



THE SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY

EXPRESS POINTS

WORKING MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

October 2016



Express Points
The Working Members Newsletter
- Contact -

Co-editors:

Simon Turner & Lesley Carr

Email: ExpressPoints@svrlive.com

Write: Lesley Carr, Express Points,
Severn Valley Railway, One
Comberton Place, Kidderminster,
Worcestershire, DY10 1QR.

- About -

Express points is distributed on the first Sunday of each month by sending a reminder link to more than 500 email subscribers. Printed copies are also sent out.

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.

-Cover photo -

Flying Scotsman heads south on 24th September 2016 with our rake of teak coaches. By: Leonardo Roberts

Welcome to the October edition of Express Points

As we all dust ourselves down following the full-on commitment of the Pacific Power event and the VIP Charity Day with Flying Scotsman, there's a definite feeling of triumph around the Railway that we made a success of such a large and demanding operation, along with no small amount of relief that we got through the mammoth stint! This edition of Express Points includes a number of messages of thanks to everyone who got involved. There are the usual updates from the various departments around the Railway, and news of a celebrity visitor on page 5. As we go to press, there are just 12 weeks to go till Christmas (sorry!) but we're already getting ready for the influx of Santa Special visitors and need your help with receiving the piles of presents towards the end of this month. And if you've ever fancied donning a white beard and red hat, go straight to page 7, because this could be your moment!

Other Working Members want to hear from YOU!

Please get in touch and tell us what's happening in your department so we can spread the word. Express Points is all about keeping Working Members in the picture about what's going on right across the Railway. Don't worry about the need to produce a carefully crafted article – we are more than willing to assist with producing final copy. If you can include a digital photograph to accompany your news – even better!

We'd also like to know what you'd like to see in future editions of Express Points? Is there something we could do more of? Anything you'd like less of? Perhaps you have a question you'd like to ask one of the Railway's senior managers or heads of department? Contact us on ExpressPoints@svrlive.com

SVR Twitter & FaceBook, follow or like us!



@svrofficialsite



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

SVR contact email addresses

General feedback to the SVR on any topic should go to: feedback@svrlive.com

For staffing issues, please contact the Volunteer Liaison Office: vlo@svrlive.com

Membership enquiries: membership@svrlive.com

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, or Severn Valley Railway Company Limited, the members of which are responsible for its operation.

PACIFIC POWER: AN SVR TRIUMPH!

Late last Monday evening, 26th September, Pacific Power and the SVR Charitable Trust VIP Day were complete, and I was filled with an immense sense of pride and satisfaction. This six-day event was only possible because of the dedication of all staff who have turned in day after day in many different roles to make this event such a success. From lineside teams, through Carriage & Wagon, P Way, Motive Power, DMU group, Station staff, Signalmen, Loco Crews, Guards, Ticket Inspectors, Retail, Marketing, SVRCT, Heritage Support, Engine House, Bars, Gala committee, security and catering; everybody has pitched in. If I have forgotten any group it is not intentional at all, but I am a little punch drunk! It was a pleasure to work with you all over these six days.

We shouldn't forget that we also received great support from contractors, local agencies and councils. In particular West Mercia Police, West Midlands Ambulance Service, Wyre Forest District Council, Shropshire Council and also the local landowners who provided parking. Of course this event was only possible because of the special support of the National Railway Museum, Riley Engineering and the A1 Trust..

This event organisation has rested on the shoulders of a few individuals, who I would like to thank in particular. That team includes Lewis Maddox (Events Coordinator), Steven Chapple (Operations Manager), Tammy Ferris (Personal Assistant), Dave Brattan (Duty Officer for the week to Steven Chapple), along with Mel Cook, Chris Thomas and Alan Longdon (local Operations Coordinators.) Really well done to you all.

It will be helpful to put this event in perspective as well, with some facts and figures. In advance of the Pacific Power event we sold:

- 1,400 Flying Scotsman/Tornado travel tickets on each of the days
- 1,000 tickets for travel on non-Flying Scotsman/Tornado trains each day
- 1,110 VIP Charity Day Flying Scotsman tickets
- 500 tickets for other services on the VIP day

The total of presold tickets was 13,610 and this doesn't include shareholders or working members travelling on the non-Flying Scotsman/Tornado trains.



