



Soroptimists Jan Tilsley (left) and Jan Hemlin (right) at Widney Manor station

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Station adopters celebrate 100 years of women's rights at Widney Manor

Station adopters at Widney Manor are celebrating the centenary of the Suffragette movement, with a themed display on the station platform.

The group, who are all members of Soroptimist International Solihull & District Club, have created new planters with flowers and foliage in Suffragette colours, purple, white and green. They are also displaying photos and memories in the station windows to help educate passengers about the journey to women's rights over past 100 years.

The display will remain at Widney Manor station until Thursday 20 September, when it will move to the 'Fun in the Park' event at Tudor Grange Park.

'Fun in the park' is a family event organised by the Soroptimists, which is taking place on Sunday 23 September. To link with their display at the station, the group will be running a poster competition for children during the day.

Entrants will be asked to design a poster to help celebrate 100 years since women in this country were first allowed to vote. They will be given the title, 'If you were elected to the School Council what would you change in your local area?'.

A number of prizes will be up for grabs, including free tickets for journeys on West Midlands Railway.

The event will also include a display of classic cars, a dog show and other activities throughout the park. Proceeds raised during the day will go to support three local charities – St. Basils Nightstop, Lilly Mae Foundation and Solihull MIND.

Ian Taylor, station manager for West Midlands Railway said: "Our station adopters at Widney Manor do a fantastic job, and the latest display is a fitting memory to such an historic event. We're honoured that they have chosen our station for their celebration ahead of 'Fun in the Park' later this month, and we are pleased to be able to support their efforts in raising awareness of these important events among young people and the wider community."

Jan Hemlin, station adopter and member of Soroptimist International Solihull & District Club said: "Our local community is very important to us. We have cared for the gardens at Widney Manor Station since 2006, enhancing the station environment, and giving pleasure to rail users. Through our display this summer, we want to raise awareness of women's rights and to engage the community in celebrating 100 years of votes for women."

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

press.office@wmtrains.co.uk

About 'Fun in the Park'

The 13th annual 'Fun in Park' event is being organised by Solihull Soroptimist.

The event is taking place Tudor Grange Park, Monkspath Road, Solihull, on Sunday 23 September from 1100 – 1700.

Parking is available in the Monkspath Hall Road Car Park.

Entry is £3 for adults, £1 for children or £6 for a family. Proceeds will be going to support three local charities:

St. Basils Nightstop – a charity for homeless young people in Birmingham and Solihull

Lily Mae Foundation – Based in Balsall Common and supporting parents and families who have lost babies due to stillbirth or neonatal death

Solihull MIND – Horticulture, Conservation and Sports project Serving members of our community with mental health issues

For more information visit <https://funinthepark-solihull.co.uk/about/>

About Soroptimist International Solihull & District Club

With 54 members, SI Solihull and District is a vibrant club offering a lively and varied programme of meetings and events throughout the year. Our members come from a wide range of backgrounds and occupations including finance, education, pharmacy, secretarial, and IT, as well as members who have retired from their jobs.

Soroptimist International Solihull & District Club is an organisation for women of today. It is a member of Soroptimist International, the worlds largest women's service organisation. It is committed to a world where women and children achieve their individual and collective potential, realise aspirations and have an equal voice in creating strong and peaceful communities world wide.

For more information visit <https://si-solihull.org.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, 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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