

Marpa

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

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Edited by Peter Rutt
peterrutt06@aol.com

Summer 2021 Newsletter

Dear MARPA member.

This is an interim newsletter pending further news regarding our possible AGM later this year.

MARPA is primarily here to campaign for better service and services along our line of route. To that end is there anything that you, our members would like us to bring up with Greater Anglia in our meetings with GA management?

BANK ACCOUNT

At long last we have a new bank account which will allow direct payment of subscriptions via BACS. In order to pay direct into our account please use

Sort Code 52-30-31

Account number 49892002

PLEASE PLEASE give your name and add 'SUBS' when you make the payment, that will really help me keep a grip on operating an internet-based account! I can still take cheques but many have asked if MARPA was able to take online payments and yes, we can!

175 YEARS OF THE IPSWICH – BURY St EDMUNDS LINE

Thank you to everyone who passed me their memories of the 150th celebrations. It seems that it was a great event with many MARPA members riding the steam special train. I was surprised and delighted to see that there **IS** going to be a special train this year, in fact several steam specials running between Bury St Edmunds and Colchester on 14th and 15th August. Needless to say, they are not 'cheap' but the organiser is 'Steam Dreams' and their website has all the details. I have booked a trip and will report on it later this year. What we need though is for a damp July and August to keep the fire risk down as that seems to be a steam locomotives Achilles heel on the modern railway.

'SWITCH IT OFF' INITIATIVE

Greater Anglia and Network Rail recently launched a very timely campaign aimed at encouraging drivers to switch off their engines whilst waiting at level crossings. The launch was timed to coincide with the annual Clean Air Day on Thursday 17 June 2021. There is further information on the initiative on the Network Rail website - <http://www.networkrail.co.uk/switchitoffatlevelcrossings>.

The industry's approach in the campaign is to use social media to help "nudge" drivers towards doing the socially responsible - and of course, *legal* (section 42 of the Road Traffic Act 1988) - thing when stopped at a crossing.

With road traffic levels back to, and frequently now exceeding, pre-COVID levels, it is good to see the railway industry acknowledging that road traffic at level crossings has an appreciable impact on local air quality in terms of harmful emissions and doing something about it. Residents of both Elmswell and Stowmarket won't need to be reminded of that impact.

If any Newsletter readers would like a rear window "Switch it off" sticker to serve as a reminder to other road users, please contact Peter Rutt who as editor who can arrange postal dispatch.

Elsewhere in the region much of the work locally is being sustained by the relevant Community Rail Partnerships. Of course, the route we in MARPA support has no such infrastructure, despite the lobbying MARPA and other groups have carried out over recent years. This seems yet another instance where users of the Mid Anglia route continue to be disadvantaged. The fight for a CRP goes on!

Encouraging and Enabling Modal Shift, Webinar, 23/6/2021.

Ben Walsh attended to this webinar, and reports that it was very good.

The webinar attendees had a talk by Richard Walker, a visiting research fellow from an organisation called 'DecarboN8', who were interested in getting reduction of carbon from the atmosphere.

Jools Townsend, Chief Executive of Community Rail Network, then spoke, followed by Professor Paul Salvesson, Chairman of the South East Lincs CRP.

Ben hopes that it might add up to more co-ordination between buses and trains.

NOTE: Ben sent me a series of 'screengrabs' of the slides, I cannot attach them as they are too large in terms of megabytes. But if you are interested, please contact me and I can forward them.

STEAM RAILWAYS MAGAZINE

I have been contacted by someone who is not a MARPA member but who wishes to sell his collection of 'Steam Railways' magazines to a fellow enthusiast. He has a full set for 10 years from June 2002 to December 2012. He is asking £1 a per copy and would really like to sell them as a complete set or at least in 5 year bundles. He has 120 copies in total.

The seller is Mr Ron Mather who can be contacted on 01284 765501.

MARPA Membership

The membership of MARPA is from 1st January to 31st December each year. If you have **NOT** renewed for the year 2021 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

MARPA Newsletter

Family/Joint - £6.00

Concession - £4.00

(Student / Senior / Unwaged / Disabled)

Please renew your 2021 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'. OR PAY ONLINE AS ABOVE

WEB SITE REMINDER

Please visit/use our website www.marpa.org.uk