



# On Track

Annual Conference • Wellington Garden • Wolverhampton Mural

## Secret Garden

At Wellington station



The Friends of Wellington Station group secured a CCIF grant to develop a Secret Garden at the side of Platform 3 and the space is now a welcome haven for wildlife as well as providing a 'green sanctuary' for visitors and passengers.

The Secret Garden includes bee and bird-friendly wildflowers and plants, a bug hotel and butterfly feeding station, as well as seats and information about walking routes around Wellington.

The garden was financed as part of a project called Wellington Ways, which has also seen new signage to promote walking and cycling routes from the station around the town and local area.

For information on other WMR CCIF schemes  
[www.communitystories.co.uk](http://www.communitystories.co.uk)

West Midlands Trains **On Track**

## 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.

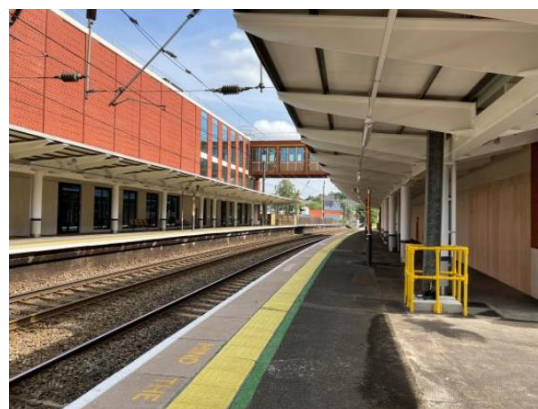
Through this newsletter we aim to bring you up to date with all the latest developments across our network, including timetable changes, station developments and any major planned engineering projects.

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.



# University station

New opening date

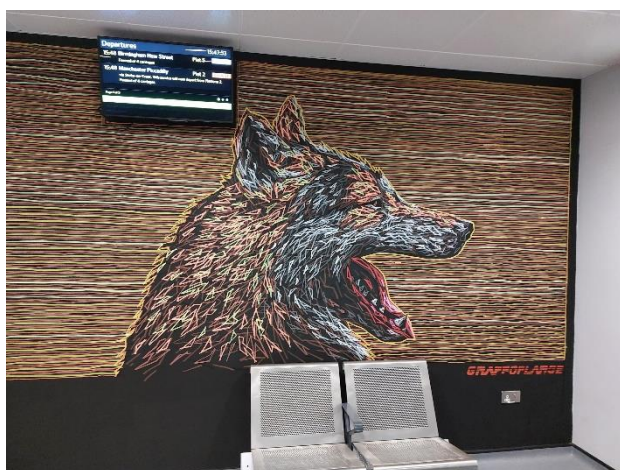


Work is progressing on the new University station. Following the widening of the platforms at the station ahead of the Commonwealth Games, building work is continuing on the site.

The project is being led by West Midlands Rail Executive and the expected opening date is spring 2023.

# Wolverhampton station

Art mural



Wolverhampton Business Improvement District Company are pleased to have 'adopted' Wolverhampton Train Station and are excited to play a part in bringing a sense of pride, recognition of its locality and city centre destination and injecting some colour and vibrancy into our new iconic station building.

The walls of the brand-new station waiting room and customer lounge provide a blank canvas waiting for the right artist to present a warm welcome to all visitors to the train station and inject an inviting sense of what Wolverhampton has to offer.

# Annual Conference

Message from Ian



Ahead of the annual stakeholder conference, which takes place this month on Monday 10 October. West Midlands Trains' managing director Ian McConnell delivered the following [message](#).

The conference will be hosted at Symphony Hall, Birmingham B1 2EA. There is still time to RSVP ahead of 10 October. There are a few spaces available.



# Station Adoption

## Students benefit

The development of an Educational Qualification (City & Guilds Level One) will benefit students at Woodrush High School and launches this term.

The work to create this unique programme has been undertaken over the past two years by the Head of Humanities at the school, Friends of the Shakespeare Line and the Station Manager who supported the development of the students and their involvement in the community works at Wythall station.

We are working with the school and volunteers to progress this 'national first' that will be shared with other schools across the UK.

