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THE SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY

EXPRESS POINTS

WORKING MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

December 2016



Express Points
The Working Members Newsletter
- Contact -

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- About -

Express Points is distributed on the first Sunday of each month by sending a reminder link to more than 500 email subscribers.

This newsletter is intended for the information of Working Members & Staff of the Severn Valley Railway only.

- Deadline -

Articles and photographs should be submitted before the last Sunday in the month.

-Cover photo -

4566 & 7812 are seen at Hay Bridge with a Bridgnorth bound service

By: Ian Murray.

Welcome to the December edition of Express Points

This month's edition includes some good news as we were preparing to go to press was the announcement that the Railway's Share Offer has already raced past the half million pound mark. Meanwhile at Bridgnorth, good progress is being made with 20 of the 63 giant piles already driven in. We have full details on both these stories, plus some great photos from the Season Finale Gala, and lots of other news from around the Railway. This edition will be the last in the current format with printed copies distributed along the railway coming to an end and from next month, we're going online only. Make sure you're signed up to receive your copy by emailing us at ExpressPoints@svrlive.com. We'd like to take this opportunity to wish Express Points readers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Other Working Members want to hear from YOU!

Please get in touch and tell us what's happening in your department so we can spread the word. Express Points is all about keeping Working Members in the picture about what's going on right across the Railway. Don't worry about the need to produce a carefully crafted article – we are more than willing to assist with producing final copy. If you can include a digital photograph to accompany your news – even better!

We'd also like to know what you'd like to see in future editions of Express Points. Is there something we could do more of? Anything you'd like less of? Perhaps you have a question you'd like to ask one of the Railway's senior managers or heads of department? Contact us on ExpressPoints@svrlive.com

SVR Twitter & FaceBook, follow or like us!



@svrofficialsite



'Severn Valley Railway Official Site' & 'Express Points'

SVR contact email addresses

General feedback to the SVR on any topic should go to: feedback@svrlive.com

For staffing issues, please contact the Volunteer Liaison Office: vlo@svrlive.com

Membership enquiries: membership@svrlive.com



Merry Christmas!

Any opinions or views expressed in this newsletter are entirely the opinions of the contributors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Directors of either Severn Valley Railway (Holdings) PLC. which owns the Severn Valley Railway, or Severn Valley Railway Company Limited, the members of which are responsible for its operation.

EXPRESS POINTS GOES ONLINE ONLY FROM JANUARY!

This is the last edition of Express Points which will be distributed via paper copy along the Railway, we go online only from next month.

Each year around 15,000 sheets of paper have been used to keep you all updated but increasingly more and more Working Members have signed up for online copies, we now have around 600 working members signed up and we hope that number will continue to grow, so if you are not yet signed up please email now ExpressPoints@svrlive.com

We will be re-launching Express Points early in the new year, so please keep your eyes open and keep your news and views coming.

Pacific Power Report

On the Charitable Trust's VIP Flying Scotsman day, Wednesday 21st September, we welcomed 1,700 passengers. For the subsequent Pacific Power Days (22nd – 26th September), passenger numbers, including non-FS/Tornado tickets holders, were at 2,547 on the Thursday and rose steadily throughout the event to end at 2,868 on the Monday. The profit from the Charitable Trust event was £80,000. This was made up of £50,000 income after costs, plus £30,000 of on-the-day donations including Gift Aid and match funding from the current Heritage Lottery Fund arrangement.

The five Pacific Power days that followed brought in revenue of £317,846. After costs of £117,638 were deducted this gave a result of £200,208.

Following the event, we held both internal and external debriefs. The main points of the internal debrief are summarised below:

