



THE SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY

June 2016

EXPRESS POINTS

WORKING MEMBERS NEWSLETTER



Express Points
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 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.

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



@svrofficialsite



'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: 7802 climbs Eardington bank with the final train of the day to Bridgnorth on the 13th May 2016

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	Talylllyn 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.

Diesel Fans Dig Deep!

As one of the organisations that made a financial contribution to the Diesel Depot, the Charitable Trust was delighted to be amongst the guests invited to the recent opening, and to see what a splendid job has been done on the design and construction of this new facility.

It was also extremely gratifying that so many of the thousands of diesel fans who visited the Depot for a tour over the Festival weekend were willing to make contributions to the bucket collection organised by the Charitable Trust.

An impressive £1808.05 was raised, and because this was done through the Trust, it will be possible to claim a further 25% in Gift Aid, making a total of £2260.06. All of this will be restricted to Diesel projects.

Chairman of the Diesel Committee, Jonathan Dunster said:

"It was fantastic to see the generosity of visitors to the Diesel Depot during the Spring Diesel Festival weekend. We'll be using the money raised on the Saturday and Sunday to continue to fit out the depot and improve the site further for our hard working volunteers".

The Trust's Director of Development, Shelagh Paterson added:

"The amount raised re-affirms the commitment of the Railway's diesel supporters, and we look forward to working closely with the Diesel Committee on future fundraising opportunities for this essential part of the Railway."

Shelagh Paterson, Charitable Trust

Vacancy – Education Department

A Job Vacancy has arisen in the Education Department as an Administration Assistant based at The Engine House in Highley

Part time flexi hours £7.20 per hour for further details contact Amanda Peplow at the Engine House Highley . Direct line 01746 860901

VOLUNTEER MONTHLY VOUCHER DRAW..

The latest winner of the SVR £20 gift voucher is: Mark Williams, 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.

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. It is highly likely from January 2017 we will move to a digital only version but in the meantime If your department requires any more or less copies each month please contact us by emailing ExpressPoints@svrlive.com

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

Volunteer Thank You evening – 18th June 2016

Being held at the Engine House on 18th June 2016

Tickets for the Annual Volunteer Thank You Evening are available from 16th May. 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 are being distributed via Booking Offices at each station on production of the relevant staff pass. The VLO also have a small supply. The total number of tickets available is limited to 300 due to both fire regulations at The Engine House and catering requirements.

A train will be laid on from both ends of the line with provisional timings as follow (but please check nearer the time):

Kidderminster

Depart 17:55

Return 22:30

Bridgnorth

Depart 18:30

Return 22:10

Catering will be provided, including a vegetarian option and selection of salads. The food will be included within the free ticket. A bar will be provided (selling Bewdley Brewery beers amongst others) where two drinks vouchers per person provided by The Holdings Board can be exchanged. There will be a prize draw based on your ticket number and, it is hoped, DVDs of SVR interest will be shown in the cinema area during the evening. The Guarantee Board and Staffing Committee trust you will be able to join us for this informal evening which we hope will provide a 'thank you' to as many volunteers as possible.

By: The Staffing Committee

Wilf Millington

It is with regret that I must inform you of the passing of Engineering Services Motive Power volunteer Wilf Millington.

Our thoughts are with his family at this very sad time.

Barry Moreton, VLO

Second Assistant Station Master, Bridgnorth

Mr Dewi Phillips has been appointed as my second ASM Bridgnorth, effective immediately.

Dewi is a retired career railwayman with extensive operating experience, which will be most useful at Bridgnorth.

Would all concerned please make Dewi welcome and offer such help as may be required as he gets used to his new role.

Chris Thomas, Bridgnorth Stationmaster



SPONSORED BY
mfg
SOLISTERS

**SEVERN VALLEY
RAILWAY**

CHARITABLE TRUST

RACEDAY

• WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE •

FROM
£9*

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

**£3 DONATED FROM EVERY CENTRE COURSE TICKET
TO THE SVR CHARITABLE TRUST**

worcester
raceday

worcester-racecourse.co.uk | 01905 25364

Worcester Racecourse Worcester Races

*Not applicable to all tickets. For full terms and conditions please visit our website. *Not applicable to all tickets. For full terms and conditions please visit our website.

New event for 2016!

Over the years we have seen many traction engines visit the railway for various reasons. 13th & 14th August will see the first 'Steam on the Road' event take place. There will be approximately 10 to 12 traction engines of various forms on display at Kidderminster Station.

A playpen to see the engines in action and a planned road run on the Saturday afternoon which will see all the engines end up back in front of the King & Castle. The event will also see a beer festival hosted by the Valley suite along with displays and traction engine society's under the canopy.

I am now looking at trying to find willing volunteers to help over the weekend along with the set up and tidy up for the event. No experience required, any one happy to help with watering engines, marshalling, coal delivery or even helping make teas please get in touch.

