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THE SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY ASSOCIATION

# EXPRESS POINTS

WORKING MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

January 2015

**EXPRESS POINTS**

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**The Working Members Newsletter****- Contact -****Editor:** Simon Turner**Email:** ExpressPoints@svrlive.com**Write:** Simon Turner, Express Points Editor, The Station Masters Office, Platform one, The Railway Station, Bewdley, DY12 1DP.**- About -**

Express points is distributed on the first Sunday of each month, over 250 printed copies are available and more than 450 digital links sent via email.

**This newsletter is produced for the information of Working Members & Staff of the Severn Valley Railway.**

**- Deadline -**

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



Please recycle this newsletter

**Welcome**

.. to your latest edition of Express Points – The Working Members Newsletter for the staff of the Severn Valley Railway. Live news is always available online at [www.svrlive.com](http://www.svrlive.com). This newsletter provides a summary of information specific to the staff of the Railway and is a great way for working members to communicate and promote their department. If you have a story – let us know!

**E-Version available**

If you have access to email facilities you can sign up to receive a link to download this newsletter direct to your computer, simply email [ExpressPoints@svrlive.com](mailto:ExpressPoints@svrlive.com) to subscribe to our reminder service.

**Photographs**

Did you know you can submit digital photographs to Express Points either to accompany your article or for the front cover? Email them or send them on a disc or USB memory device to the address shown opposite.

**Opinions**

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, Severn Valley Railway Company Limited, the members of which are responsible for its operation, or the supporting body, The Severn Valley Railway Association.

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

**Live SVR Working Members information available online at [www.svrlive.com](http://www.svrlive.com)**

**Happy New Year**  
**To All of our**  
**Working Members**

**Cover image: 4 Car DMU departing Bewdley for Kidderminster, passes the Stourport line. By: Paul Pearson**



# News & Views...

## Thinking of using your free travel this year? Here's a list of Railways in the Reciprocal Travel Scheme..

Bluebell Railway	Llangollen Railway
Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway (SRPS)	Mid Hants Railway
Bodmin and Wenford Railway	Mid Norfolk Railway
Dean Forest Railway	North Norfolk Railway
East Lancs Railway	North Yorkshire Moors Railway
Embsay and Bolton Abbey Railway	Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway
Gloucester & Warwickshire Steam Railway	Seaton Tramway
Great Central Railway	South Devon Railway
Isle of Wight Steam Railway	Spa Valley Railway
Keighley & Worth Valley Railway	Strathspey Railway
Kent & East Sussex Railway	Swanage Railway
Lakeside & Haverthwaite Railway	Talyllyn Railway
Leighton Buzzard Railway	Wensleydale Railway

On 'Normal' operating days' timetables all the railways signed up for the scheme should permit free third class (or 2nd or standard class on some lines) on production of an SVR working members staff pass. Some railways, like the SVR, accept the pass and don't issue a ticket whilst others issue a complementary ticket. On Gala days and certain other 'Special Events' days when there are special timetables in operation, they all should provide a reduced rate fare in line with what we do but in practice it varies from similar arrangements to the SVR, to free, to no concessions at all.

It is safest to assume that such restrictions apply at Galas and either phone in advance or certainly enquire at the Booking Office on arrival.

## VOLUNTEER MONTHLY VOUCHER DRAW..

The latest winner of the voucher draw Annette Poole of Hampton Loade Station, congratulations!

The Volunteer Monthly Prize is drawn at random by the Volunteer Liaison Department. Each month £20 is won and the winner is published here.

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## Kidderminster Town Station

Well Christmas is over and time to pack away the decorations once again. But before we forget Christmas I would like to thank all the Staff at Kidderminster for all there hard work during November and December.

The prep went very well for the Christmas Events, Thanks to Pete Smith and his gang of merry men and ladies, I think the Concourse looked fantastic.

As a visitor said its great to see a Traditional Christmas with real trees and not all this plastic stuff.

Thanks to all the Staff that looked after the Visitors not only for the Santa Specials but the Christmas Crackers and the Santa Heralds and Carol Trains I know many of you worked 6 days a week. My thanks to you all.

On behalf of us all at Kidderminster may I wish all our friends on the Railway and at Comberton Place a HAPPY NEW YEAR for 2015.

By: Geoff Smith, Kidderminster Station

## A bench dedicated to the memory of Don & Doreen Wilcox

It has been suggested that we should erect a bench on Bewdley platform to the memory of Don and Doreen Wilcox.