We sold further non-Flying Scotsman/Tornado train tickets from Thursday to Monday during the event; these numbers are being collated and will take the total towards 15,000 passengers, many of which were new visitors to the SVR. And we had another audience; the many hundreds of spectators who watched the locomotives lineside.

To give you some comparative figures: on a four-day steam gala we will carry around 7,500 passengers (not including shareholders or working members). To deliver an event of the complexity of Pacific Power for six days with minimal issues is a credit to the Railway. We're organising a comprehensive debrief within the SVR, before undertaking a review with external agencies.

I very much hope that everyone involved in the event enjoyed a well-deserved glass of something special, or a decent night's sleep, or probably a combination of both!

One final time, thank you all!

Nick Ralls, General Manager

FLYING SCOTSMAN VIP CHARITY DAY

Our VIP Flying Scotsman Charity Day on 21st September was everything that we could have hoped for. As well as welcoming and looking after 1,200 guests on our Flying Scotsman services, we played host to two film crews, two radio stations and dozens of regional and heritage rail reporters and photographers. We pulled off an event at the Railway that was truly spectacular, and without the help of hundreds of SVR volunteers, we simply could not have done it.

Putting on an event as high profile and complex as this has entailed a great deal of hard work and goodwill across the whole Railway, and we are very grateful to everyone who contributed to make our day the success it was.

As well as the income we received from tickets sales, we received some substantial on-the-day donations for the Railway, and we will update you on the total amount raised in due course. Since the event, we've received some wonderful comments from our guests, and a common theme has been the friendly and highly professional approach they received from everyone connected with the Railway who they met. The SVR is a volunteer-led organisation, and could not exist without the dedication and sheer hard work of its remarkable volunteers who are truly the backbone of this Railway. Please may I say a huge thank you, on behalf of the Charitable Trust, for the time, energy and support we received from across the Railway not only on the day itself, but also in the weeks and months leading up to this key event.

Shelagh Paterson, SVR Charitable Trust



TORNADO ARRIVES EARLY AT THE SVR

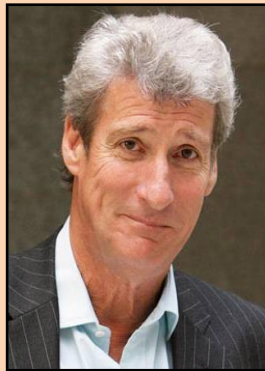
Tornado's arrival came well in advance of the Pacific Power event. This was undertaken as a charter through UK Railtours, which saw Tornado hauling the train through to Bridgnorth. Taw Valley was then due to take the service to Bewdley. However, despite the air brake being tested on the last washout, on the day it unfortunately failed. There were two holes in the air pipe, and one could not be repaired. However, a class 50 diesel that was undertaking P-way duties at Highley was dispatched to Bridgnorth to deputise, and the charter left the SVR on time.

CREAM TEAS IN THE OBSERVATION SALOON

Just one date left now for this season, and it's on 27th October
£7.50 supplement per person.

PAXO VISITS TO FILM DOCUMENTARY

On the last day of August, TV presenter Jeremy Paxman paid a visit to the Railway, to film part of an, as yet unnamed, documentary series he is making for a national channel, focusing on a number of Britain's major rivers, one of which is the river Severn. During his time on the Railway, Jeremy interviewed two apprentices, Ryan Parsons and Dean Parkin, from the Heritage Skills Training Academy, and travelled from Arley to Bridgnorth on a steam service. No dates for transmission have yet been released, but we will let you know as soon as we hear.



VOLUNTEER MONTHLY VOUCHER DRAW

Congratulations to Kidderminster Stationmaster Geoff Smith, the latest winner of the SVR £20 gift voucher, drawn at random each month by the Volunteer Liaison Office.

OPERATION SANTA GEARS UP

As the nights draw in and the temperature begins to plummet, it's time to fetch the woolly hat, which can only mean one thing - the Christmas season is fast approaching and over 12,000 toys are now making their way to Kidderminster in readiness, although unfortunately not by reindeer-drawn sleigh!

