

1965-2015
GOLDEN JUBILEE



THE SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY ASSOCIATION

EXPRESS POINTS

WORKING MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

April 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

The SVR Quiz

will be held at

Bridgnorth Buffet on Saturday 18th April at 7:30pm. All the usual temptations - free food and drink!

Cover image: 43106 on the Footplate Experience at Hampton Loade Station By: Ian Murray

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	Talylyn 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 Steve Corkery of Signalling, 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

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

On the
Notice
Board this
month...

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**



Vice Presidents

I am very pleased to announce that, in our Golden Jubilee year, the Directors of the Holdings Plc have overwhelmingly supported nominations for the creation of four Vice Presidents.

David Owen OBE a Director of the Holdings Board since 1984. David has always provided a professional detached perspective to holdings debates, and chaired the plc from 1989 to 1993. His family business also supported the complete refurbishment of bridges to ensure the reopening of the Railway. David continues as a Director of the Holdings Plc.

Phil Swallow, long-time supporter of the Railway whose work behind the scenes has proved invaluable, Phil's support through the 'flood damage' repair of 2007 was invaluable and business knowledge and contacts are excellent.

David Williams, whose involvement from the early days of the Valley has been incredibly important, David continues to edit the Severn Valley Railway news and provides an invaluable knowledge on the history of the Severn Valley Railway and rolling stock and is an author in his own right. David continues to chair the Guarantee Company and is a Director of the Holdings Plc.

Mick York joined the Railway in 1966. Whilst working on the footplate Mick put himself forward as a Holdings Director and chaired the Plc in 1993 for a period of 6 years and 1999 for a period of 9 years. Mick continues as a Director, has organised the 2015 celebrations and continues to be our Royal Visit Liaison officer.

For information the existing Vice Presidents are: The Earl of Lindsay, John Cameron, David Hallam, Sir Peter Luff MP and David Morgan.

Nick Paul CBE
Chairman

SVR Spring Steam Gala

We're pleased to report a very successful Spring Steam Gala and excellent start the season. The Railway was buzzing with very happy visitors enjoying the exciting line-up and Springtime weather in the Valley. 4313 passengers visited over the weekend (1380 – Friday, 1652 – Saturday, 1281 – Sunday) compared to 3877 in 2014, an 11% increase on last year's Gala and 5% up on budget (4200).

This is a really pleasing result and testament to the hard work of all those involved in organising and running the event. Thank you to the Gala committee for putting on a fantastic show once again and to all volunteers and staff that helped to deliver it. What a great start to our Golden Jubilee year!!
Best regards,
Clare Gibbard
Marketing Manager



**Working at height? You are
reminded to view the SVR
working at height regulations.**

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A bench dedicated to the memory of Don & Doreen Wilcox...

I am currently leading a project to have a bench made in memory of Don and Doreen to be sited on the platform at Bewdley.

As many of you will be aware, Don & Doreen were both strong supporters of the SVR from the very beginning. In fact, it was Doreen who attended the first meeting to discuss the re-opening of the line as unfortunately Don was unable to attend.

Don was a well respected member of the railway and spent many years as Chairman of the Junior Club and many will remember him fondly.

Any contributions to the project would be most welcomed. If you would like to donate, please forward to me at The Station Masters Office, Bewdley.

Many thanks, James Pearson, Station Master - Bewdley



BBC Inside Out

Aired on Monday 23rd March at 19.30 on BBC One, the feature was 8 minutes long and themed around our 50th anniversary. It included interviews with founding members Keith Beddoes and Columb Howell, volunteers John Robinson and John Davies, apprentice Max Green and General Manager Nick Ralls.

If you didn't catch it you can view it on catch-up or iPlayer.

Royal Visit – Monday 13th April

We are pleased to announce that HRH the Princess Royal will be visiting the Severn Valley Railway on Monday, April 13th.

This will be the Princess Royal's first visit to the Railway, during which she will meet staff, volunteers, founding members and apprentices as well as being invited to ride on the footplate of one of our much-loved heritage steam engines from Bewdley to Kidderminster.

She will also be given a behind the scenes tour of the Carriage Works at Kidderminster, to meet volunteers and some of the young apprentices on the Heritage Skills Training Academy (HSTA), one of a range of key projects financed by the fundraising efforts of the SVR Charitable Trust (SVRCT) and the Share Offer scheme.

The Princess Royal will be shown a practical demonstration of the heritage skills taught through the scheme, which are essential in the on-going programme of coach maintenance and restoration.

Taken from a press release:

Nick Ralls, the SVR's General Manager, said: "We are absolutely delighted to be able to welcome HRH the Princess Royal to the Railway and to be given the opportunity to demonstrate how much the SVR has grown and developed during its 50 years in operation.

"We have had the privilege of meeting Her Royal Highness in the past and she has revealed her enthusiasm for heritage steam, so we are very excited to be able to offer her the opportunity to travel along the line for the first time."

He added: "We have a whole host of events and activities taking place this year to mark our Golden Jubilee, and this Royal visit is such a wonderful highlight."

Further details will be announced shortly including the full itinerary for the day.

Clare Gibbard Marketing & Communications Manager

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 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



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.

COMPETITION TO DESIGN A UNIQUE (FOOD) SELLING PRODUCT FOR SVR...

I need your help!

Many organisations have unique (food) selling products. This is a product that people will travel for miles to eat or buy.

Have you any ideas for food products that we can produce that could be unique to us? For example the famous 'Sally Lunn Teashop' in Bath is renowned for their 'Bath Buns'.

Please send any suggestions to Sharon HARVEY, the Heritage Support Manager or E mail Sharon.harvey@svrlive.com. Please keep it brief!!
The closing date is 30th April 2015.

A free family pass to the Safari Park is on offer for the best two ideas. Get those thinking caps on!!

The next Quiz will be held at

Bridgnorth Buffet on Saturday 18th April at 7:30pm. All the usual temptations - free food and drink!



Spring Gala Highlights by Ian Murray & Ivan Whitehouse.



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:

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.

We are very pleased to announce that our brand new exhibition, Severn Valley Railway - our first 50 years, is now open at The Engine House, our Visitor Centre at Highley.

The exhibition in words and pictures, charts the high and low points in the development of the Railway over the past 50 years.

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!

Our next edition will be available on Sunday 3rd May 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