

## CHILTERN'S SILVER SETS

Chiltern now has two sets of refurbished Mark 3 coaches with Class 67 locomotives based at Stourbridge Junction depot overnight. The sets have been reversed since their introduction, so that the Business Zone is nearest the buffers on arrival in London.



*The toilets include a stylish basin with no depth to it.*

The first two workings on Saturday mornings start from Kidderminster [07.12 and 09.10], but there are no through trains back on Saturday nights. Although these trains terminate in Birmingham, they continue empty to Stourbridge Junction depot. Campaign for Rail's Associate Member, Stourbridge Line User Group has asked Chiltern to consider making at least one of them a service train to Kidderminster, and to do the same on Sunday evenings. The cost would appear low and the attraction of a through service would bring in extra rail users.

The first service from Birmingham Moor Street is at 06.55 [06.09 from Kidderminster], followed at 07.11 by the 06.38 from Stourbridge Junction. They get to London Marylebone at 08.29 and 09.03. There are three other Silver Set workings from Moor Street at 10.55, 12.55 and 15.55.

Northbound Silver Sets leave Marylebone at 08.45, 10.15, 13.15, 16.47, 17.15 and 18.15. The last two work through to Kidderminster, arriving at 19.31 and 20.48. Curiously, the set working the 16.47 runs back to London empty at 19.40, which seems a waste.

As well as Solihull and Warwick Parkway, all trains now also serve Leamington Spa. On the Stourbridge Line, however, they are unable to serve Cradley Heath, where there are safety issues with the curving platforms.

The sets are also in use at weekends, including the Business Zone being staffed. From Moor Street on Saturdays at 07.55, 09.55 and 13.55, they return from London at 11.06, 17.06 and 18.06. On Sundays, one set goes south at 10.13 and returns at 18.33.

*Text and photo: Keith Flinders*