

25 November 2022

## Timetables from 11 December 2022



Timetables will change on 11 December as follows :-

### Stourbridge Line

West Midlands Railway services will be unchanged as major changes are planned for May 2023.

Chiltern Railways will make the following changes to services on Mondays to Fridays.

- The 0716 service from Stourbridge Junction to London Marylebone will depart at 0714 and call additionally at Dorridge, Warwick and High Wycombe
- The 1646 service from London Marylebone to Birmingham Moor Street will be extended to Kidderminster calling at Birmingham Snow Hill, Rowley Regis and Stourbridge Junction
- The 1714 service from London Marylebone to Kidderminster will be cut back to terminate at Birmingham Moor Street
- The 1746 service from London Marylebone to Birmingham Snow Hill will be extended to Kidderminster calling at Rowley Regis and Stourbridge Junction
- The 1815 service from London Marylebone to Kidderminster will be cut back to terminate at Birmingham Snow Hill

### Smethwick Galton Bridge Connections

- Transport for Wales services to Aberystwyth, Pwllheli, Holyhead and Birmingham International will no longer call at Smethwick Galton Bridge
- West Midlands Railway stopping services between Wolverhampton and Walsall via Birmingham New Street will call at Smethwick Galton Bridge every 30 minutes
- West Midlands Railway services between Birmingham New Street and Shrewsbury will call at Smethwick Galton Bridge hourly
- London NorthWestern Railway services between Birmingham New Street and Liverpool Lime Street will call at Smethwick Galton Bridge hourly

The Timetables and Stations sections of this website will be updated with a full set of timetables and arrivals/departures boards on 10 December.

25 November 2022

## Footfall Estimates for 2021-2022



The Office of Rail and Road has published the annual estimates of railway station entries/exits and interchanges for the year from April 2021 to March 2022.

In previous issues, the figures for the current year and the previous year were published to show the percentage difference in footfall between the two years. In this issue, the figures for the current year and the previous two years have been published to additionally show the percentage difference in footfall compared with pre-Covid 19 figures.

It should be pointed out that the period from April 2021 to March 2022 included a period of over three months when some Covid restrictions were still in force. It would have been interesting if two sets of figures had been produced for the first and second six month periods.

The figures for all stations along the Stourbridge line are shown below.

Station Code	Station Name	Entries and Exits 2021-2022	Entries and Exits 2020-2021	Entries and Exits 2019-2020	Interchanges 2021-2022	% Change vs 2020-2021	% Change vs 2019-2020
JEQ	Jewellery Quarter	284,488	119,638	539,132		137.79	-47.23
THW	The Hawthorns	225,200	84,980	509,308		165.00	-55.78
SGB	Smethwick Galton Bridge	499,810	233,672	869,208	369,449	113.89	-42.50
LGG	Langley Green	108,058	52,674	223,422		105.14	-51.64
ROW	Rowley Regis	649,478	286,690	1,234,274		126.54	-47.38
OHL	Old Hill	97,864	45,680	211,326		114.24	-53.69
CRA	Cradley Heath	467,744	178,414	871,666		162.17	-46.34
LYE	Lye (West Midlands)	49,792	19,838	102,500		150.99	-51.42
SBT	Stourbridge Town	263,548	158,964	559,422		65.79	-52.89
SBJ	Stourbridge Junction	900,346	313,080	1,631,452	223,965	187.58	-44.81
HAG	Hagley	300,246	278,276	492,262		7.90	-39.01
BKD	Blakedown	60,810	38,914	99,500		56.27	-38.88
KID	Kidderminster	799,082	371,364	1,529,896		115.17	-47.77
HBV	Hartlebury	38,002	18,278	54,064		107.91	-29.71
DTW	Droitwich Spa	325,718	133,952	520,328	43,894	143.16	-37.40
WOS	Worcester Shrub Hill	409,540	161,288	660,638	175,791	153.92	-38.01
WOF	Worcester Foregate Street	1,358,222	534,904	2,190,982	256,306	153.92	-38.01



