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THE SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY ASSOCIATION

EXPRESS POINTS

WORKING MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

May 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

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

***Tickets available from
booking offices***

Cover image: 1450 in readiness for its fundraising 'Eardington Explorer' for 82045. 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	Talyllyn 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 Alan Dennis of TTI Department, 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.

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 will be available from Booking Offices from early May.

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

31st March 2015

Bridgnorth Car Parking – Tuesday 19th May 2015

In order to accommodate a large group of classic cars it will be necessary to cordon off a section of the main car park for the day.

It would help greatly if staff could park on the lower car park for this one day only.

The display we will get for the day should be well worth seeing, while your use of the lower car park (or field) will retain the maximum number of spaces for limited-mobility passengers. Thank you all for your co-operation.

By: Chris Thomas , Assistant Stationmaster Bridgnorth



On the
Notice
Board this
month...

Locomotive Crew Manager

Roger Norfolk, after a number of years' service, has notified the Railway of his intention to stand down from the position of Locomotive Crew Manager. My personal thank to Roger for undertaking this role, his expertise and guidance have been invaluable to the SVR. Whilst Roger will still be very much involved with the Railway we are looking for expressions of interest from candidates willing to undertake this very important role as department head.

Reporting to the Operations Manager the Locomotive Crew Manager has responsibility for department policy and maintaining a high level of staff competency. The position is also expected to undertake inquiries and chair department meetings as required.

A close working relationship is needed with the Works Managers and other department managers to ensure the smooth operation of the Railway. A job description and list of duties is available on request from tammy.ferris@svrlive.com.

Candidates will be expected to have considerable SVR loco crew experience as an Inspector or as a Driver. You will be able to demonstrate impartiality and leadership qualities.

If you are interested please enclose a CV and covering letter to Phil Brown, Operations Manager c/o Severn Valley Railway, Number One, Comberton Place, Kidderminster, DY10 1QR or alternatively email to Phil.Brown@svrlive.com no later than Friday 22nd May 2015. Selection will be made by an interview panel in early June with a recommendation made to the Guarantee Company Directors for ratification. Thank you for your interest.

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**



Royal Visit

On Monday 13th April we had the great pleasure of welcoming HRH The Princess Royal to the Severn Valley Railway. It was a most memorable day, particularly as HRH accepted the offer to ride on the footplate of Erlestoke Manor from Bewdley to Kidderminster. HRH spent considerable time talking to Working Members in Bewdley, Kidderminster and at the Carriage Works in Kidderminster.

A lot of time was put in to the planning of this visit and making this visit a success. The cooperation and goodwill of all those involved is really very much appreciated.

Nick Ralls , General Manager

Steam Locomotive Shunting – Kidderminster Carriage Shed

A recent survey of the carriage shed has revealed that damage to light fittings has been caused through steam locomotives entering the carriage shed chimney first.

With immediate effect, Steam locomotives will only be able to shunt sets to or from the carriage shed if the chimney does not cross the threshold of the building, i.e. must be tender/bunker first to the shed and brought to a stop with the chimney proud of the threshold of the carriage shed.

If the locomotive is chimney first towards the shed, the train will be set back from Kidderminster Station to the carriage shed and must be brought to a stand with half a carriage proud of the carriage shed. The locomotive then to detach and the rostered Diesel Shunter will complete the set back.

Guards/Shunters are to note that the strings will require pulling if the locomotive setting back is GW and before the Diesel Shunter completes the set-back in to the shed.

A Diesel Shunter will be rostered for this purpose if required.

Nick Ralls , General Manager



SVRG AND SVRA MERGER

Many members will have read of the intention to merge these two bodies, as outlined in 'SVR News' issues 187 for Autumn 2014 page 17, and 189 for Spring 2015 page 30.

Over many years, the agenda items for meetings of the SVR Company (the Guarantee Company) and the SVR Association have been quite similar, indeed confusingly so to some people. (i.e. who does what?) The early history of the two bodies is too complex to describe here, but briefly dates from distrust of an effective but controversial figure during the era of the SVR's rapid expansion southwards from Hampton Loade to Bewdley in the early 1970s.

Times change, of course, and the idea of this merger was first mooted some three years ago, the idea initiated by long-serving directors of the Guarantee Company and committee members of the Association. A Merger Committee was set up with three representatives of each organisation, to be supplemented from time-to-time with relevant outside expertise. Since then, there have been Merger Committee meetings at virtually monthly intervals, again with at least three representatives of each body present.

Progress reports have been made to the Guarantee Company directors and Association committee members at their monthly meetings, and both Holdings plc directors and Charitable Trust members have been kept informed of developments at their meetings as necessary.

