



Decorated benches will appear at Nuneaton station on Saturday 8 September

Sep 05, 2018 09:18 BST

Seats of Inspiration to arrive at Nuneaton

Benches at Nuneaton station are due a colourful transformation later this month as part of a project run by local art group, Art Alert. The collective, which has used space at the station for exhibitions since 2017, is dedicated to getting local people involved in arts and crafts.

On Saturday 8 September, the group is holding an event called 'Seats of Inspiration', which sees Art Alert members and friends creating art to be displayed on train station benches for the day. The 'guerilla-style' project forms part of Art Alert's 10th anniversary celebrations and is intended to capture the public's reaction to unexpected pieces of art.

Members of the public are also being encouraged to participate in 'Seats of Inspiration'. Budding artists can submit a piece of 2D or 3D artwork to be hung in the Station Gallery or can take part in a 'decorate a chair' session, which will run from 11.30am until 2.00pm on Friday 7 September.

The pop-up art event falls shortly before the 2018 'Open Arts Trail', which showcases the work of artists and makers around Nuneaton and North Warwickshire.

Francis Thomas, head of corporate affairs at West Midlands Trains, said: "Art Alert never cease to amaze and the group's artistic contribution to Nuneaton station is always wonderful to see.

"As a train operator, we want to forge close links with the communities across our network and our relationship with Art Alert just goes to show what can be achieved through collaboration and sharing of space and resources. 'Seats of Inspiration' is going to be a great event and we hope that passengers and the public are surprised and delighted by the work on show."

Art Alert has strong links with West Midlands Trains and breathed life into a formerly-disused waiting room at the station when it was turned into a public art gallery.

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

About Art Alert

Art Alert is a not for profit Community Enterprise Group formed by local people for local people. The group is led by a steering group of professional artists, business people and representatives of local art groups are dedicated to promoting arts and crafts in Nuneaton, Bedworth and North Warwickshire.

For more information visit www.artalertnuneaton.co.uk

About Open Arts Trail

Open Arts Trail showcases artists and makers in and around Nuneaton and North Warwickshire, with exhibitions taking place on 22rd & 23rd September 2018.

The Trail presents a rich diversity of exhibited work and demonstrations, with original art work is for sale.

For more information visit www.openartstrail.org

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, Abellio 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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