



THE SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY

April 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, 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.

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'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: Spring Steam Gala - the 15:40 Kidderminster to Bridgnorth service has just crossed Borle viaduct on the 20th March 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.

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

KIDDERMINSTER STATION CAR PARK

Advance notice is given of a half day closure of the SVR Kidderminster car park on Friday 15th April.

This is to allow a crane lift onto a low loader adjacent the railway museum to take place. The crane will be arriving about 08:00 so if you arrive early you can park up but once the crane is set up it will not be possible to get access the car park.

Hopefully by mid to late morning the lift will be completed and normal access will be available.

Chris Bond , Infrastructure Manager

VOLUNTEER MONTHLY VOUCHER DRAW..

The latest winner of the SVR £20 gift voucher is: Brent Cleeton, 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.

For details of booking working member Flying Scotsman/ Tornado tickets please refer to separate notice board issues.

Pacific Power Event – Flying Scotsman/ Tornado update and tickets

I am pleased to inform you that agreement on the Flying Scotsman contract has been finalised and all parties have signed.

Due to an increase in the operating costs associated with the event, the ticket price has been revised from that previously stated, a return ticket with Flying Scotsman and Tornado operating a non-stop leg of the journey will be sold for £30. Train times for Pacific Power will be listed on the website, and as a reminder the event will operate between Thursday 22nd and Monday 26th September 2016.

Flying Scotsman will also operate on Wednesday 21st September on a Severn Valley Railway Charitable Trust (SVRCT) special. Tickets for these trains will initially be by invitation to supporters and members of the SVRCT only.

I am afraid with these special Flying Scotsman/Tornado trains there is no discount but the SVR is holding a number of tickets aside for its supporters to purchase.

There will be other trains operating on the Pacific Power event days and your working members passes, members discount and shareholder passes are all valid for those trains that are not worked by Flying Scotsman or Tornado on these days.

For working members in particular an NBI will be issued providing details on the logistics of the event for your information and comment.

Nick Ralls, General Manager

****NOTE ALL BOOKING INFORMATION HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THIS ARTICLE – PLEASE REFER TO SEPARATE EMAILS FOR DETAILS OF SPECIAL WORKING MEMBER TICKETS FOR THE PACIFIC POWER EVENT****

Waste Disposal – Bewdley Station

Just a reminder of the correct use of the waste bins at Bewdley Station as some of you are still getting it wrong! On the concrete pad at the top of the Station drive there are 5 large bins. There are 3 bins with black lids which are for all waste that cannot be recycled.

The other 2 bins have red lids and are for items that can be recycled, such as plastic bottles and glasses, cans, paper and cardboard. Empty bins will be kept locked until required, as we only get charged for those bins that are emptied, so look for the bins with lids that can open. If the bin you require is full and the others are locked, please ask a member of Station staff to open another.

In addition to these 5 bins are 2 smaller "wheely" bins, 1 for food waste and the other for glass bottles. We appreciate it is complicated, but it saves us a significant amount of money for waste disposal and also allows the Railway to do its bit to save the planet!

Thank you for your cooperation.

Bewdley Station Staff

Operations Manager Appointed

Following a two stage interview process we have successfully recruited a new Operations Manager.

The position of Operations Manager has been awarded to Steven Chapple. Steven has been working at the Great Central Railway for 15 years and been employed as Operations Manager for 4 years. Before holding the position of Operations Manager at GCR he was involved in special events and gala organisation. Steven is competent on the GCR in a number of operational roles including Driver, Guard, Fireman and Signaller. Steven started his railway career as a porter on Loughborough station and worked his way up from there to gain a good overall understanding of the heritage railway movement.

Steven will commence work with the SVR on the 25th April 2016.
Nick Ralls, General Manager

1940's Band Show Wristbands!

The Summer doesn't feel that far away now our 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

Disability Policy (SM147) agreed for SVR

From time to time the Railway receives applications from prospective volunteers with learning difficulties and whilst we have endeavoured to accommodate many, our SMS has now dictated that a Disability Policy be constructed.

The following has been approved by the Guarantee Board and designated SMS 147.

Disability Policy of Severn Valley Railway.

A railway is defined as a "Major Hazard Industry" according to the Health and Safety Committee (HSE).

