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Half price train tickets for 'Tyseley at 50' visitors

Railway enthusiasts heading to the 'Tyseley at 50' weekend can enjoy half price rail travel on West Midlands Railway services to and from the event.

On Saturday 29 and Sunday 30 September, Vintage Trains will be opening the doors of their restoration depot at Tyseley for the 50th year in a row.

West Midlands Railway will also be exhibiting outside their maintenance depot on the site, with trains displayed in the operator's new livery.

Visitors travelling to the event on local train services will be able to purchase a specially discounted off peak 'Tyseley at 50' ticket. The ticket will retail at half the usual price of an off-peak day return between Tyseley and destinations across the West Midlands. The ticket is available exclusively for those who have already purchased tickets for two-day event and will be available from all West Midlands Railway stations.

The event celebrates the 50th annual open day at Tyseley depot. On 29th September 1968, the public were invited to the depot for the very first time. Visitors were able to enjoy a display of Steam Locomotives, traction engines and the inner workings of the site. 50 years later to the day, and Vintage Trains is aiming to recreate the atmosphere of the original event.

The first steam locomotive preserved at Tyseley, 7029 Clun Castle, will be a star attraction. Jubilee Class locomotive "Bahamas" will also make its first public appearance in steam following its recent overhaul. There will also be train rides on four different gauges and displays of historic miniature railway locomotives, many of which have been rarely seen in public.

Richard Brooks, customer experience director for West Midlands Railway said, "With so much history behind the Tyseley depots, the 50th anniversary celebrations are going to offer a fascinating insight into the evolution of rail travel over the years. It is also a great opportunity to look forward to what investment into the railway will mean for passengers in the future. Tyseley is a key location on our network and we are excited to be able to support Vintage Trains in welcoming visitors onto the site."

Cath Bellamy, managing director at Vintage Trains Ltd said, "The Open Day is a great family day out and offers a unique chance to get close to the magnificent locomotives seen on television and we will be running on the main line soon. I'm really pleased that West Midlands Railways will be able to showcase their wonderful new train livery and treating visitors to a generous 50% discount on their services. I would encourage as many people as possible to join us and us their trains to get here" .

ENDS

For further information on this release, call our press office on 03300 955150 or email

press.office@wmtrains.co.uk

About the 'Tysley at 50' ticket

The 'Tyseley at 50' ticket will only be available from West Midlands Railway station ticket offices. Customers must present their event tickets in order to purchase tickets at the discounted rate.

Railcard discounts are not applicable on this ticket.

The price of the ticket will be based on an Off-Peak day return ticket to Tyseley and will be priced with a discount of 50%. The ticket will state "Tyseley At 50%"

The ticket will be on sale from 24/09/18.

About Vintage Trains and the 'Tyseley at 50' event

Vintage Trains Charitable Trust is amongst the world pioneers promoting heritage express steam trains on the national railway network. Over the last fifty years we have preserved a number of important express steam locomotives, Pullman car and other items, as well as managing the Tyseley Collection of heritage locomotives, carriages and workshop machinery based at the Tyseley Locomotive works, on behalf of 7029 Clun Castle Limited (also a registered charity).

Vintage Trains holds two public open weekends a year at Tyseley depot when everyone is welcome to come and look at the Tyseley Collection up close.

The first open day was held on 29th September 1968. Fifty years later, and over the weekend of 29th & 30th September 2018, Vintage Trains is aiming to recreate the atmosphere of the original event.

For more information visit <http://www.vintagetrains.co.uk/latestevents.aspx>

About West Midlands Trains

West Midlands Trains operates both West Midlands Railway and London Northwestern Railway services.

- **London Northwestern Railway** services operate between Liverpool and Birmingham, and on the West Coast mainline to and from London Euston.
- **West Midlands Railway** services operate to destinations across the West Midlands via Birmingham New Street.

For more information on these services visit westmidlandsrailway.co.uk or londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk

The West Midlands Trains franchise started on 10 December 2017 and will run until 2025/26.

West Midlands Trains operates 1,300 services a day, manages 150 stations and provides over 70 million passenger journeys a year. Over the course of the franchise, West Midlands Trains will be investing £1 billion into the rail network to deliver new trains, improved routes and station upgrades. This will include 400 new train carriages across the network and space for an extra 85,000 passengers into Birmingham and London at peak times.

The franchise is a joint venture between Abellio (70.1% share) and East Japan Railway Company / Mitsui & Co., Ltd (29.9% share in a 50:50 split). Abellio is the international passenger transport subsidiary of the Dutch national railway company, Nederlandse Spoorwegen. In the UK, Abellio operates ScotRail and Greater Anglia train services, Merseyrail services in a joint venture with Serco

and buses through Abellio London. For more information visit www.abellio.com

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