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THE SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY ASSOCIATION

EXPRESS POINTS

WORKING MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

December 2015

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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. 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

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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@svrofficialsite



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

Live SVR Working Members information available online at www.svrlive.com

Merry Christmas to all of our Working Members!

Cover image: 46521 & 4566 approach Arley on the 19/9 with the 10.27 from Bridgnorth. By: Ian Murray

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 vouchers are Edwin Boddington Don Shadwell, Brian Oldford & Tony Fielding, 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.

Hi Viz clothing available from VLO

We have just collected a collection of new hi viz clothing branded Network Rail, Amey, Colas etc. comprising, trousers, body warmers with zip pockets, t shirts of various sizes, BR Gilets, coats, jackets (Racal Branded) plus other items.

In addition we have new BR branded and buttoned jackets, new BR diesel drivers jackets with zip front coloured black, new and pre-owned over coats, Loco. inspectors coats plus others. Finally included in the collection are new various sized BR trousers, button fly, Racal grey trousers.

Over the past few weeks we have also acquired a number of pre-owned SVR suits of various sizes.

Contact the VLO with details of your requirements!

Bewdley Station Christmas Party

The Bewdley Station annual Xmas party was held on Saturday 28th November at St. George's Hall Bewdley and is usually held the week prior to starting santa services.

Once again, it was a great success, and thanks are due to Dave Brattan, Kyle Daisley and Nick Farrers for the event organisation and catering, and to Alan Brookes for an excellent disco.

Thanks are also due to the staff at the hall for their hard work on the evening.

It was good to see our (mostly) younger staff enjoying themselves and having a good time!

Dai Phillips

SVR Rail Sim

We have had an enquiry from a working member who is looking to purchase the Rail Simulator of the SVR route.

If you know where a copy can be obtained please email expresspoints@svrlive.com and we will forward the details on.



On the
Notice
Board this
month...

David Howley

It is with great sadness that I must inform you all that David Howley passed away on Sunday 22nd November 2015. David had been part of the Severn Valley Railway for over 40 years, and was instrumental in the founding of the shop at Bridgnorth Station. David was one of those people who attended the very first meeting at the Cooper's Arms on 6th July 1965. He had been one of the people who used to stand on the black bridge over the railway line at Kidderminster Station, taking engine numbers. Sadly, David's health had declined over more recent years but we were delighted that he was able to join us for the Founders Diner on 6th July and proudly stood with the rest of the members for the photocall.

It has been confirmed that the funeral arrangements for David Howley are as follows:

Wednesday 9th December 2015 At Emstrey Crematorium, London Road, Shrewsbury, SY2 6PS At 2.45pm

Donations can be made to Birmingham Children's Hospital on the day or sent to the funeral directors at Northwood & Sons, 52 High Street, Much Wenlock, Salop, TF13 6AE.

Nick Ralls, General Manager

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

Any Staffing issues you can feedback to our Volunteer Liaison Office by emailing Vlo@svrlive.com

7819

It is with disappointment that we have to inform you that No. 7819 will not be returning to the Severn Valley Railway for the Manor 50 event on November 14th and 15th.

Recent reports in Steam Railway and Heritage Railway magazine suggesting that Hinton Manor would be returning for the event are unfortunately not achievable.

Despite positive conversations with Swindon Retail Centre concerning the removal of 7819 the management team at the centre are unable to secure the contractors to remove the windows and street furniture to make the move from the shopping centre possible before the Manor 50 event. However as already reported this is the first visit of Dinmore Manor to the SVR and Bradley Manor, currently undergoing running in trials will be hauling public service trains for the first time at the Manor 50 event following the completion of its comprehensive overhaul.

Nick Ralls , General Manager

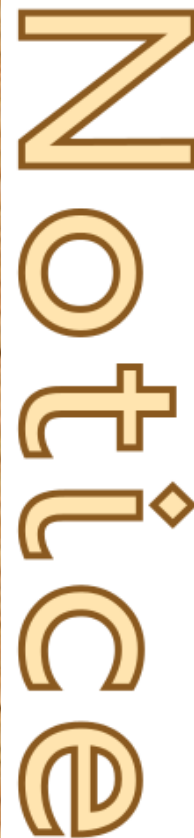
Phil Brown

Phil Brown, Operations Manager, has accepted a new post at the Ffestiniog & Welsh Highland Railway as Locomotive Manager and has therefore handed in his resignation to the SVR.

Phil will be in position as Operations Manager until the first week of January 2016. Phil has been Operations Manager since 2011 and seen through many changes during that period, including the transition to a Traffic notice on demand system online, and revisions and issue of the rule book. I am sure like me you wish Phil every success for the future.

The position of Operations Manager will be advertised on the svr.co.uk website in due course.

Nick Ralls, General Manager



Social media publicity

Can you help us spread the word about the SVR on-line?

There is a simple job that everyone using the web/social media can help with and it costs nothing!

1. If you have a Facebook account, please 'like' our pages as follows: Severn Valley Railway Official Site and Severn Valley Railway Families
2. Please 'share' our posts with your friends (particularly those promoting events, activities or giving visitor information).
3. Please ask your Facebook friends to share your posts!
4. If you have a Twitter account, follow us @svrofficialsite and retweet our updates to your followers

If half of our working members (600 people) share one of our Facebook posts with 50 friends and ask their friends to share it, the post could reach up 1.5 million people... Love it or hate it, this is the power of social media! Thank you in advance for your help with this. If you have any queries or ideas please let me know. In the meantime, please get sharing!

