Kenilworth station

Sep 12, 2018 10:10 BST

Poetry for passengers at Kenilworth station café

Passengers travelling through Kenilworth station can enjoy some poetry in the station's community cafe over the next three weeks.

Matt Black, who is from nearby Leamington Spa, will be visiting the station at various times to entertain customers. He will be performing until the start of Kenilworth Arts Festival on Thursday 20 September.

He will be reading poems celebrating Kenilworth and Leamington Spa, as well as trains and train travel, among other subjects.

Matt has previously performed poetry in a range of locations including festivals, arts centres, theatres, schools and colleges. He has also performed on Northern Trains and at Cheltenham Railway Station.

Fay Easton, head of stakeholder and community at West Midlands Railway said: “It’s great to see a local artist making use of the space in the community café at the station. With Kenilworth Arts Festival just around the corner, this is a great opportunity to give local performers a platform and to support events in the local area.”

Matt said: “My big thanks to West Midlands Railway for being such an enthusiastic supporter of this idea and helping it to happen. It’s wonderful to be able to offer poems in an interesting and unexpected way to people – and I hope very much that they enjoy them!! I’m really excited about this and have taken the train already and written a story based on the journey between Coventry and Leamington."

For further information on this release, call our press office on 03300 955150 or email press.office@wmtrains.co.uk

About Kenilworth Arts Festival

Kenilworth Arts Festival is a ten day multi-genre festival, launched in 2016. The festival takes place over ten days from 20 - 29 September 2018, with concerts, talks, workshops and exhibitions being held in different venues around the town.

For more information go to https://www.kenilworthartsfestival.co.uk/

About Matt Black

Matt Black is a writer based in Leamington Spa. He mostly writes poems for adults and children, but has written one play and occasionally writes short fiction. He writes for publication on the page as well as for Spoken Word and performance. He enjoys commissions and collaborations with other artists, and works in all sorts of places and situations, specialising in tailor-made projects that range from the serious and educational to the crazy and sublime.

His most recent collections for adults are Tales from the Leaking Boot (Iron Press, 2018), and Spoon Rebellion (Smith Doorstop, 2017) and for adults and children, The Owl and the Pussycat and the Turtles of Fun (Two Rivers Press, 2014). His play The Storm Officer is touring in 2018.

For more information go to http://matt-black-words.co.uk/

About West Midlands Trains

West Midlands Trains operate 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 operate 1,300 services a day, manage 150 stations and provide 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, Abelllio operate 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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