They were both strong supporters of the SVR from the very beginning; in fact it was Doreen who attended the first meeting when it was decided to reopen the line as unfortunately Don could not go.

Don spent many years as Chairman of the Junior Club and the older ex-juniors remember him well.

If you would like to contribute towards the bench please send a donation to James Pearson c/o BY SMO or if you see me about I can always pass it on to him.

Thanks , Pat Heap

## Break in at Kidderminster Carriage Shed

I am writing to inform you that we have had a break in at our Kidderminster Carriage Shed office overnight last night (11/12/2014) Fortunately nothing was taken of any value.

## Vandalism in the Diesel Yard

Yet again we have been subjected to vandalism and an attempted break in at our Diesel Yard at Kidderminster. This is the 3rd time in 2 weeks we have been targeted. Increased security presence is being put into place to help deter these people. Once again can I please ask for your support and if you see anything suspicious please report it.

Nick Ralls , General Manager



On the  
Notice  
Board this  
month...

### ***Your Feedback – it matters!***

You can comment on any aspect of this newsletter by emailing the Editor .

You can also feedback to the SVR with regards any topic by emailing the HQ [feedback@svrlive.com](mailto:feedback@svrlive.com)

Any Staffing issues you can feedback to our Volunteer Liaison Office by emailing [Vlo@svrlive.com](mailto:Vlo@svrlive.com)

**Useful downloads  
and forms are  
available online  
[www.svrlive.com](http://www.svrlive.com)**



### **Happy Christmas and New Year!**

As another superb Santa season is coming to an end many of you, I am sure, are looking forward to finally relaxing with friends and family over the Christmas period.

Whilst I may not have met all of you this year face to face may I wish you all a Happy Christmas and Seasons Greetings, it has been a pleasure to work with you in 2014 and I look forward to seeing you next year.

With sincere thanks .

**Nick Ralls** , General Manager

### **Severn Trent Water work on Elan Valley Aqueduct**

As some of you may be aware, Severn Trent Water (STW) are proposing large scale works that will affect the SVR during the shutdown. Essentially these works will see the replacement of large Victorian water pipes that run underneath the SVR opposite the large pipe bridge that crosses the river Severn. This is part of a larger project to carry out remedial work on the Elan Valley Aqueduct at critical infrastructure points such as rail crossings.

The SVR has been cooperating with STW and their agents to ensure that the work can be carried out during the winter shutdown with minimal effects on our services. Although still subject to last minute changes due to a multitude of factors, the work is scheduled to start on 5th January 2015 and is planned to be complete for the movement of engines required for the February half term week. Whilst the work takes place please observe the following:-

- The car park at Bewdley will form a loading area and administrative base for the duration of the project. Areas of the site will be enclosed in “Heras” security fencing to protect plant and equipment whilst unmanned. STW contractors will be using the railway to access the worksite using road railers to transport materials to and from the There will be a marked pedestrian route around the area for accessing the carriage paintshop and sleeping coaches. Volunteers who need to use the barrow crossing and goods shed whilst the site is manned should speak to the site manager to ensure no movements are taking place. When unmanned it is proposed to put an access gate off the pedestrian route with code padlock set to “2857 “ to allow access over the barrow crossing.
- STW will be handed possession of the line between Bewdley and the worksite in order to freely carry out movements to and from the site. The route into Bewdley will be set and clipped and will allow a route in via the down main and goods loop. The hand point at the south end of the loop will give access to the car park siding. The route will delineated using road pins and tape. All volunteers are asked to keep clear of the designated route.
- Access to the worksite will be restricted and staff are asked not to try and access the area to take photographs. At times the work will be being carried out on a continuous basis in order to meet timescales so there may be occasions when road railer movements will occur after dark. It is intended that updates will be available along with officially taken photos of the works on SVR live so that those interested can view progress.
- Any specific questions about this project should be addressed to [chris.bond@svrlive](mailto:chris.bond@svrlive) . It should also be noted that the SVR stands to benefit financially from this exercise therefore everyone’s cooperation and understanding is asked for so that the project runs smoothly to a successful conclusion. By: Nick Ralls.



## **General Managers Update October to December 2014**

Please find below a synopsis of activity and discussion within the Holdings Board and other items from October to December 2014

### **Passenger Numbers**

October proved to be a successful month, with both the Diesel Gala and Ghost Trains taking place. In total we saw over 14,300 passengers on our trains, 2,000 ahead of budget for the month. November figures were to budget at 4,400 passengers and December figures, which consist mainly of Santa Services, are doing very well, with a near sell out of over 32,000 passengers. Let's hope for a crisp and dry festive season to finish the year off well.

