

Platform



2018 Issue 4

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svrtrust.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1092723

A thousand people 'Helping hands for



Our campaign to save the viaduct at Falling Sands is gathering pace, as people sign up to add a name to the SVR's first ever donation wall.

People are adding their own name, or that of a friend or family member, even a cherished family pet. Others are adding the name of a loved one in memory. Shops and businesses can add their name too, and are receiving acknowledgement and promotion on the SVR's social media channels.

Charitable Trust director Shelagh Paterson explains the donation wall's importance: "It's part of our campaign to raise £275,000 of match funding, to help unlock £1 million from the

Heritage Lottery Fund. With this money in place, we'll be able to carry out essential repairs to Falling Sands Viaduct. At the same time, the restoration project will act as a springboard to open up the world of railway engineering to our local community, schools and visitors.

"HLF are already supporting us with a development grant of almost £72,000, and we'll be submitting our final bid for £1 million to them in autumn 2018."

We have a sneaking feeling that quite a few people might not know where the viaduct at Falling Sands is, let alone how crucial a part of the SVR jigsaw it is.

sign up as Falling Sands'

Will your hands support Falling Sands?

Sign up at svrtrust.org.uk or phone 01562 757940

£50 for an individual's name • £100 for a business name

The impressive seven-arched structure lies about a mile south-west of our Kidderminster station. It's next to the new Silverwoods residential and business developments, and you can see it from the newly built Hoobrook Link Road. It's been carrying trains into the Severn Valley for more than 140 years but, as the Charitable Trust's chairman Hugh McQuade explains, it's now in urgent need of repair:

"Over the years, water has seeped down into the structure, and its corrosive effect on the brickwork is now very evident. There is already a speed restriction across the viaduct, and we may have to shorten our

trains, or eventually face temporary or permanent closure of this part of our line, unless we tackle the problems now.

"With your support, and HLF funding made possible by National Lottery players, we will save Falling Sands Viaduct. We'll keep heritage trains running along the whole of our 16-mile line, into the next century, and beyond."

You can sign up for the donation wall, and check the progress of our fundraising and the restoration itself, at svrtrust.org.uk



LOTTERY FUNDED

svrtrust.org.uk • 01562 757940 • fundraising@svrtrust.org.uk

Flash appeal raises £13,000 for vandalised carriages

On Boxing Day 2017, the whole of the SVR was reeling. Vandals had ruined two of our beautiful heritage carriages, by spraying paint along their sides.

However, as staff began the long, hard task of removing the paint by hand, and re-applying gold leaf and painted lining to the teak-bodied GNR 2701, the smiles were coming back.

Word of the setback was getting out, through extensive TV, radio and press coverage, and frequent posts on social media. A flood of donations was arriving at the Charitable Trust office, as our director Shelagh Paterson explains:

“The response was so generous that

in just one week, we'd raised not only the £10,000 we needed, but an extra £3,000 towards other carriage restorations.

“Many, many thanks to everyone who pitched in to help. Of course, carriage restoration is like painting the Forth Road Bridge, and there's always another waiting in line! For example, plans are being made to improve another teak carriage, LNER 43612, later this year, and we're looking for sponsorship for new tables and authentic LNER-style wall lamps.”

If you'd like to help fund carriage restoration, please donate online at svrtrust.org.uk, use the form on p11, or call 01562 757940.



Transforming the SVR's accessibility

There's excitement in the air at the Kidderminster Carriage & Wagon works, with swift progress being made on transforming carriage 80776 into first class dining accommodation for wheelchair users and their companions.

It will have an innovative zigzag table layout, to accommodate a flexible number of wheelchair users and their companions. Our craftsmen are taking enormous care to get the dimensions of the tables just right.

The dining car is part of a larger accessibility project, helped by funding from the Department for Transport.



Wheelchair user Kerry Lloyd helps volunteer David Higgins with table height dimensions.



A new heritage platform for Eardington

Although trains only stop at Eardington on high days and holidays, this little country station has a robust band of supporters. Now, with financial support from both the Charitable Trust and the SVR Guarantee Board, the Friends of Eardington Station have restored the platform to an authentic and much improved condition, as stationmaster Steve Downs explains.

“In 1984 half of the platform was deemed to be out of gauge and was dismantled. A sloping face supported by concrete sleepers was installed - not really a great commitment to heritage”

The volunteer-led transformation involved taking out the unloved sloping face, putting in foundations and building up the platform with 6,000 donated GWR bricks.



