



heritage open days

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West Midlands railway lovers can head back in time at Heritage Open Day

A rare glimpse of railway history will be on offer at a West Midlands Railway station as part of the Heritage Open Days event.

Staff at Smethwick Rolfe Street station will welcome visitors to a special exhibition room between 10am and 3pm on Saturday 14 September. The refurbished space will be home to a special display - updated with new photographs for 2019 - about the history of the station and the pivotal role it has played in the community over the years.

Smethwick Rolfe Street station was built in 1890 by the previously named 'London & North Western Railway' (LNWR) and many of the original Victorian design features in the main building remain to this day.

To celebrate the open day replica LNWR platform tickets will be issued to visitors at the ticket office.

Peter Chapman, customer service assistant at West Midlands Railway, said:

"The station is a fine example of Victorian engineering and we're welcoming everyone to come along on Saturday 14 September and learn a bit more about the history of their local area.

"In common with many other Heritage Open Days events taking place within walking distance of stations across the West Midlands, travelling by train would be an ideal way to explore the area."

Booking is not required, so visitors can turn up at the station any time between 10am and 3pm.

Among the other attractions taking part in the [Heritage Open Days](#) scheme is the Pumping Station at Galton Valley, just five minutes walk from Smethwick Rolfe Street.

About West Midlands Trains

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

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.

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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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