

MARLOW - MAIDENHEAD PASSENGERS' ASSOCIATION

Newsletter 181 May 2019



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

New GWR timetables

Revised GWR timetables effective from 19 May 2019 are enclosed with this mailing where members have opted in to receive them.

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Membership

Many thanks for your membership subscriptions and continued support. If your sub for 2019 is outstanding a reminder will be enclosed or attached. PayPal subscriptions renew automatically on their anniversaries unless cancelled. If your contact details have changed please let me know at membership@mmpa.org.uk or 23 Switchback Road North, Maidenhead SL6 7UF.

Richard Porter

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MMPA AGM

The AGM was held on 29th March at Bourne End Community Centre. Six guests including Cllr. Sharma from RBWM and representatives from Great Western Railway, Chiltern Railways, MTR Crossrail and Network Rail attended.

The Chairman reported the sad passing of our President, Maurice Oram, since the last meeting.

During the year Mike Cooper, a founder member of the Association, retired from the Committee and Nick Hodder sadly decided not to stand for re-election. The meeting unanimously re-elected the following Committee members en bloc:

John Marsh Chairman, Honorary Treasurer, GWR chief contact and Bourne End station rep.

Nigel Phillips High Wycombe station rep and Chiltern Railways chief contact.

Martin Coker Cookham station rep, Cookham Parish Council rep and Network Rail chief contact Also Branch Working Group co-ordinator.

John Fowler MTR Crossrail chief contact.

Rob Latham Newsletter editor.

Richard Porter Membership Secretary, Web master and Furze Platt station rep.

Geoff Herbert Taplow station rep.

Eileen Bune Cookham Parish Council rep.

The Chairman invited anyone else interested in joining the committee to make him or herself known.

GWR Presentation

- GWR reported an improving punctuality record over the past two periods. Other points included:
- In December 2019 long distance services will be speeded up. GWR are planning to run 4 limited stop services per hour on the fast line from Maidenhead to Paddington.

- The re-modelling of the Maidenhead station forecourt would include a 300 space cycle hub as well as retaining the taxi rank and drop-off area.
- One floor of the Stafferton Way car park (88 spaces) will be reserved for rail passengers from an unspecified date in the future.
- The Bourne End trackwork proposal is close to being approved with agreement by Network Rail, subject to financing, for which £4.1m has so far been committed. Some 3 months thereafter the signalling solution should be finalised.

Network Rail Presentation

- NR have announced that there was to be a short stretch of re-railing adjacent to Furze Platt station scheduled for 17 November. This would involve Sunday closures for a few weeks.
- The signalling token machines would all be replaced in June 2019.
- Since Andrew Haines had been in place as Chairman he had made it very clear that the emphasis of operations should be customer focused and not engineering focused.
- In answer to questions, the idea for a lift to platform 1 at Maidenhead was "not entirely dead".
- The suggested Windsor Link was less likely to happen than the proposed Western Rail Access to Heathrow project.

MTR Crossrail Presentation

- The Crossrail representative addressed various matters relating to Taplow station which had been posed to him prior to the meeting:
- From December 2019 Crossrail plans to operate 4 off-peak and 6 peak services. Journey time would be similar to today.
- Taplow Station would be manned from 15 minutes before the first train until 15 minutes after the last one.
- The ticket hall would be refurbished as well as provision of the new lifts.
- A new entrance adjacent to the new bridge at the London end of the station could be created about 6 months after the bridge opening.
- No new parking spaces were being planned.
- In answer to questions he was unable to comment on the strongly expressed view that the failure to address the lack of parking at the station was "ridiculous". There was increasing congestion on Station Road as a result and if the council were to either introduce charges or

ban parking completely (as it had done on Institute Road) chaos would ensue. A suggestion was made that use could be negotiated at the Bishops' Centre. He undertook to come back to us.

- Similar comments were made as to the situation at Twyford.

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Chiltern Railways Presentation

- High Wycombe was their third busiest station and Beaconsfield was in the top ten.
- New ticket machines had been installed at High Wycombe, one of which being trialled allowed tickets between any two points in the UK to be bought and seat reservations to be made.
- A new waiting room and toilets were being installed on platform 3 but opening times had not yet been finalised.
- The long-standing issue of excessive transfer time on foot between platforms 1 and 3 was being discussed with Network Rail. They were aware it was unacceptable at present.
- Chiltern were trialling battery powered class 165 units.
- At Marylebone they were about to introduce dual-boarding of trains, i.e. two trains in the same platform boarding simultaneously, thus increasing capacity. Earlier announcement of departures would be made in the coming months following numerous complaints.
- They did not expect to join the Oyster system.

Questions from the floor.

- A member complained about the excessive drop between trains and platform 3 at Maidenhead. It was stated that it is not in Network Rail's plans to address this as the whole platform would need changing, which was not in their budgets.
- Was the much desired bus pull-in at Bourne End dead? No, it was still a possibility.
- The dangerous state of platform 1 at Bourne End in wet weather, when lakes formed opposite the doors of the trains, was raised yet again. Mr McGarry was unaware of the problem but would investigate. In the meantime it was suggested that drivers could pull up slightly short of the usual stop point during wet weather so as to avoid the lakes.
- The foot crossing at Globe Park in Marlow was completely unlit and dangerous. GWR would investigate.
- The seemingly random and illogical list of destinations publicised at GWR stations including Taplow, Maidenhead and Windsor was raised. Mr Pierpoint explained that Kingham (where is that someone asked?) which was one of those shown was close to where he lived, which drew laughter from the meeting. Alison Hanscomb was aware of the

issue and said that new posters were being prepared.

- TfL stations will not be able to recognise GWR e-tickets.
- Tony Gammond of Bourne End Station raised the coming 150th Anniversary of the opening of the Marlow branch. He was keen to join a group tasked with arranging some commemoration of the event, though to date he had received no encouragement from GWR.

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Brunel bridge

MMPA reported large quantities of bush growth on the parapet on the south side of the Brunel bridge across the Thames. This has now been cleared by Network Rail.

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Taplow ticket machine

It has been noted that the TfL ticket machine at Taplow is closed and secured when the ticket office staff are not in attendance between 11 pm and 6.30 am. As noted at the AGM MTR Crossrail are planning to open before the first train and close after the last one.

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Cookham Millennium Clock

Efforts to effect a repair of the Millennium clock at Cookham Station are still frustrated by lack of agreement on the method of access. MMPA hopes this will be resolved soon and the clock restored.

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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 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.