Permanent way improvements

The Charitable Trust has once again contributed to essential work on the permanent way.

At County Boundary, 240 feet of track was stabilised, by replacing the upper layer of ballast and re-laying the track on top. This was the final part of the huge remedial project that took place over many months last year, following a serious landslip.

There was also a good deal of activity on both sides of the Bewdley tunnel; ballast was replaced in the cutting on the Kidderminster side, and on the Bewdley side the ballast was cleaned along a half-mile stretch. Meanwhile in Kidderminster, a volunteer team carried out improvements to the track in the carriage shed yard.

Tackling the rot in GWR dining car

At Bewdley, carriage & wagon staff are undertaking a Charitable Trust-funded labour of love to restore our GWR kitchen dining car, 9615.

It's been a painstaking process to replace rotten timbers and framework. To keep the roof supported, the team could only remove one section at a time. This time-consuming and tricky job meant using the removed rotten section as a template for the new replacement. However, it's all in a day's work for our skilled restorers, who will move on to repair the roof and metal skin, as well as refitting the glass in the windows and rebuilding the doors.

The next stage will be to design and procure a kitchen that not only looks authentic, but also meets current health regulations.



Hinton Manor returning to the SVR

In 2018 we will be welcoming back a much-missed friend, as locomotive 7819 Hinton Manor returns to the SVR. Owned by the Charitable Trust, Hinton Manor has been on display at a shopping complex in Swindon for the last 10 years.

Hinton Manor will be on static display at The Engine House Visitor Centre, Highley.



The Toad becomes a ‘prince’

As soon as volunteers at the LNER Carriage Group in Bewdley had completed their restoration work on the Charitable Trust’s GWR Brake Van No 17410, the wagon moved to Kidderminster Carriage & Wagon.

Volunteer project leader Richard Gunning explains, “After a professional brake overhaul, and wheel re-profiling, the restored Toad should make its debut at the Goods Gala in June 2018. It will go on to earn money for the Railway, providing brake van rides at special events, and taking part in film work.”

No stranger to the cameras, this vehicle appeared in the 1980s BBC children’s series God’s Wonderful Railway, now available on DVD from SVR shops.



Why gifts in Wills are so important to the Railway

Did you know that 30% of the Charitable Trust's income comes from gifts in Wills? We forecast that in the years to come, this percentage is set to grow dramatically.

All sorts of people leave gifts in Wills, and the gifts themselves come in all sorts of sizes. In every case, the individual who decided to leave a gift in their Will felt a strong connection with the Severn Valley Railway, and gained comfort and satisfaction by deciding to leave a lasting legacy for its future, as our director Shelagh Paterson explains:

“Gifts in Wills play a powerful role in helping the Railway. Look around when you next visit and you'll see plenty of evidence. The carriage shed at Kidderminster and The Engine House Visitor Centre at Highley both received their initial funding from supporters' legacies. Our professionally managed endowment fund balance is now approaching £1.2million, and what's more 40% of this came from legacies. Other gifts in Wills have enabled infrastructure restorations and rolling stock overhauls and repairs, as well as funding for the Heritage Skills Training Academy.”

Our Will-writing partners Thursfields offer a discounted rate for SVR supporters. Ask for an appointment at one of their offices across Worcestershire and the West Midlands by phoning 01562 820575.

Thursfields
Solicitors

When you let us know that you are intending to leave a gift in your Will to the SVR Charitable Trust, we will invite you to join our Guardians' Club. You'll receive regular updates on our work

and invitations to special thank you and behind-the-scenes events, where you'll be able to meet some of the Railway's directors.



Have you seen our film about gifts in Wills?

In it, two longstanding SVR volunteers, Paul Fathers and Malcolm Broadhurst talk about what the Railway has meant to them over the years, and why they've chosen to leave a gift in their Wills to safeguard its future. Malcolm explains, "The sense of achievement at re-opening the Railway, which we thought was impossible, was a dream come true.



Collectively we've all worked together to provide something of excellence for future generations. I want to make sure that the Railway survives me, and outlives me."

You can see the film at svrtrust.org.uk, clicking

on the 'gifts in Wills' tab. You can also request your own DVD copy by phoning 01562 757915.

Your support makes it all possible



Give regularly

Monthly or annual gifts are very important to us because they help us plan the support that we can give to the Railway. As a regular donor, you become a member of our Patrons' Club, and you'll receive a lapel pin badge, regular updates and invitations to special behind-the-scenes events.

