



WAR DEPARTMENT PUBLIC NOTICE

Welcome to the Severn Valley branch of the Great Western Railway. It is July 1941; the railway is fully occupied carrying war material and troops to serve the nation. The railway is playing an important part as a diversionary route to avoid the Industrial West Midlands.

Despite heavy use by goods trains, a passenger service is still being maintained between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth. However the line north of Bridgnorth to Shrewsbury is currently restricted to goods traffic only, so all trains must terminate at Bridgnorth.

It is quite possible that at stations, military or plain-clothes police and army staff will board trains to examine identity cards. Please have them ready for examination.

All of the re-enactors are here to entertain and inform you. Please feel free to talk and ask them questions, they will be delighted to talk to you about their hobby and to be photographed. There may be soldiers on the trains checking ID cards, please have the cards ready for inspection.

We are indebted to all the vehicle owners who have brought their old vehicles to the railway. You are welcome to talk to the owners and to take photographs.

Passengers wishing to purchase their own 1940's clothes will find stalls at Bridgnorth and Bewdley Stations with a wide range of items. If you don't want to buy, just go and have a look, it's fascinating.

Whilst at Bridgnorth Station you will be entertained by Paul Harper, imitating the 'stars' of the 1940's including George Formby. He will be ably supported by a delightful singer, the lovely Lola Lamour.

Throughout the four days at Bridgnorth, Arley, Bewdley and Kidderminster Stations, the Middleton Youth Brass Band will be raising your spirits playing music of the era.

Hampton Loade is always a gem of the 1930's and 1940's. A station well worth visiting. The ferry across the River Severn has recently re-opened under a new operator, and the return fare is £1.50.

As you are about to run onto Victoria Bridge from the Bewdley end, look to the open square area on your right as you come out of the cutting you will see white painted blocks of concrete. These were planned for use if Germany had invaded Britain in 1940-41. They would be placed along the bridge to stop enemy vehicles/tanks crossing and hinder troop movements. These were part of the Western Command Stop Line No1 which spanned the entire length of the Severn Valley Railway and beyond. The local home guard had a 24hr watch on the bridge throughout the war.

We believe that we might have a visit from the Prime Minister, Mr Churchill at **The Engine House at Highley at about 1.00 pm**. He will be visiting the allied army stationed there and will be giving one of his stirring speeches. Intelligence reports suggest that **German soldiers will attempt to kidnap the Prime Minister at about 1.10 pm** while he is at The Engine House Highley. We have no doubt that Allied Forces will be able to protect him in the resulting "BATTLE", with commentary by Craig Leonard from Prop Resources Dept. Singer 'Miss Marina May' will be entertaining you in the mornings at The Engine House.

The displays by troops with their vehicles and equipment are well worth seeing at Highley.

Also at Highley, The Engine House will be open from 10am until 6pm with last admissions at 5.30pm. Entrance fee for SVR travel ticket holders is free.

Buffers Café/Restaurant within The Engine House will be open from 10am until 5.15pm. Also in The Engine House will be a display of paintings of a wartime theme by local artist Alan Vardell.

At Arley Station there is a grand collection of vehicles, and Kevin Mac will be on the station singing wartime songs. A wedding will take place at Arley at 1.00pm each day, and there is a RAF Emergency Opps Room at Arley giving demonstrations each day.

On certain days there will be a flypast of period aircraft all of which are from the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. This flypast is, of course, subject to weather conditions and availability. Please see notices and listen for announcements for timings on the day.

We offer our most sincere thanks to the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight for the honour they do us.

At Bewdley Station we will be showing information and news films of the period. Look out for the 1940's stalls at the station, which has its own "Dig for Victory Garden".

At Kidderminster experience sitting in an Anderson Shelter. See the Morrison Shelter, which doubles as a dining table.

Talk to the Air Raid Warden in his sand-bagged office. Have a go on the field telephones and morse code equipment.

See the 'Smiths' Newspaper Kiosk set out, as it would have been on a railway station in the 1940's.

