



THE SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY

March 2016

# EXPRESS POINTS

WORKING MEMBERS NEWSLETTER



**Express Points**  
**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 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](http://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](mailto: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.

## SVR Twitter & FaceBook, follow or like us for updates...



@svrofficialsite



'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](mailto:ExpressPoints@svrlive.com)

You can also feedback to the SVR with regards any topic by emailing the Head Quarters; [feedback@svrlive.com](mailto:feedback@svrlive.com)

Any Staffing issues can be sent through to our Volunteer Liaison Office; [Vlo@svrlive.com](mailto:Vlo@svrlive.com)

Membership feedback and enquiries can be sent to the Membership team at the Head Quarters; [Membership@svrlive.com](mailto:Membership@svrlive.com)

## Live SVR News and Information

Live updated news is always available online 24 hours a day at [www.svrlive.com](http://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: 7812 approaches Sterns with the 10:30am Kidderminster to Bridgnorth on the 17/2/2016

## 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	Talyllyn 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. If your department requires any additional copies please contact us.

### 2016 Timetable

You will have noticed that there has not yet been a full reprint of the 2016 brochure, despite best efforts.

This is because of detailed negotiations concerning the visit in September of 60103 Flying Scotsman. We have agreed extra days of running and also a flagship Charity day on Wednesday 21st September 2016.

The Gala Committee have been giving consideration to the visit of Scotsman/Tornado and to the Gala dates in 2016 to ensure that the Railway is not overloaded at any one time.

Until these details are thought through, confirmed and explained to Working Members, the timetable will not be reprinted. This will take place after the February half term holiday, in preparation for the main season. In the interim a short passenger information document has been printed for the February half term, supplemented by the usual event leaflets and flyers.

Nick Ralls  
General Manager

## VOLUNTEER MONTHLY VOUCHER DRAW..

The latest winner of the SVR £20 gift voucher is: John Davies, Kidderminster station, 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.

### Planning ahead to 2017...

Whilst I realise that we are all pre-occupied with arrangements for 2016 are we aware that in 2017 it will be 50 Years since our first engine (3205) arrived at Bridgnorth and it so happens that 25TH MARCH 2017 falls on a Saturday - any plans to celebrate this event?  
Phil Wright, Shareholder/Member/Volunteer

### Notice Board Issue – Pacific Power...

I understand that social media has been used to express some resentment regarding the decision to replace the Autumn Gala with the Pacific Power event and run an End of Season Finale Gala in November. Having discussed the posts with colleagues I believe that a response to further explain the reasons behind the decisions made is necessary.

The decision to replace the Autumn Gala with Pacific Power (Scotsman/Tornado) was made by the Gala Committee, a group of working members, representing a number of different departments on the Railway, for example loco crew, stationmasters, directors, marketing and others. The committee recommendation, on which I have been consulted and agreed was presented to the Holdings Board for ratification.

The fundamental issue that all members of the Gala Committee have focussed and been concerned with is overcrowding at any event with Flying Scotsman present. Bringing Scotsman and Tornado together has been an ambition for the SVR. However, the media attention and the record passenger/platform numbers recorded by the East Lancs Railway during Scotsman's running in period firmly clarified the potential for overcrowding at the SVR. If the two iconic locomotives had operated as originally planned as part of the Autumn Gala the Railway would not have coped with the unprecedented numbers and the enjoyment of Gala passengers at the event would have been severely curtailed because of overloaded trains, crowded platforms and late running trains.

As the dates for Scotsman and Tornado's visit to the SVR had been organised well in advance the Committee debated and concluded that replacing the Autumn Gala with Pacific Power and holding a Finale Gala in November was the advisable option. Consideration was also given to the demands on working members and the impending set up for the Santa service that takes place in November. It was therefore resolved to have the Finale Gala on 4th – 6th November. Whilst details of this event are being finalised it is our intention that there will as expected be an interesting timetable and it will be competitively priced.

Giving Scotsman and Tornado their own event as well as holding a Finale Gala allows the SVR to hold two events that can be better enjoyed by our enthusiast supporters.

The Gala Committee and myself are also very aware that working members who operate the Railway will be put under strain in running two events of extensive operations. Overnight running is a wonderful part of the Autumn Gala, and it will certainly return in 2017 but with Pacific Power and then the Finale Gala taking place in close succession the Committee considered that it was too much to request working members to also staff overnight running. However, in light of the questions raised on social media, at their meeting in April the Gala Committee will look at overnight running as an additional option at the Finale Gala in November 2016.

For enthusiasts I am sure that the alteration to our events schedule has been the cause of many questions. I hope I have demonstrated in some way that decisions have made to provide two events that can be enjoyed by all and certainly not to alienate the enthusiast visitor. Please be assured that we are doing our utmost to reduce the potential for overcrowding in the provision of these two events.

Yours faithfully

Nick Ralls

General Manager

### Charitable Trust Membership

The Charity is seeking new individuals and organisations to become Trust Members.

You may be aware there has always been a Trust Membership body associated with the Rolling Stock Trust and the Severn Valley Railway Charitable Trust is keen to continue this, whilst expanding the Trust Membership to reflect the additional remit the reformed charity took on board back in 2012.

The purpose of Trust Membership is to ensure that Trustees have a sounding board that represents all the different stakeholders' operating within our Railway. To ensure that supporters and volunteers, apprentices, rolling stock owners, individuals who have responsibility and expertise on our infrastructure, on our permanent way and external bodies all assist in shaping the direction and focus of the Charitable Trust.

The aims of the Charitable Trust are to safeguard our heritage railway by helping fund the restoration of the Railway's rolling stock and infrastructure in addition to arresting the decline of heritage engineering skills, to ensure the continued preservation and operation of the Railway.

