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**WAR DEPARTMENT**

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# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

June 24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> & July 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Welcome to the Severn Valley branch of the Great Western Railway. The Railway is fully committed, carrying troops and war materials to serve the nation. The railway is playing an important role as a diversionary route to avoid the industrial West Midlands. Despite heavy goods trains, a passenger service is being maintained between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth. The line north of Bridgnorth to Shrewsbury however, is currently restricted to goods traffic only, so all trains **MUST** terminate at Bridgnorth. Our emergency timetable is printed within.

Military staff both on and off the train may also require you to show identity cards. Please have them ready for inspection! And remember; be vigilant at all times...who knows who's listening to your conversations.

At most stations you will be able to see a display of period vehicles, both civilian and military.

On both June 24th and 25th, we are hoping for a flypast of aeroplanes from The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight. These flights are subject to weather conditions and operational considerations on the day. Our informants have told us to look out for a Spitfire & Lancaster approaching on the horizon...

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## KIDDERMINSTER

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Our grand terminus with a magnificent glass canopy at the edge of the industrially important West Midlands, is a great place to start your day.

Kidderminster has sustained little damage in the recent air raids, but the station is always on the lookout. Make sure you visit the town's ARP post and air raid shelters which are situated here, but be prepared; the wardens at the ID checkpoint will be on hand to perform spot checks on any shifty-looking passengers.

Our 1940s hairdresser (additional charge applies) will be on hand to provide a respite from the wartime effort, so ladies you can get your 'Victory Rolls' spruced up and then choose a piece of clothing to suit from our vintage civilian clothing stall. Gents, why not take a free ride on a 1940s bus after viewing our display of wartime vehicles?

The Dig for Victory spirit is unmistakable with the station garden growing fruit and vegetables; you can even visit the privy!

For the first time this year, you can have a browse in A. Roles Grocers & Provisions – ration books at the ready! Additionally, typical of many larger railway stations was the presence of a tobacconist and W. H. Smiths newsagent's kiosk. Here at Kidderminster we have a beautifully restored kiosk complete with a display of goods typical of the 1940s. Plus, our popular sweet shop will be available to visit, so you can indulge your sweet tooth with a packet of humbugs or acid drops.

It is from this station that local children are in the process of being evacuated. After they arrive on the bus, they will be evacuated on a morning train each day (excluding July 2nd) to be taken north into Shropshire to new families and, most importantly, to safety. They need your support, so please make sure you come along to wave them off.

Fire! Smoke is seen rising from the end of the platform and the sounds of sirens get louder and louder. At 4pm on each day, an exhilarating firefighting re-enactment will take place to battle the blaze courtesy of The NFS AFS Vehicles Group, but will they be able to put it out?

On Sunday 25th June and Sunday 2nd July at approximately 5pm, there will be a traditional closing ceremony with standard bearers in attendance. Make your way to the platform to see this take place.

Kidderminster Railway Museum will also be open.

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## BIG BAND SHOW

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Following receipt of highly confidential intelligence, **on each Saturday, Kidderminster station will be evacuated at 6.30pm.** We hope this will only be a rehearsal for a real air raid, but who knows...

On June 24th and July 1st our Big Band Show returns with the Worcestershire Jazz Orchestra! With a host of catchy numbers recreating the 1940s atmosphere, these shows are sure to get your feet tapping at our Party on the Platform. The Show 'warms-up' from 7.30pm and includes an explosive finale that you won't want to miss! We strongly advise you to purchase your tickets in advance for these concerts. Once tickets have gone, they're gone.

PLEASE NOTE THAT SEATING AT THESE CONCERTS IS LIMITED AND IS NOT GUARANTEED. THE ATMOSPHERE IS VERY MUCH 'PARTY ON THE PLATFORM' IN NATURE - SO DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR DANCING SHOES!