## Girl Guides

### Sensory garden in Stone



A new sensory garden supporting mental health, wellbeing and education has been set up by 600 girl guides in Staffordshire thanks to funding from London Northwestern Railway.

Designed during Girlguiding Staffordshire's International Camp, Unity 2022, the wellbeing and sensory garden can be used as relaxation zone at Kibblestone Campsite, near Stone.

The garden is a haven for people to learn the benefits of and how to look after herbs and plants that thrive in the UK.

Hundreds of girls across Staffordshire and the UK aged over 10 took part at the camp earlier this month.

The initiative was made possible thanks to a grant from London Northwestern Railway's "Your Community, Your Fund" scheme. The funding is provided by the Department for Transport (DfT) and allocated by LNR and sister company West Midlands Railway to projects across the network.

The Kibblestone project is designed to develop new community connections and programmes, have a positive impact at stations and contribute to the recovery of passenger numbers on the railways.

For more information about 'Your Community, Your Fund', visit [Your Community, Your Fund. | LNR | London Northwestern Railway](#)

## Trent Valley line

### October blockade reminder

Rail passengers are being advised of changes to journeys over nine days in October during major Trent Valley line upgrade work.

Network Rail will replace 1000 metres of track in Nuneaton and install new signalling equipment in Stafford between Saturday 22 and Sunday 30 October.

- **London Northwestern Railway:** Crewe – London Euston services will run between Rugby – London Euston only. Buses replace trains between Rugby and Stafford. Passengers are advised to use alternative services between Stafford and Crewe.
- **West Midlands Railway:** Buses replace trains between Hednesford and Rugeley Trent Valley as well as between Bermuda Park and Nuneaton





# Rail Unites

## For inclusion

During National Inclusion Week, WMT colleagues were invited to join a panel event session.

The session was hosted by individuals industry wide who discussed a range of topics. The full panel event - with a shared passion to make rail more inclusive - can be viewed [here](#).

# Kevin Foster

## New rail minister

Kevin Foster, MP for Torbay, has been announced as the new minister of state for transport.

Kevin Foster takes over from Wendy Morton, who was rail minister for seven months.

# Industrial Action

## Latest updates

Passengers were urged to plan ahead of three days of industrial action in October.

Members of the ASLEF, RMT and TSSA unions announced their intention to stage industrial action on Saturday 1 October. ASLEF members announced their intention to stage action on Wednesday 5 October and RMT members Saturday 8 October.

As a result, there was no WMR service on any route on Saturday 1 October and Wednesday 5 October.

WMR ran a significantly reduced service from 7.30am to 6.30pm on Saturday 8 October.

# 196 Fleet

## Internal event



Preparation is ongoing for the launch of the new 196 fleet – which was postponed due to the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Over 150 colleagues visited the Shrewsbury line for an internal 'Meet the 196' event, ahead of the external event on Friday 14 October.

The new 196 unit will be introduced on the Shrewsbury line in the coming weeks. They will then be rolled out on the Hereford route next year.



# Contacts



**Charlotte Ritchie, Head of External Communications & Engagement**

[charlotte.ritchie@wmtrains.co.uk](mailto:charlotte.ritchie@wmtrains.co.uk)



**Andrew McGill, Public Affairs Manager**

[andrew.mcgill@wmtrains.co.uk](mailto:andrew.mcgill@wmtrains.co.uk)



**Liam Bolland, Media Relations Executive**

[liam.bolland@wmtrains.co.uk](mailto:liam.bolland@wmtrains.co.uk)



**Peter Williamson, Accessibility Strategy & Projects Manager**

[peter.williamson@wmtrains.co.uk](mailto:peter.williamson@wmtrains.co.uk)



**Emma Partlow, Accessibility Delivery Manager**

[emma.partlow@wmtrains.co.uk](mailto:emma.partlow@wmtrains.co.uk)



**Fay Easton, Head of Stakeholder & Community, West Midlands Railway**

[fay.easton@wmtrains.co.uk](mailto:fay.easton@wmtrains.co.uk)



**Vicky Cropper-Clarke, Head of Stakeholder & Community, London Northwestern Railway**

[vicky.cropper-clarke@wmtrains.co.uk](mailto:vicky.cropper-clarke@wmtrains.co.uk)



Operated by West Midlands Trains