Give now

No matter how small or large your donation, it will make a difference and help to preserve the wonderful Severn Valley Railway for future generations.

Give later

Leaving a gift in your Will is another way to support the Railway, and can be a popular choice for those currently unable to donate. There's more detailed information on page 8 on why legacies are so vital for the Railway's future.

Please use the form opposite to make your donation. You can also donate online at svrtrust.org.uk, or phone 01562 757940.

Thank you so much for your support.



Yes, I would like to donate to preserve the Railway for future generations

Name: Tel:

Address:

Postcode: Signature:

Email:

**IMPORTANT
INFO**

We need to ask for your permission in order to update you from time to time on the SVR and its appeals. Your details are safe with us, and we will never share them with anyone outside the SVR family. The other two members of the SVR family are Severn Valley Railway (Holdings) plc, and the Severn Valley Railway Company Ltd. You can change your mind at any time about how we contact you.

I happy for you to contact me by: post email telephone

NB: if you don't tick the 'post' box above, we won't be able to send you future copies of Platform, or invitations to special thank you events at the SVR.

Give regularly – a monthly gift *Please see Gift Aid declaration below*

Please pay monthly until further notice:

£10 £20 £50 Other

Please pay until further notice £ per month to:

To the SVR Charitable Trust at: **HSBC Bank PLC, Account No: 91525786, Sort Code: 40-26-08**

Please return this form to: Number One Comberton Place, Kidderminster DY10 1QR

To (your bank): Sort Code:

Address:

Postcode:

Please debit my account No:

Start date: Signature:

Give now – a single donation *Please see Gift Aid declaration below*

I would like to give a donation of: £15 £25 £50 £100 Other £

Method of payment

Cheque (payable to SVR Charitable Trust) Cash Through our website svrtrust.org.uk

Give later – a gift in your Will *Please tick relevant box*

I would like more information about leaving a gift in my Will.

I have already left a gift in my Will to the SVR Charitable Trust and would like to become a member of the SVR Guardians Club.

Charity Gift Aid Declaration

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate.

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year.

Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer. In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past four years. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

giftaid it

Love the Railway?

Why not become a member...

By joining the 12,000+ people who pay a small annual fee as SVR members, you'll enjoy a range of benefits including reduced train fares, the quarterly magazine *Severn Valley Railway News* and the opportunity to get even more involved as a volunteer. If you care about preserving heritage rail, you can become an SVR member, from as little as £22 a year, with reductions for senior citizens and young people. Join online at svr.co.uk or phone 01562 757930.



Or a volunteer?

Without its 1,700 volunteers, the SVR simply couldn't run.

"A 40th birthday footplate experience got me hooked, and I was soon training as a guard. There's a very structured learning programme and plenty of mentor support. In my day job, I'm an operations manager with West Midlands Ambulance Service, and a qualified paramedic."

Martin Eaton, guard



"My volunteer role at the Charitable Trust involves liaising with friends and families who make gifts in memory of a loved one. I also work with executors and solicitors to administer legacies that supporters have left to the Railway. I'm proud that our work is making a big difference to the SVR's future."

**Michael Howard,
Charitable Trust volunteer**



If you'd like to find out more about volunteering at the SVR, please contact the Volunteer Liaison Office on 01299 401776 or email vlo@svrlive.com

Hagley Hall restoration speeds ahead

The project to restore the SVR's former flagship locomotive took a major step forward earlier this year, as the boiler travelled to Stockton for overhaul.



With the casting of new cylinders for 4930 also due, there's clear evidence that Hagley Hall's return to steam is now well underway.

You can add your support for Hagley Hall with an online donation at svrtrust.org.uk, by phoning 01562 757940 or by using the form on p11.



Transforming Bridgnorth station

The SVR's share offer in support of the Bridgnorth Development Project was a resounding success, raising more than £2.5million.

This is the biggest redevelopment project in the SVR's history, and as we go to press, work on the GWR-style refreshment room is moving closer to completion. The next phase of the project will include the installation of a restored turntable at

Bridgnorth, improved car parking and improvements to the Grade II listed station building.

The SVR still needs further funds for this important project. You can donate through the Charitable Trust, and if you're a tax payer, we can claim 25% extra Gift Aid on your behalf. Please visit svrtrust.org.uk to donate online, use the form on p11, or phone 01562 757940.



