



THE SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY

EXPRESS POINTS

WORKING MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

February 2016



Express Points
The Working Members Newsletter
- Contact -

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- About -

Express points is distributed on the first Sunday of each month, over 150 printed copies are available and more than 500 digital reminder links sent via email.

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

- 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. 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 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 & Information

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.

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

Your Feedback

You can comment on any aspect of this newsletter by emailing the Editor; ExpressPoints@svrlive.com

You can also feedback to the SVR with regards any topic by emailing the Head Quarters; feedback@svrlive.com

Any Staffing issues can be sent through to our Volunteer Liaison Office; Vlo@svrlive.com

Membership feedback and enquiries can be sent to the Membership team at the Head Quarters; Membership@svrlive.com

Live SVR News and Information

Live updated news is always available online 24 hours a day at www.svrlive.com and you can view twelve previous editions of Express Points by clicking 'Working members' then 'Express Points WMNL'.

This months cover image

The cover photo this month is by: Ian Murray

Description: 70000 at little rock on the 19/09/2015 with the 15.33 Kidderminster to Bridgnorth

RECIPROCAL TRAVEL ON OTHER RAILWAYS

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	

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.

Paper copies of Express Points

As most Working Members now receive an email link to download Express Points online, the number of paper copies required for distribution has dropped significantly. There are now around 150 copies circulated in paper format and over 500 email links sent for downloading from SVRLive. If your department requires any additional copies please contact us.

Question & Answer session

The first Question and Answer session of 2016 is being held :-

In the Kinlet Room, At the Engine House, Highley

11.45am - 1.30pm

Sunday 28th February 2016

Train Times to and from Highley Station;

Arrivals:

BH 10:20 HY 10:48

KR 10:30 HY 11:12

Return:

HY 14:26 BH 14:53

HY 14:49 KR 15:27

Nick Ralls , General Manager

VOLUNTEER MONTHLY VOUCHER DRAW..

The latest winner of the SVR £20 gift voucher is: James Pearson, Bewdley station, congratulations!

The Volunteer Monthly Prize is drawn at random by the Volunteer Liaison Dept. Each month a £20 voucher is won and the winner is published here. In December four names are drawn.

WANTED - GHOST STORIES

We are looking for people to come forward with Ghost experiences from on and around the SVR for a book we are compiling.

If you have a story (no matter how small) please email us at stationtales@gmail.com or contact Geoff Smith, Station Master at Kidderminster.

Stories can be kept anonymous and all contributions are greatly appreciated. Many Thanks

Antonia and Tim

David Mead

Following a project that was undertaken to review the Carriage and Wagon department I am delighted to announce that David Mead will take the position of Carriage and Wagon Manager in a part time capacity, with Nigel Hanson heading mechanical maintenance and deputising for David on his days off. Nigel Hanson, Hugh McQuade and Colin Astbury will all report directly to David.

David has a wealth of experience beginning his career as an Indentured Technical Apprentice at Heenan & Froude Ltd Worcester before moving on to become R&D Project Manager for Electrolux. This was followed by an appointment as Director of Engineering for Goblin McCulloch Europe and New Products Design Manager for Rexel/Acco Business machines. He retired early after a short period as a Consultant.

David's interest in Railways has been lifelong with volunteering starting in the 1970's on the South Tynedale Railway. He has been a volunteer on the SVR for 9 years in the C&W department at Kidderminster, and as a guard. In addition to the restoration/overhaul of carriages he is a member of the C&W Workshop Committee and involved in the implementation of its recommendations. Recently he has become a mentor the apprentices in C&W.

Outside of the SVR David is a Director of Engineering of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway Society, visiting India to advise on improving the procedures and practices in the works at Tindharia. I am sure you will join me in wishing David success in his new role.
Nick Ralls, General Manager

What better way to start a year than with a nomination for an award?

We're thrilled to announce that we have made it to the finalist shortlist for a What's On Readers' Award. The nomination is for the Best Midlands' Visitor Attraction, and we're up against a number of other attractions in the region.
Can you help us be crowned the top visitor attraction in the Midlands?

Simply follow the link below and vote for the Severn Valley Railway:

<http://whatsonlive.co.uk/whats-on-readers-awards>

Hopefully we'll be sending out another NBI in a few weeks with some positive news!
Thank you for your support.
Lewis Maddox , Events Coordinator

INTER RAIL PASS APPLICATIONS FOR 2016

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 2017, subject only to certain restrictions (e.g. not on Gala Days, Thomas Days, Dining or Santa trains).

There is a change to how to apply this year as the preferred payment method this year is by card. Therefore, 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 8th February 2016.

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.)

Parking at Bridgnorth station

It is intended to appoint a new contractor to enforce car park charges at Bridgnorth. This will all be done 'on camera' (i.e. no wardens) but this means that all staff **MUST** have their registration numbers listed in the system, so that they do not get charged.

