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THE SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY ASSOCIATION

# EXPRESS POINTS

WORKING MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

September 2015



**EXPRESS POINTS**

WORKING MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

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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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@svrofficialsite



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

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

**QUIZ NIGHT**  
**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2015**  
**Bridgnorth Buffet**  
**Food and Drinks supplied**

**Cover image: 50035 on the afternoon DFE at Hampton Loade on the 9th August 2015. 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	Talylllyn 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 Barrie Smith of Bewdley Booking office, 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.

## Don's Day 8<sup>th</sup> August 2015

From the point of view of the current Juniors I can say that without exception this was a huge success.

Unlike the normal Apprentice Day, where they have a taster of the various jobs on one round trip, this time they were placed for the day with the departments in which they have been showing an interest.

I do not think there was one Junior who ended the day without a big grin on their face even if they were a little tired.

I know for certain that we have budding Signalmen, Guards and Buffet crew.

We did not have any on the footplate rides as this would be complicated with the need for passes etc. but I know that there are some who would love to do that as well.

So on behalf of the Junior Club I want to say thank you for all who agreed to have our members for the day.

I can only add that Don would have been very proud.

Pat Heap

## Funeral arrangements for Jeffery Hall

Following the sad death of Jeffrey Hall who gave many hours to Bewdley Engineering, The Funeral will be at All Saints Church Southill Biggleswade Beds SG18 9LL At 1.30pm on the 21st Sept followed by refreshments at the White Horse..

Any cards can be sent to his twin sister at Mrs Margaret Norman at 7 Woodland Rd Rushden Northants NN10 6US  
Bernard Strutt

## Volunteer Clothing

Various items of clothing for volunteers, including pilot shirts, polo shirts and safety boots, are now available via our website – [www.svr-vlo.org.uk](http://www.svr-vlo.org.uk).

Please log on and have a look!

VLO



On the  
Notice  
Board this  
month...

#### **Locomotive Crew Manager**

On behalf of the Directors I would like to thank Roger Norfolk for the energy and professionalism he brought to the post of Locomotive Crew Manager.

At the Guarantee board meeting of Friday 31st July the Board of Directors unanimously ratified the appointment of Jon Teuwen as Locomotive Crew Manager. Jon is a train driver on the main line, and a Traction Inspector on the SVR with experience of both steam and diesel locomotion, having first come to the Railway as a member of the junior club.

Jon will be working alongside Roger Norfolk as part of the handover with support from Bob Lane, Chief Traction Inspector. A further notice will be issued to confirm once this handover period is complete.

We all wish Jon all the best in his new position. Nick Ralls

#### **Rowdy behaviour on trains**

As we approach the 2015 Autumn Gala may I remind staff that we are all here to enjoy the Railway, occasionally rowdy drunken behaviour by a very small number of off duty members of staff both on and off our trains has in the past, caused distress to both passengers and on duty staff. These occurrences were particularly noted during enthusiast's events, hence the reason for this noticeboard.

Reported cases of inappropriate behaviour will be fully investigated and disciplinary action will be taken where necessary.

When off duty please enjoy the Railway with friends, enjoy a drink in moderation, but do not spoil it for other staff or passengers.

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](mailto:feedback@svrlive.com)

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

#### **Purchase of RUDD wagons**

Following the storm damage of 2007, EWS (now DB Schenker), through the auspices of Gwyn Reece, lent the SVR 15 RUDD wagons for use during the repair work.

They were used extensively for this repair project and have been employed on many project on the Railway since this time.

DB Schenker contacted the SVR this year to inform us that the wagons were available for purchase, and following negotiation I can announce that they have been bought for a competitive price.

I would like to thank two individuals who have provided finances to assist with the cost of purchase.

Nick Ralls

#### **Communications Policy Update**

In June we announced that a Communication Policy was in draft form, and that a volunteer Communications Officer is being sought to improve the communications flow between different departments, looking at the quality of material and its distribution using appropriate media; for example an internet site or social media.

The company is pleased to announce that Patrick Hearn will undertake the role of Volunteer Communications Officer, and will work with Clare Gibbard, Marketing and Communications Manager. Discussions have been taking place with a view to completing the Communications Policy, making short-term improvements wherever possible, and compiling a plan which will result in major changes to the way we communicate with the many different audiences who are interested in our railway.

In order to work on these objectives Patrick will, over the next few months, need your help and will be inviting departments to submit regular updates about the work of the department (via nominated representatives). This information will then form the core of the material needed to improve our news delivery.

Patrick can be contacted at [patrick.hearn@svrlive.com](mailto:patrick.hearn@svrlive.com) .

The Communications Policy itself will be completed and agreed by the end of September, with implementation in the following months.

Nick Ralls



### Thanks from Eardington Station... and a request!

At Eardington the team have been working steadily through the summer, both maintaining and adding to the station's features, and we're looking forward to showing visitors our progress at the forthcoming Steam Gala. Progress has also been made on the fundraising front, and our platform rebuilding fund currently sits at just a touch short of £10,000. We've had donations large and small, ranging from folks 'sponsoring a brick' for £2 to a single cheque for £1,500, and we're very grateful to everyone who has contributed. We expect to pass the five figure mark during the Gala.