- * The operation of the Railway was well supervised. There were some issues over loco positioning which meant some Tornado/Scotsman passengers were not able to take photos of the locos.
- * We managed to accommodate an extra 75 National Express coach passengers who turned up unexpectedly.
- * Our loco crews and the loco representatives from the SVR, Riley's and the National Railway Museum worked very well together. Passengers were allowed footplate access at the terminus stations when possible.
- * Using on-train radios was helpful during the event.
- * The 'Christmas' passenger loading system was used at Kidderminster and this worked well. Having visible lapel tickets was useful. The barrier system used during Pacific Power will be utilised during the Santa operation.
- * Bewdley reported that the systems and procedures put in place worked very well, but the station was much quieter than at Gala events, with disappointing numbers at the station.
- * Arley reported a good atmosphere with all staff and contractors working well together.
- * Highley station had run very well, as reported by Mel Cook.
- * Bridgnorth reported that the timetable had worked well, although there were some complaints on the Wednesday from people who had turned up and were unable to purchase a ticket on-the-day. Car parking worked well.
- * The specially chosen retail products sold very well, and the revenues for bars, catering and retail were £165,733 (compared to £101,938 for the 2015 Autumn Gala). Rob Nichols reported very good results with the on-train buffets.
- * The event received good support from regional TV, radio and press. Most of the exposure was on the first day, but BBC Hereford & Worcester continued its support throughout the event.

In conclusion, this was a large event to put in to the calendar during a busy year, and everyone's support is very much appreciated. I would like to thank Brian Malyon for chairing both the Gala Committee and the debrief. **Nick Ralls, General Manager**



Bridgnorth Station Development

Progress continues at Bridgnorth despite freezing weather

The Bridgnorth project is now well underway and you can see regular updates on svrlive.com. As Express Points goes to press, Infrastructure Manager Chris Bond sends this report:

At the end of week three, Iris Construction is still pressing ahead with the piling operation despite the sub-zero weather. The pile tally has now reached 20, which means the average is around 10 per week with another 43 to go. The Iris site foreman is pleased with progress so far and indeed with the interest their efforts are generating.

The next step of the job is starting the drainage for the new building. This involves the installation of some new drainage runs to tie in with the existing ones on site, plus the setting up of the drains that will service the new building and which need to be incorporated into the concrete slab.

One addition on site this week has been the arrival of a further container for tool and material storage. Due to the cold weather, Iris have been unable to adorn this container in the same paint as their main cabins.

On a lighter note, the boots of one of the piling machine operators are on display in the site canteen as a reminder of the rain seen during storm Angus. They bear witness to the mud endured on that day of constant rain, which resulted in several of the contractors investing in wellingtons normally used in cold stores to protect from temperatures down to -30 deg C. All this embodies the enthusiasm with which this project is being tackled.

The photograph shown here was taken by Chris Bond with permission and site inducted.

The SVR Charitable Trust has announced the appointment of Kidderminster solicitor Peter Copsey to its Board of Trustees.

A partner in the Company Commercial Division at mfg Solicitors LLP, Peter brings many years of business and charity experience. He explains that his enthusiasm for heritage rail stretches back to the early 1970s: "I first travelled on the Severn Valley Railway with my father, just a few years after it had been rescued it from obscurity by a wonderful and pioneering group of enthusiasts. I was about to commence a law degree at University College London, and I was feeling rather wistful about leaving Worcestershire.

Since I came back to the area in 1976, I have travelled on the SVR every single year, first with children and then with grandchildren. It's been a constant in my life for more than four decades." After graduating in law, Peter served his articles in the Black Country and qualified as a solicitor in 1979. He later joined MFG, where he became a partner in 1986. Welcoming Peter to the Board of Trustees, Director of Development Shelagh Paterson commended Peter's suitability as a new member: "Peter has an infectious enthusiasm for life, and his background in commercial law will greatly strengthen the experience base of our Board. This is a perfect time for him to join us, as the Charitable Trust expands and plays an increasing important role in securing the long-term future of the Railway. Peter's company mfg Solicitors is one of our key supporters, not only as the main sponsor of our fundraising Race Day in Worcester earlier this year, but also as a leading member of our Corporate Partnership Club." Peter has a wealth of previous charity experience; he's actively involved with six separate Building Preservation Trusts including Hartlebury Castle's. He's looking forward to playing his part at the Railway:

"We should not underestimate the importance of the SVR to our local economy, bringing in 250,000 visitors to the area every year. Whilst I don't claim any level of practical engineering knowledge, I am a heritage railway enthusiast and want to do everything I can to ensure this wonderful piece of our history continues for future generations to experience." Shelagh Paterson, Severn Valley Railway Charitable Trust

End of Season Finale Gala

We recorded 2,571 passengers attending the Gala (4th-6th November), and in addition there will also be some Freedom of the Line tickets. Unfortunately, a passenger fell whilst in one of the trains. An ambulance was requested and the lady was taken to the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford. She was discharged later that day, and has recently told us that she is continuing to make progress at home and would like to express her thanks to everyone who assisted her at the Railway. The incident meant that the train had a lengthy delay at Highley, and time was not recovered during the day. A timeline of decision-making and issues is being compiled. **Nick Ralls, General Manager**

News from our Apprentices

Alan Brookes, one of our Apprentices writes..

