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THE SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY ASSOCIATION

EXPRESS POINTS

WORKING MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

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

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

Elan Valley Project Completion

The Permanent Way Team and Signalling Maintenance have since the New Year, been working on both the Arley Points relay and the Elan Valley Project. In the last two weeks, the amount of effort thrown in to the latter project in particular has been exceptional. I am pleased to announce that whilst fettling is needed the Railway is whole once again and everyone involved in the Elan Valley project or running the Railway during the interim is owed a debt of gratitude. The Chairmen of both Companies Nick Paul CBE and David Williams representing all the Directors would like me to express their sincere thanks to all.

Nick Ralls, General Manager

Cover image: 'Sir Keith Park'. At Little Rock Cutting with the first through train 21/02/15 By: Ivan Whitehouse

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 Dave Milford of Bridgnorth MPD, 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.

Bewdley Station Proposals

Two events have recently provided an opportunity to look at the future of both the station building and the present buffet building at Bewdley. Firstly, the move of the SVR offices from Bewdley to Kidderminster has left the former station house empty with considerable potential for a number of future uses. Secondly, the physical condition of both the station and catering buildings has deteriorated to such an extent that some remedial action is urgently required.

A small group led by James Pearson had already looked at the needs of both the station staff and passengers and had identified possible ways in which improvements could be made. In late November 2014, a well-attended meeting of Bewdley-based volunteers was held with Nick Ralls and Chris Bond to talk about the issues relating to the station and to suggest possible ways forward.

The Conservation & Heritage Committee had also been working prior to this on a Bewdley Conservation Plan which was at that time in draft form, and on January 25th, a preliminary meeting was held between the Bewdley station managers, the VLO, Nick Ralls and myself to see where there was common ground and to pool resources in order to put forward proposals for both the station and catering buildings. A number of basic principles were agreed at this meeting and developed further into a programmed schedule of works at a joint meeting of the C&H Committee and Bewdley Station managers on February 14th.

These principles included such items as providing improved facilities for the station staff, office facilities for the Signal Engineering Dept., the VLO and Duty Officer, new catering premises, toilet provision and storage accommodation. These principles were presented to the SVR Holdings Board on February 17th and it was agreed by the Board to support continued work on the plans and proposals for the two buildings.

It was agreed at the joint C&H meeting that these principles should be presented and discussed more widely and to this end a **meeting has been arranged to take place in the Bewdley buffet at 4pm on Sunday 8th March** to which all interested persons are invited. Plans and initial proposals for the station building will be shown and time will be available for discussion and questions.

David Postle & James Pearson



On the
Notice
Board this
month...

Half Term Opening (Issued: 11/02/2015)

Severn Trent Programme Manager, Michael Lomas visited the Elan Valley Project at Trimpey on Tuesday to assess progress made by their main contractor Amey on the pipe replacement. Subsequently Mr. Lomas contacted Chris Bond to inform him that despite assurances from the contractor to the Railway that the site would be handed back in time to open for half term, Severn Trent were concerned that this was too optimistic and would not be achieved. Two conference calls yesterday evening and this morning with Severn Trent and Amey have confirmed that after exploring all options Amey will hand back the track bed to the Railway by 1.00am Saturday morning, subject to agreement from the SVR consultant civil engineer that the work has been done to SVR specification. Permanent Way and Signaling will then need time to reinstate both track and cabling. Whilst there is a remote chance that the Railway will be ready to open on Saturday morning, this timeline does not contain any contingency for any issues with leaking pipes or additional problems incurred by the contractor. In these circumstances the decision has been taken to run a truncated operation during the day of Saturday 14th February between Kidderminster and Bewdley using a DMU with Footplate rides at Kidderminster courtesy of 1501. A two train steam service will be operated between Bridgnorth and Highley. By operating this service the Railway has built in some contingency for completing its own work and allowances for any further delays experienced by the contractor, the first train anticipated to run the whole line will be the Valentine's diner on Saturday evening. There are morning and evening conference calls taking place with Severn Trent to ensure that the Railway is kept abreast of progress or delay. I am sure that this is disappointing to all working members who are looking forward to the new season but I am afraid that we are subject to Severn Trent's objective to renew pipes to ensure a water supply to the population of Birmingham. I would also qualify the above and remind you that unfortunately the final phase of the project and the time line given above could be subject to further delay if the pipes, once recharged, show signs of leakage. The SVR will be agreeing with Severn Trent reimbursement for any extra costs incurred as a result of this disruption and inconvenience both to the Railway and to our passengers. A press release will be issued, websites updated and a revised traffic notice issued tomorrow. Posters are being drafted for issue to stations on Friday so that we can do as much as possible to alleviate complaints to station and train staff. If there are any further changes you will be notified as soon as possible. Operational staff please look for the revised Emergency Traffic Notice (and supplementary document) tomorrow. Please check SVRLive / SVROnline or telephone your roster clerk on Saturday evening for confirmation that line is open fully for Sunday. The Emergency Traffic notice will be valid for the whole week as a precaution (although as stated above, it is anticipated that the diner will be the first train through). The supplementary document will give instructions on the operation of the truncated service plus details on how the railway will be handed back once work is complete. A large number of staff (paid and working members) have dedicated considerable energy to this project and I would like to thank them for this undertaking on what has been a challenging project. **By: 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

