

# Marpa

Mid Anglia Rail Passengers' Association  
[www.marpa.org.uk](http://www.marpa.org.uk)

Published by MARPA

Edited by Peter Rutt

Tel: 01359 242464

e-mail: [peterrutt06@aol.com](mailto:peterrutt06@aol.com)

## Spring 2010 Newsletter

Welcome to the spring 2010 newsletter. I had no feedback from the rail industry following my complaints in the last edition – but I have the following observation for NXEA. The 07.47 from Harwich to Cambridge runs to time along its route if it snows or is a school holiday – both factors mean fewer passengers, and therefore I suggest a 2 car unit is the answer to the punctuality problems. It takes a long time to load a single car 153 which is already full and the capacity of these units is too low for peak trains on our line. Still this is a well rehearsed complaint and so is National Express East Anglia's response that there are no other units to hire – and no doubt with the end of the franchise in sight it will be over a year before there is a chance of this being remedied.

I've been contacted by a passenger who relates dreadful experiences of travelling with bike, the worst being a situation where his train home was cancelled at 21.30 and the information screen stated that the train was to be replaced by a bus. A bicycle is not allowed to travel on the bus so he had to get a lift home with his bicycle in the car boot. If he had been unable to have the lift, he would've had to wait 2 hours for the next train – if it had been the last train that was cancelled no doubt he would have been pretty much abandoned.

Ross writes below about his travels on what has become known as the 'slum trains'. Train presentation is important as regards public perception of journey quality and hopefully NXEA will pick up the standard and clean the trains inside and out.

On a brighter note I have travelled on our route up to London many times recently and either I have been very lucky or performance on the main line route is genuinely improving – I believe it is improving so thanks where it is due to NXEA and Network Rail.

**Rolling Stock** – Ross Taylor writes: 'Is it me or has the carriage washer broken at Norwich Crown Point depot? Well yes it has, or sort of. Apparently it has suffered during the recent freezing weather and so the units have not visited. This is the reason given by NXEA as to why some of the units are running around the area in an absolutely awful condition. Whilst it is appreciated that NXEA are short of diesel units at the moment, there is absolutely no excuse for not washing them.'

I have travelled many times in recent months on trains that are so dirty that you cannot see out of the windows. This is not 'winter grime' either as much of it is totally engrained.

I have overheard passengers expressing their disgust as they attempt to peer out of the windows. The NXEA staff on the trains are apologetic, but even they seem to have given up with the operator now that the franchise has just over a year to run.

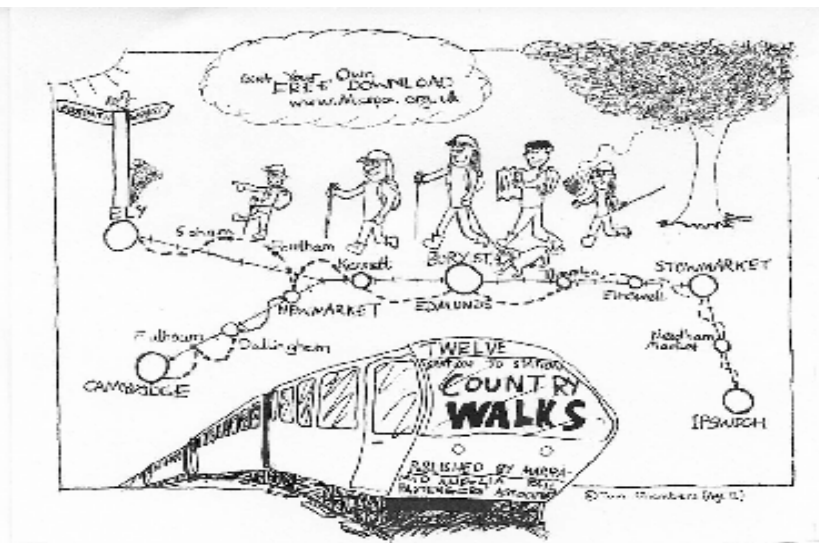
As Secretary of MARPA I have written several times to NXEA on this subject and will continue to do so until something happens.

**MARPA Walks** – MARPA is pleased to announce its twelve 'station to station' country walks. Roger Wolfe, a MARPA member and part of the Ramblers Association, has selected the walks between the various stations along our route through some of the best countryside that Suffolk and East Cambridgeshire has to offer. MARPA has produced a leaflet for each walk that is available to download from our website [www.marpa.org.uk](http://www.marpa.org.uk) and it can then be printed.

Roger will be leading rambles along all twelve of the walks during 2010 starting with Ipswich to Needham Market on Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup> starting from the front of Ipswich station at 9.15 a.m. For more information you can contact Roger on 01473 726649 or email [rdandaswolfe.2@btinternet.com](mailto:rdandaswolfe.2@btinternet.com)

MARPA wishes to express its thanks to Roger who has selected, surveyed, walked and drawn the walks and to Lloyd Butler who has designed the leaflets and uploaded them onto the web site. Thanks gentlemen we appreciate the time and effort involved.

You are invited to join any of the walks led by Roger Wolfe on behalf of MARPA.