For the Merger to take place, mostly minor changes to the Articles of Association of the two SVR companies (Holdings and Guarantee) need to be made this year at their Annual General Meetings, in June and July respectively. As a prelude to this, the Holdings Company directors agreed at their October 2014 board meeting to change their Articles to permit Holdings representation to change from two Guarantee Company Directors and one Association Committee Member to three Guarantee Company Directors. Coincidentally, this Guarantee representation on the Holdings Board of three of their twelve Directors accords with the roughly quarter share stake that the Guarantee Company owns in the Holdings Company.

If plans are followed, the Annual General Meeting of the Severn Valley Railway Association in October 2015 becomes their last, subject to all outstanding financial provisions having been satisfied. Careful consideration is naturally being given to ensure that all monies raised for specific projects by the Association (which have always been 'ring fenced') will reach the appropriate target. The first example is likely to be the payment of over £10,000 of raffle proceeds for the restoration of GWR pannier tank 7714 taking place in Bridgnorth Loco Works later this year. From 2016, SVR raffles will be run under the auspices of the Guarantee Company. (But hopefully the same people will continue to pursue similar fund raising initiatives!)

As touched on in the 'SVR News' articles, a great deal of discussion has surrounded the establishment of four Committees of the Guarantee Board in future to cover the principle regular activities of both that Board and the Association Committee in the past. These are; -

Staffing; already chaired by Diane Malyon. (To continue with little change.)

Finance; to be chaired by Rob Whatton.

Communications; to be chaired by Duncan Chandler.

Presentation; to be chaired by Alan Davies.

All Guarantee directors and Association committee members have indicated a willingness to serve on one of these committees, and further expertise is being invited from other working members. Indeed, ordinary members too might like to consider becoming involved if they possess relevant experience.

SVR site representatives (always known as zone reps) will continue to be welcome to attend Staffing Committee meetings to ensure matters pertaining to their site are suitably aired.

We hope all members will appreciate the need for the new combined body to continue to represent both members and working members interests in the future, and further that you will give this change your support at each of the three AGMs this year.

Thank you in anticipation!

By: David C. Williams

The Eardington Explorer

At a little after 11am on Friday 17th April a superbly turned out and very vintage looking train comprising GWR 0-4-2 1450 and three GWR Toplight coaches came to a halt in the platform at Eardington Station, becoming the first timetabled train to stop there for many years.

A busy day followed for the station, with three further stops, during which passengers on the 'sold out' train were able to look around the restored station buildings and enjoy tea and cakes as well as viewing a display of oil lamps in the Goods Office, trying the 120 year old velocipede and watching a photographic run-past.

The crew handled the engine superbly, 1450 having no problems restarting in the Bridgnorth direction, and staff both on and off the train were on hand to ensure the day went smoothly.

The train was organised as a fundraiser for the 82045 Boiler Appeal, and was a great success on this front, adding around £5000 to funds as well as giving a lot of folks a grand day out. As well as the 82045 Steam Locomotive Trust and Friends Of Eardington Station, many people on the SVR contributed to making the day a success, and a big 'Thank you' is due to all concerned.

If you'd like to get a flavour of the day, there's a short video on YouTube - either type in <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hculQPoxszw> or search for 'Eardington Explorer' on the YouTube site.

By: Steve Downs

Bewdley Bike Week

The Severn Valley Railway is supporting Bewdley Bike Week this May and on Wednesday of May half term will be undertaking the following, which has now appeared on the website. The first Kidderminster departure will include a 'Syphon' for extra bike storage.

Dig out your lycra, don your helmet and polish your bell and get ready to board the Cyclists Special!

Bewdley Bike Week will be taking place from 25th - 31st May 2015 where you can take part in a number of bicycle related activities, and anyone can take part.

On Wednesday 27th May, we will be getting involved with the celebrations when we run the Cyclists Special from Kidderminster.

Let the train take the strain, as you and your bike travel from Kidderminster to Hampton Loade to join the National Cycle Network on Route 45 where you can then cycle back up the Severn Valley to Kidderminster, taking in the breathtaking scenery along the the cycle path (whilst keeping your eyes on the road of course).

In order to take your bike on the train to join in with the fun, you must pre-book your Freedom of the Line tickets, and a ticket for your bike.

A total of 20 bike spaces will be available on the 10.30am and 2.20pm departures from Kidderminster and 10.44am and 2.35pm departures from Bewdley, with limited availability on other trains throughout the day.

Bike slots can be booked through our website, www.svr.co.uk or by phoning our Booking Team on 01562 757900, option 1.

Nick Ralls , General Manager

Severn Valley Railway Charitable Trust Race Day Wednesday the 24th June 2015



Come and join us at the Races

The SVR Charitable Trust is holding a Charity Race Day at Worcester Race Course on the 24th June. The race course has kindly given us the central enclosure for our supporters and volunteers to enjoy what will be a superb afternoon.

With the generosity of Allelys Haulage we plan to have an SVR tank engine at the finish line, the ultimate in (iron) horsepower, along with stalls selling SVR merchandise.