There's been a big change for the HSTA recently, as we said farewell to our old boss, Richard Thurlow, and welcomed Jane Preece into the position. Last month, the apprentices had to polish their boots, change their underwear and even have a wash, as most of us joined Richard and other members of staff for a farewell meal to see off our great boss. The night consisted of lovely food, conversations, selfie competitions, and it wouldn't have been the same without some of Richard's 'dad jokes'.

The selfie competitions caused a few laughs across the table, starting with Ryan, Dean and the Charitable Trust's very own Shelagh Paterson. Even our new boss Jane couldn't resist getting involved.

We wish Richard the best as he starts a new chapter in his life, and we look forward to working with Jane in the coming months. We just hope that Richard has (not) given Jane his book of dad jokes.

On behalf of the apprentices, I would like wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and also extend an invite to everyone to come and see us, ask for our help or ask us questions.



Diesel Groups launch fundraising campaign

After the success of their on-the-day bucket collection which netted more than £2,200 during this year's Spring Diesel Gala, the Diesel Groups have once again joined with the Charitable Trust to launch a campaign to raise money for further improvements at the Depot. Chairman of the Diesel Committee Jonathan Dunster says,

"Whilst we're already benefitting from the purpose-built maintenance Depot there's more we want to do such as building workshop facilities and an amenity block for the volunteers and staff who work so hard to maintain the Railway's essential and valuable diesel fleet."

Download a [Diesel Donation form](#) to make your contribution through the Charitable Trust. Donations made to Diesel will be ring-fenced, and the Trust will be able to claim a further 25% Gift Aid at no extra cost to you.

MOTIVE POWER AND CARRIAGE & WAGON UPDATE

What's happening at ESMP?

- * Neil Taylor is cascading the next six months' objectives to the Team Leaders. Critical to future success will be the way in which the whole team takes ownership of their objectives. Objectives will focus on People, Process, Infrastructure and Projects. We would encourage people to drop by and discuss what is being done differently.
- * A new 'Visitors to MPD process' is being implemented and tested.
- * 7714 will return to the operational fleet in time for December working.
- * 75069 will have very increased resources placed on it to accelerate progress.
- * 42968 has been progressed with volunteers, and full time resource will start to increase.
- * In both the above cases we will re-baseline the programme from a cost and schedule point of view within the next three months. These will be the test cases for our improved management plans. They may not be perfect, but they will be better.
- * Hagley Hall's tender will get resources, and work will continue to prepare the frames for the tank.
- * Dunrobin will continue to progress with a single resource allocated.
- * Most boilers now have allocated resource of some number, plus volunteer allocations. We still need to recruit some further resource to approach the correct compliment of boilermiths.
- * Operational availability will be focused on the assets for December but much effort has been made to assemble and prioritise the multitude of work for winter repairs.

What's happening at Carriage & Wagon?

- * Work continues on 4550 in the paint shop, and plans are being prepared for the overhaul of 9369 and 9615.
- * Gresley brake 24068's roof has begun to leak and it has been withdrawn from normal traffic. Additionally, Gresleys 24105 and 43612 are a cause for concern, and a review of their condition will take place after the Santa operation. We may limit their availability to stop them deteriorating any further and requiring a larger amount work.
- * A paper is being written to review the size and make-up of the SVR's carriage fleet to suit the Railway's needs, and a proposal for the GWR buffet/wheelchair conversion is being completed.
- * Following the £75,000 grant from the Department for Transport, we are completing the plan and budget for the conversion of 4399 and 80776 for wheelchair access.
- * Programme for wagon overhauls is being agreed.