### **Heritage Skills Training Academy**

The new cohort (5 in total) are now placed in the workshops across the Railway, including Bewdley Carriage & Wagon and Kidderminster Paintshop. You may have seen some recent press stories concerning the HSTA and the enrolment of Emma Harrison this year, please do welcome all of the new cohort to the Railway if you meet them in the workshops.

### **B&Q Tools Delivery**

This event went very well. Thanks to all the crews, MPD and station staff involved on the day. The tools are very good quality and we have over £2,000 worth of vouchers to spend on Railway equipment at B&Q stores. We have also made some good contacts with the management team at Kidderminster store.

### **Carriage & Wagon**

Good progress has been made on the Carriage Department project. A scaffold platform has been purchased which offers a semi-permanent structure in the carriage shed which allows roof and carriage painting during the summer without interrupting the paint programme in the paint shop. There is also a wood working shop being constructed on the ground floor of the Carriage Department.

### **Bridgnorth Car Break In**

You will be aware of the terrible incident where 15 cars were broken in to. Thanks go to Tony Bending who has been working to provide support to those working members who were affected and Chris Thomas, who is coordinating the security improvement response.

### **Kidderminster Car Park**

The pedestrian walkway round the Kidderminster car park barriers has now been completed and paid for by the adjacent developers in exchange for access to the car park to make half a dozen deliveries direct to their construction site.

### **Bridgnorth Car Park Repair work**

The small slip at the edge of Bridgnorth car park sustained early in 2014 has now been fully repaired, financed through our insurance. Whilst this undoubtedly caused inconvenience for Station staff drainage improvements were also undertaken to protect the embankment from water ingress during heavy sustained rainfall.

### **Budget 2015**

The budget for 2015 was presented to the Board at the October and November meetings. It has now been signed off together with the timetable for 2015. The budget is 'low risk' based on a low passenger threshold and a main fare increase of £1 on the headline fare which in 2015 will be: £19.00.

As you would expect the costs to the organisation have risen with increases in utilities and coal.

### **Knowlesands Trading Estate**

The SVR is still in dispute with the owner of the Knowlesands Trading Estate at Oldbury. The area was subject to washouts during the 2007 rain events. The Railway is now looking to undertake improvements to the drainage and water capture on our neighbours land whilst recouping the costs for undertaking the work from the land owner.

### **Winter works 2014-2015**

Chris Bond Infrastructure Manager will be managing a number of projects this winter including repair and maintenance work on Bewdley North (Wribbenhall) and Bewdley South (Sandbourne) viaducts. The civils reports undertaken on a five year basis have illustrated the need to repoint brickwork, replace stonework where necessary and re-bond the arches to the main structures. Repairs to the skew arch on Wribbenhall viaduct will be undertaken with one of the arches of Sandbourne this winter. This work will involve achieving some form of traffic light system for controlling traffic under the skew arch whilst the work is undertaken. The total cost for the two arches will be £125,000.

The project to replace the Elan Valley Pipes under the Railway is still progressing and whilst contracts have not been signed all logistical issues have been resolved, it is anticipated that that work will take place in January. Please see NBI-H-204 issued on 18th December.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...**

### **Hampton Loade Station House**

There has been a desire to upgrade overnight volunteer accommodation and replace the dilapidated Great Western carriage used currently. At Hampton Loade the original intention was that this would be provided with a new appropriate building on the site. However the recent end of the tenancy for the Station House has offered a different opportunity and the Guarantee Company is working with the Station staff to allocate the Station House as messing and sleeping accommodation for the volunteers. The structure is sound and the building contains many historic features that will be retained. Agreement will be reached shortly for the volunteers to adopt the house on a long term basis.

### **Retirement of David Mee as Visitor Services Manager**

David has provided a long and distinguished service to the Railway as a volunteer, Engine House Manager and latterly as Visitor Services Manager. Whilst David's connection and involvement with the SVR will not end, he is standing down from his current position at the end of January.

With Lisa Smith currently on maternity leave this does leave the department without a number of personnel, further announcements on working arrangements will be made in the New Year.