We need help to move the presents from road to railway on **Friday 28th and Saturday 29th October from 9am-11am.**

Last year, a fantastic group of volunteers did the job in a couple of hours, and we're hoping to do the same this year. After all, many hands make light work! If you're able to spare a few hours, please contact lewis.maddox@svrlive.com, 01562 757910, or Ext 560 at Comberton Place - there's even a sausage butty in it!



A PACIFIC POWER 'THANK YOU' FROM BEWDLEY STATION

Bewdley station management team would like to thank everyone who assisted us over the recent six-day Pacific Power event. We recruited from far and wide along the Railway, bringing in friends from other railways and staff from other on-site departments to help out. We tried to minimise disruption to their operations during the whole event. The station has now been almost returned to its normal appearance, with some bits still to finish off. The stonemason has also visited, so we hope to see progress on the building work soon. Once again, thank you one and all for your help. We could not have managed without you, and the fact that no accidents were recorded speaks volumes for your efforts. Hopefully, we will have made a respectable profit to make it all worthwhile.

Dai Phillips, Assistant Stationmaster

DO YOU REMEMBER 'CARNARVON' AT THE SVR?



SVR volunteer Ian Hollis also helps out at the Worcester Loco Society, where he's working on their Kitson 'Carnarvon'. Ian knows this loco was once at the SVR before it went to Bulmers at Hereford. It's currently being restored at Buckfastleigh, and what they're lacking are some pictures of the cab layout. Ian would like to hear from anyone who might have information or photographs that would assist. You can contact him at olly5764@hotmail.co.uk

EXPRESS POINTS TO GO ONLINE ONLY FROM JANUARY 2017

The demand for printed copies of Express Points has been steadily dropping for some time now. Additionally, we hope to make the publication bi-weekly in the near future. Printing off copies is very expensive and time-consuming. All these factors mean that a switch to digital publication would be a sensible move. We have given a good deal of warning about the change, and urge you to sign up with your email address as soon as possible at ExpressPoints@svrline.com.

Please let us know if you are worried that you will no longer be able to receive Express Points after we switch to digital by writing to: Express Points, One Comberton Place, Kidderminster, DY10 1QR

NEW FACE AT BRIDGNORTH

On 19th September, ESMP at Bridgnorth welcomed Richard Darby to his role as Team Leader Mechanical.

DELIVERY DRIVER INJURED

The Safety Committee has reported that a visiting coal delivery driver sustained a crush injury at Bridgnorth on 16th September 2016. Initial reports are that the driver left his cab to inspect a broken wing mirror and the parking brake was either not put on or failed. The vehicle rolled forward and crushed the driver in to the coal bunker wall. He was airlifted to hospital. A broken collar bone was diagnosed, and it was reported that the driver was no longer in a critical condition. Thanks were given to staff members who administered first aid.

SOCIAL MEDIA POLICY

The Social Media Policy was published some time ago and made available to all volunteers via Noticeboard Issue, paper copies accompanying annual staff passes and it remains available on SVR Live. At times, there have been a number of occasions where working members have chosen to disregard the guidance within the policy. You are expected, as with all relevant SVR documentation, to familiarise yourself with the content of The Social Media Policy. Social media can be, and often is, a positive method of communication, sharing opinions and news about what goes on around the SVR. However, if what is posted can be misunderstood by other readers a negative impact is created. These postings may be inappropriate, inaccurate or bring the railway into disrepute. Using any social media sites, including Facebook, you are operating in a public space (none are truly private or closed) and your conduct may have serious consequences for the Railway. Monitoring of these sites does take place from time to time and, if requested, you must remove any material posted that we consider in breach of the Policy.

Questions about the operation of the railway should be addressed verbally or in writing (email or letter) via your Departmental Head, the General Manager or VLO and not discussed on Social Media. Similarly, members should not appear to be making decisions for, or on behalf of, the Railway where they have no authority and perhaps do not know all the facts. Breaches of this policy are taken seriously and may result in disciplinary action. In cases such as posting material which could damage the Railway's reputation, or which amounts to bullying and harassment of other members of staff paid or volunteer, or the disclosure of confidential information, this could include dismissal under the relevant Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedure. Any volunteer deliberately in breach of the Social Media Policy could be permanently suspended from volunteer work on the SVR.

