



THE SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY

August 2016

EXPRESS POINTS

WORKING MEMBERS NEWSLETTER



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. Printed copies are also sent out.

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.

- Cover photo -

4566 arrives at Hampton Loade with 10:20 from Bridgnorth to Kidderminster service on the 5th June 2016
(Ian Murray)

Welcome to the August edition of Express Points

Another packed and expanded edition of Express Points is here! As we move towards this Autumn's Pacific Power event, there's plenty of news about the preparations that are being made, an appeal from the Charitable Trust for volunteer help for their special fundraising event, the VIP Flying Scotsman Charity Day on 21st September, and some early warnings about potential parking issues for working members during this extremely busy time. There's news on two recent events held by the SVR Junior Club, plus an update from the apprentices at the HTSA, two of whom were on television last month, along with two of the Railway's young diesel volunteers – see page 7 for this report. We also have news on what's been happening in Engineering Motive Power Services, the Boilershop, Carriage & Wagon, and updates from the Infrastructure department.

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

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'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

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.

CHANGES PLANNED AT ESMP

Over the last four years, there have been considerable improvements at ESMP. We have moved from a cluttered, dirty working environment towards something the Railway can be proud of. There has been significant investment in equipment, facilities, storage and more staff. And we have set the target of a locomotive being out shopped by MPD every 200 days within five years.

The management team at the Motive Power Department have taken the initiative on much of this development, for example seeing the potential for the investment in CNC and semi-automatic lathes, renewal of air compressors and the removal of the office from the workshop.

What has become clear over the last four years is that undertaking maintenance on the running fleet of locomotives and progressing overhauls to a timescale with one team has been extremely challenging. Therefore, working with the management team of ESMP, we have devised a plan of investment to improve productivity. This plan has received the unanimous support of the Holdings Board. There will be three teams in the mechanical workshop consisting of three fitter machinists and a team leader each. Two of these teams will be tasked with a locomotive to overhaul, the third team will undertake running maintenance and contract work.

In the Boilershop there will be two teams, of three boilermakers and a team leader each. One of the teams will undertake fleet overhauls, the other team will undertake contract work.

Each team leader will be responsible for the delivery of overhauls/boiler restoration to agreed target dates. There will be no distractions from the loco or boiler at hand.

This work does not underestimate the considerable input that continues to be made during the week and at weekends by volunteers in to the overhaul and maintenance of the locomotive fleet. This contribution is essential.

Nick Ralls, General Manager

CREAM TEAS IN THE OBSERVATION SALOON

Forthcoming dates: 7th & 8th September , and 27th October.
£7.50 supplement per person.

EXPRESS POINTS TO GO ONLINE ONLY FROM JANUARY 2017

The demand for printed copies of Express Points has been steadily dropping for some time now. Printing off copies is very expensive and time-consuming.

All these factors mean that a switch to digital publication would be a sensible move. We have given a good deal of warning about the change, and urge you to sign up with your email address as soon as possible at ExpressPoints@svrline.com.

Please let us know if you are worried that you will no longer be able to receive Express Points after we switch to digital only by writing to: Express Points, One Comberton Place, Kidderminster, DY10 1QR

VISIT BY THE OFFICE OF RAIL AND ROAD

A team from the ORR visited the Railway at the beginning of July, and were very impressed with the safety management of the Diesel Depot. Congratulations to the diesel groups for their achievements and for the good impact they made with the ORR.

Nick Ralls, General Manager

LANDOWNERS' GOODWILL SALOON TRIP

The Railway hasn't put on a landowners' saloon for two years now, but with the impending Pacific Power event in September, an event has been organised for invited guests in order to maintain good relations with our landowning neighbours.

VOLUNTEER MONTHLY VOUCHER DRAW

Congratulations to Trevor Davies from 08 Group, the latest winner of the SVR £20 gift voucher.

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.