### **New 2015 Timetable brochure and leaflets**

Whilst a preview version of the timetable for 2015 was printed as a small run for the Warley Model show a full amended print run will now be undertaken, this will include an amended timetable A which includes a round trip for AS2 (the diesel/DMU path) in it and charter paths to use for bookings as well. Consideration has also been given to the length of the working day on some of the locomotive turns and where possible this has been shortened. Final checks will be made on other timetables as well.

The print run for the timetable is considerable and we are looking at providing a concise version that will be more accessible and smaller for racks away from the Railway, for example at Motorway Service Stations.

### **Filming on the Railway**

Thanks go to staff at Bewdley Station, Kidderminster Station, loco, guards' crews and Bill Griffiths for assisting with the filming of scenes on the SVR for the new feature film The Black Prince.

### **Motive Power Department**

Progress has been made on the following locomotives:

7714 frame alignment is now complete, and axle box work is underway. The frames are being painted and the cross head and slide bar work is underway.

7802 cladding is being painted and the tender is in the Works to allow the EMF to undertake repair.

34027 has new cab fitting being machined, the chassis is being prepared to receive the boiler imminently.

42968 volunteers have now removed valves to allow work to commence on the valve liners.

In the boilershop:

34027's boiler is undergoing water testing and rectification work is taking place.

7802's boiler is having holes reamed for new rivets to be fitted.

### **Catering buffet price changes:**

Working members may have noticed that the menus have been adjusted in the buffets. The increase in some prices reflects Gavin Chances move to use more local and higher quality products in the menus.

Prices continue to be discounted by 35% for Working Members.

### **The Engine House:**

The Engine House will be the venue for a Timeline exhibition in 2015 celebrating the first fifty years of the Railway. Weddings continue to be popular with six weddings booked for next year and three further enquiries.

### **Signalling Engineering:**

The Signalling Engineering Department has occupation of a new shed on the Railway and work has commenced to install shelving to make best use of the space.

### **Nick Ralls**

General Manager

### SVR Diesel Locomotive Maintenance Depot

Long-awaited plans for the Severn Valley Railway's Diesel Locomotive Maintenance Depot were turned into reality with construction contracts being signed with the principal contractor C21 Construction Ltd.

The Diesel Locomotive Maintenance Depot – providing undercover storage and maintenance facilities – will help the line preserve its fleet of heritage diesel locomotives, many of which are now over 50 years old.

The depot, occupying part of the Kidderminster Yard adjacent to the 1/5th mile-long carriage shed, has long been a key part of the line's ambitious plans for developing this site, just south of Kidderminster Town Station. Previously maintenance of diesel rolling stock was completed outside in all weathers, including rain and on occasion snow by dedicated committed volunteers who will now be able to work under cover.

"This is a vital improvement to our infrastructure, and recognition of the importance of preserving heritage diesel locomotives as well as our extensive fleet of steam locomotives", said the line's General Manager, Nick Ralls.

The Severn Valley Railway diesel locomotives provide timetabled support on around ten percent of the railway's annual services with an annual diesel gala in the autumn providing the chance for enthusiasts to travel behind a huge variety of diesel locomotive types. Diesel traction is also the unsung hero of the Railway providing the motive power to shunt empty rolling stock around the Railway and provide haulage for any trains that undertake repairs and maintenance to track and structures during the winter months.

"The Railway is home to around 20 diesel locomotives", says Jonathan Dunster, Chairman of the Diesel Committee, heading up the project. "The new depot provides us with a quality location to maintain and run them – it's a huge step forward".

The new depot will provide approximately 1,000m<sup>2</sup> of covered accommodation and will consist of two locomotive inspection pits, lifting jacks and a 10 tonne overhead travelling crane. Completion of the facility is anticipated in the summer of 2015.

C21 are construction specialists based in mid-Wales, and are providing full project-management support to the Severn Valley Railway.

If you are interested in supporting this project and other vital projects on the SVR, donations to the Severn Valley Railway Charitable Trust are invited. For more information, call 01562 757941 or visit [svrtrust.org.uk](http://svrtrust.org.uk).

**Nick Ralls**

General Manager

### Ken Bayley – Former SLOA/ HRT Steward – affectionately known as 'Old Git'

I am very sorry to tell you that my dad, Ken, died unexpectedly on Saturday 6th December.

On that morning he went out to photograph two steam locomotives pulling a special charter train and it appears that just a few moments after it passed by he suffered a catastrophic heart failure. It seems most unlikely that he knew anything about what was happening to him and he would be pleased that he was spared any long illness or loss of dignity. Right up to the last minute he was making the most of his life doing something he loved. He was found on the footpath in the field next to the railway line, where he took his last photos, a few hours later by a passer-by walking their dog. Both Police and Paramedics attended but he was pronounced dead at the scene.