David Williams SVRG, Diane Malyon SVRG Staffing Committee & Nick Ralls General Manager

PREVIEW TIMETABLE/BROCHURE FOR 2017



A preview version of next season's timetable and brochure was produced in time to catch the Flying Scotsman visitors. A revised and updated version will of course be produced early in the New Year.

MARKETING & EVENTS ASSISTANT

The SVR marketing team is looking for an enthusiastic, digitally-confident marketing administrator. The role includes drafting and updating content for websites and social media, preparing promotional materials and helping co-ordinate events. You'll need excellent communication and copywriting skills, together with knowledge of web, Facebook and Twitter. You must have GCSE English and Maths (Grade C+) and Microsoft Office competence.

Part time - flexible hours - salary negotiable

Please email or write for an application pack: Tammy Ferris, Severn Valley Railway, Number One Comberton Place, Kidderminster, DY10 1QR

tammy.ferris@svrlive.com

Applications close 7th October 2016

SPOOKY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

A reminder that we need volunteers to thoroughly spook our passengers for the ghost train services on the evenings of 27th, 28th and 29th October. If you're willing to dress up as a scary witch or ghoul, or if you can help in another supporting role, please contact lewis.maddox@svrlive.com or call Paul Hingley on 07850 726230 for a full job description and training.

VOLUNTEER SANTAS NEEDED

Very sadly, three of our volunteer Santas passed away and a further two have retired during the past year. This leaves us seriously short of volunteers to act as Santa during December weekends and Christmas Eve. We have 84 Santa turns to fill across that time, that's 12 per day!



As you may know, the Santa operation is vital component of the winter season at the SVR. The service is intensive, with 13 trains and well over 4,000 passengers per day. We have a fantastic reputation for the quality of our Santa event, built up and maintained over many years. We need 12 Santas at Arley each day; six in the morning (until around 1.30pm) and a further six in the afternoon (until the last passengers get back on the train.) We provide a script to help you keep to the right amount of time per family. No DBS (formerly CRB) check is needed, because we are always accompanied in the grottos, there is an 'elf' outside and constant monitoring by other members of the team (usually to let Santa know if the queue is building up). It doesn't matter whether you are fat or thin, young or old, with white hair or bald – however you do need to be male!

Please think carefully about whether you could do a shift or two as a Santa – it is hard work, but extremely rewarding and good fun.

If you want to find out more, please email, phone or text me:

diane.malyon@svrlive.com, 01746 766130, 07807 424921 and I can put you in touch with the Santa roster clerk.

VACANCY FOR WORKS MANAGER, MPD

We are looking for a key individual to join the SVR and manage the Engineering Services Motive Power Department at Bridgnorth, whilst leading a dedicated team of mechanical and boiler engineers, both paid and volunteer staff.

You will be an enthusiastic leader, with the ability to motivate and lead a large team of paid staff and volunteers. You will have wide experience in engineering, leadership of staff, project delivery and will recognise the importance of safety management within a team and work place.

Experience and expertise in steam locomotive restoration or a related heavy engineering field is desirable, along with experience in project management, leadership, budgeting, motivating staff and oral/written communication.

This is a full-time, permanent position, working 5 days out of 7. A competitive salary, pension and rail travel benefit scheme is available.

Apply by submitting a CV and covering letter by email to recruitment@svrlive.com or alternatively by post FAO Tammy Ferris, Severn Valley Railway, Number One, Comberton Place, Kidderminster, DY10 1QR.

NEWS FROM CARRIAGE & WAGON

4540 work continues in paint shop.

813 in CS4 platform for painting.

24068 Gresley brake to be withdrawn after the Pacific Power event, as the roof is beginning to leak.

24105 and 43612 are a cause for concern and we may limit their availability to stop them deteriorating any further and requiring a larger amount of work.

GWR restaurant car 9654 to be moved back into Bewdley carriage works, upon completion of repairs to 27220.

4399 and 80776 complete plan and budget for the conversion of these coaches for wheelchair access, following Department for Transport award of £75,000.

Interviews to take place for painter/repairer posts.

BOILERSHOP NOTES

The Boiler from Beamish Museum's 'Coffee Pot' arrived on 7th September for a re-tube and other minor work.

7714 boiler was fitted on due date. The delay is now from a supplier regarding the smokebox wrapper profile.