Many thanks

Clare Gibbard , Marketing & Communications Manager

Santa Season 2015

We are just about to embark upon our busiest season of the year and it takes a lot of volunteers, to run it properly, on each day. Dates of operation are 5/6, 12/13, 19/20 and 24th December. There are 13 trains per day with 350 passengers per train. There is a 45 minute gap in the middle of the day, with a lighter loaded train of 275 passengers, so that we can change over Santas. Santa changeover takes an hour as there are 6 grottos (but only one Santa!!!). We have some volunteer vacancies that we really would like to fill. Thank you to the people who have already put their names on various lists:

Kidderminster

Working to the direction of the Stationmaster/Assistant Stationmaster

🔍 Attaching numbered tickets to buggies and passengers. This is time consuming and very necessary as passengers have to put their buggies in the brake van in the train, and in the "buggy park" on arrival at Arley. We don't like misplaced buggies!

Arley

Working to the direction of Jerry Beddows – maintenance foreman.

- 🔍 Getting buggies off the train on Platform 2
- 🔍 Emptying rubbish bins (it's amazing how full they get after a couple of hours)
- 🔍 Making sure the tardis toilets are fit for use
- 🔍 Spreading salt on icy mornings

Working to the direction of Di Malyon

- 🔍 Manning the buggy park
- 🔍 Present moving – from the "warehouse" to Santa's grotto
- 🔍 People moving – standing talking to families before they go into Santa's grotto (loosely called Elf duty)
- 🔍 Santa – most turns are covered, but we always need spares to cover man flu, and we do need all turns covered to avoid a massive queue building up and the train service running late.

There may also be a need for extra assistance in the station shop.

A day of Santa steam is challenging but very, very rewarding. If you think that you would like to join our team, please contact me at diane.malyon@svrlive.com or phone 01746 766130.

Thankyou

Di Malyon, Santa Event Organiser

Social Media Apprentice

Are you someone who is good at informing people about the wonderful activities taking place at the SVR. The Charitable Trust is looking for an enthusiast who can help us share with our colleagues, supporters and the general public what the Charity is undertaking in restoration projects, funding and fundraising. We would like someone to help write articles for possible press coverage, internal communications, and smaller news items for posting/uploading on social media sites, websites and internally.

This is a busy and varied marketing role and will see you promoting the Charity’s achievements through various marketing communication channels including traditional and new mediums – Social Media, Facebook and Twitter in order to further engage existing supporters and generate new ones. You will:

- assist in the management and creation of the content of the website, and upload information
- write press releases, newsletters and promotional materials, as well as the production of Enewsletters
- assist in maintaining a supporter database
- be key in generating new income through applications
- provide support for marketing events as required

This is an excellent opportunity to gain a City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Social Media for Business and experience of marketing first hand. Training is over 18 months and is in-house with one day a week at Kidderminster College. You will need to have the following experience and skills:

- excellent written skills
- good communication skills
- ability to use you own initiative as well as work as part of a team
- a can do attitude
- proven IT literacy
- genuine interest in Social Media and Marketing

The role is instrumental in taking the Charity to the next level. Come in and meet the team and find out more. Please contact Shelagh Paterson for an informal chat: Tel: 07812 570942 or email shelaghpaterson@live.co.uk

Closing date: Friday 11 December 2015

Shelagh Paterson , Severn Valley Railway Charitable Trust

News from the new Apprentice Team... SVR Apprentices at Bewdley Christmas Party

As I am writing this article for the first time, it is with great news that we will be 'tagging along' with Bewdley station Christmas party to celebrate Christmas with a group of friends, work colleagues and dedicated volunteers.

With the kind permission of the Bewdley Events Team, we will be showing the Station and MPD how the apprentices party. With 6 (out of the possible 9) attending, the Cornish lads (Dean and Jack) are hoping to show off their moves on the dance floor with a bit of The Wurzels, bringing a piece of home up here. George is hoping to break his typical 'wave fingers really quick' dance moves and Ryan will be gaining control over his finger from a previous accident. (story will be revealed next issue). And I, Alan, will be trying my best (or worst) at dj'ing. How hard can it be, as they say. I am sure there will be many stories to tell from this event.

As a general rule, us apprentices get on very well as a group, and even, so to speak, our own community. **We cannot thank volunteers and members of the paid staff enough for welcoming us and including us in celebrations such as this.** We all enjoy our time working in the departments, and getting chance to meet new volunteers, and learn necessary skills from the skilled paid staff and the knowledgeable volunteers.

Regularly most of us all meet on a Monday evening to sit, have a meal and talk generally about work, college and social lives back at home, in Bridgnorth. (so if you are out that way, avoid it) However as Christmas marches ever closer, the boys from afar dream upon returning home and visiting their home railways (or traction engines) for the festive period. With Ryan Parsons coming from Dorset, Jack Egglestone and Dean Parkin coming from Cornwall (or Kernow as they insist), James Lewis returning to Swindon, and no doubt Emma Harrison will return to the small railway in Wales (Tallylyn). We wish them a safe journey home and a happy new year. But we apprentices wish all of YOU a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and thank you all for allowing us to work and socialise within the friendly environment at the SVR.

If there are any aspects or questions you wish to ask myself, or stories you, or others may find interesting in future articles, please email me with the request. Merry Christmas!

Alan Brookes, SVR Apprentice

Our next edition will be available on Sunday 3rd January 2016

Sign up for monthly reminders by emailing us
ExpressPoints@svrlive.com

Live SVR Working Members information available online 24 hours a day at www.svrlive.com