Forms will shortly be sent out to all heads of department and you are asked to record your name and registration number on these forms, no later than Sunday 28 February 2016. You can register more than one car.

Notice will be given before the new system starts. It will not be easy to cancel tickets on the new system (there is a charge for this) so please ensure that you do provide your details.

After 28th February 2016, please advise any change of vehicle/use of hire car etc., to Chris Thomas by emailing chris.thomas@svrlive.com.

Chris Thomas , Acting Stationmaster

Spring Gala attractions and Confirmed visiting locomotives

No. 6412 - former Great Western Railway Auto-fitted Pannier Tank

With thanks to the South Devon Railway

No. 6430 - former Great Western Railway Auto-fitted Pannier Tank

With thanks to Hugh Shipton & Llangollen Railway

No. 6990 Witherslack Hall - former Great Western Railway 'Hall' 4-6-0

With thanks to the David Clarke Railway Trust & Great Central Railway

No. 4 Edward Thomas - Talyllyn Railway narrow gauge locomotive

With thanks to the Talyllyn Railway

Other Attractions include:-

No. 7802 Bradley Manor makes its Gala debut following its return to front-line service following major overhaul.

Autotrains with No. 1450, No. 6412 and No. 6430.

No. 4 Edward Thomas on display in steam on a temporary running line at The Engine House, Highley.

Double-headed Pannier Tanks.

Local trains to-ing and fro-ing between Stations.

Goods trains.

Locomotive sales stands

Grand opening of The Engine House's all new exhibition, showcasing the work of famous railway artist Terence Cuneo!

More information to follow.

Apprentice entrepreneurs?

Where has the past month gone? It seems to have flown by and the first running weekend is fast approaching.

Since the last article, the apprentices have been flat out helping at their departments.

The 2014 cohort have rotated again, allowing us to have a taste of another department. In my own case, I am now working at Bewdley Carriage Department alongside Colin Astbury and his enthusiastic team.

The 2013 cohort continue in their chosen departments, with Max Green returning to work after a prolonged illness.

Finally, the 2015 cohort, Jack Eggleston and George Brogan, have been working alongside Rail Safety Solutions learning the skills needed to maintain the 16.5 miles of track. All of us are still meeting regularly. The latest talk is of Ryan dreaming of buying an MG Midget (a name perhaps suited to our least vertically-unchallenged colleague!)

During a break at work , Dean and Jack made what they thought was a state-of-the-art breakthrough in communications. After searching for tins to put paint in, it gradually dawned on them that old cans could be put to another use. With a length of string, two cans and a punch, they soon assembled a rudimentary phone. With one can as a mouthpiece, the other placed over an ear and the string stretched taut between them, they could talk to each other over a distance of around 4 feet. With their idea becoming ever more ambitious, they found a 60 foot –long piece of string. With this, and the two cans, they could now talk over the length of a railway coach. They were amazed. Jack was heard declaring “This is more hi-tec than anything seen in Cornwall!”

They now hope to distribute this system and make a fortune. Sadly, no-one can bring themselves to tell them there is already a device called a phone, and there are even mobile ones as well these days. Looks like their idea is going to need a really hard sell!

Alan Brookes



LNER CARRIAGE GROUP - VACANCIES

The SVR Charitable Trust's LNER Carriage Group assists the Trust in its continuing care of the Railway's historic set of nine GNR/LNER Gresley varnished teak carriages (Set N). This set is unique and forms the longest restored set of such Gresley carriages. Its existence is the result of some 44 years of hard graft, continuous fund-raising and sheer drive and determination.

The active Carriage Group still has a long programme of planned improvements and is currently completing the ninth Gresley vehicle for the SVR and re-canvassing the roof of Tourist Third Open 43600. Its work is not exclusively on LNER projects. It has restored a GWR full brake (1145, one of the shop coaches at Bewdley) and has a GWR 'TOAD' brake van restoration project at planning stage on behalf of the Trust.

We need two enthusiastic volunteers to strengthen our busy team

For working effectiveness and companionship, candidates would ideally be those able to offer a couple of regular working days each week when the group normally meets. These are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The usual work base is in the yard at Bewdley Station, though tasks can also arise at Kidderminster. No age restrictions – and some younger blood would usefully help preserve the group's experience for the future.

Members of such a team must be SVR members for insurance purposes. Skills sought include:

- The ability to work carefully and constructively as a team member and under the direction and guidance of the Group's Project Manager.
- Basic skills in carpentry and some engineering understanding will be useful.
- Essential qualities include a good sense of humour and a readiness to share tasks such as making the tea and helping with occasional administration needs.
- Suitable training will be given.

Volunteers interested in undertaking this task should contact Richard Gunning, making their initial approach through the Volunteer Liaison Office at Bewdley Station 01299-401776 (not after 9pm). The VLO email address is: vlo@svrlive.com

BEWDLEY, February 2016

Our next edition will be available on Sunday 6th March 2016

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