

FIVE NEW WEST MIDLANDS STATIONS OPEN ...

by Roger Davis

Passenger services have now been restored at five West Midlands stations.

On the Camp Hill line in Birmingham, stations at Moseley Village, Kings Heath and Pineapple Road opened on Tuesday 7 April on the same sites as the original Moseley, Kings Heath and Hazelwell stations, which all closed on 27 January 1941, along with other stations on the line at Camp Hill, Brighton Road and Lifford.

On the Grand Junction Railway, Willenhall and Darlaston stations opened on Thursday 19 March, close to the sites of the original Willenhall Bilston Street and Darlaston stations which closed on 18 January 1965 when local services between Wolverhampton High Level, Walsall, Lichfield and Burton-on-Trent were withdrawn.

Restoration of services to these stations was mooted in late 2017 when West Midlands Railway took over the franchise from London Midland, but it has taken over eight years for the plan to become reality.

The photos below show the old and new stations, plus a summary of the passenger services that will call at each of the new stations when they first open. It should be noted that West Midlands Rail Executive and Walsall Council are holding discussions with Department for Transport about the introduction of a second train per hour at Willenhall and Darlaston.

Campaign for Rail has produced detailed timetables for the new services and these can be viewed at <https://www.campaignforrail.org.uk/new-stations.html>



Moseley Village station has opened on the same site as the original Moseley station. A vote by local people selected the name from a choice of two - Moseley Village (55%) or Moseley (45%).

The original station opened on 1 November 1867.

The new station is served by trains between Birmingham New Street and Kings Norton operated using 4-car Class 196 diesel multiple units.

MOV	To Kings Norton (KNN)	To New Street (BHM)
Mon-Sat	0637 then approx every 30 mins to 2007 then approx every hr to 2307	0639 (MF), 0659 then approx every 30 mins to 2029 then every hr to 2329
Sunday	0937 then every hr to 2237	0959 then every hr to 2259



Kings Heath station has opened on the same site as the original Kings Heath station. The original station opened in November 1841 when it was named Moseley. It was renamed Kings Heath on 1 November 1867 when Moseley station opened about 0.6 miles to the north.

The new station is served by trains between Birmingham New Street and Kings Norton operated using 4-car Class 196 diesel multiple units.

KIH	To Kings Norton (KNN)	To New Street (BHM)
Mon-Sat	0639 then approx every 30 mins to 2009 then approx every hr to 2309	0636 (MF), 0656 then approx every 30 mins to 2026 then every hr to 2326
Sunday	0939 then every hr to 2239	0956 then every hr to 2256



Pineapple Road station has opened on the same site as the original Hazelwell station. A vote by local people selected the name from a choice of three - Pineapple Road (48%), Stirchley (30%) or Hazelwell (22%).

The original station opened on 1 January 1903.

The new station is served by trains between Birmingham New Street and Kings Norton operated using 4-car Class 196 diesel multiple units.

PIR	To Kings Norton (KNN)	To New Street (BHM)
Mon-Sat	0642 then approx every 30 mins to 2012 then approx every hr to 2312	0634 (MF), 0654 then approx every 30 mins to 2024 then every hr to 2324
Sunday	0942 then every hr to 2242	0954 then every hr to 2254



The original station opened as Willenhall on 4 July 1837. It was renamed Willenhall Bridge on 1 November 1872, Willenhall on 1 August 1881 and finally Willenhall Bilston Street on 2 June 1924. Whereas the old station was to the east of Bilston Street, the new station is to the west.

The new station is served by an hourly Birmingham New Street to Shrewsbury service operated using 4-car Class 196 diesel multiple units.

WIA	To Shrewsbury (SHR)	To New Street (BHM)
Mon-Fri	0652 then approx every hr to 2247	0707 then approx every hr to 2259
Sat	0649 then approx every hr to 2249	0703 then approx every hr to 2312
Sun	No service	No service



The original station opened as Darlaston on 4 July 1837. It was renamed James Bridge on 14 September 1863, James Bridge for Darlaston on 1 November 1887, Darlaston & James Bridge in March 1889 and finally Darlaston on 1 December 1913. Whereas the old station was to the east of Kendricks Road, the new station is to the west.

The new station is served by an hourly Birmingham New Street to Shrewsbury service operated using 4-car Class 196 diesel multiple units.

DAS	To Shrewsbury (SHR)	To New Street (BHM)
Mon-Fri	0649 then approx every hr to 2244	0711 then approx every hr to 2302
Sat	0646 then approx every hr to 2246	0706 then approx every hr to 2315
Sun	No service	No service