Useful downloads
and forms are
available online
www.svrlive.com



SVR Internal Telephone Directory

The Severn Valley Railway internal telephone directory has been reviewed and updated to reflect several changes that have taken place in the recent past, and as there are likely to be significant changes in the future it has been decided to change the process for updating this document.

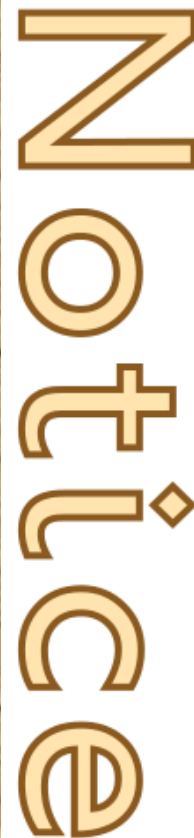
An electronic copy of the updated directory is available, and can be accessed from the Company's computers by clicking on a link on their web browser's "Home Page". This electronic document will be kept updated as and when changes take place. The issue number and date of issue is shown at the bottom of each page.

It is recommended therefore that office staff who have access to an SVR computer should avoid printing out the document, but instead should read the information directly off the screen.

Could staff who are responsible for areas devoid of computers (station sites, signal boxes, workshops etc.) please print out sufficient copies for display, and then undertake an occasional review in order to keep hard copies updated.

It would be appreciated if people could do an initial check and report any errors that may have occurred. Please report any errors or changes that need to be made now or in the future via email to support@svrlive.com.

Steve Bradbury, IT & Telecom Department



SVR 2015 Timetable & Visitor Leaflet

The final 2015 timetable and information brochure can now be viewed at svr.co.uk. Printed copies will be available in racks across the Railway by February 13th for half term week. This year's brochure has a Golden Jubilee flavour, using the traditional 'chocolate and cream' livery. The 50th Anniversary logo, used throughout the document, uses the distinctive styling of a loco headboard. The all-important front cover image has been chosen to balance the attraction of the line to the family market, but retain the special awe and feel of exploration and discovery on the railway. The inspiration for this composition was taken from the iconic 'Summer Comes Soonest in the South' Southern Railways poster, and once again features Max, and driver Jason Houlders. It is surprisingly difficult to put together the right scenes for the brochure, and I am extremely grateful to Jason and the rest of the crew on the day for their help with this – we hope you like the results! The final 2015 timetable and information brochure can now be viewed at svr.co.uk. Printed copies will be available in racks across the Railway by February 13th for half term week. This year's brochure has a Golden Jubilee flavour, using the traditional 'chocolate and cream' livery. The 50th Anniversary logo, used throughout the document, uses the distinctive styling of a loco headboard. The all-important front cover image has been chosen to balance the attraction of the line to the family market, but retain the special awe and feel of exploration and discovery on the railway. The inspiration for this composition was taken from the iconic 'Summer Comes Soonest in the South' Southern Railways poster, and once again features Max, and driver Jason Houlders. It is surprisingly difficult to put together the right scenes for the brochure, and I am extremely grateful to Jason and the rest of the crew on the day for their help with this – we hope you like the results!