CLASS 73 TESTING CONTRACT

The Network Rail rebuilt 73s that were last seen on the Railway during the Diesel Gala have suffered some technical issues on the mainline. At the request of RVEL, further testing is now taking place during the evenings at the SVR, and a commercial rate is being charged.

FLYING SCOTSMAN TABLE TOP EXERCISE

Thirty-two volunteers and staff members, along with representatives from British Transport Police and the Office of Rail and Road, attended a table top exercise at the Engine House in July, to test out some of the plans to deal with various issues that might arise during the visit of Flying Scotsman and Tornado for the Pacific Power event in September. A number of scenarios were tested including overcrowding at Kidderminster, trespassers along the line and the event of a major road traffic accident outside Kidderminster station. The exercise provoked much consideration and discussion, and specific points for future action were noted. A further table top exercise will take place with the heads of departments to make sure all plans meet the individual departmental and cross-departmental requirements.

Andy Barr, Director SVR-H

DEALING WITH PASSENGERS WHO HAVE HAD TOO MUCH TO DRINK

The directors of the Holdings Board recognise that TTIs and station staff are in the front line at our major events, especially when it comes to dealing with the small minority of visitors whose inebriated behaviour causes distress. Without wishing to take the issue out of proportion, we believe it is important to prevent the inebriation happening in the first place, and equally important that staff respond correctly if they are faced with rowdy, drunken behaviour.

To help prevent the problem, training for the Railway's bar and buffet staff will be arranged, and local bars will be advised by letter of the issue.

If drunken behaviour does occur, the Railway will operate a 'no tolerance' policy and the offending passenger(s) will be moved off the train at the next station, and not allowed to board another train. The Duty Officer will also be informed. We will also liaise with stands selling alcohol at events so that they are fully aware of the issue.

ONLINE REVENUE IS INCREASING

The svr.co.uk website is drawing in more users and more revenue compared with last year. Using Google analytics, it's been determined that during the period 10 June – 10 July, this year's revenue coming in through the site has increased by more than 30% over the previous year. Additionally there's been a huge increase of 196% in the number of referrals from Facebook, which proves the effectiveness of running campaigns through social media.

JUNIOR CLUB APPRENTICES' DAY



Apprentices' Day is all about giving our youngsters the opportunity to find out more about the different types of volunteer role they could train for once they're old enough. Whilst they might already be sure they want to be a signaller, a guard, a TTI or a driver, or work in the buffet, it's good for them to see all these areas. On 9th July we took our older Junior Club members out on the Railway for

the day and everyone agreed they'd had a great time and learned a lot. One young man said he wished we could do it more often! Every single one went home with a big smile on their face. The younger club members asked if we could arrange anything similar for them, and I was able to let them know that Les Adey is working very hard to organise footplate rides for them.

It was an extremely busy day and if we didn't thank everyone who helped both in the preparation and on the day itself, I'd like to rectify that now – THANK YOU ALL!

Patricia Heap

TRAVELLING TO CUMBRIA?

A supporter of the SVR in Barrow-in-Furness has kindly offered to donate two beautiful pieces of Coniston green slate, each with a white line illustration of a different locomotive. Are you travelling to or near Barrow in the coming months, and would you be willing to collect these for us? They're not very large, 28cm x 10cm x 1 cm, but they're fragile, and would be rather expensive for him to send them by post.

If you can help, please contact me in the Charitable Trust office, on 01562 757938 and I'll put you in touch. **Lesley Carr**

STEAM ON THE ROAD



On the weekend of 13th and 14th August, Steam on the Road takes place at Kidderminster, when the Railway welcomes eight full-size and four miniature engines, along with a steam car and a display from the National Traction Engine Trust, subject to final confirmation.

On the Saturday, the engines will undertake a small run around the ring road, then back up Station Hill to gather outside the front of the station, and there'll also be a 'play pen' to view them in action.

Another rare feature of the weekend will be the chance to go on a brake van ride behind 1450, for a small donation.

Kidderminster station is also hosting a mini beer festival, with 15 beers and ciders on offer.

