

## THE NEXT STATION IS ..... WEM



**Where:** 11 miles north of Shrewsbury - population 5,142

**Service:** Fourteen trains north and sixteen south on weekdays, with six on Sundays. Basically a two-hourly local service between Crewe and Shrewsbury supplemented by peak hour and evening calls in the ATW Manchester—Swansea service. There's also a through train to Birmingham International at 08.12. Last trains are 00:24 to Crewe and 23:45 to Shrewsbury.

**Footfall:** Reported as 105,010 in 2010/11 and growing steadily at 2.5% per year.

**Facilities:** A 'bus shelter' on each platform and a cycle rack on the platform for Crewe. Both platforms are accessible for wheelchair users. Information screens were installed last year. Some station signs in English and Welsh.

**Features:** The 1883 manual signalbox will be closed in 2013 when the line is re-signalled and control transferred to South Wales Control Centre, 123 miles away in Cardiff. There are local calls for the signal box to become a tea room for the station, or a museum. Others want it retained as a gate box, ensuring local control of the level crossing, which is the sixth most abused crossing in the UK.

**Car Parking:** Space for 30 cars adjacent to the station - free

**Future:** A revised local service running between Crewe and Hereford in alternate hours has been suggested.

*Words: Peter Cousins*

*Photo: Keith Flinders*

*Each edition will look at one of our stations that seldom makes the news*