

PRESS RELEASE

News from the Award Winning Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership

All Aboard for Special Services on the Marston Vale Line to Bedford River Festival this Weekend!

19th July 2022



Beat the traffic and let the train take the strain to Bedford River Festival! Special train services will be operating throughout the weekend on the Marston Vale Line (Bedford to Bletchley).

In addition to the normal hourly Saturday service there will be the following:

- Late evening 'Festival Flyer' leaving Bedford at 11:10pm on the Saturday night calling at all stations to Bletchley.
- Two-hourly Sunday service between 10:15am and 5:50pm.

Download the timetables from <https://www.marstonvalecommunityrail.org.uk/special-services-for-bedford-river-festival>

Connections are available at Bletchley for services to Leighton Buzzard and Milton Keynes Central. Hop off at Bedford St. Johns for the short walk to the Festival Site (expanded for 2022 to include St. Mary's Gardens).

Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership has a stand in the **Heritage Bedford Village** (situated outside the Higgins Bedford) at the River Festival. Call in to find out more about the great range of days out available by train and the exciting future for the Line!

The off-peak return fare between Bletchley and Bedford is just £8.40 with children between 5 and 15 travelling at £4.20. Under 5s go free! Bedfordshire Bus Pass holders travel for half-price! Great savings are available for groups with the London Northwestern Railway GroupSave ticket; groups of 3 – 9 adults travel for a third off the usual fare.

Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre will be open to tie in with the Sunday service where visitors can enjoy the Museum, Vintage Tea Room & Gift Shop **Free entry!** There are a variety of circular & linear walks from the Heritage Centre.

Stephen Sleight, Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership Officer, said, "I am delighted that the Community Rail Partnership is again able to offer these special services on the Marston Vale Line over the Bedford River Festival weekend as part of the 175th Anniversary Year of our Line. The special Sunday service is also the ideal opportunity to visit a number of other attractions along the Marston Vale Line including Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre & the Forest Centre & Millennium Country Park (from Millbrook Station) and Bletchley Park".

For further information please contact Stephen Sleight, Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership Officer, on 01234 832645, e-mail stephens@bedsrcc.org.uk.

Notes for Editors

Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership

The Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership (MVCRP) is led by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity in association with London Northwestern Railway, East Midlands Railway, Avanti West Coast, Milton Keynes Council, Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Bedford to Bletchley Rail Users' Association, the Forest of Marston Vale, Wootton Academy Trust, MK Dons Sports & Education Trust & MK Dons FC, Bedfordshire Association of Town and Parish Councils, Network Rail, British Transport Police and the East West Rail Alliance.

MVCRP is one of a growing network of Community Rail Partnerships across the country working to engage communities and help people get the most from their railways, promoting social inclusion and sustainable travel, working alongside train operators to bring about improvements, and bringing stations back to life.

The Partnership will be running special events throughout 2022 as part of the Marston Vale Line 175th Anniversary Year.

Full details of all the Partnership's activities can be found on our new website - www.marstonvalecommunityrail.org.uk

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