All attractions subject to availability.

ON-THE-DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FLYING SCOTSMAN VIP CHARITY DAY

The Charitable Trust is looking for working members to volunteer for our Flying Scotsman VIP Charity Day on **Wednesday 21st September**.

We need people to act as stewards both on the platform and concourse at Kidderminster. We're splitting the day into shifts, none lasting more than nine hours, and we may be able to arrange shorter hours if necessary. The shift is likely to involve either an early start or a late finish.

We'll provide food and drinks, plus each volunteer will receive an exclusive Souvenir Programme and a limited edition print of Flying Scotsman, as a special thank you from the Charitable Trust.

This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the Railway to more than 1,200 key supporters who will attend over the course of the day. With your practical help, and just as importantly your enthusiasm for the SVR, we'll make this day a resounding success.

We're also extending our appeal to your family members. If they would like to help us, the VLO can arrange temporary membership to ensure they're covered by insurance.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the VLO on 01299 401776 or email vlo@svrlive.com

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

- The condition of the track along Waterworks Straight has led to a 15mph speed restriction. This area will form the focus of the 2017 re-lay work.
- The Infrastructure Manager, Chris Bond, and colleagues from PW attended the Rail Live event at Long Marston, where they found out about new track maintenance products and plant, and made contact with companies that may be helpful to the SVR. As a result, they established that a block of six used road railers will be available to purchase from TXM Plant next year. These have rail wheel braking and comply with the impending ORR requirement for this on heritage rail-owned machines. The SVR's Leibherr machine is coming to the end of its useful life, and as part of a national road railor user group, it's hoped the SVR could benefit from a consortium discount on individual machines.
- An order is to be placed for GWR-pattern wooden gates for the fencing project at the bottom of the station drive at Bewdley. These will give the site an enhanced level of physical security.



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 operational set of Gresley teak 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 programme of planned improvements for the Trust. It is on the point of finishing the ninth Gresley vehicle for the SVR and is assisting with the overhaul of Gresley TTO 52255. Plans are also in hand for other Set N enhancements. Work is not exclusively on LNER projects. The Group has restored a GWR full brake (1145, one of the shop coaches at Bewdley) and has recently started on restoring GWR 'TOAD' 17410 to operational condition.

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 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.
- Some engineering understanding and basic skills in carpentry will be useful.
- A key current need is for metal working skills including a qualified welder.
- Essential qualities include a good sense of humour, a readiness to share tasks such as tea making, and help with occasional administration tasks.
- 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, August 2016



VACANCIES IN THE CARRIAGE & WAGON DEPARTMENT

There are two full-time vacancies for Repairers/Painters in Kidderminster and/or Bewdley.

Salary: c £19,500 dependent on skills

Hours: 40 hours per week, 5 out of 7 days

We are looking for someone who is both enthusiastic and keen to become part of the team responsible for repair, overhaul and painting of our railway carriage fleet.

You will have a full range of skills and knowledge regarding some or all of the following: woodwork, sheet metalwork, painting and DC electrics.

Experience of mechanical repairs relating heritage railway coaching stock is desirable.

Training will be provided to increase the skill base where appropriate, including forklift driving and railway operating roles.

N.B The company has a strict Drugs and Alcohol Policy.

For an application pack, please write with an SAE to:
David Mead,
Engineering Services C&W Manager
Severn Valley Railway
Carriage Works
Comberton Hill Kidderminster
DY10 1QX
Or email: david.mead@svrlive.com

Closing date for receipt of applications is: 12th August 2016

JUNIOR CLUB SPONSORED WALK



On a mid-July evening, we held the Junior Club sponsored walk along the track from Kidderminster to Bewdley. Members of the club were joined by family, friends and dogs. Whilst it might only have been four miles long, walking four miles on ballast is certain not easy, plus it involved the excitement of going through the tunnel. I am told that the discovery of a dead badger sparked a great deal of interest! On the walkers' return they were able to tuck into a buffet provided by the Seniors, and held in the buffet at Bewdley, by kind arrangement.

