



Left: The splendidly detailed interior

Inset: GWR themed tableware

Below: The Centenary Lounge access from the concourse

Within the original buildings an area was set aside for future catering opportunities and in 2007 a local, family based company took on the space to create a high quality refreshment room. Following on from the 1930s' theme of the restored concourse, and using references from other former GWR locations, a finely detailed area has been fashioned, with the use of figured timber panelling, appropriate lighting elements and chromium trim to reinforce the Art Deco theme.

The room is furnished with suitable tables and a large GWR network map graces the wall space above the period fireplace (believed to incorporate an original GWR fire surround). Attention to detail has included use of the GWR roundel motif and crockery, based faithfully on 1930s' period examples, to provide a fine experience of a former age.

One hundred years after the first year of the station's operation, and with grant support from the Trust, the proprietors have successfully taken the theme forward with the refreshment room being branded as the Centenary Lounge, giving new life to what was a neglected part of the station.

*Sponsor:* Newsbreak Ltd, Solihull, West Midlands

*Designer:* Ian Harban Consulting Engineers,

Banbury, Oxfordshire

*Contractor:* Multifit (UK) Ltd, Birmingham

## BIRMINGHAM MOOR STREET STATION

Built by the Great Western Railway (GWR) as a terminus for trains from North Warwickshire and Stratford-upon-Avon and to relieve an overcrowded Birmingham Snow Hill Station, Birmingham Moor Street Station was opened in 1909 but was only furnished with temporary accommodation. The permanent facilities were finally completed in 1914, the construction being an Edwardian version of the GWR style of the latter years of the nineteenth century.

The route to Snow Hill was withdrawn in 1967, with Snow Hill Station closing in 1972. Moor Street Station remained in operation as a terminus, but experienced a period of decline. In 1986, as part of the cross city route, a new through station, linking to a now reopened Snow Hill Station, was constructed alongside and the old station was left fallow, with severe deterioration occurring to the structure. Following the reintroduction of through

services to London Marylebone in the 1990s, however, the station was renovated in 2002 by The Birmingham Alliance and Chiltern Railways, with the concourse area refurbished to reflect the GWR 1930s' style.