**Don't forget your SVR  
songbook for our Saturday  
night singalong!**

**Available in our gift shops.**



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## BEWDLEY

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Our bustling junction station in the heart of Worcestershire, Bewdley is in permanent danger of air raids. If you hear the air raid sirens, follow the wardens' instructions promptly and head for the shelters.

Whilst at Bewdley, visit our 1940s stall where items of nostalgia can be purchased, pitched alongside a mechanical horse and vintage vehicle from this iconic period.

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## ARLEY

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Blink, and you could believe that you are arriving on the front line with doctors and nurses rushing to and fro at 'Arley Hospital'. The Hospital train housing the Royal Army Medical Corps Advanced Dressing Station will be available for viewing next to the Signal Box, alongside a display of 1930s caravans and classic vehicles.

Amid the hostilities, love is in the air! You can become the 'guests' at a wartime wedding on the platform at 2.30pm on all dates. They are performed by 'The Wedding Party'. Have you packed your confetti?

Plus, have a jig with our resident singer Kevin Mack, the '1940s Crooner', who will be transporting you back with his repertoire of catchy and nostalgic numbers as the trains steam by.

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## HIGHLEY & THE ENGINE HOUSE

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Welcome to the battlefield: It's 1.15pm two days after the Normandy Invasion, and a German supply train is about to be attacked by Allied Paratroopers and members of the French Resistance...rest assured this will be an explosive encounter that you won't want to miss. Make your way over to The Engine House to take up your position by 1.00pm.

As the sounds of gunshots fade away, why not visit the display of military

vehicles adjacent to the signal box and the Allied's Encampment next to the station.

Back in The Engine House, Royal saloon No. 798, used by King George VI during the 1940s, will be available to view. You may even be lucky enough to meet the King himself.

Make sure you visit the all-new Vintage Marketplace also in The Engine House; from clothing to period trinkets, there's something for everyone. Please see rear page for full list of traders in the Vintage Marketplace.

Furthermore, live entertainment will be provided by Paul Harper, accompanied by wartime public information films in the cinema. There will also be a barbeque and cask ale bar (provided by Hobsons) from 10.30am to 3.30pm on all four days.

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## HAMPTON LOADE

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Take care when alighting at Hampton Loade station... There are rumours of a German presence, and you may find their military civilian police demanding to see your travel documents and identity cards (June 25th & July 2nd only). This may no longer be the safe place it once was for evacuees, but, if they permit it, then you may find the Paddock Miniature Railway still running to divert you while you wait for your train.

Classic vehicles from the period will be on display, as well as motorcycles.

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## BRIDGNORTH

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On all four days you will be entertained by the D-Day Darlings. Due to bomb damage and reconstruction work, there are a limited number of attractions on offer.

## EAT, DRINK & REFRESH

### ON TRAIN

Most of our trains, excluding dining services, provide a trolley service selling hot and cold drinks and light snacks.

### KIDDERMINSTER

The King & Castle  
The Valley Suite

### BEWDLEY

The Station Refreshment Room

**RATION BOOKS  
NOT REQUIRED!**

## FACILITY OPENING TIMES

### KIDDERMINSTER

Gift Shop 8.30am – 7.30pm  
The Valley Suite 7.30am – 10.30pm  
King & Castle 8.00am – 11.30pm  
Museum 9.30am – 11.00pm

### BEWDLEY

Refreshment Room 8.00am – 6.00pm

### HIGHLEY

The Engine House 10.00am – 6.00pm\*  
Flag & Whistle Restaurant 9.30am – 5.15pm  
Barbeque & Bar 10.30am – 3.30pm  
Ice Cream Stall 10.30am – 3.30pm

\* Last admission 5.30pm

### BRIDGNORTH

Gift Shop 9.00am – 7.30pm  
Refreshment Room 8.30am – 6.00pm  
The Railwayman's Arms 11.00am – 11.00pm

### ARLEY, HIGHLEY & HAMPTON LOADE

Station Kiosks offer a limited range of hot and cold food and drinks.