### Mid Anglia Line 'Station to Station' walks 2010

You are invited to join any of the walks led by Ramblers' volunteer Roger Wolfe on behalf of the Mid Anglia Rail Passengers' Association (MARPA). For more information contact 01473 726649 or email: [rdandaswolfe.2@btinternet.com](mailto:rdandaswolfe.2@btinternet.com)

<b>Sat 10 April</b>	<b>Ipswich – Needham Market</b>	11½ mls*	Walk starts Ipswich rail station forecourt 9.15, via Churchman Way and Gipping Valley River Path.
<b>Sat 24 April</b>	<b>Needham Market – Stowmarket</b>	6½ mls	Walk starts Needham Market Station Yard 9.30 via Gipping Valley, Badley and Combs Wood nature reserves.
<b>Sat 7 May</b>	<b>Stowmarket – Elmswell</b>	7 mls	Walk starts Stowmarket rail station forecourt 9.50 via Dagworth and Haughley
<b>Sat 22 May</b>	<b>Elmswell – Thurston</b>	7¾ mls	Walk starts Elmswell station 9.45 via Norton Wood and part of Grove Farm nature reserve.
<b>Sat 12 June</b>	<b>Thurston – Bury St Edmunds</b>	7½ mls	Walk starts Thurston station 9.50 via Rougham and Rushbrooke.
<b>Sat 19 June</b>	<b>Kennett – Bury St Edmunds</b>	18½ mls*	Walk starts Kennett station 7.15 via part of Icknield Way Path, Barrow and Ickworth Park
<b>Sat 26 June</b>	<b>Kennett – Newmarket</b>	10¾ mls	Walk starts Kennett station 10.15 via Chippenham and Snailwell.
<b>Sat 10 July</b>	<b>Dullingham – Newmarket</b>	7 mls	Walk starts Dullingham station 9.20 via Stetchworth and Devil's Dyke
<b>Sat 24 July</b>	<b>Dullingham – Fulbourn</b>	12½ mls	Walk starts Dullingham station 9.20 via part of Icknield Way Path, Fleam Dyke and Fulbourn Fen reserve.
<b>Sat 31 July</b>	<b>Fulbourn – Cambridge</b>	8½ mls	Walk starts Fulbourn Post Office 10.25 via Roman Road and Wandlebury Country Park
<b>Sat 14 Aug</b>	<b>Newmarket – Soham</b>	11 mls*	Walk starts from Newmarket rail station 9.15 via Chippenham Fen National Nature Reserve and Fortham
<b>Sat Aug 21</b>	<b>Soham – Ely</b>	6½ mls	Walk starts Soham Ment (near parish church) 10.00 via Soham village trail, Soham Lode and River Ouse.

Total 115 miles (\*possible shorter options using local buses)

- Make your own arrangements for getting to and from start and finishing points.
- Essential to check travel arrangements and start times with leader before each walk.
- Bring refreshments and plenty of drink. Comfortable footwear essential.
- Well behaved dogs and children OK, but must be under close control of responsible adult.
- No liability accepted by MARPA or walk leader – all come at own risk.

**Greater Anglia Franchise** – MARPA is heavily involved in the consultation in the lead-up to this new franchise which is due to commence in April 2011. In discussions with other Rail User Groups and our colleagues at Railfuture and Passenger Focus we have just submitted our comments and recommendations by the deadline of 19 April and we will update members formally at our AGM on 17<sup>th</sup> April.

Our submission on the local requirements for the franchise, in addition to what we already have, included;

- An hourly service between Ipswich/Colchester and Peterborough
- A minimum of two carriage units on all Ipswich to Cambridge services.
- Enhanced services/capacity when there are race days at Newmarket.
- Enhanced services/capacity during the Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre.
- Improvements to the station and car park at Newmarket.
- Connection improvements at Stowmarket when travelling between Norwich and Bury St Edmunds
- Connection improvements at Cambridge/Ely when travelling to and from King's Lynn.

**MARPA AGM** – This year's AGM will take place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2010 commencing at 2.00 p.m. in the Friends Meeting House, St John's Street, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1SJ. We are delighted to announce that this year we have two guest speakers; Andrew Munden who is Network Rail's Route Director, Anglia, who will be talking to us about developments in the infrastructure within our area and Linda McCord from Passenger Focus who will be updating us, amongst other things, on the progress of the submissions etc for the new Greater Anglia Franchise.

Please put this date in your diary now and if you can print out the last page and use it as a poster in your local library that would be much appreciated

### **Contacting MARPA**

If you have any ideas or issues you think we should be aware of, please contact the Hon. Secretary on 01284 703308 (between 7 and 8.30 pm if possible) or e-mail him on [secretary@marpa.org.uk](mailto:secretary@marpa.org.uk)

### **MARPA Website**

The website is now live at [www.marpa.org.uk](http://www.marpa.org.uk), the website contains information on our local stations, timetable information and details of walks that start and finish at stations on the Ipswich to Cambridge line.

### **National Rail Timetable**

The Network Rail National Rail Timetable can be found at <http://www.networkrail.co.uk/asp/3828.aspx>. The National Rail Enquiries telephone number is 08457 48 49 50

### **National Express website**

The NX website is [www.nationalexpresseastanglia.com](http://www.nationalexpresseastanglia.com) and can be used to plan local journeys and provide journey check information.

### **MARPA Membership Rates**

Membership rates are Adult - £4.00; Family (2 adults and up to 3 children at the same address) - £5.00. Concessions - £3.00 (Student, over 60 or UB40)

Cheques made payable to 'Mid Anglia Rail Passengers Association' and send to:-

Ann Henderson, 48 High Street, Ixworth, Bury St Edmunds, IP31 2HJ  
Telephone: 01359 230139

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Mid Anglia Rail Passengers' Association

Notice of

# Annual General Meeting

In the Meeting Room  
at Friends Meeting House, St John's Street, Bury St  
Edmunds, IP33 1SJ

**on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2010  
at 2.00 p.m.**

Guest Speakers;

**Andrew Munden**, Route Director, Anglia from  
Network Rail  
and

**Linda McCord** from 'Passenger Focus'

*"Come along and find out what is happening with rail and  
connected bus services in your area"*