

**SVR  
1965-2015  
GOLDEN JUBILEE**



THE SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY ASSOCIATION

# EXPRESS POINTS

WORKING MEMBERS NEWSLETTER

August 2015

**EXPRESS POINTS**

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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](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**

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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**Cover image: 1501 on the 4.55pm from Kidderminster climbs Erdington on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015. 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         | 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 Iwan Glynn Astley of MPD, 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.

### Railwaymans Arms, Bridgnorth

On 22nd August 2015 Eric Linford will be retiring as licensee. He is thanked for his great service and support he has provided to the SVR as Bar Manager and is wished a long and peaceful retirement.

With effect from this date Samantha Cottrell will perform, in an acting role, the position of licensee and Bar Manager for a period of 6 months.

The position of Deputy will be advertised in due course. Please offer Sam your support in her new role.

Sharon Harvey, Heritage Support Manager

### OPERATIONAL CHANGE TO STOPPING TRAINS AT HIGHLEY STATION

**Traincrews to note there has been an Amendment to the General Appendix, Section G3 – Stopping trains at Platforms (Highley)**

Our elegant observation saloon is attached to certain trains, providing a 'Cream Tea Service' on a single journey, between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth or reverse.

The observation saloon is comfortably furnished with settees and armchairs. Here you can enjoy, at your seat, a cream tea served by one of our stewards who will travel with you. The saloon's panoramic windows give you a virtually unobstructed view of the beautiful Severn Valley countryside and, on the journey from Bridgnorth, the coach is next to the steam locomotive itself.

Our cream tea service is available for a supplement as follows:  
 Adult: **£7.00 per person**. Children: **£5.00 per person**

Sept 9th & 10th, Oct 28th & 29th.

Some seats may be available on the day of your visit but advance booking is strongly advised.



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](mailto:feedback@svrlive.com)

Any Staffing issues you can feedback to our Volunteer Liaison Office by emailing [Vlo@svrlive.com](mailto:Vlo@svrlive.com)

### **The Aspergers Flyer**

The Aspergers Flyer originally scheduled for five days next week was to be attended by Officers of the Aspergers Flyer Charity who would have used the occasion to inform and raise awareness of the condition on SVR trains. This event has now been postponed/cancelled. This decision to reduce the number of Flyer days has been taken in light of discussions with operational staff and the policy that fundraising/charity work on trains is not condoned as it can prove a distraction to passengers, however good the cause.

The Railway fully supports the Aspergers Flyer's cause and will work with them to find other ways to support this very worthy charity in its campaign to raise awareness about the condition.

Nick Ralls, General Manager

### **Kidderminster Car Parking**

This is a polite reminder that parking outside the C&W department at Kidderminster is split into two areas.

1 First 'bays' for C&W staff and are clearly marked for C&W dept only

2 At the far end of the building other spaces are allocated for SVR general staff who are on duty. e.g train crew, signalmen etc. All other station staff should park in the main SVR car park.

Recently C&W staff have been unable to use their designated parking space as they are occupied by others. Regularly staff are parking all day whilst using Network Rail to travel to work or outings.

Please respect these parking arrangements and where possible use the SVR main carpark.

Nick Ralls

General Manager

### **Tornado joins our Golden Jubilee celebrations!**

**We are pleased to announce that No. 60163 Tornado will return to Severn Valley Railway for the first time in 4 years to help celebrate our Golden Anniversary in style from October 6th – 27th.**

Whilst with us, Tornado will be steaming along the line on a number of not-to-miss activities:

**Public trains:** October 10th & 11th, 17th & 18th, 24th & 25th. Departure times will be announced shortly.

**Footplate Experiences:** October 22nd & 23rd. A chance to drive and fire a very special locomotive. Bookings for Footplate Experience will open shortly. Keep an eye on our website for more information.

**Other steamings:** Whilst on the Railway, Tornado will haul a number of photographic charters and trains for private groups and organisations.

Nick Ralls, our General Manager, commented, "We are all looking forward to Tornado's return to the Railway because of its popularity, iconic status and of course it looks perfect hauling our LNER teak set of carriages through beautiful countryside!" Mark Allatt, Chairman, The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, followed this by saying, "We are delighted to be returning to the Railway for the first time in several years. It's amazing to think that in the very year the Severn Valley Railway was formed the last Peppercorn class A1s were heading for the scrapyard".

50 years later, fresh from her intermediate overhaul and newly repainted in her glorious apple green livery, new Peppercorn class A1 No. 60163 Tornado is the perfect companion for the Severn Valley Railway's LNER teak train, make sure you come along to see this star attraction!

### **Station Master – Bridgnorth**

Chris Walton after a tenure of 34 years as Stationmaster has had to reduce his commitment to the Railway and, regrettably Chris has decided to resign as Bridgnorth Stationmaster. Chris will continue as a Holdings Board Director and continue holding his other operational competencies. Thank you Chris for leading the Bridgnorth Station staff over the last 34 years, this is very much appreciated. As we are entering one of the busiest times of the year Chris Thomas will become Acting Stationmaster Bridgnorth with immediate effect. The Bridgnorth Stationmaster position will be fully advertised towards the end of this year. Thanks to Chris Thomas for undertaking this interim role.

