

Marpa

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

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Spring 2015 Newsletter

In the autumn MARPA held a committee meeting in Newmarket. It is to my shame that this was only the 2nd time I have spent time in Newmarket and I was surprised how attractive the town is. The problem for me and I suspect quite a few others is that the A14 bypasses the town and the railway approach is particularly dull. The station is not remotely attractive in the way of Bury St Edmunds or even Stowmarket. Having ventured out of the station there are wide pleasant roads leading to the town centre. MARPA met at the national Horseracing Museum in the High Street. I have no interest in horseracing but I found the museum interesting from a social history viewpoint. There are however exciting developments afoot in Newmarket with the redevelopment of this museum. It is set to expand into a major national museum and be renamed as the National Heritage Centre for Horseracing and Sporting Art. It will be built around the stables incorporating the last remnants of Charles 2nd's racing palace and live racehorses will be stabled. It will open sometime in 2016 and be well signposted from the station.

Mobile technology

I commented in the last newsletter about 3G coverage being poor outside of the major centres, however now I get 3G around Elmswell station, which is useful in finding information from the live trains website as there is still no passenger information screen at the station.

Committee Members

We STILL desperately need new committee members – and we need a treasurer from the AGM in April.

Emails

I emailed all MARPA members for whom I have an email address giving the opportunity to give feedback and comment on the new franchise. I didn't receive any responses but I hope the opportunity was appreciated. I won't abuse the emails, I don't want to be placed on anybody's spam list but opportunity to contact the membership by email is useful when we have limited time to respond and it ensures that all members can provide input to requests for feedback.

AGM

The AGM takes place at 2.00 in the Friends Meeting House in St Johns Street Bury St Edmunds on Saturday 18th April. Please do come and meet other people with an interest in our line.

Refreshments will be available.

There will be a talk from Alison Plumridge of Smiths Row Gallery on the proposed development at Bury St Edmunds station.

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 refreshments are available.

Please note that there are bus replacement services on our line between Cambridge and Dullingham on that day. There are also engineering works in the Ely area. It might be worth a check to see if your train is affected.



Bury St Edmunds stationmasters House

Smiths Row Gallery in Bury St Edmunds has announced that it is working in partnership with its local rail operator on a major new gallery space at Bury St Edmunds Railway Station. This will include a platform level Gallery, live/work residency space for UK and international artists, studios community space with gardens and lots more. The partnership project neatly reflects the rail industry's support for visual artists over the past 100 years' as well as our shared concerns in tackling social exclusion.

Arts Council England are generously funding the feasibility study and other partner organisations are supporting it with substantial financial investment.

MARPA Membership

The membership of MARPA is from 1st August to 31st July each year. If you have **NOT** renewed for the year 2014-15 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 2014/ 2015 subscription by getting in touch with our Membership Secretary (Ann Henderson 01359 230139). Her address is:-

MARPA (Membership)

c/o 48 High Street,

Ixworth, Bury St Edmunds, IP31 2HJ

Please note Ann retires from the committee at the AGM. We thank Ann for her years of service to MARPA for which we are very grateful

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

