



West
Midlands
Trains

PROUD • REAL • OPEN • SIMPLE

December 2022



On Track

Timetable change • My Mummy is a Train Driver • White Ribbon Day



New timetables

All change from December 11



Timetables will change across the West Midlands Trains network from Sunday 11 December.

Frequencies on some routes will change, with the most significant changes on the London Northwestern Railway network for services to and from Euston.

The new timetable will see a complete retiming of trains on the south end of the West Coast Main Line, including the introduction of a half-hourly direct service between Birmingham-Northampton-London Euston.

Stakeholders had the chance to meet with our Planning Team in November to discuss the new timetable and ask questions, as well as share their priorities for future timetable changes.

Detailed information on how the changes affect you are available at www.wmr.uk/december and www.lnr.uk/december

Welcome

Monthly news update from WMT

Welcome to this edition of *On Track* - your monthly news update from West Midlands Trains.

West Midlands Trains runs services under the West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway brands, connecting communities across the country.

Through this newsletter we aim to bring you up to date with all the latest developments across our network, including timetable changes, station developments and any major planned engineering projects, as well as our projects to support our local communities.

If you have any questions about our business, please do not hesitate to get in contact using the details on the final page of this newsletter.

From January 2023 this newsletter will arrive in a new and improved format from a different email address. If you have any issues receiving the newsletter, or any comments on what you would like to see included, please contact liam.bolland@wmtrains.co.uk



White Ribbon Day

Protecting women and girls



West Midlands Trains took a leading role in the rail industry's support for White Ribbon Day.

Events took place across the national rail network on Friday 25 November to raise awareness of the campaign to end violence against women and girls.

In the West Midlands, West Midlands Railway teamed up with the Heart of England Community Rail Partnership to commission local artist Emily Pettitt to draw special artwork on the windows of one of our trains between Leamington Spa and Nuneaton.

As well as partners from the Community Rail Network and WMRE, passengers were invited to add their own white ribbons to the sketches (above).

Elsewhere, a London Northwestern Railway service was given a new look for a high-profile photocall with industry partners and the White Ribbon charity at London Euston (below).



Marston Vale Line

Trains temporarily suspended



Train services on the Marston Vale Line have been temporarily suspended after Vivarail, the company which maintains the fleet, entered administration.

A rail replacement service will be in operation on the route between Bedford and Bletchley until further notice while alternative arrangements are considered.

John Doughty, LNR engineering director, said: "I apologise to customers impacted by the temporary suspension of the service on the Marston Vale Line.

"Following the news that Vivarail is to enter administration, we have been left with no alternative but to pause the service as we can no longer guarantee the required level of maintenance for the trains on the route will be available.

"We are working hard to find a solution which will enable us to return a train service to the line as soon as possible and we will keep our passengers updated."

Diversity leaders

Recognition for company

West Midlands Trains has been named one of the top employers in the country for diversity.

The Financial Times study was compiled through online staff surveys with 850 companies receiving the highest total scores made the final list of Diversity Leaders.

Over 300,000 evaluations were made with participants asked to score how their employer promotes diversity as well as giving their opinion on other companies.

WMT was named in the top 10 transportation employers in the list and in the top 350 companies overall.

Police partnership

Extra patrols on Chase Line



West Midlands Railway and British Transport Police are stepping up presence on the Chase Line following an increase in serious anti-social behaviour.

Police officers working both covertly and overtly are being deployed on the route between Rugeley and Birmingham, via Walsall. Patrols are being supported by revenue and security officers from WMR.

WMR is also working closely with Network Rail, local authorities, the police, and Rt Hon Amanda Milling MP to help tackle ASB on the rail network.

Perry Barr praise

Nomination for new station



West Midlands Railway station Perry Barr has been nominated for an excellence award.

The station has welcomed more than 40,000 passengers since it opened its doors six months ago ahead of the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

Now the landmark site has been nominated for the Rail Business Awards "Infrastructure Project and Station Excellence" award, with winners announced in February.



Reliability Award

Class 350/2 trains commended



A London Northwestern Railway fleet has been hailed for its reliability at a prestigious industry awards ceremony.