Talking of the Gala, we could do with some muscle as well as your money! We demonstrate the velocipede on the siding during galas, giving visitors the chance to see this vintage SVR machine in action, as well as having a supervised ride in between trains. (Our velocipede was based at Hampton Loade during GWR and BR days and has probably the longest continuous SVR service of any item rolling stock.) Part of the task is to turn the velocipede at each end of the siding and we're looking for folks who might fancy a break from their gala duties to give us a hand. The machine is not too weighty but the job wouldn't suit anyone with a bad back, and PTS is required, but other than that the main qualification is the usual one at Eardington, i.e. the ability to drink quantities of tea. We'd be grateful for any help, whether for half an hour or a whole day, so if you fancy watching trains climbing hard on Eardington bank while demonstrating a more unusual part of the SVR's heritage, then please get in touch. You can contact me on [steve\\_downs@btinternet.com](mailto:steve_downs@btinternet.com) or 01746

765268

Steve Downs

The next Quiz Night will be held at Bridgnorth Buffet on Saturday 24th. October. The standard format applies, free drinks, food and memory testing questions. Aspirin supplied on request!!

### Trust Fundraiser Extraordinaire – Fixed Contract

☑ Salary: Negotiable ☑ Location: Worcestershire, home based option ☑ Job Type: Contract, initially 7-10 hours a week ☑ Category: Fundraising , Trusts ☑ Sector: Heritage / Tourism  
☑ Reference : SVRCT/0815 - Trust

The Severn Valley Railway The SVR is a leading volunteer-run heritage Railway, attracting up to ¼ million visitors a year and employing 80 staff. It is supported by a 1,500 strong group of volunteers who give their time to run historic steam and diesel trains, providing visitors with a memorable experience of the Golden Age of travel.

In 2012 the Severn Valley Railway (SVR) launched the Charitable Trust to help future proof this much loved major tourist attraction, and three years on we have raised £1.5 million to help safeguard this historic West Midlands asset.

We now seek a dynamic fundraiser with grant fundraising experience to expand on the success we have received from local and national grant giving bodies.

The key skills required are: -

☑ A minimum of 5 years proven experience in successfully securing and managing grants. ☑ Highly effective written communication skills, including the case for support and the impacts for each project. ☑ High level of research skills, capable of creating a pipeline of grant funders. ☑ Creative thinker who can develop innovative ways to meet and draw in funders. ☑ Able to utilise statistics, numbers and research in compelling and exciting arguments. ☑ Strong numeracy and IT skills, able to understand budgets and how to cost out projects/bids accordingly. ☑ Be a committed, self-starter with a can-do attitude.

This role is currently available as a fixed-term professional opportunity for 12 months, with a six month review in March 2016.

Please email your CV to [shelagh.paterson@svrtrust.org.uk](mailto:shelagh.paterson@svrtrust.org.uk) and outline what experience you would bring to role, or for a confidential conversation, please call Shelagh Paterson on 01562 757941

### Appointment of Traction Inspector

It is with pleasure that we announce that Jeff Atkins has been appointed to the post of Traction Inspector as from the date of this notice.

Jeff will be assisting with the work involved in providing the SVR with competent diesel drivers and secondmen.

We wish Jeff well and ask that all staff will support him in this role.

### **Ghost Trains 2015**

Dear all,

We're on the hunt for volunteers to help with our Ghost Trains event on October 29th, 30th and 31st!

Our Ghost Trains at Halloween are growing in popularity with all but a few seats selling out over the last few years. As an event, the Ghost Trains bring in essential additional revenue for the Railway during the last quarter of the year.

Key to the operation is the conversion of Arley station into a scary venue populated with horrible witches and ghouls. This is where help is needed! We need a number of volunteers per evening to get dressed up and be a part of the spooky entertainment at Arley.

So, if you want to experience something different and have a great time too, please get in contact. Job descriptions are available and full training will be given, so if you are any age up to 250 (or older with medical certificate) please email Lewis Maddox, Events Co-ordinator at [lewis.maddox@svrlive.com](mailto:lewis.maddox@svrlive.com) or call 01562 757910.

If you could circulate this message widely to anyone that may wish to help it would be very much appreciated.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Clare Gibbard Marketing & Communications Manager

### **The saying "two's company, three's a crowd" certainly isn't the case for our Manor 50 event, now No. 7820 Dinmore Manor has joined the line up!**

Celebrating 50 years since the end of 'Manor' steam locomotives working on the famous Cambrian Network in West Wales, we are pleased to announce that No. 7820 Dinmore Manor will be visiting the Severn Valley Railway this November.

The locomotive's visit will see it join SVR-based class mates No. 7802 Bradley Manor and No. 7812 Erlestoke Manor over the weekend of November 14th and 15th, as the Railway is transformed into the Cambrian Coast Railway of 1965 which ran 'Manors' between Shrewsbury, Aberystwyth and Pwllheli - the spiritual home of these locomotives.

And as a very special treat for the joint 50th celebrations, tickets for this event remain at the 'Freedom of the Line' prices!

In conjunction with the celebrations, all three 'Manors' will be available on a number of Special Footplate Experiences on Friday 13th November, as well as appearing on a number of photocharters.

**Our next edition will be available on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2015**

**Sign up for monthly reminders by emailing us**

**[ExpressPoints@svrlive.com](mailto:ExpressPoints@svrlive.com)**

**Live SVR Working Members information available online 24 hours a day at [www.svrlive.com](http://www.svrlive.com)**