The Severn Valley Railway (SVR) has the responsibility to ensure that all volunteers are responsible for their own safety in order to comply with the requirements of the HSE and in particular the Office of Road and Rail (ORR) section of the HSE that oversees safety on Heritage Railways.

The principles of our safety policy are enshrined within our Safety Management System document SMS-POL-101, the quote below being of particular relevance:

The safety of our workforce (paid and volunteers) and passengers, visitors and neighbours is of paramount importance to Severn Valley Railway Holdings plc. We all have a personal responsibility for our own safety.

The Disability Discrimination Act 2005 defines a person with disabilities as:

"Someone who has a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day to day activities."

If a prospective volunteer cannot comply with industry standards then he/she will not be allowed to become a volunteer on the SVR. In such circumstances the SVR reserves the right to decline applications.

This policy will be applicable to all volunteers joining the SVR on or after 1st March 2016 and for existing volunteers wishing to enter a safety critical department.

Should an issue arise with an existing volunteer as a result of an undisclosed medical/physical condition he/she will be subject to disciplinary procedure as laid down in the Volunteer Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures.

VLO

Eardington Station – Back to the 1950's

One of the best pre-preservation photos we have of Eardington dates from 1954. It's very noticeable in the photo that the cutting sides behind the station building and platform were still being kept neat and presentable at this time.

Inspired by this image, a small team decided to try and return the station to this condition, and have spent the winter months removing brambles, saplings and other growth from the cutting side, usually working on a 45 degree slope more suited to a wild Haggis than an Eardington volunteer. The results are impressive and have taken the station a little closer to its GWR/BR appearance. Have a look next time you pass through and see what you think!

Steve Downs

Vacancies

Kidderminster Caretaker

A vacancy has arisen for a Caretaker at our Kidderminster Station. We are looking for an individual who is self-motivated and who can work to high standards of presentation.

Hours of work: Average 34 hours per week on a flexible annualised hours contract.

If you are interested in the above paid position, or know anyone who might be, please collect an application form from Geoff Smith, Kidderminster Stationmaster.

Closing date for all applications is 16th April 2016.

Nick Ralls , General Manager

Seasonal Carriage Cleaners

We are looking for two individuals with a methodical approach to cleaning. A person who is self-motivated and who can work to the high standards of presentation.

Place of work: Kidderminster Carriage Shed.

Hours of work: Four hours per day (usually 7.00am-11.00am), six days per week (one mid-week day off).

If you are interested in the above paid position, or know anyone who might be, please send a CV and covering letter for the attention of Richard Davis by emailing kidderminster.carriageshed@svrlive.com.

Nick Ralls , General Manager

Terence Cuneo - The Man and His Mouse

We are very pleased to announce the opening of our brand new exhibition, Terence Cuneo - the Man and His Mouse. Located at The Engine House, our Visitor Centre at Highley, this exhibition brings together examples of the work of this talented artist and tells some of the stories connected with his life and his work.

Terence Cuneo - the Man and His Mouse, also includes two original and very different paintings by this artist and a specially commissioned audio visual presentation which includes rare footage of this renowned artist at work.

The children are not forgotten as we challenge them to 'find the mouse' in some of Cuneo's pictures. This exhibition continues throughout the spring and summer season.

We are indebted to Carole Cuneo and Melanie Viner-Cuneo, of the Cuneo Estate, without whose help and support this exhibition would not have been possible. Our thanks also go to Mr Phil Swallow, Mr Michael Cox and Mr Chris Wheeler, Chairman of the Cuneo Society, for the supply of certain exhibits. Audio visual presentation by Aerial-Imaging Specialists and by arrangement with British Pathe.

Quiz Night

**The next Quiz Night will be held at Bridgnorth Station Buffet on 23rd April 2016
7pm (for 7.30pm start)**

**Usual rules apply. Eat, drink and try to answer some of the questions – all with
compliments of the Guarantee Board.**

We look forward to seeing you for another enjoyable evening.

VLO

2016 Cream Teas within the Observation Saloon

Available on selected dates: April 6th, 7th, 16th, 17th. May 25th, 26th. June 23rd, July 13th, 14th. September 7th, 8th. October 27th.

Our cream tea service is available for a supplement as follows: Adult: £7.50 per person. Children: £5.00 per person.

Our next edition will be available on Sunday 1st May 2016

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