Scott Lewis, scott.lewis@svrlive.com



Chris Pilkington

It is with regret that I must inform you of the passing of Bridgnorth Permanent Way volunteer Chris Pilkington. Our thoughts are with his family at this very sad time.

Barry Moreton, VLO

TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW

1940's Band Show Wristbands!

Step Back to the 1940s Big Band Show wristbands are on sale!

We're operating a different system this year for Working Members to purchase their wristband. All wristbands will be available from Kidderminster, Bewdley and Bridgnorth Booking Offices upon presentation of a valid Working Member's pass.

Each Working Member is permitted to purchase one discounted ticket only at £3.

The Booking Offices will require your name upon purchase so we can consolidate the lists after the event to make sure the system has worked.

As always, we only have a limited number of tickets for sale, so make sure you purchase early to avoid disappointment.

Thanks again for your continued support; it's shaping up to be another magnificent (and explosive) event!

Lewis Maddox on behalf of the 1940s Committee
Events Coordinator

Taking the Charitable Trust forward

The Trust is looking for new volunteers to help take the Charitable Trust forward. Probably starting as an volunteer "officer" with a role for a specific time and/or project, such as advocacy work within the railway to spread the word on what we are doing/planning. We are also seeking governance or legal adviser, with appropriate experience. In the future these roles could lead to Trustee Status or more senior roles within the Trust. Please contact Hugh McQuade hugh.mcquade@svrlive.com

Charitable Trust wins £75,000!

It was announced today (25/05/2016) that the Severn Valley Railway Charitable Trust has won £75,000 in a Department for Transport competition, for an ambitious scheme to transform the Railway's travel offering for disabled passengers.

The Trust took part in a national 'Dragons' Den' style competition, pitching their project to a panel of senior government figures, including Lord Faulkner of Worcester, Sir William McAlpine, Mark Garnier MP, and Deirdre Wells of UK Inbound. More than 200 organisations applied for funding from the DfT's Heritage and Community Rail Tourism Innovation competition, and the SVR was one of those shortlisted to pitch in person to the Dragons.

Reacting to the announcement by Rail Minister Claire Perry that the SVR had been chosen as one of the competition winners, Nick Ralls said:

"This award means we can transform our facilities for disabled visitors. We think it's essential we offer all our passengers, regardless of their mobility level, the same level of convenience and access, along with the on board heritage dining facilities for which our railway is so well regarded. This funding from the DfT gives us the key to make that happen, and we're extremely excited about getting started on the work."

Rail Minister Claire Perry said:

"We want to show the best of British to our visitors and Heritage and Community Railways are part of that package. I am delighted that the Severn Valley Railway is one of 17 national winners across Britain. I look forward to seeing the scheme develop, providing another great reason to visit Worcestershire and Shropshire."

The SVR's scheme involves the restoration and conversion of two 1950s carriages, and the purchase of lightweight, portable ramps for each of the Railway's wheelchair-accessible carriages. The first phase will see the restoration and conversion of a currently un-used British Rail vehicle into a dedicated wheelchair-accessible carriage, providing accommodation for five wheelchair users and their companions, along with a disabled toilet. The team of staff and volunteers at the Railway has extensive experience in this type of adaptation, having carried out similar projects in recent years.

The Trust's chairman Hugh McQuade explains more:

"We learn from every one of our restoration projects, and we're constantly adapting our approach. We pay great attention to getting an authentic match to each carriage's period style. It's about giving passengers the richest heritage experience that we can."

This carriage will complete the Railway's fleet of adapted carriages, and will mean that there are wheelchair facilities on every single timetabled train on the Railway.

Perhaps the biggest challenge for the restoration team lies in the second phase of the project. This involves rebuilding a second carriage to provide dining accommodation for up to 16 wheelchair users. Hugh McQuade explains more about its design: "We've come up with an innovative zig-zag layout for the tables, that means we can allow for many different configurations of wheelchairs and conventional seating. As far as we know, nothing like this exists anywhere else in Britain."

The expansion of the Railway's existing wheelchair-accessible fleet and the creation of a dedicated dining car mean that we'll be able to offer charter and party facilities for large groups of people with disabilities.

The third part of the scheme is the purchase of lightweight wheelchair ramps, to be carried in every adapted vehicle, including the 'new' dining car. The current station-based ramps are heavy and cumbersome, and because of security issues cannot be kept at every station and stop along the line. The new set of portable ramps will allow disabled passengers to get on and off trains at all stations and halts, giving them full access to all the attractions on the route.

The DfT's £75,000 will form part of the project's overall cost. The remainder of the funding comes from the Charitable Trust's own funds, those of Severn Valley Railway (Holdings) plc, and also includes an in-kind costing for more than 3,000 volunteer hours that will be worked on this project.