This year, in addition to the main timetable brochure, we will be introducing a new more concise leaflet to attract first-time visitors to the SVR. This innovative format is designed for leaflet racks outside the Railway used by distribution companies (outlets include motorway services, supermarkets, guest houses, caravan parks, leisure centres, libraries etc.) –with the front-cover being specifically tailored to appeal directly to would-be visitors browsing their way through a number of attractions. The top half of the front cover is particularly important for communicating what we are at a first glance, hence specific reference to 'steam railway' and the close up visual of engine. It features a very simple introduction to the Railway, and an appealing graphical fold-out map of the line. It's somewhat experimental –and is not intended to replace the main timetable brochure – however I believe that it neatly communicates the essence of the railway to more casual visitors. The new leaflet deliberately encourages visitors to investigate further –their next destination will ideally be the line itself, or more probably, our website. The site has served us well over the last few years and has a wealth of content – and some nice features and tools, however it is in need of a broad update and refresh, to bring the technology used right up to date. It's important to note that whilst the SVR should always strive to enhance and preserve its authentic heritage, we need to adopt the most up to date techniques to promote and encourage visitors to join us in experiencing that heritage. The website is a good example of that – yielding over £500k of revenue each year in ticket sales. The revamp will ensure optimum viewing on mobile platforms such as iPads and smart-phones. With this comes a review of the content and presentation of the site to keep it as user-friendly as it can be. It needs to impart information – and the feel of the line – as simply as possible. The new website is due to launch later this year – we will update progress over the coming weeks.

Clare Gibbard Marketing & Communications Manager



2015 Timetable brochure



NEW visitor leaflet

A Special Thank You..

The SVR Volunteer Office team would like to thank all our P-Way gangs for the tremendous effort they made when replacing the track after the Severn Trent works, which enabled full running to commence sooner than expected.

By: VLO Team

Cream Tea in the Observation Saloon

Our cream tea service is available for a supplement (on top of your 'Freedom of the Line' ticket) as follows:

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

Available on April 1st, 2nd, 11th and 12th, May 20th and 21st, June 24th and 25th, July 15th and 16th, Sept 9th and 10th, Oct 28th and 29th.

Some seats may be available on the day but advance booking is strongly advised.

Pump Trolley Event

Your Railway needs you! Kitchener famously said in the First World War “Your Country Needs You”. Now fast forward 100 years, and on this occasion, the Events Coordinator needs you! To celebrate our 50th Anniversary we are running a whole host of exciting special events to help mark this very important year in our history, and there is one internal event that will give every volunteer and member of staff on the Railway the chance to get involved and celebrate (whilst having a bit of fun).

A Pump Trolley Event will take place on Monday 27th April and you are all cordially invited to attend. The plan is to cover 50 miles on a pump trolley to celebrate the start of the SVR’s 50th Anniversary using teams of volunteers to cover the 4 ½ mile section between Bridgnorth and Hampton Loade 12 times - the part of the Railway which was the first to open in preservation on 23rd May 1970. This is where we need you! We would like departments on the Railway to submit 3 members of staff from their section to represent them in the event. Each team will cover the 4 ½ miles on the pump trolley and points will be awarded for technique, time and best dressed (there is a 1960s theme of course) with the winners receiving a mystery prize.

If you would like to submit a team, please drop me an email by Sunday 23rd March with the details of the entrants: lewis.maddox@svrlive.com (entry form below). Participants must be a working member or member of staff, over the age of 18 and be able to partake in strenuous exercise. Once received, I will send across further information, detailing the plan for the day. Teams will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis, so please RSVP as soon as you can! If you don’t want to take part, then please come along and support your department on the day...home-made flags are essential! Keep a look out for more details to be confirmed shortly. I look forward to hearing from you.

Lewis Maddox, Events Coordinator

Hi-Viz Clothing

We have just purchased a substantial supply of mainly new hi viz wear branded Network Rail/BR. Some items are Gore Tex and include over trousers, body warmers, BR gilets, rainwear, limited footplate wear and much more. We are preparing lists of the items but you may wish to let us know your requirements in the interim.

By: VLO Team



Pump Trolley Event

Monday 27th April

Participant Entry Form – RSVP Sunday 23rd March

Department:

Participants’ name and email address:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Please send completed forms to lewis.maddox@svrlive.com by Sunday 23rd March 2015.

Ground Clearance Team at Bridgnorth

Derek Hornblower is looking for volunteers to join a ground clearance team at Bridgnorth. If You can assist please contact Derek by email horatio5110@gmail.com or phone 07795 247000. Many Thanks.

**The next Quiz will be held at
Bridgnorth Buffet on Saturday 18th April
at 7:30pm. All the usual temptations - free
food and drink!**



Email Reminders

We have had a few technical issues with the email reminder system recently and we are looking to upgrade to cope with the large volume of email alerts we send out each month.

