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THE SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY ASSOCIATION

# EXPRESS POINTS

WORKING MEMBERS NEWSLETTER



June 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.

**SVR Twitter & FaceBook, follow or like us for updates...**

@svrofficialsite



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

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

**Join us at The Races..  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015  
Details on rear page!**

**Cover image: 7812 approaches Arley station after passing over Victoria Bridge. 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	Talylyn 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 is Neil Reynolds of DTG, 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.

## Defibrillators and First Aid

Defibrillators for use with suspected heart problem casualties are sited at the following locations:

1. Kidderminster Station Concourse, in the first aid cabinet at the entrance doors.
2. Arley Station in the Booking Office.
3. Engine House in the Shop/ Reception.
4. Bridgnorth Station, in the Station Entrance near the main doors.

A number of staff have taken part in familiarisation training for using the defibrillators but the appliances give voice commands when in use.

Mel Cook is consulting with West Midlands Ambulance Service to increase the defibrillator availability to other parts of the SVR. Further training sessions carried out by paramedics will be advertised and everyone will be welcome to attend.

The provision of defibrillators is a significant improvement in the SVR first aid policy. The full SVR First Aid Policy for general items is on SVROnline. Managers are requested to check the policy to ensure all departments are aware of the contents and procedures. If you require any information please contact Mel on [mel.cook@svrlive.com](mailto:mel.cook@svrlive.com)

**Nick Ralls , General Manager**

## Our elegant observation saloon is attached to certain trains, providing a 'Cream Tea Service' on a single journey, between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth or reverse.

The observation saloon is comfortably furnished with settees and armchairs. Here you can enjoy, at your seat, a cream tea served by one of our stewards who will travel with you.

The saloon's panoramic windows give you a virtually unobstructed view of the beautiful Severn Valley countryside and, on the journey from Bridgnorth, the coach is next to the steam locomotive itself.

Our cream tea service is available for a supplement as follows:

Adult: **£7.00 per person**. Children: **£5.00 per person**

June 24th & 25th, July 15th & 16th, Sept 9th & 10th, Oct 28th & 29th.

**Some seats may be available on the day of your visit but advance booking is strongly advised.**



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)**



### **Communications Policy update**

For some time now we have been reviewing the communications flow and systems within the company.

A draft Communications Plan is in existence and will be finalised shortly. A key part of the plan is the appointment of a volunteer Communications Officer.

The main responsibilities would be:

- 1 To establish and maintain sources of information within the SVR and its affiliated organisations.
- 2 To edit and process information so that it can be presented in an appropriate manner for each channel.
- 3 To ensure that information is distributed in a timely manner to other channel managers.
- 4 To manage and maintain several internet channels, including web sites, Facebook pages, Twitter accounts, blogs etc.
- 5 To encourage and assist the managers of SVR-related web sites to migrate to or provide content for an SVR web site.

The Communications Officer would have a good knowledge of web site design and various forms of social media, a good standard of general literacy (plus proven editorial skills), good image and video editing skills, a good standard of general IT skills, including Microsoft Office (in particular Outlook and email), and finally an ability to communicate well with people at all levels, both within and outside of the organisation. Training will be provided where necessary.

This is a great opportunity for the right person to become involved in a new key initiative which will improve all forms of internal and external communication within the organisation. It is a part-time role, which should take a few hours per week, and although it would require some time around the railway, much of it could be done from home.

If you are interested, please email [Tammy.Ferris@svrlive.com](mailto:Tammy.Ferris@svrlive.com) with details of your experience and your thoughts on how communication can be improved within the organisation, and we'll arrange to meet and discuss the draft communications plan with you before the selection process begins. Closing date for all applications is Friday 3rd July 2015.

**Nick Ralls , General Manager**

### **Ken Quanborough**

It is with great sadness that I have to report that Ken Quanborough passed away on the 22nd April after a long illness.