Nick Ralls

General Manager



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### **Worcester Race Day**

I would like to thank all the staff and volunteers from the Railway who worked so extremely hard to deliver such a fantastic day at Worcester Racecourse on the 24th June. I am pleased to say the Race Day was a resounding success financially as, after costs, we made a profit of £34,000. This was way beyond our expectations and testament to the generosity of the people attending on the day. We have since received much positive feedback about the event and have even had bookings for a repeat performance next year! It has also enabled us to engage with some very influential Worcestershire based companies as future prospects for our Corporate Partnership Club.

Most visitors at Worcester Racecourse are well used to seeing horses thundering down its famous track, but are not so familiar with the sight of a 48-tonne steam engine sitting proudly at the finish line! The Ex-Great Western Railway Pannier Tank Locomotive No. 5764 looked resplendent in its spotlight position at the end of the Racecourse. Thank you to Tom Clarke and his team for cleaning and preparing it so immaculately, it really did provide the most stunning setting for the day and a fantastic talking point for all the guests. I would also like to say a special thank you to Bob and Margaret Sweet for taking the most fantastic photos (see below).

I sincerely hope you enjoyed being involved with this event and thank you for all your hard work.

Kind Regards

John Leftwich

Trustee, Chairman of Fundraising Development Board, SVR Charitable Trust

### **Bewdley Bus Rally – Sunday 6th September 2015**

I write to remind you that the station will be hosting another Bus Rally on the above date.

As in previous years, the whole of the main car park, the station drive and the parking area at the bottom of the drive will be required for the event as some 25 + buses are expected to attend.

Should you wish to park your vehicle at the station during the evening or overnight before the event, we shall require you to park in either the yard (not to obstruct emergency access) or in the station forecourt.

The bottom of the drive will be closed off shortly after the close of service on the Saturday.

Any staff wishing to park at the station on the day of the event should arrive as early as possible and make use of the station forecourt and yard where possible. The Bewdley School & Sixth Form Centre car park on Stourport Road will also be available for the use of staff and public parking.

Should you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

James Pearson

Bewdley Station Master

### **Apprentice Day 2015**

On behalf of the Junior Club I would like to thank you the Signalmen, Guards, TTIs and foot Plate crew who made the day the success that it was.

We only had group 1 involved this year but those who took part were unanimous in saying what a good and interesting day it was.

Thank you again.

Pat Heap

### **WANTED!**

Hi folks,

I'm looking for an unused/redundant corrugated iron GWR style garden/storage shed for the station house at Bewdley. Is there a second hand one out there in SVR land that could be begged, borrowed, stolen or, at last resort, even bought please.

Contact me via Bewdley Station House.

Regards

Dave Apps

### **Three Manors for SVR in November!**

We are pleased to announce that No. 7820 Dinmore Manor will be visiting the SVR this November.

The locomotive's visit will see it join SVR-based class mates No. 7802 Bradley Manor and No. 7812 Erlestoke Manor over the weekend of November 14th and 15<sup>th</sup>!

## DMU Evening Scenic Specials

**August 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, & 29th. September 5th & 12th.**

Departing at 7.00pm from Kidderminster, enjoy a leisurely journey to Bridgnorth. If you are feeling peckish, you might like to order a fish and chip supper when on the train (additional charge applies). Bring along your family and friends - a special evening fare applies, Annual Family Pass NOT valid.

### **Bewdley Station Waste Disposal**

Just to advise all who work at Bewdley Station of new waste disposal arrangements now in place. The large blue skip has now been replaced by 4 Euro bins for general waste, these have a black lid and only the one currently in use will be left open. As each bin fills up the next one will be opened so that we only get full bins emptied, and there is less chance of fly tipping by outsiders. There is a further bin with a red lid. This is for recyclable material such as metal cans, plastic bottles and containers, paper and cardboard.

Alongside the buffet building are 2 wheelie bins, 1 for food waste and 1 for glass bottles. Both are clearly marked.

There is a further general waste bin in the yard for use by the carriage works.

We ask that you recycle as much as possible, please flatten cardboard boxes to increase capacity.

The revised arrangements bring a significant cost saving and we are indebted to Chris Bond for doing the research and organising this.

Bewdley Station Staff

### **Sounds of the 60's**

You're invited to a celebration 50 years in the making...

As part of our Sounds of the 60's Special Event, we are holding celebratory evening concerts on Friday 14th August and Saturday 15th August at Kidderminster Station; another golden moment in our Golden Jubilee year.

**Friday 14th August** - The Stones take to the stage. Recognised widely as the greatest tribute to the 'Greatest Rock 'n' Roll Band in the World', with all the energy and charisma of The Rolling Stones themselves, The Stones pay an accurate and faithful tribute to the sound and look of an authentic Rolling Stones show and promise an evening of entertainment like no other!

**Saturday 15th August** - The Who 2 rock up for another special evening of entertainment. The Who are considered as one of the most influential rock bands of the 20th century, selling over 100 million records worldwide and establishing their reputation equally on live shows and studio work. The tribute band is sure to set a storm too!