We would like to invite you to join our Membership and subsequently attend our Annual General Meeting on the 14th March. Trust Membership is open to everyone (subject to Board approval) and we will keep all Members abreast of the Charitable Trust's progress through our website, annual newsletter and social media updates

**Trust Membership fees are £10.00 per annum. For further details please contact me directly on 01562 757941, [shelagh.paterson@svrtrust.org.uk](mailto:shelagh.paterson@svrtrust.org.uk)**

**Application forms can be downloaded from our website:**

<http://svrtrust.org.uk/downloads.html>

We look forward to welcoming you as Trust Members.

Kind regards

Shelagh Paterson

Director of Development, Severn Valley Railway Charitable Trust

### **Bridgnorth Station Master**

I am delighted to announce that Chris Thomas has been appointed as Bridgnorth Stationmaster with immediate effect.

Chris has been Assistant Stationmaster for a number of years and most recently has been Acting Stationmaster at Bridgnorth.

Chris is looking to recruit two new Assistant Stationmasters if you believe you have the relevant experience please do contact Chris in the first instance.

Nick Ralls

General Manager

### **Heritage Railway Association Award & Passenger Numbers**

We're delighted to announce that we have won the Heritage Railway Association Large Groups Award 'for 50 glorious years and for celebrating in some style'. We were shortlisted for the award alongside other large heritage railways and museums. Judging was carried out by the HRA Awards Committee comprising of HRA representatives and editors of the four main railway heritage magazines. The Severn Valley Railway was crowned joint-winner of the Large Groups Award with the Isle of Wight Steam Railway having both received exactly the same number of votes!

This is a fantastic achievement and testament to all of the hard work by volunteers and staff in delivering a jam-packed programme of events and activities to celebrate our Golden Jubilee Year.

The Award will be officially presented to the Railway in the spring (photos to follow...!).

Over 204,000 passengers travelled on the Railway during 2015 (204,842), a small increase on 2014. The last quarter of the year was particularly successful with Santa Steam Specials/Santa Heralds and Ghost Trains selling out completely for the first time. New additions to the schedule including Tornado's visit and the 'Manor 50' event proved popular with passengers.

Unfortunately the weather during the Festive Season was against us somewhat, therefore numbers during this period were disappointing, but we finished on budget and up against 2014 (passengers), a positive end to our anniversary year.

Best regards

Clare Gibbard

Marketing & Communications Manager

### **Funeral of John Carreras**

He was only diagnosed with cancer at Christmas but had time to meet his vicar and plan his own funeral.

John had been a TTI since the 1980s and more recently also became a member of the SVR Archive team. He was also a regular Santa at Arley.

The funeral was on Thursday 18th February at Arley Kings Parish Church (St Bartholomew's) at 11am.

Over 100 people attended the ceremony and we were all welcomed on arrival by the vicar and other officers of the church. The SVR was mentioned by the vicar in his address and we learnt a lot about John's other interests that we had not been aware of before. John was very involved with the church being a church warden amongst other roles.. John's father was from Catalonia and fought for the Republic against Franco during the civil war before having to flee to France where he joined the Foreign Legion. With the fall of France he fled to Britain where he joined the British Army. . Catalanian music was played at John's request in recognition of his Spanish roots.

As the coffin left the church, at John's request, a number of steam train sound tracks were played the last two of which were Spanish. As the last train disappears into the distance, the level crossing opens and life carries on. This is just how he wanted it and he planned the entire service.

Peter Darkin

### **Parking at Bridgnorth station UPDATE**

Further to NBI-H-291 that was issued in January reference parking at Bridgnorth Station I can confirm that there has been a delay in the installation of the new car park enforcement.

Therefore, please continue to park as previously, displaying clearly your working member's car park pass, until further notice.

Passengers are required to pay and display using the current machines that are installed at Bridgnorth.

Chris Thomas , Stationmaster

### **Terence Cuneo - The Man and His Mouse - We are very please 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.

**This exhibition opens on March 18th to coincide with our Spring Steam Gala and continues throughout the summer season.**

### Whats on award – finalist shortlist

What better way to start a year than with a nomination for an award? We're thrilled to announce that we have made it to the finalist shortlist for a What's On Readers' Award. The nomination is for the Best Midlands' Visitor Attraction, and we're up against a number of other attractions in the region.

Can you help us be crowned the top visitor attraction in the Midlands?

Simply follow the link below and vote for the Severn Valley Railway: <http://whatsonlive.co.uk/whats-on-readers-awards>

Hopefully we'll be sending out another NBI in a few weeks with some positive news!

Thank you for your support.

Lewis Maddox , Events Coordinator

### Kidderminster parking

The Carriage Department of the Severn Valley Railway respectfully asks members not to use the limited car parking spaces outside the Kidderminster Carriage Workshop for "mid-week commuter parking". These spaces are to enable SVR volunteers to come and work in that building and we are experiencing difficulty due to so many "not on duty" SVR members parking here to save having to pay a Network rail car park fee.

It is not a right of SVR membership to be given free parking five days a week so that you can commute to work. If the situation does not improve action will be taken against persistent offenders that will make it more inconvenient for them to inconvenience us. Surveys are being conducted twice weekly. If you must park on SVR property, please use the SVR station Car park and obtain tokens for the barrier from your departmental head or the booking office when open.

Hugh McQuade. Workshop Supervisor.

## Quiz Night

The next Working Members Quiz night will be held at Bridgnorth on the evening of 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016 – More information will be available in our April edition but please put the date in your diary!

### 2016 Cream Teas within the Observation Saloon

Available on selected dates: February 17th. 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 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2016**

**Sign up for monthly reminders by emailing**

**[ExpressPoints@svrlive.com](mailto:ExpressPoints@svrlive.com)**

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