Ken was a long standing volunteer who supported many SVR projects and rolling stock funds.

### **David Walden**

It is with great sadness that I must inform you of the sudden death of David Walden on Sunday 17th May 2015.

David was an active volunteer within our Signalling department and will be greatly missed.

The funeral details are as follows:

Monday 15th June , At 1pm , At Semington Crematorium, Devizes Road, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 6HL

### **Bert Hitchen**

As many of you will already know, Bert Hitchen passed away last week.

He will be remembered by many on the SVR for restoring 'Taw Valley' from 'Barry' condition at Bridgnorth, and for operating it out on the main line. He subsequently sold it. In more recent years he operated his Black 5, 45231, out on the network including turns on the 'Jacobite' from Fort William to Mallaig, 'The Fellsman' over the Settle and Carlisle, and numerous other routes.

He will be greatly missed by his many friends, and of course his family, to whom our thoughts and condolences are sent.

**Nick Ralls, General Manager**

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### **Pump Trolley Results!**

Well, what a month April has been!

Monday 27th April saw the Pump Trolley event take place between Bridgnorth and Hampton Loade in fantastic Spring sunshine, with 13 imaginatively dressed teams successfully covering 50 miles during the day. It was fantastic to see each team's magnificent fancy dress effort, everyone really got into the spirit of things.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported the event, both in the planning stages and during the day itself, I am pleased to say it was a huge success, and plans are already afoot for a similar event in the future.

Now, the announcement everyone has been waiting for! Reigning triumphant to be crowned Pump Trolley Champions 2015 for scoring the highest points for the best skill and outfits, and recording an impressive time of just 21 minutes, were The Beatles, aka Bridgnorth Engineering Services, who will receive a commemorative trophy in due course, so congratulations to Gary, Will, Phil and Chris!

Highly commended teams also include Catering Staff as well known faces from the Starship Enterprise, The Railwayman's Arms as St Trinians and Arley station as characters from Trumpton.

It is always fantastic to see different departments on the Railway working so closely, and that really shone through on April 27th.

If you would like to receive photographs of your team pumping away, please drop me an email: [lewis.maddox@svrlive.com](mailto:lewis.maddox@svrlive.com)

Kindest regards,

**Lewis Maddox , Events & Footplate Experience**

### **BOOKING OF VOLUNTEERS 'CASUALS' BUNKS AT BRIDGNORTH**

Following the recent retirement of Mary Boot from the office at Bridgnorth, the question of how volunteers should proceed in the future with booking a bunk in the 'casuals' sleeping coaches has been given considerable thought.

In this respect, therefore, the following system is being introduced, which will allow bookings to be made by one of the following choices:

1. A specific e-mail address has been created – and this is [bhacommodation@svrlive.com](mailto:bhacommodation@svrlive.com). Please give your information as listed below.
2. For those who prefer to book by telephone – please call 01746 764361, between 10.00 a.m. and 4.45 p.m. On weekdays this number will be diverted to the Kidderminster office, where your information will be noted by a member of staff and despatched to the e-mail address above. At weekends the divert will be lifted and your call will be dealt with direct at Bridgnorth by the on-duty Booking Office Staff.
3. As always the Reservations Book itself will continue to reside in the booking office lobby at Bridgnorth and volunteers are at liberty to enter the lobby and write in their requirements themselves.

When accessing any of the above choices you should give:

- a. Volunteer(s) name(s)
- b. Your arrival date
- c. The number of nights required
- d. From where you wish to pick up your key (usually the Railwaymans Arms)
- e. A contact telephone number.

When you vacate the compartment the key(s) and any money due should be returned via the Drop Off Box (adjacent to shower room door) using the envelope system currently in practice.