### HIGHLEY – THE ENGINE HOUSE

Flag & Whistle Restaurant  
Barbeque  
Hobsons Real Ale Bar

### BRIDGNORTH

The Railwayman's Arms  
The Station Refreshment Room

## WARTIME EMERGENCY TIMETABLE

	am	am	am	am	am	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm
Kidderminster	d	9.00	9.45	10.30	11.20	11.50	12.15	1.30	2.15	2.55	3.15	4.05	4.35	4.55	5.45
Bewdley	d	9.14	10.02	10.52	11.42	12.04	12.37	1.45	2.37	3.06	3.37	4.27	4.46	5.17	6.07
Arley	d	9.30	10.20	11.10	12.00	12.20	12.55	2.15	3.05	–	3.55	4.45	–	5.35	6.25
Highley	d	9.44	10.34	11.24	12.14	12.28	1.09	2.29	3.19	–	4.09	4.59	–	5.49	6.39
Hampton Loade	d	9.55	10.45	11.35	12.25	–	1.35	2.40	3.30	–	4.20	5.10	–	6.00	6.53
Bridgnorth	a	10.10	11.00	11.50	12.40	–	1.50	2.55	3.45	–	4.35	5.25	–	6.15	7.08
Bridgnorth	d	9.35	–	10.25	11.15	12.05	–	1.15	2.20	–	3.10	4.00	–	4.50	5.40
Hampton Loade	d	9.55	–	10.45	11.35	12.30	–	1.45	2.40	–	3.30	4.20	–	5.10	6.00
Highley	d	10.09	–	10.59	11.49	12.44	1.40	2.04	2.54	–	3.44	4.34	–	5.24	6.14
Arley	d	10.20	–	11.10	12.20	12.55	2.00	2.20	3.05	–	3.55	4.45	–	5.35	6.25
Bewdley	d	10.44	11.04	11.34	12.39	1.14	2.27	2.39	3.29	3.49	4.19	5.09	5.24	5.59	6.44
Kidderminster	a	10.55	11.15	11.45	12.50	1.25	2.38	2.50	3.40	4.00	4.30	5.20	5.35	6.10	6.55

● We strongly advise those travelling to the firefighting re-enactment to use this train.

▲ We strongly advise those of you travelling to the Wedding at Arley to use these trains.

■ We strongly advise those of you travelling to the Battle at Highley to use these trains.

All timings are subject to change.

G, W.R. Paddington Station, London W2

by order of the General Manager



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## TRADERS ATTENDING

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### Vintage Marketplace Traders at The Engine House

Vintage Serendipity	B. W. Revival Fashions	Jo's Vintage Hearts
K & R Vintage	Vintage Stitches	Pinupprints
Maggie Mae's Vintage	Chaps of Distinction	BBMF (July 1st & 2nd only)
Gingermeg's Vintage	Blue String Vintage	

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In order to get the most out of your day, we strongly advise you to plan in advance and check event times in conjunction with the train timetable.

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## EVENT PARKING

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### KIDDERMINSTER

Station **DY10 IQX**  
Harriers Football Club **DY10 INB**  
King Charles School **DY10 IXA**

### BRIDGNORTH

Station & overflow **WV16 5DT**  
(subject to dry weather conditions)

Parking is NOT available at any other station or site during the event.

Kidderminster Station Carpark will be closed from 9.30pm - 11pm on each Saturday, due to the operation of pyrotechnics.



Number One, Comberton Place, Kidderminster DY10 1QR

Telephone: 01562 757900

[www.svr.co.uk](http://www.svr.co.uk)

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### DISCLAIMER

Whilst every effort will be made to maintain services, the Severn Valley Railway does not guarantee that trains will depart or arrive at the times stated, and some advertised connections may not be met. The SVR reserves the right to alter or suspend any train service without notice. No liability for any loss, inconvenience or delay can be accepted. For operational reasons it may be necessary to substitute locomotives scheduled in our timetable. All locomotives are subject to availability.

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