We do a sponsored walk every two years, and choose a charity to give our donations to. This time it was the Children's Air Ambulance, who take very poorly children from one hospital to another in only quarter of the time it would take a conventional Ambulance.

I would like to say a big thank you to the P-way team for their support. Every time we do a walk, they follow us in the Dilley in case there are any problems for the walkers. We couldn't do the walk without them.

Patricia Heap

TELEVISION APPEARANCE FOR SVR



Did you catch any of the recent BBC4 Trainspotting Live programmes? If not, you missed some of the SVR's younger members being interviewed by Dick Strawbridge. He spoke to apprentices Max Green and Chris Bird from the Heritage Skills Training Academy, as well as teenage Diesel volunteers Aaron Higgins and Lewis Allin. All four interviewees came across very well, proving themselves excellent ambassadors for the Railway.



LIGHTING UP MATERIALS FOR BEWDLEY MPD

The MPD at Bewdley welcomes donations of lighting up material such as pallets etc, but please could you give some advance notice to Colin Astbury or Stuart Matthews, so that we can avoid piles of wood in the down yard, close to coaches or goods wagons. This unfortunately presents a considerable fire risk, and can cause access problems. If you're delivering wood at the weekend, there are cleaners and other staff willing to help put it away. Unfortunately, there is not a large amount of storage area when the woodpile is full. **Dai Phillips**

NEWS FROM THE BOILERSHOP

813 Hydraulic steam test passed.

7714 Problems with fitting the small tubes, and requirement to change all the longitudinal stays have put the boiler overhaul six weeks behind schedule.

75069 Making steady progress; the lower steel sides are removed with new material cut and shaped to replace. A new doorplate is on order, and the boiler barrels ordered from LNWR are promised by end of July.

13268 Volunteers have undertaken some limited proprietary work before it enters the Boilershop.

4930 Hagley Hall Volunteers have commenced removing stays from the inner firebox

780 Alice new build boiler: work started after receipt of large number of pressings from Mendip Restoration.

4085 Dunrobin Some small component work undertaken on new palm stay brackets, but a clear area is needed for the barrel exchange to take place.

41241 Some progress with crown stay bushing undertaken.

1501 Being washed out and examined before a return visit to the Nene Valley Railway in August, then on to Mid Norfolk Railway, return planned to SVR for end August.

No September commitment for loco hire has been made because of the Pacific Power event, to ensure there are no distractions or external risks.

NEWS FROM CARRIAGE & WAGON

52255 Work progressing well: roof painted, gangway, seats and other internal parts being fitted with support from LNER Carriage Group. On target to move to mechanical section at end of July.

7960 Ventilation cowlings have been changed and an additional fan fitted.

24506 Due to leave mechanical section before end of July; the remaining work includes setting up brake rigging equipment on bogies, and handbrake mechanism.

6562 Lining and lettering almost complete, with varnishing due to start. Interior work going well, with first class seating fitted and electrical equipment refitted and tested.

WORKING MEMBERS ID PASSES

Could we remind all volunteers that their Working Members Pass, whenever presented, is only valid when accompanied by an identity card.

Where necessary duplicate cards are available from the Membership Secretary, Kate Kirk at Comberton Place, who can be contacted on 01562 757 930

Barry Moreton, VLO

REMINDER TO BEWDLEY STAFF ABOUT PACIFIC POWER ARRANGEMENTS

We're now only a few weeks away from what promises to be one of the biggest events the railway has ever held, the joint visit of Flying Scotsman and Tornado between 21st and 26th September. We remind staff who work at Bewdley that normal operations over the six days of the event are going to be very trying for all concerned. Parking will be extremely difficult, and we expect large crowds to be about the Station areas and down yard from dawn until dusk.

