

Marpa

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

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

Spring 2018 Newsletter

Welcome to the spring newsletter. I write this as the 'Beast from East' is still fresh in many people's minds. How was it for you? I tried to monitor how the service was using 'Real Time Trains' which implied many services were on time, I'm not sure that was correct. Indeed, Simon Calder from the Independent was interviewed on the BBC Radio 4 'PM' programme and he referred to the Trans-Siberian Railway running normally whilst the 'Trans-Suffolk' railway was not. That may have been journalistic licence but the feeling was Suffolk travel was very difficult. Many thanks to Peter Feeney for contributing the 'footfall' article, any submissions are always gratefully received.

AGM

The AGM takes place at 2.00pm in the Friends Meeting House in St Johns Street Bury St Edmunds on Saturday 21st April. Please do come and meet other people with an interest in our line. Refreshments will be available.

There will be a talk from Paul Webster, Operations Director (South) of ACORP on Community Rail Partnerships, relevant to us as the Ipswich to Cambridge line is a possible future Community Rail Partnership.

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.



Latest official data on passenger numbers in East Anglia

The table below offers a useful snapshot of volumes of passengers using the stations on the routes where MARPA has a direct interest. This footfall data is taken from the statistics produced annually by the Office of Rail & Road (ORR). The data is not available broken down by route or service – so for the larger stations in the table, the aggregated figures on their own do not say anything directly about volumes of passengers using the Ipswich – Cambridge or Ipswich – Peterborough services. A better indicator of passenger numbers on the two services is provided by the data for the smaller stations.

Whilst the actual volumes are interesting – well over 11 million passengers using Cambridge station in 2016/17, for instance – the trends captured in the two final columns are probably more useful, since they show the extent to which passenger numbers using particular stations are growing over time. So to take the example of Dullingham, the data shows a 47% increase in passengers over the five years between 2012 and 2017, but a drop in numbers of nearly 12% between 2016 and 2017. Against a five year average growth across all East Anglian stations of 22.4%, five intermediate stations on the Ipswich – Cambridge route have exceeded that average whilst only one, Elmswell, has figures suggesting very minimal overall growth. In the final column, the figures in red indicate a fall in passenger numbers between 2016 and 2017 at three stations, statistically insignificant in the case of Stowmarket, perhaps less insignificant at Dullingham and Thurston.

Like all relatively complex information, the data begs a host of questions. But just using the data for the six smaller stations on this route – excluding Bury and Stowmarket as well as Cambridge and Ipswich – the overall 5 year uplift is 40%. So it is reasonable to argue that the trends, often linked to substantial and ongoing new housing developments at many points along the route, point to a need for a more frequent service serving passengers using this key corridor. And with the prospect of East – West Rail now on the horizon, the case for more trains linking Ipswich and Cambridge has surely never been stronger.

STATION USAGE STATISTICS - MARPA ROUTES

2017 % changes from

STATION	YEAR TO 31.3.2012	YEAR TO 31.3.2016	YEAR TO 31.3.2017	2012	2016
CAMBRIDGE	8,823,236	10,954,212	11,424,902	29.5	4.3
DULLINGHAM	27,464	45,812	40,376	47	11.9
NEWMARKET	233,234	324,592	363,784	56	12.1
KENNETT	20,238	35,692	37,150	83.6	4.1
BURY ST EDMUNDS	490,154	603,518	633,362	29.2	4.9
THURSTON	53,932	71,930	69,258	28.4	3.7
ELMSWELL	68,810	71,498	71,566	4	0.1
STOWMARKET	884,962	956,202	951,396	7.5	0.5
NEEDHAM MARKET	77,554	88,242	91,706	18.2	3.9
IPSWICH	3,159,348	3,284,934	3,342,366	5.8	1.7
ELY	1,824,036	2,131,818	2,209,350	21.1	3.6
ALL EAST ANGLIAN STATIONS	57,237,564	67,086,090	70,041,064	22.4	4.4



A Class 170 departs Elmswell for Ipswich

‘Mind The Gap’ at Bury St Edmunds Station

Following on from the exhibition ‘Mind the Gap’ at Moyses Hall Museum in Bury, some of the information boards are now in place on the Cambridge bound platform in Bury. They smarten up the platform environment and I have been contacted by a couple of MARPA members who have found them both interesting and informative.

GDPR Regulations

I have received a few responses to my email about MARPA’s compliance with the GDPR Regulations which are enforceable from May. Your data that I hold is limited to names addresses and email addresses. I have a modern PC that is password protected and I have a subscription to anti-virus software. I therefore believe that I have complied with the intention of the regulations. If anyone wishes to use the ‘right to be forgotten’ then please contact me and I will delete you from my spreadsheet.

MARPA Membership

The membership of MARPA is from 1st January to 31st December each year. If you have **NOT** renewed for the year 2018 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 2018 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

Parting Shot

A view from my drone of Haughley Junction in February 2018. The steam is Oliver Cromwell heading towards Norwich and you can make out the Cambridge – Ipswich service on our line awaiting the road across the junction. The industrial site where for many years the grain silo stood is now a precast concrete products factory.

