

Marpa

Mid Anglia Rail Passengers' Association
www.marpa.org.uk

Published by MARPA
Edited by Peter Rutt
peterrutt06@aol.com

Spring 2016 Newsletter

Welcome to the spring newsletter. This edition brings you good news on improvements that have taken place at Newmarket, and improvements that are ongoing at Bury St Edmunds, Stowmarket and Ipswich.

AGM

The AGM takes place at 2.00pm in the Friends Meeting House in St Johns Street Bury St Edmunds on Saturday 16th April. Please do come and meet other people with an interest in our line. Refreshments will be available.

There will be a talk from a guest speaker

Do come along, all are welcome and it is good to put faces to names and to meet new people. There is usually an attendance of over 20 and FREE refreshments are available.



Newmarket Station

Abellio Greater Anglia with partners including Jockey Club Estates, Tattersalls and councils have invested £100,000 in passenger facilities at Newmarket. Rt. Hon Matthew Hancock, MP for West Suffolk formally opened the revamped station on Friday 5th February.

The new facilities include a digital LED Customer Information screen, new timber benches, waiting shelters and cycle parking. Station signs are renewed with the investing partnership promoted on the signs. A card only ticket issuing machine has been installed, platform surfaces deep cleaned and platform edge repainted.

An Abellio Greater Anglia Spokesperson called the upgrade 'a significant upgrade to Newmarket station, improving passenger facilities and creating a more pleasant environment for our customers' Matthew Hancock says 'it is great news that commuters are set to benefit from the £100k fund to make Newmarket railway station more accessible to those that use it'



The group of dignitaries and supporters at the Newmarket ceremony. Photo © Chris Burton

Other station works

Works are currently taking place at Kennett, Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket. It is really good to see investment in these stations but at Bury and Stowmarket we have had comments that temporary toilets have not been provided for passengers whilst the existing toilets are refurbished. Station toilet facilities are pretty vital for many travellers, especially when there can be a long wait for trains whilst changing at intermediate stations. It didn't need much to think about passenger needs during the building works.

Extra trains for sporting events

We understand that additional trains are to be provided between Newmarket and Cambridge for the Guineas meeting on 1st May. This is great news as we have long been asking for someone in the train planning department to look at major events. A good start that we hope is taken forward into the new franchise

Franchise Change

There is a dearth of information and news at the moment. I believe this is due to the franchise change coming up later this year in October. Apologies for this but I hope the pace will pick up for the autumn newsletter.

Dullingham Station Garden

Our committee member Ben is station adopter for Dullingham. In his work to keep the station attractive to passengers he has planted some tubs of daffodils. Good work Ben!



MARPA Membership

The membership of MARPA is from 1st August to 31st July each year. If you have **NOT** renewed for the year 2015-16 please do so now! Currently MARPA does not have the IT capability to send reminders to each and every member when the subscriptions are due other than to issue reminders in this Newsletter. Your membership is valued by us and the subscription is vital if we

are to continue to campaign in support of issues that members feel strongly about in relation to our local rail routes etc.

Annual Membership Subscription Rates:

Adult - £5.00

Family/Joint - £6.00

Concession - £4.00

(Student / Senior / Unwaged / Disabled)

Please renew your 2015/ 2016 subscription by getting in touch with our Membership Secretary (Peter Rutt 01359 242464). His address is:-

MARPA (Membership)

c/o Well House, The Street, Elmswell, Bury St Edmunds, IP30 9BS

Please make your cheque payable to 'Mid Anglia Rail Passengers Association'.

WEB SITE REMINDER

A further reminder to visit/use our website www.marpa.org.uk



The 'Visit the Brecks' liveried 170 unit passes Elmswell, 18th March 2016