INTER RAIL PASS APPLICATION FOR 2017 TRAVEL

Available to All Volunteers and Employees

The SVR, through its membership of the Heritage Railway Association (HRA), once again has the opportunity of purchasing a quantity of Inter-Rail Passes for use by working members, employees and directors of the SVR.

This year each pass will cost £30, and is valid for 1 year. It covers both the working member and one accompanying person. It is valid on the majority of preserved railways and preservation sites throughout the UK. Each pass holder may use the pass on any participating railway as often as they like until 28th February 2018, subject only to certain restrictions (e.g. not on Gala Days, Thomas Days, Dining or Santa trains).

If you would like to purchase a pass then please contact the Ticket Office at Comberton Place, Kidderminster by either calling 01562 757900, option 1 or in person during the opening hours of Monday–Friday 9am till 5pm, where the team will be able to take a card payment (or cash if in person).

The deadline for receipt of application is Monday 6th February 2017. When calling the office please have the following details to hand:

- 1) Name
- 2) Address
- 3) Department you volunteer/work with
- 4) Payment Card Details

(N.B. This does NOT replace the Reciprocal Travel Scheme operated in conjunction with certain other preserved railways.)

Bewdley Station Management team changes

I am pleased to confirm that Ian Cook has kindly agreed to take on the position of the second ASM and Paul Whittingham to the position of Station Foreman, taking over this role from Ian.

I look forward to working with Ian and Paul in their new roles and trust you will give them your full support. James Pearson, Bewdley SM



MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITS NEEDED!

We're looking for model railway layouts to be displayed at our Open House Weekend in April 2017!

April 8th & 9th will see the Railway host a number of model railway layouts at The Engine House, Highley, and we need your help...

Have you got an exhibition standard model railway you'd like to display? If so, please speak to Lewis Maddox or email footplate@svrlive.com to be considered for the event.

Paul Johnson

It is with much sadness that I have to inform you of the death of long serving volunteer Paul Johnson. His face was known by many of the volunteer fraternity but you may not have been aware of his engineering expertise delivered to the SVR for nearly 40 years.

Paul joined the SVR in the late 70s and immediately became involved with Bridgnorth MPD, and in particular 813 with whom he had lifelong contact. In addition, volunteering aspirations took him to various other departments including Bewdley Shop, Bewdley and Kidderminster Carriage Departments, but he was never far away from his beloved 813.

Paul was taken ill earlier this year but one wish was to see 813 in service and this wish was granted when he managed, with good friends, to visit the Autumn Steam Gala.

Details of Paul's funeral will be notified as soon as we hear from his twin sister to whom we send condolences. Nick Ralls, General Manager

Portable Appliance Testing

Please note that the role of SVR PAT tester has now passed from Melvin Spilsbury to Tim Smith a newly recruited volunteer.

All requirements for PAT testing must now be directed to Tim who will be happy to carry out the necessary inspections and labelling. Tim can be contacted via email; Email timbossmith@gmail.com Please remember to keep an eye on you label expiry dates and arrange for recertification. Chris Bond

Frank celebrates 50 years at the SVR

One of our stalwarts, Frank Cronin, celebrated 50 years on the SVR on November 26th. By special arrangement the 10.20 from Bridgnorth diagram was crewed by Frank and his son Kev, himself a regular driver and a company director. It was Frank's last 'link 1' turn, and a lovely celebration.

The MRTS headboard shown in the photo refers to Frank's long association with the Manchester Rail Travel Society, owners of SVR-based 'Jinty' steam locomotive No. 47383, currently resident in The Engine House Visitor Centre at Highley. The headboard was used on the trains Frank and Bernard Crick organised in 1966-68 to raise funds to buy the locomotive.



43106 Pauses at Arley where Frank is met by Stationmaster Ian Latimer, picture by Kevin Cronin.

2016 Share Offer hits the half million pound milestone

The Railway's Chairman Nick Paul announced on Friday 2nd December that more than £500,000 of shares had already been sold for the latest Share Offer. Welcoming this news just a month after the share launch, he said,

"This is a great start to raising £2.5million in 12 months for the Bridgnorth project 'Building for the Future'. Please help us to spread the word about this exciting and transformational project by informing your friends and relations."