Shelagh Paterson, Severn Valley Railway Charitable Trust

Visit of Flying Scotsman September 21st – 26th at Bewdley

Hopefully, most of you that work at Bewdley will realise that normal working at Bewdley over the 6 days of Pacific Power Event (Wednesday is a preview day) may be a bit more difficult than normal due to the anticipated large numbers of spectators. This is just a warning that normal operations and volunteer working may be restricted as we shall be using certain areas as viewing areas to try to avoid overcrowding of platforms etc. For example, we are proposing to have a viewing/photographic area in the down yard (there will be some areas fenced or taped off), and another using platform 1, with trains using the island platform. You can also expect people about from first light until late evening, either to come and look at the loco or take photos.

If you felt that this would be a good time to come along and paint something in the down yard, or do a spot of hot riveting, followed by a leisurely lunch in the buffet, then we respectfully suggest you are going to be severely disappointed. Please plan ahead and try to be doing other things during this event, even perhaps volunteer to the Station or elsewhere, as we are going to need extra man power over the 6 days to cope with increased numbers. You will have seen what has happened with trespass and overcrowding on the main line and also East Lancs and North Yorks Railways and , don't forget, we have Tornado as well, still a large crowd puller and the first time that both have met.

Obviously, parking will fill up very quickly at the Station, with no overspill on weekdays, so when it is full, it's full! There will be no additional parking in the down yard. We would also appreciate department heads etc. keeping deliveries to a minimum during these 6 days. Those of you who live in Bewdley, and use the Station drive and coach park for the school run are in for a shock, so if this applies to you, or you know someone who does this, please forewarn them that it will not be possible over these 6 days.

We are doing our best to think of any possible problems in advance and come up with workable solutions, so please do your bit and plan ahead, not turn up and moan when you cannot do your normal thing in peace, and please carry out requests from members of Station Staff if asked. It is going to be extremely busy, no doubt about it, so just grin and bear it, and either carry on or, perhaps, do something else that weekend. As suggested, why not come along and help Platform staff or at other Stations if your normal role is affected, or offer help at other locations which need manpower or staffing to advise people and deter trespassing. Remember, this event should earn the Railway a lot of needed income, and then it will be over and we can all return to playing trains!

This article will be included in each issue up to and including September to try and make sure that all who work at Bewdley are aware that for these 6 days of Pacific Power Weekend.

Dave Phillips, Bewdley Station Staff

Successful Business Trip on the SVR!

It was a bright and early start on 5th May, as a group of the Charitable Trust's corporate supporters departed from Kidderminster on board the Observation Saloon. This was a special trip to show how much we appreciate their past support, and to showcase the delights of the Railway.

Mark Garnier, Wyre Forest's MP, kindly hosted the event, and his personal love of heritage rail shone through as he outlined the economic and cultural importance of the Severn Valley Railway.

As well as existing supporters, a number of other companies also joined us to learn about the Railway and what it can offer. There were strong indications that they would like to get involved with the Charitable Trust in the near future, both to support the Railway and to benefit from membership of our Corporate Partnership Club.

The success of the event was due in no small part to the volunteers and staff who looked after us so well. Many thanks to 2857's crew (Stephen Chandler, Cameron Reid and James Rogers) for turning out in the wee small hours to steam the engine ready for our journey, the other volunteers and staff (Hugh McQuade, Don Shadwell, Trevor Crabtree, Roger Mason, Ryan Parsons and Max Green) who proved such informative tour guides, and the catering team (Elise Ballard, Lisa Warrington, Liane McMahon and Hannah Wilson) who produced and served a delicious breakfast.

Shelagh Paterson , Severn Valley Railway Charitable Trust

Bewdley Festival - Duck House Project 2016

I'm calling for any artistic working members please!

Last year Arley Station submitted a fabulous Arley Signal Box themed 'Duck House' for Bewdley Festival's community art project. The Festival's organisers are growing the project this year and hoping for more entries!

The Duck Houses will be on display throughout October at the Jubilee Gardens, Bewdley so it would be wonderful for the SVR to be represented once again. If you would like to get involved, please let me know by **15th June 2016**.

Many thanks

Clare Gibbard, Marketing & Communications Manager



50008 approaches Hampton Loade on the 21/5/2016 with the 8.35 non stop Bewdley to Bridgnorth service. By Ian Murray.



66763 ' Severn Valley Railway' departs Bewdley on its short trip to Kidderminster on the Saturday of the 2016 diesel gala. By Ian Murray.

2016 Cream Teas within the Observation Saloon

On selected dates: June 23rd, July 13th, 14th. September 7th, 8th. October 27th 2016. Our cream tea service is available for a supplement as follows: Adult: £7.50 per person.

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

Sign up for monthly reminders by emailing

ExpressPoints@svrlive.com

THE SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY
EXPRESS POINTS
MONTHLY MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

THE SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY
EXPRESS POINTS
MONTHLY MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

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