12 July 2022

## Timetable Changes In December 2022 and May 2023



In December 2022, a major change will be made to the times of all services emanating from London Euston and running along the West Coast Main Line. In the West Midlands, this means major changes to services that operate along the corridor from Coventry to Wolverhampton. This will mean changes to services operated by West Midlands Railway, London Northwestern Railway, Avanti West Coast, Transport for Wales and CrossCountry. As an example, the Avanti West Coast service from Euston to Birmingham New Street, which operated every 20 minutes pre-Covid, will be split into a half-hourly express service stopping at Coventry and Birmingham International only, and an hourly "semi-fast" service which additionally stops at Watford Junction, Milton Keynes Central and Rugby.

The Snow Hill line services will not alter in December 2022, but changes will be made in May 2023 to produce a more resilient timetable. Chiltern Railways services will also be changed in May 2023 to integrate better with the services provided by West Midlands Railway.

How does this affect the Stourbridge line?

### December 2022

- Transport for Wales services from Birmingham International to Aberystwyth/Pwllheli/Holyhead will no longer call at Smethwick Galton Bridge but will call at Sandwell & Dudley instead. thus removing direct links from the Stourbridge line to Birmingham Airport, the NEC and Mid and North Wales.
- West Midlands Railway services from Birmingham New Street to Shrewsbury calling at all stations between Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury will call at Smethwick Galton Bridge rather than Sandwell & Dudley, thus providing a far inferior slower direct link between the Stourbridge line and Shrewsbury.
- London Northwestern Railway services from Birmingham New Street to Liverpool Lime Street will continue to call at Smethwick Galton Bridge until the Midland Metro line to Brierley Hill opens in 2024. The Smethwick Galton Bridge stop will then be removed to allow an additional stop at Dudley Port, thus removing direct links from the Stourbridge line to Liverpool and the West Coast Main Line at Crewe.

The above changes effectively makes Smethwick Galton Bridge impotent as an interchange station for Stourbridge line passengers. SLUG strongly opposes these changes and has arranged a meeting with West Midlands Rail Executive to state its case for the retention of links to Birmingham International, Crewe, Liverpool and Mid/North Wales.

### May 2023

- The service level of 2 trains per hour to or from Kidderminster with an additional 2 trains per hour continuing to Worcester will be maintained.
- One train per hour will operate from Droitwich Spa to Worcester Foregate Street via Worcester Shrub Hill and one train per hour will operate directly from Droitwich Spa to Worcester Foregate Street.
- Services that operate to or from Kidderminster will operate as semi-fast services.
- Services that operate to or from Worcester will call at all stations.
- Extra dwell time will be built into the timetable at destination stations and at Snow Hill to improve the performance of the service.

The document makes no mention of any changes to the Sunday timetable. SLUG intends to raise this issue at its meeting with West Midlands Rail Executive.

27 May 2022

## Service Changes from 20 to 23 June



The railway line between Birmingham Snow Hill and Tyseley will be closed between Monday 20 and Thursday 23 June to enable major track work to be undertaken to improve passenger journeys for the Commonwealth Games. The work will overhaul switches and crossings - moving sections of track which allow trains to access and leave the train maintenance depot at Tyseley in Birmingham.

As a result, all West Midlands Railway services on the Stourbridge line will operate at the same times but will only operate to and from Birmingham Snow Hill. Birmingham Moor Street station will be closed over these four days to enable it to be deep cleaned.

Chiltern Railway will operate the services at 0641 from Stourbridge Junction and 0807 from Kidderminster but these will also terminate at Snow Hill. The 0716 service from Stourbridge Junction will not operate. In the evening, the only Chiltern service to operate over the line will be the 2315 departure from Snow Hill to Stourbridge Junction.

East of Birmingham, services will operate as follows.

- Hourly service between Spring Road and Stratford-upon-Avon via Whitlocks End.
- Hourly service between Acocks Green and Stratford-upon-Avon via Dorridge.
- Hourly off-peak service between Dorridge and Marylebone increasing to half hourly in the morning and evening peaks.

Replacement bus services will operate from Snow Hill.