With 40% of the applications coming from new shareholders, it seems there's a growing appeal amongst a wider number of people for heritage rail. General Manager Nick Ralls says,

"We have to attribute much of this to the extensive media support we have received and it has generated an exceptionally high level of enquiries as nostalgia for steam takes hold among new local audiences.

"What is also pleasing is that the total invested so far doesn't necessarily yet reflect the true success of the launch. This is a staged application process whereby telephone and web applicants must first receive, complete and then return an application pack which must itself be carefully processed before the end sales tally can be updated.

"Therefore with more than 2,700 initial enquiries in the pipeline within just three weeks of the launch we are hopeful that we could be on our way to the next milestone of half a million within weeks." For further information on the Share Offer, visit svr.co.uk



Help take Severn Valley Railway's Bridgnorth Station into the 21st Century whilst preserving the architectural integrity and unique character of our 'working steam railway of the past'.

With 2.5 million shares available at a price of £1 per offer share, we're looking to fund ambitious and transformative works at Bridgnorth – improvements that will dramatically improve the visitor experience and, by attracting greater passenger numbers, help secure the long-term future of our living heritage.

Planned works include the building of a new refreshment room in the style of a typical Great Western Railway building, c1900, the reinstatement of the original booking hall and waiting room, as well as the installation of a turntable allowing us to turn locomotives – a real spectacle for all our visitors!

We'll also make significant improvements to retail, parking and other visitor facilities, creating new road access and undertake an intensive tree-planting scheme.

You can be sure that all share offer proceeds will be used solely

to support Bridgnorth Station development and your investment will play a vital role in preserving precious memories of the past and help sustain the long-term future of our wonderful railway – a piece of living history that, only through your support, can be preserved.

To find out more or register your interest go to:

svr.co.uk/shareoffer or call **01562 757900**

Image above: architect's impression of the proposed refreshment room and toilet building, looking from the south



FLYING SCOTSMAN

FROM THE FOOTPLATE

Thursday 29 December at 9pm on BBC FOUR

Also available on the BBC iPlayer

Engine Driver ROGER NORFOLK • Fireman RYAN GREEN
NRM Rail Operations Manager NOEL HARTLEY • Locomotive Engineer CLIVE GOULT

Director of Photography JOHN ANDERSON • Camera Assistant DAN MEARS • Cameras ANDREW DOBSON • PATRICK HARGREAVES
Aerial Photography HALO VUE Drone Pilot PHIL FEARNLEY Drone Camera MICHAEL KHENG • Sound Recordist NIGEL CHATTERS
Dubbing Mixer ADAM SEVERIS • Colourist JON DOBSON • Online Facilities ADBS LEEEDS Research BRENDA MAY
Commissioning Editors CLARE PATERSON • OWEN COURTNEY • Executive Producer TONY PARKER
Producer and Director ROGER KEECH

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The Staff and Volunteers of the SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY

and ANDY CHRISTIE • ARLEY ARBORETUM • CANAL & RIVER TRUST • DANIELS MILL • RILEY & SON LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS

BBC FOUR

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RECIPROCAL TRAVEL ON OTHER RAILWAYS

Thinking of using your free travel? For a full list of participating Railways, click here:

<http://www.svrive.com/Pages/ReciprocalTravel.aspx>

On 'Normal' operating days' timetables all the railways signed up for the scheme should permit free 3rd class (2nd/standard class on some lines) on production of an SVR working member's staff pass.

For special events, some, though not all, allow a reduced fare rate. Best to check in advance!

SVR Working Members can get a 15% discount by printing this voucher, when visiting **Pomodoro in High Street, Bewdley** for evening meals between now and 28/02/2017. Offer excludes Saturdays, one voucher per table and minimum 2 persons.

VOLUNTEER CHRISTMAS VOUCHER DRAW

Congratulations to Gwyn Rees – MPD Bridgnorth, Roger Goode - Bewdley Pway, Stuart Matthews - Bewdley MPD & Ian Hollis - Bewdley C&W. The four are this months winners of the SVR £20 gift voucher, drawn at random by the Volunteer Liaison Officer.

EXPRESS POINTS



Season Finale Pictures
by: Pete Burke



We are getting a whole new look and feel from early 2017 – more news next month!

Sign up for our online newsletter by emailing

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