We shall do our best for those who need to be at Bewdley for operational reasons. Remember that some departments will be double-manning due to the long hours involved. Parking spaces will be at a premium, and we shall be manning the bottom of the drive to restrict entry when the car park is full. Even if you are a volunteer, we cannot invent spaces that we do not have.

We are also asking department heads to restrict deliveries, or get them here early, to avoid problems. Your co-operation is much appreciated. Thank you.

Dai Phillips

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	Talylyn Railway
Leighton Buzzard Railway	

⁷ 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. 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 enquire at the Booking Office when you arrive.

IN MEMORIAM

DAVE HOLROYDE

It is with regret that we must inform you of the passing of David Holroyde. Dave was a volunteer in the early days of Bridgnorth, working at MPD on locomotives such as 813. Despite a move to Durham, he still made regular visits to the Railway and was able to join the 50th Anniversary Special Train last year.

BOB TITMUSS

It is with regret that we must inform you of the passing of Bob Titmus, after a short illness. Bob spent many years volunteering with Bewdley P-Way, and more recently Bewdley C&W.

Our thoughts are with their families at this sad time.

ON THE BUSES EVENT: PARKING AT BEWDLEY

This annual event takes place on Sunday 4th September, and will be using the whole of the main car park, the drive, parts of the forecourt and all of the parking area at the bottom of the drive. It is expected that up to 35 buses will be attending.

If you wish to park your vehicle at the station during the evening or overnight before the event, you must park in the yard (do not obstruct emergency access) or in the station forecourt where space allows. The bottom of the drive will be closed off shortly after the close of service on the Saturday.

Any staff wishing to park at the station on the day of the event should arrive as early as possible and make use of the station forecourt and yard where space allows. The Bewdley School & Sixth Form Centre car park on Stourport Road will also be available for the use of staff and public parking. Should you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

James Pearson , Bewdley Station Master

USE THE CORRECT ADDRESS AND POSTCODE PLEASE!

A lot of deliveries and collections are turning up at Bewdley Station because the wrong address and postcode has been given. Some departments are still using the old office address and haven't updated their contacts. Please could all departments ensure they give the correct details when organising deliveries and pick ups to avoid wasting time and money.. Please also look at mail and parcels that are delivered to you, and ask anyone still using the old address to amend their details. You would receive your items more quickly, and Bewdley staff wouldn't have to disappoint delivery drivers. Thank you for your help with this.

Dai Phillips

IAN WALKER LEAVING SVR

Ian Walker, Engineering Services Works Manager, has informed me of his intention to pursue other opportunities away from the SVR. He has been Works Manager for six years and during that time has instituted many developments at Bridgnorth including:

- A larger and more reliable working fleet of locomotives
- Completion of the overhaul of Taw Valley following a protracted and complicated overhaul
- Moving component storage and the offices out of the shed to provide more working space

Ian will remain in position for a further three months whilst a replacement is sought through advertising. I have personally enjoyed working with Ian and wish him every success in the future, and of course Ian will continue on the Railway as a volunteer.

Nick Ralls, General Manager

EVENING SCENIC SPECIAL - DMU

Don't forget the 'Fish and Chip Special' runs on the following Summer Saturday evenings;

August 13th, 20th & 27th.

September 3rd, 10th & 17th.

Departing at 7.00pm from Kidderminster, enjoy a leisurely journey to Bridgnorth. If you are feeling peckish, you might like to order a fish and chip supper when on the train (additional charge applies).

UKULELE CENTRAL!

If you're in the railway over the August Bank Holiday, make sure to pack your dancing shoes!

With the sun hopefully shining, Ukulele Central will be visiting the Railway to perform up and down the line. The group will be performing as follows:

Kidderminster

9.55am - 10.15am

10.45am - 11.05am

The Engine House

12.30pm - 12.50pm

1.45pm - 2.05pm

2.30pm - 2.50pm

3.30pm - 3.50pm

Bridgnorth

12 noon - 12.20pm

2.15pm - 2.35pm



Image by Rob Palmer.

Our next edition will be available on Sunday 4th September 2016

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