25 March 2022

## SLUG Public Meeting and AGM on 10 May 2022



The Stourbridge Line User Group Public Meeting and Annual General Meeting will be held at the Refreshment Room at Kidderminster Town (SVR) station on 10 May.

All members of the public are welcome to attend the public meeting which starts at 7.30 pm. After this meeting, at approximately 9.00 pm, the Annual General Meeting will take place for SLUG members only.

The speakers at the meeting will be :-

- Matthew Bradley - Head of Stations, West Midlands Railway
- Peter Sargent - Head of Rail Development, West Midlands Rail Executive
- Ian Baxter - Director SLC Rail and Consultant for Worcestershire County Council

After the presentations by our three speakers, attendees will be able to put questions to them.

24 March 2022

## Timetable Changes From 15 May 2022



West Midlands Railway has announced changes to the Stourbridge line timetable from 15 May which contains some good news and some bad news.

The good news concerns Sunday services at Hartlebury. In December, West Midlands Railway introduced a skeleton Sunday service at Hartlebury with trains at 1008 to Dorridge and 1010 to Great Malvern, which was of no use to anybody wishing to travel by train for the day. SLUG immediately contacted WMR with suggestions of additional services to benefit passengers wishing to get to or from Hartlebury on a Sunday. We are pleased to say that WMR has responded to SLUG's request by providing an even better service than we asked for – with a 2 hourly service throughout the day starting on Sunday 15 May. The services that will stop at Hartlebury are at :-

- 1008 to Dorridge (from Worcester Shrub Hill)
- 1010 to Worcester Foregate Street (from Whitlocks End)
- 1204 to Worcester Foregate Street (from Stratford-upon-Avon)
- 1241 to Stratford-upon-Avon (from Worcester Foregate Street)
- 1402 to Worcester Foregate Street (from Stratford-upon-Avon)
- 1442 to Stratford-upon-Avon (from Worcester Foregate Street)
- 1602 to Worcester Foregate Street (from Stratford-upon-Avon)
- 1642 to Stratford-upon-Avon (from Worcester Foregate Street)
- 1803 to Worcester Foregate Street (from Stratford-upon-Avon)
- 1842 to Birmingham Moor Street (from Worcester Foregate Street)
- 2002 to Worcester Shrub Hill (from Stratford-upon-Avon)
- 2051 to Birmingham Moor Street (from Worcester Shrub Hill)

This service provides connections at Kidderminster with a morning train to Marylebone and an evening train back. SLUG is currently talking to West Midlands Railway to ensure that these new services are properly advertised, unlike the skeleton service in December.

The last regular Sunday service at Hartlebury ran in 1964.

The bad news is that through Sunday services to Malvern Link and Great Malvern will cease on May 2022, with all services terminating at either Worcester Shrub Hill or Worcester Foregate Street. At present, three services run through to Great Malvern, while a further six services start at Great Malvern. West Midlands Railway states that connecting services, mostly operated by Great Western Railway, will be available but this will add between 10 and 42 minutes to the journey time. SLUG feels that the removal of these services is unacceptable as the rail industry has stated that the key to getting passengers back onto trains is through leisure travel. Making passengers change trains to reach leisure destinations such as Great Malvern will discourage leisure travel.

SLUG has written to West Midlands Railway expressing its concern at the removal of these through services.



5 January 2022

SLUG Christmas Quiz - Name the TV Comedy Series - Answers



1. W1A



2. Yes Minister



3. Going Straight



4. Citizen Smith



5. Reggie Perrin



6. The Goodies



7. To The Manor Born



8. Only Fools And Horses



9. Hancock's Half Hour



10. Ripping Yarns



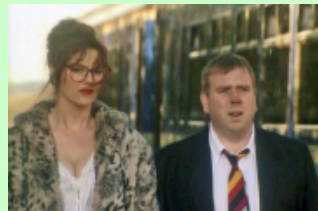
11. This Country



12. Three Up Two Down



13. Waiting For God



14. Outside Edge



15. Butterflies



16. Get Smart



17. Inside No. 9



18. Sykes