The Class 350/2 fleet, which operates on services to and from London Euston, picked up the "Golden Spanner" at the event, organised by Modern Railways.

John Doughty, LNR engineering director, said: "I am delighted our Class 350 fleet has won the Golden Spanner for the most reliable train in its category.

"I'd like to pass my thanks to colleagues in LNR, WMR as well as Siemens and Porterbrook who have helped achieve this prestigious award."

Tamworth works

Car park lighting upgrade

Upgraded lighting will be installed on the upper car parking deck at Tamworth station this month.

To allow the work to be carried out, car parking capacity at the station will be reduced by around 30 spaces from Friday 16 December until mid-January.

Disability event

New Street goes purple



West Midlands Trains is joining with Network Rail to celebrate the economic contribution of millions of disabled employees around the world.

Birmingham New Street will be lit purple on Saturday 3 December as part of the #PurpleLightUp campaign.

Young adults with different abilities will be putting on a performance in the station and engaging with the public in a bid to help shift perceptions of disability.

'Rail Star' hailed

Jen's heroic actions



West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway are celebrating the unsung heroes of the network through our #RailStars initiative.

Whilst Jen, business planning manager, was volunteering at The Hawthorns, she looked after a woman who injured her leg at the station.

Jen was very attentive in looking after the woman and her husband, calling 999 and deciding on the best course of action for their safety.



Santa Train

Family fun on the Abbey Line



The "Santa Train" will return to the Abbey Line in Hertfordshire on Sunday 11 December.

The festive special services will include live music and a range of children's activities.

Train tickets can be used all day on the Abbey Line, and there will be two Santa Trains from different locations. The first will start at St Albans at 11.42, and the second will start at Watford Junction at 13.07.

For more information on timings, activities and how to purchase tickets, click [here](#).

Industrial action

Strikes to impact services

Industrial action by the RMT union will impact West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway services in December and January.

If the strike action goes ahead, a reduced timetable will be in operation on all routes between Tuesday 13 December and Saturday 17 December inclusive.

Further action in the New Year will see a reduced timetable on all routes between Tuesday 3 January Saturday 7 January inclusive.

Passengers are advised not to travel on these dates unless necessary as some routes will have no service and trains which do run may be very busy.

Up to date information on the impact of industrial action is available at www.wmr.uk/industrialaction and www.lnr.uk/industrialaction



Remembrance

Events held across network



West Midlands Trains partnered with military veterans as part of events across the network marking Remembrance Day.

Under the “Routes of Remembrance” scheme, WMT transported two wreaths to London on behalf of ARC MK – a service which helps people break a cycle of substance addiction.

The wreaths were transported on board a London Northwestern Railway service from Milton Keynes to London Euston on Friday 11 November.

They were laid at a memorial in London ahead of the national two-minute silence at 11am. Veterans Michael Potter, David Jones and Paul Dunkley handed the wreaths over to the WMT station team at Milton Keynes who transported them to London.

“Routes of Remembrance” was established by The Veterans Charity in 2020 to help veterans who were unable to travel to London to take part in national ceremonies due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Book launch

“My Mummy is a Train Driver”



A brand-new children’s book aimed at tackling stereotypes in the rail industry was launched at West Midlands Railway’s Wolverhampton station.

The station welcomed rail industry representatives and local school children to launch ‘My Mummy is a Train Driver’, the latest in a series of children’s books aimed at promoting diversity and inclusion.

WMT joined with partners across the rail industry to co-fund the book – and one of the company’s own drivers offered her insights on life in the driver’s cab during its creation.

Co-author Jason Bryan, who attended the launch, said: “Like many sectors, the rail industry can sometimes face misconceptions that some jobs are not suited for certain people.

“In reality the industry has done an awful lot to improve diversity and inclusion through various initiatives and this book aims to inspire young children and anyone who reads it to consider a future career in rail.”

Jo MacPhail, HR director at WMT, said: “It was a pleasure to host this launch event because it is so important to highlight diversity and promote inclusion in the industry – something this book captures perfectly.”

To order a copy, click [here](#).



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