Because of the circumstances of his death the case had to be referred to the coroner and the inevitable delay has meant that we have been unable to arrange his funeral until the New Year. **If you would like to attend the funeral, which will be held at 2pm Tuesday 6th January at Harwood Park**

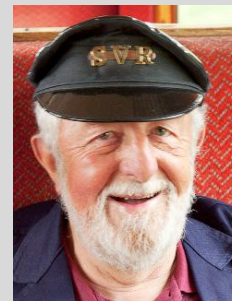
**Crematorium, Watton Road, Stevenage SG2 8XT, we would be pleased to see you there.** Harwood Park is signposted from the A602.

Dad requested that no flowers be sent, but that donations in his memory would be welcome, and he nominated The British Heart Foundation so a collection will be held at the end of the service. Alternatively you may prefer to donate directly on line or by post (see details overleaf).

After the funeral we will return to Hertford to raise a glass to Ken at the **Sailsbury Arms Hotel HERTFORD SG14 1BZ** and we'd be pleased to see you there too if you are able to join us.

Please would you let us know if you can come along on the 6th, so that we can make suitable arrangements, and tell us if you'll be attending only the funeral or if you can join us afterwards at The Sailsbury Arms as well. Email address is: [sbayley@virginmedia.com](mailto:sbayley@virginmedia.com)

**By: Steve Bayley.**







Christmas Cracker Express by: Ian Murray



Santa Special by: Ian Murray



Happy New Year by: Paul Pearson



## InterRail Pass 2015

### 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.

Each pass costs £25, 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 2016, subject only to certain restrictions (e.g. not on Gala Days, Thomas Days, Dining or Santa trains).

If you like to purchase a pass then please complete the form below and return it with a stamped addressed envelope to Tammy Ferris, PA to Nick Ralls, by internal or external post, together with a cheque for £25 made payable to 'Heritage Railway Association'. No cash please as remittance has to be forwarded to HRA by post. The deadline for receipt of forms is Monday 16th February 2015.

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

(Please detach here)

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### InterRail Pass Scheme 2015/16 – Application Form

To:- HRA Application, c/o Tammy Ferris, Severn Valley Railway, Number One, Comberton Place, Kidderminster, Worcs. DY10 1QR.

(Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms).....

Surname..... Department.....

Position.....

I wish to apply for an InterRail Pass, and enclose a stamped addressed envelope, together with a cheque made payable to 'Heritage Railway Association' for £25.

Signed..... Date.....

**N.B. Closing Date is 16th February 2015**

## The Eardington Explorer - celebrating the past and looking to the future - **TICKETS SELLING FAST!**

As mentioned in the last edition of Express Points, on Friday 17th April 2015 a special train is being run to raise funds for the 82045 boiler appeal. The train, 'The Eardington Explorer', will recreate the first SVR services, running from Bridgnorth to Hampton Loade and return. As in the early days of preservation, there will be a stop en route at Eardington, giving a rare opportunity to travel by steam to a station that has not featured in the SVR timetable since 1982.

**The good news is that over half of the tickets have already been sold, adding to 82045's boiler fund and bringing closer the day when a BR 3MT Tank engine will once again steam along the SVR!**

The rolling stock for the special will be classic vintage Great Western, with 1935 built Auto Tank 1450 hauling three GWR 'toplight' coaches dating from the early years of last century. In addition to the train journey, it is hoped to be able to arrange a shed visit to Bridgnorth Shed, and footplate rides will be available (at an extra cost) along with an on-train bar.

At Eardington there will be time to explore this lovely station and learn about its history and refreshments will be available. The ticket price is £19.65, reflecting the formation date of the SVR, and all profits will go to the 82045 boiler appeal. There's surely no better way of celebrating 50 years of the Severn Valley Railway than by helping to build a steam loco that will ensure another 50 years of steam in the valley.

As mentioned, tickets are selling fast, so to book please send cheques for £19.65 per ticket, made payable to **82045 Steam Locomotive Trust**, to Bryan Clarke, Oak Tree House, Love Lane, Bridgnorth, WV16 4HD. Please put your address on the back of the cheque. A schedule of the day's proceedings will be sent out, together with a souvenir Edmondson ticket towards the end of February 2015.

**By: Steve Downs**

**Our next edition will be available on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2015**

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**ExpressPoints@svrlive.com**

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