD PASSENGERS' ASSOCIATION**

**Newsletter 177 March 2018**

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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 23 March, 2018 7.45 pm at the Bourne End Community Centre.

## **48th Annual General Meeting – Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence:
3. Approval of 2017 AGM Minutes (distributed electronically)
4. Reports
  - Committee (distributed electronically)
  - Accounts for year end 31 December 2017 (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)  
Mike Cooper (High Wycombe Station Rep)  
John Fowler (Taplow Station Rep)  
Martin Coker (Cookham Station Rep)  
Nick Hodder (Marlow Station Rep)  
Nigel Phillips (Bucks County Council liaison)  
Eileen Bune  
Geoff Herbert

We have the capacity for up to 2 more committee members and would welcome the participation of members who might be interested in helping out in this way.

6. Presentations by MTR Crossrail and Great Western Railway
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 23rd 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

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## MMPA website award

Railfuture has given a Silver Award to MMPA in the Best Web Site category of its Rail User Group Awards. The certificate was presented by Railfuture Honorary President, Christian Wolmar, at the recent conference in Leicester. Congratulations to MMPA Webmaster Richard Porter.

## 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 Permit to Travel option appears to longer be in operation.

It is now clear that the original footbridge will not be reinstated at Taplow after repair but is likely to be found a home on a heritage railway.

The plans for the permanent replacement footbridge now include access to platform 1 and the south car park.

## Platform shortage

The introduction of Electrostar electric services raises problems for 8 and 12 car trains calling at stations with short platforms. Travelling in the rear car of a 12 car service disembarking passengers would have to walk through 6 carriages to find an open door at West Ealing or Iver. Talk about Mission Impossible in a crowded train!

Platform length	Station platform availability
12	Paddington, Reading
8	Ealing Broadway, Taplow, Maidenhead, Twyford(except relief UP)
7	Acton ML, Hanwell, Southall, Hayes & Harlington, West Drayton, Langley, Slough, Burnham
6	West Ealing, Iver

## Bourne End upgrade

The land survey at Bourne End to enable track modification to improve Branch services to half-hourly is understood to have been completed. We now await the design and approval to enable construction work to commence.

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## Cookham Station

With the closure of the booking office and waiting room there has been no weather protection for passengers. A temporary Portacabin has been installed for ticket office staff. Repairs to the station building have not yet commenced but Network Rail has advised they expect to complete by the summer.

## Ticket Machines

Despite being promised for installation in December, subsequently put back to February, the ticket machines for Marlow, Cookham and Furze Platt stations have still not been installed.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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. Unfortunately we have no details of the changes yet.

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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).