75069 is still waiting on the boiler barrels from London & North Western Railway. The doorplate arrived from South Devon Railway Engineering but there are some measurement issues which SDRE are to address.

13268 boiler was lifted from the wagon mid-August. Some work has taken place on stripping the boiler down. Known large expenditure will include a new steel doorplate and smokebox tubeplate.

780 Alice is making steady progress as manpower is available. **IOMR No 15** work recommenced, with a start made on stripping the old firebox wrapper and barrel. A large number of new components have been ordered for this including a new barrel and outer wrapper, copper plates for the firebox and new outer door and throatplate.

41241 copper firebox tubeplate has been drilled and tapped and a start has been made on assembling the new inner firebox. The steel doorplate has been completed by TLW and is at Accurate Section to utilise their press. Adam Dalgleish still owes the new Throatplate and this is being chased daily.

1501 has completed its mini tour on the east side of the country, and returned to SVR service train usage on 11th September.

COMMUNICATION ON OUR RAILWAY

The SVR's communications strategy is developing. Firstly, SVRLive has become much more active lately as part of the new Communications plan with over 30 news items from around the railway since its relaunch on September 13th. Bookmark it at <http://svrlive.wixsite.com/svrlive> and keep an eye on it for news updates.

INFRASTRUCTURE NOTES

- The SVR's Case roadrailer should now have been delivered back from Bishops Lydeard for the brake conversion work. The machine is now fully compliant with the ORR edict for all such machines on heritage railways to be rail wheel braked by 31st December 2016.
- The PW's other machine was busy flailing as much lineside as possible in advance of the Pacific Power event.
- The stonemason has completed his list of jobs at Arley, including the longstanding problem with the poor condition of the stone arch above the waiting room door. He has made a superb job of replacing the rotten arch, which is virtually indistinguishable from the original stonework.
- The project to carry out relaying of the sidings at Arley is nearing its conclusion. Only final levelling and packing remain to be done and the sidings will be handed back to operational use.
- A large quantity of palletised recovered engineering bricks has been delivered to Eardington. These have arisen from alterations to overbridges on the GWR electrification project and have come free of charge courtesy of Kier Construction Ltd, with only transport to pay. Some will be used by the Friends of Eardington for the proposed platform rebuilding, and a quantity used at Bewdley for rebuilding the messroom.

RECIPROCAL TRAVEL ON OTHER RAILWAYS

Thinking of using your free travel this year? For a full list of participating Railways, click here: <http://www.svrive.com/Pages/ReciprocalTravel.aspx>

On 'Normal' operating days' timetables all the railways signed up for the scheme should permit free 3rd class (2nd/standard class on some lines) on production of an SVR working member's staff pass. For special events, some, though not all, allow a reduced fare rate. Best to check in advance!

MPD NOTES

- 813** Loco run in, at Kidderminster for painting by volunteers then will be returned to Bridgnorth for fettling before entry to traffic.
- 4930 Hagley Hall** Work on the tender chassis continues. The cylinder block has been removed and the two halves separated for assessment.
- 7714** The boiler is now in the frames with assembly under way.
- 75069** The driving wheels have been turned.
Major overhaul work slipped during August because of ongoing running repairs in the mechanical department. Major overhauls continued in the boilershop with **42968's** boiler moving into the building and volunteers starting work on it immediately.

HERITAGE MANAGER'S NOTES

- Bewdley Buffet has had a refresh, and seating capacity has been increased which has improved the flow and layout.
- Careful research into drinks suppliers has resulted in identifying the best value suppliers to use across the whole of the Heritage Support Teams. This will lead to savings to us of 9p per bottle of water and at least 2p per bottle of pop we sell.
- We've changed the prices of drinks sold in our shops to match those in the Valley Suite. There are plan to develop this across all cafes, as we monitor the effects these price changes have on sales.

Photos on our rear page, Top – by Jed Bennett, Bottom – Left & Centre by Paul Davis and Right by Julian Walker



Our next edition will be available on Sunday 6th November 2016

Sign up for monthly reminders by emailing

ExpressPoints@svrlive.com

THE SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY
EXPRESS POINTS
MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

THE SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY
EXPRESS POINTS
MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

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