As you will know the day-to-day income the Severn Valley Railway generates does not cover the costs of restoring the expansive rolling stock and infrastructure. The Charitable Trust was created in 2012 to raise funds for the development and future of the Railway. Please join us for what promises to be a wonderful day of racing for just £8 a ticket with £3 from every ticket sold being donated directly to the Railway.

For further information on how to purchase a ticket call 01562 757941 or email administration@svrtrust.org.uk.

Look forward to seeing you there,

Shelagh Paterson

Steam and Whistle Club

Our Steam and Whistle Activity Club in August 2015 is in need of some support, and to tie in with the Anniversary celebrations, we want to inspire the next generation of Volunteers! Whether you are a driver, signaller, station staff, painter, guard or a member of any other department, we need your help and time please.

This year The Steam and Whistle Activity club is offering a new event called 'Meet the Railway People' with themed activities. The event is based at The Engine House Visitor & Education centre and runs from 11.30-4pm August 4th, 5th & 6th and we'd like you to come along to talk and demonstrate to the younger generations what your job on the Railway entails.

If anyone can offer their time, patience and knowledge please contact Amanda Peplow Education officer 01764 860901 or Emily Jones Education Admin 01746 860909. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards, **Clare Gibbard , Marketing & Communications Manager**

Talks for local interest groups

For many years now we have provided a 'talks service' for local groups wanting to find out more about the Severn Valley Railway. Sometimes these talks are arranged to precede a group visit to the Railway that has already been arranged but, more likely, they are the catalyst to a group booking a visit to the SVR in the future.

These 'talks' are arranged through our Marketing & Communications Department at Kidderminster who often receive the initial request for this service.

With the passage of time the number of people that we can call upon to help with this service has diminished greatly. For this reason, and because we want to be able to enhance this valuable marketing initiative, we are seeking to recruit a number of additional volunteers.

Talks are usually arranged in the evening, on a mutually agreed date, but occasionally take place at lunchtime (sometimes with lunch included!). Travelling expenses are agreed between the requesting group and our speaker and are paid direct to the speaker on the day. The requesting group often makes a further donation to the SVR but this is not compulsory.

Talking in public to significant groups of people is not for everyone, so before deciding to get involved you may like to consider the following ideal attributes:

1. You will be from a background where speaking in public has been the norm.
2. You will have a positive attitude to the SVR and a good knowledge of its history and the way that it works on a day-to-day basis.
3. You will have a significant amount of tact, being able to answer questions that are asked honestly without releasing sensitive information that you may have access to as a result of your volunteer role.
4. You may work in a department where your work is of particular interest and be able to weave your specialist knowledge or interest into the talk or you may be a longstanding volunteer with an insight into how the SVR has developed over time.
5. You will be a reasonably confident laptop user.
6. You will have your own transport.
7. You will be of smart appearance and, above all, have a good sense of humour.

We will provide you with marketing materials to support your presentation and a brand new PowerPoint presentation is being prepared which will also visually support your talk.

We can also provide, on loan, a laptop (unless you can provide your own) and a digital projector and screen.

A one half-day training session will be provided which is essential.

If you think that you have the necessary skills, interest and time to help with this initiative we would love to hear from you. Please contact either myself, Lewis Maddox or David Mee at Kidderminster on 01562 757900 (option 1) or email david.mee@svrlive.com . Thank you in anticipation.

Best regards,

Clare Gibbard , Marketing & Communications Manager

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.

MPD Update

The Programme of improving the efficiency of the motive power department continues. The consultants, Perspectiv who helped to facilitate the project for an initial two year period have completed their contract and the workshops now are being run purely by SVR staff.

The most recent workshop, chaired by Duncan Ballard looked at the achievements over the last five months since the last time the group we met. These achievements included: The availability of the locomotive fleet continues to be very good; the Santa services were operated without any difficulties with the loco fleet holding up well. 43106 failed during the festive operation, but the fault was quickly rectified.

Following this intense period of locomotive activity MPD staff (paid and volunteers) undertook the winter maintenance programme which provided a reliable working fleet that has held up well in the first weeks of 2015.

In terms of locomotion this has been recently topped off very well by a successful steam gala where both visiting locomotives and home fleet performed without fault. The emphasis on having visiting locomotives arrive early so that inspections and maintenance can be undertaken on the visitors before the gala has paid dividends.

Finally I am pleased to report that a new part time administration position at MPD has been filled by Alison Evans. Alison joins the SVR from The Tax Office and brings with her a wealth of administrative experience. This position is essential if the SVR is to fulfil all its obligations in keeping accurate records for the maintenance and repair of its locomotives, freeing up time for the Works Manager to oversee the activities on the shop floor. The next MPD workshop will be held on the 7th July 2015 and a further update will be made at that time. If there are any queries concerning the workshops please do contact me.

Nick Ralls , General Manager

Our next edition will be available on Sunday 7th June 2015

Sign up for monthly reminders by emailing us

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