Evening trains will depart from Bridgnorth at 6.25pm on Friday and 6.30pm on Saturday, returning from Kidderminster at 10pm on both evenings for wristband holders only. Both concerts begin at 8.30pm and last for approximately 90 minutes.

Wristbands for Working Members and Staff are £10 per person, with wristbands priced at £12 for members of the public. Wristbands can be purchased from Kidderminster, Bewdley and Bridgnorth Booking Offices, as well as from the Head Office (Mon – Fri), from Saturday 18th July.

We really hope everyone gets into the celebratory spirit and comes along to what promises to be a fantastically colourful tribute to one of the most iconic decades in Britain's history, and the decade it all started for the Severn Valley Railway.

We'll see you there...

Lewis Maddox

Events Co-ordinator

### Control of weeds on the track

This is a brief notice to appraise all concerned with the situation regarding weed control along the track as comments have been received in regards to this matter.

The SVR has previously employed a twice a year application of weed killer using

contractors and so far in 2015 one application has taken place. A second application is due July/Aug. Unfortunately, the environmental regulation and availability of the more effective weed killing chemicals has become progressively more restrictive. Our proximity to the River Severn limits the types of chemicals that can be applied with the section between Bridgnorth and Bewdley restricted to a contact weed killer known as Glyphosate. This will kill most perennial weeds on contact but will not destroy seeds that are germinating below the surface. The biggest problem and the reason for this notice is the proliferation of Mares Tail (*Equisetum arvense*) that has appeared on the track particularly around the Highley area. This is impervious to the weed killer used and is highly invasive being spread along the line by the passage of trains. The merest segment of a live plant will generate another viable specimen. To this end investigations are being made to find an effective bespoke solution that will comply with the relevant regulations and demonstrate a responsibility to the environment. This will be hand applied and will hopefully over time drive this troublesome weed off the track.

Chris Bond

Infrastructure Manager

### Step back to the 1940s

I am pleased to announce the combined visitor numbers over the two weekends of the 1940's have increased from the previous year.

	2015	2014
Weekend 1 - Saturday	2,199	2,039
Weekend 1 - Sunday	1,252	1,501
Weekend - Total	3,451	3,540
Weekend 2 - Saturday	2,387	2,138
Weekend 2 - Sunday	1,264	1,281
Weekend - Total	3,651	3,419
Event Total	7,102	6,959

The big band concerts held on the Saturday evening of each weekend were also very well attended, and enjoyable too.

Congratulations to the team who put in the hard work and enthusiasm in organising the event.

Matthew Harris

Accountant & Company Secretary

### Autumn Gala - BREAKING NEWS!

**We are thrilled to announce that No. 46100 Royal Scot will be returning to service on the Severn Valley Railway this September for our Autumn Steam Gala!**

From September 17th - 20th, No. 46100 Royal Scot will be back in passenger service for the first time in half a decade, appearing alongside already-confirmed visitor No. 70000 Britannia. Both locomotives are courtesy Icons Of Steam and the Royal Scot Locomotive & General Trust.

Built in 1927, Royal Scot was the first in a new breed of steam locomotives, built by the LMS for their fastest passenger services from London to Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow. She was chosen to appear on behalf of Britain at the 1933 'Century of Progress' exhibition in Chicago, USA. The locomotive as well as a full rake of carriages were shipped to the United States and appeared not only at the exhibition, but also toured the USA and Canada, even crossing the Rocky Mountains!

Fast forward to 2015, Royal Scot will be steaming again! Following the locomotive's initial testing period at the new LNWR Heritage facility at Crewe Diesel Depot, Royal Scot will move to the Severn Valley Railway by road. Once here, she will enter the second phase of her test programme, undergoing light engine and then loaded runs along the 16-mile line.

We know that you are eager to see Royal Scot back in action. That's why, working with our partners at Icons Of Steam and the Royal Scot Trust, we're taking the unprecedented decision to publish details of the locomotive's testing schedule, with full details being made available once she arrives at the Railway.

During the test programme, Royal Scot will be running without nameplates or smokebox numberplate, so your first opportunity to travel with Royal Scot will be during our Autumn Steam Gala from September 17th - 20th.

### Are you receiving paper copies of Express Points?

**If your department have access to email, please sign up to our monthly reminders so that we can print less copies each month – saving the Railway money and helping the environment!**  
**If you would still like paper copies, could you reduce the number you receive each month?**

# 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:

## 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.

You're invited to a celebration  
50 years in the making...

**AUGUST 14, 15 & 16**

**Sounds of the 60's**

GET DRESSED UP  
join in the fun.

Evening concerts on  
14 & 15 August

Friday 14 August | **THE STONES**

Saturday 15 August | **THE WHO 2**

60's themed attractions  
during the day on  
15 & 16 August

SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY



**PRE-BOOK AND SAVE** Find out more and buy your tickets on the day or online at: [www.svr.co.uk](http://www.svr.co.uk) or call 01562 757900

**KIDDERMINSTER • BEWDLEY • BRIDGNORTH**

**Our next edition will be available on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

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