**Bridgnorth Accommodation Committee, BJM .**

### **Be part of delivering the Bridgnorth Development - Fundraising volunteers required**

As we move closer to the start of the much awaited development of our beloved Bridgnorth Station, the SVR Charitable Trust has been tasked to raise funds for specific areas of the project. We are now recruiting a small group of volunteers to help to achieve this. We ideally need individuals who have experience in writing grant applications, are strong communicators both verbally and in writing and have a passion for heritage railways.

You will work closely with the Conservation & Heritage Committee to expand on the business plan that has already been produced.

If you have the time and would like to be part of the Bridgnorth Development, please contact Shelagh Paterson. SVR Charitable Trust, Tel: 01562 757941. [shelagh.paterson@svrtrust.org.uk](mailto:shelagh.paterson@svrtrust.org.uk)

**Many thanks , Shelagh Paterson**

## **Paid Staff/Volunteer thank you evening – Engine House 13th June 2015**

Tickets **MUST** be obtained in advance as this will be the **only means of admission**. Each member of staff will be entitled to a maximum of 2 free tickets on a “first come first served” basis. The specially printed tickets will be distributed via Booking Offices at each station on production of the relevant staff pass and VLO will have a small number of tickets too. The total number of tickets available is limited to 300 due to fire regulations at the Engine House and catering needs.

Tickets are available from Booking Offices **NOW**.

A train will be laid on from both ends of the line and funded by the Holdings Board;

**Departs Kidderminster 17.55 and returns from Highley at 22.25.**

**Departs Bridgnorth 18.30 and returns from Highley at 22.10.**

Catering will comprise a pig roast, a vegetarian option and a selection of salads. This food will be included within the free ticket and is being funded by the Guarantee Board.

We are hoping to be able to show DVDs of SVR interest in the cinema area during the evening.

There will be a bar set up in the Cooper’s Arms and the Holdings Board, once again, will be providing two complimentary drinks per person. The bar will also be available for the purchase of additional drinks and there will be a prize draw based on your ticket number.

The Guarantee Board, Holdings Board and Staffing Committee hope you will be able to join us for this informal “thank you” to as many railway staff as possible.

**The Staffing Committee**

## **DMU Evening Scenic Specials**

**June 6th, 13th & 20th. July 11th & 25th. August 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th. September 5th & 12th.**

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). Bring along your family and friends - a special evening fare applies, Annual Family Pass NOT valid.

## **Join us at the races – Worcester Race Course**

It is our annual charity race day, on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June at Worcester, where one of our very own tank engines - Pannier Tank No. 5764 - will be joining us for what will be a fabulous fun day. And may I ask that if you use Facebook or Twitter that you share the post that we have on the SVR official Facebook page or twitter account and help ensure we invite as many people as possible.

Join us for a superb afternoon of National Hunt racing at Worcester’s picturesque, tree-lined racecourse, nestling on the banks of the river Severn and browse stalls selling SVR merchandise on a day out to remember! Families and friends can bring a picnic and spend the afternoon relaxing in the central enclosure, soaking up the atmosphere and enjoying the races.

Fixture Details:

Gates Open:	12:20
Start Race:	14:20
Last Race:	17:35
Race Type:	Jump
Number of Races:	7

If you're interested in joining the fun and to buy tickets, visit <http://www.worcester-racecourse.co.uk/whats-on/fixture/24-june-2015/>

We look forward to seeing you there & many thanks for your help!

**Cathy Tookey, Fundraising Administrator & Volunteer**

**Daniels Mill is nestled below Oldbury Viaduct and can be seen shortly after the train departs from Bridgnorth and on Saturday 13th June, the historic mill will be coming to life.**

Daniels Mill Trust is offering a truly unique opportunity to be a ‘Miller for the Day’ at Shropshire's last traditional working watermill still grinding wheat into flour. Live the heritage, and experience hands-on what it must have been like two centuries ago to produce what is still a staple food today, whilst our steam trains chuff high above. Plus, at the end of the day, participants will be able to leave with flour they have produced themselves and a wholemeal scone baked on-site in the mill's own teashop. Find out more at [www.danielsmill.co.uk](http://www.danielsmill.co.uk)

## 50th Anniversary Celebrations...

2015 and the Severn Valley Railway will be 50 years old and in recognition of this a number of events are being run to help us celebrate this special year, with dates for your diary:

### **July 6: Our Golden Jubilee.**

Marking 50 years since group of young railway enthusiasts met in a pub in Kidderminster to form the Severn Valley Railway Society. A special dining train for the early members of the SVR will depart from Kidderminster station following an address on the concourse.