Some Readers have contacted me to say they've not received the usual monthly email, so apologies if you have not been getting these but don't worry you are still on our database and once the problem is resolved you will start receiving the monthly reminders once more. Every edition over the last twelve months can be downloaded directly from SVRLive just in case you have missed a copy.

Regards

Simon Turner - Editor, Express Points

How do YOU read yours...?

Each month 250 copies of Express Points are printed and circulated around the Railway, some departments have reduced the number of copies they require owing to a large volume of their team having email access or regular visibility of SVRLive. If you require any changes to the numbers of paper copies your department receives then please email ExpressPoints@svrlive.com and I can amend the numbers of copies printed.

If you would like to download your very own copy of Express Points, you can download this really easily by visiting SVRLive, clicking Working Members and then on Express Points – Each month the most recent edition is available by clicking on the large photograph or the list of editions below it.

If you have any problems, suggestions or content to include as always please email me ExpressPoints@svrlive.com

Regards

Simon Turner - Editor, Express Points



Car Park Pass Validity

Your friendly car park attendants team at Bridgnorth Station would just like to remind you all that the validity of 2014 working member car park permits will end on Friday 27th March. From Saturday 28th March (the start of the Easter school holidays and the day we have to change the clocks again) you will need to ensure that your 2015 permit is on display in your vehicle. Please chase your manager up in good time if you have not received yours yet. If there are any problems please let Chris Thomas or Ken Buttress know at Bridgnorth *before* the 28th.

It would be really helpful to us all if you could ensure the permit can easily be seen from the front of the car by having it in the center of the dashboard if you prefer not to have it in a holder on the windscreen. Remember our ultimate objective is not to have to book anyone at all - just to ensure everyone without a pass buys a car parking ticket !

Many thanks - **Ken Buttress for Bridgnorth Station Master**

Diesel Gala Visitors

We are very pleased to announce that Class 14 'Teddy Bear' No. D9531 and Class 35 'Hymek' No. D7076 will be visiting us for our October 1st, 2nd and 3rd diesel bash!!

No. D9531 is a type of small diesel-hydraulic locomotive built in the mid-1960s at Swindon Works, the home of the former Great Western Railway. Nicknamed 'Teddy Bears' due to their small size following a comment by Swindon Works' foreman George Cole who quipped "We've built the Great Bear, now we're going to build a Teddy Bear!", the Class 14 will provide a taste of things to come as the Severn Valley Railway's own Class 14 No. D9551 is currently undergoing an overhaul.

Also a diesel-hydraulic, No. D7076 is one of four preserved 'Hymeks' although it is the only preserved example from the later MkII batch. New in 1962, D7076 along with the other Hymeks had a very short service life, being withdrawn in May 1973. The nickname 'Hymek' is because of their Mekydro-design hydraulic transmission units, and No. D7076 will be visiting the Kidderminster to Bridgnorth line wearing British Railways blue livery.

Both locomotives visit us from their East Lancashire Railway home, courtesy of the East Lancashire Railway Diesel Group.

The locomotives' visits are subject to availability, but alongside a Deltic, Western and a 50, we think this Gala is shaping up to be quite spectacular...

Look out for a number of further announcements to follow in the next few months.

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:

March 20 – 22: Spring Steam Gala

As well as an exciting line up of visiting locomotives, the Spring Steam Gala will also see the official opening of a superb new exhibition at the Engine House Visitor Centre at Highley, which celebrates the first 50 years of the SVR.

The exhibition in words and pictures, charts the high and low points in the development of the Railway. From those early first steps taken by a group of railway enthusiasts who met in a Kidderminster public house to discuss the possibility of re-opening the line right up to the present time. This is an attraction that you won't want to miss.

April 11 – 12: Members' & Shareholders' Weekend

Everyone welcome but extra special weekend for regular supporters with a more intensive all-steam train service

A Volunteer Job Fair will be held at Kidderminster station on April 11. Founding members and volunteers have been instrumental in making the SVR the incredible attraction that it is today. Come along to find out how you could help to ensure it continues to provide enjoyment to visitors for the next 50 years and beyond.

April 27: Pump trolley event

Founding members, volunteers, staff and SVR supporters will come together to bring those pioneering days to life as they take to the tracks to cover 50 miles between Bridgnorth and Hampton Loade on a pump trolley!

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.

Our next edition will be available on Sunday 5th April 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