See the DIG FOR VICTORY GARDEN complete with Privi. See the two rooms of a 1940's house and witness the activities that took place on an average day in 1941. See the black market shop and obtain those hard to get items from Auntie Angie and Slippery Sal.

An interesting display of vehicles will be on the station forecourt at Kidderminster.

A wartime bus will operate from the front of Kidderminster Station giving a short circular ride. To board the bus just show your identity card and travel ticket – free for ticket holders.

Our refreshment rooms will do their utmost to feed you but strict rationing is in force, so be patient!

A Home Guard Unit is based at Kidderminster where the stations own staff protect this green and pleasant land when not doing important railway work and will stamp your identity card, and have the necessary equipment for you to fill them in.

On **Sunday at 4.00 pm at Kidderminster Station**, we will be lowering the Union Flag whilst a bugler will play 'The Last Post' as a mark of respect to those who made the ultimate sacrifice during World War II. (Prayers will be said). You are cordially invited to witness this moving event. This will be finished in time for the last train to Bridgnorth at 4.50pm.

We are pleased to welcome the Allen Francis Big Band who will be playing at Kidderminster Station on Saturday and Sunday for workers' playtime. **Show times are 12.35 pm, 1.50 pm and 3.05pm. The band is led by Allen Cook.**

Also on Saturday evening at 7.30pm we have an evening show with a finish at 11.00 pm. Please note that your daytime travel ticket does not give you entry to this evening show. Tickets for this show cost £9 each and will be available during the day from Kidderminster booking office, and when closed from the ticket barrier. Tickets are limited so please buy early.

Manning the music and information tower at Kidderminster station is the cheeky chappie himself, Mr Guy Roles and his assistants.

During the four days you may find yourself being entertained by 'Cum Sing Wi We' 'Revival' and 'Nostalgia Unlimited'. These groups have combined and collect for the Royal British Legion*. If you decide not to give that is fine, they will not mind, just enjoy the songs.

**ALL PASSENGERS ARE REMINDED THAT
SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED ON
SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY TRAINS
OR ANYWHERE ON KIDDERMINSTER STATION**

Great Western Railway (Severn Valley Branch) SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

SATURDAY & SUNDAY 26th & 27th JUNE & 3rd & 4th JULY 2010

Passenger Train Services between Bridgnorth and Shrewsbury have been suspended. Services from Bewdley to Stourport and Hartlebury Junction and along the Wyre Forest branch line to Tenbury and Woofferton have likewise been suspended

Temporary Timetable: Kidderminster - Bridgnorth

Kidderminster (dep)	9.05	9.40	10.30	11.20	12.10	1.30	2.10	3.05	3.55	4.50	-
Bewdley	9.18	9.59	10.49	11.39	12.29	1.45	2.30	3.24	4.15	5.05	-
Arley	9.35	10.17	11.07	11.57	12.47	2.06	2.57	3.49	4.41	5.26	-
Highley	9.43	10.25	11.15	12.05	12.55	2.14	3.05	3.57	4.49	5.34	-
Hampton Loade	9.58	10.46	11.36	12.26	1.16	2.33	3.25	4.17	5.06	5.51	-
Bridgnorth (arr)	10.15	11.03	11.53	12.43	1.33	2.50	3.42	4.34	5.23	6.08	-
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Bridgnorth (dep)	9.35	10.20	11.10	12.00	-	1.55	3.00	3.50	4.40	5.30	6.15
Hampton Loade	9.57	10.43	11.33	12.23	-	2.31	3.23	4.15	5.03	5.53	6.34
Highley	10.05	10.51	11.41	12.31	1.35	2.39	3.31	4.23	5.11	6.01	6.42
Arley	10.27	11.10	12.00	12.50	2.01	2.59	3.51	4.43	5.27	6.15	6.54
Bewdley	10.30	11.32	12.22	1.12	2.23	3.21	4.13	5.05	5.44	6.33	7.09
Kidderminster (arr)	-	11.43	12.33	1.23	2.34	3.32	4.24	5.16	5.55	6.44	7.20

D - Diesel Train.

Enjoy your day, but remember... CARELESS TALK COSTS LIVES!

All events and timings are subject to availability and conditions on the day of your visit