### **July 17: A celebratory dinner for SVR supporters.**

To be held at the West Midlands Safari Park with Guest speaker Paul Atterbury. Tickets available to purchase shortly.

### **Sept 17 – 20: Autumn Steam Gala**

One of the most popular steam festivals in the country features all night running, a new four-day format and a most exciting line-up of visiting locomotives. Watch the website for further announcements.

### **October 1 – 3: Diesel Enthusiasts Gala**

### **November 14 – 15: Manor 50**

The Manor Class of steam locomotives are also celebrating an anniversary this year. This special weekend marks 50 years since the last days of 'Manor' steam locomotives working on the Cambrian network.

## To celebrate our 50th Anniversary we head back to the 1960s...the decade it all started for the Severn Valley Railway!

Revised Timetable. Normal fares apply. Evening concerts on Friday and Saturday (additional charge applies), fashion stalls, vintage vehicles and memorabilia from this iconic decade, get dressed up and join in with the fun.

### **Attractions include:**

**Italian Job Minis at the Engine House, Fashion Show and Stalls, Special Guest DJs at Kidderminster, 60s mini-bar, Look out for the Stephenson Locomotive Society special running on Saturday**

### **Friday & Saturday night concerts with BIG headliners:**

**Friday 14th August - The Stones** take to the stage. Recognised wildly as the greatest tribute to the 'Greatest Rock 'n' Roll Band in the World', with all the energy and charisma of The Rolling Stones themselves, The Stones pay an accurate and faithful tribute to the sound and look of an authentic Rolling Stones show and promise an evening of entertainment like no other!

**Saturday 15th August - The Who 2** rock up for another special evening of entertainment. The Who are considered as one of the most influential rock bands of the 20th century, selling over 100 million records worldwide and establishing their reputation equally on live shows and studio work. The tribute band are sure to set a storm too!

**Our next edition will be available on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

**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](http://www.svrlive.com)**

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**SEVERN VALLEY**  
R·A·I·L·W·A·Y!

CHARITABLE TRUST

# RACEDAY

• WEDNESDAY 24 JUNE •

ENJOY A SUPERB AFTERNOON OF RACING, VISIT THE SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY'S VERY OWN TANK ENGINE AT THE FINISH LINE (THE ULTIMATE IN IRON HORSEPOWER), AND BROWSE STALLS SELLING SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY MERCHANDISE.

*Please consider supporting the Severn Valley Railway Charitable Trust and be part of ensuring the Railway is here for children, families and enthusiasts to enjoy for generations to come.*

HELP SECURE THE FUTURE OF WORCESTERSHIRE'S VERY OWN SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY

**£3 FROM EVERY TICKET SOLD IS DONATED  
DIRECTLY TO THE SVR CHARITABLE TRUST**

**worcester**  
RACECOURSE

[www.worcester-racecourse.co.uk](http://www.worcester-racecourse.co.uk)  
01905 25364 | [info@worcester-racecourse.co.uk](mailto:info@worcester-racecourse.co.uk)



\*Terms & conditions apply. For full terms and conditions, race times and details of the event please visit our website. Booking restrictions and fees may apply. Worcester Racecourse encourages responsible gambling. [www.gambleaware.co.uk](http://www.gambleaware.co.uk). Please drink responsibly. [www.drinkaware.co.uk](http://www.drinkaware.co.uk).