Heritage engineers of the future



The SVR's Heritage Skills Training Academy marked an exciting milestone in 2017 with the graduation of its first apprentice engineer. Max Green is now an improver fitter-machinist in the locomotive workshop at Bridgnorth. Four more apprentices will also finish their training later this year and are hopeful of future SVR employment.

In August 2018, two new entrants will begin their Academy apprenticeships at the Railway, after beating off competition from hundreds of other applicants.

It costs £21,000 a year to train each one of our apprentices, and the training lasts between two and four years, depending on the level of qualification.

The Charitable Trust continues to be the majority funder of the Academy, and has secured contributions from a number of grant-making organisations (see page 21), and businesses. Mortons, the publisher of *Heritage Railway* and *The Railway Magazine*, is currently



sponsoring an apprentice. If your company would like to get involved, please let us know.

Many people choose to make a single or regular gift in support of the Academy, because they recognise the importance of training future heritage engineers for the SVR.

What's the secret of a great corporate day out?

At the Severn Valley Railway there is no secret! When your business becomes an SVR corporate partner, you can tap straight into a range of thrilling, memorable and unique opportunities.

Share the excitement as you travel on the footplate alongside the crew firing the engine, and gain a fascinating insight into heritage engineering during guided tours of our workshops.

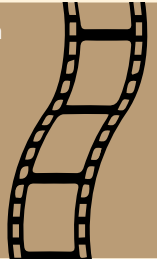
On board a vintage carriage, you can entertain clients, customers or team members, on your own privately chartered train. It's a true taste of luxury from the golden age.

Meanwhile, at The Engine House Visitor Centre at Highley, you'll get up close to giants of steam, then get down to business in an energising venue that's perfect for away days, meetings, training events and celebrations.

There are staff incentives such as family travel and dining tickets, and when you partner with us, we'll highlight your company on the SVR's social media channels to our 250,000 annual visitors.



Our short corporate film highlights the benefits of partnership at the SVR. You'll find it on the corporate partnership page at svrtrust.org.uk.



A place to remember

The Severn Valley Railway has played a huge part in the lives of many thousands of people who are sadly no longer with us.

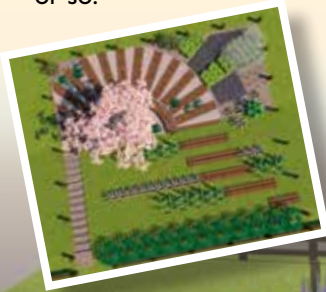
In their honour, the Charitable Trust is creating a special place, where friends and family can go to remember loved ones who had a passion for the SVR. Trust director Shelagh Paterson explains:

“We’re establishing a commemorative garden, just below the Engine House at Highley. When you travel along the line, or visit Highley, you’ll see the garden taking shape over the next year or so.

“Once it’s ready, the garden will be open to everyone, during the SVR’s running season, whatever their connection with the Railway. Its design has been generously donated by Arup’s landscape architecture team, and a talented group of SVR volunteers are putting in the hard work to create the garden.”

We’re also developing an indoor commemorative area on the balcony inside The Engine House. This will be a screened-off area, with scrolls of honour and a memory book.

We welcome donations to help maintain and improve the garden, and indoor commemorative area.



ARUP



Donations in memory of a loved one

This can be a very positive way of celebrating the life of someone, and it also helps to raise funds for something they cared deeply about; the Severn Valley Railway.

When we receive more than £500 in memory of an individual, we add their name to a memory scroll that is on display inside The Engine House Visitor Centre, Highley. You can donate in memory at svrtrust.org.uk, or use the JustGiving website to set up an in memory or tribute page, which makes it very easy for people to give to honour the life of someone close to them.

You may also wish to ask for donations to the SVR in lieu of flowers at the funeral of your loved one.

How about a regular helping of restoration and appeal news?

Every couple of months, we send out an email newsletter with articles about our restoration projects and our fundraising progress. Our e-newsletter is a very cost-effective way for us to keep in regular touch with you, and it's easy to sign up by emailing us at fundraising@svrtrust.org.uk



Let's stay in touch

*Don't
Forget!*

You may be aware of the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) that recently came into force. Although the SVR Charitable Trust has always been very careful not to overload supporters with information and appeals, the new GDPR means that unless you give us explicit permission, we may not be able to contact you in the future. This would mean no more copies of Platform or invitations to special thank you events at the Railway.

However, giving us permission to contact you is easy; you can do this on our website svrtrust.org.uk, or send us the enclosed contact permission slip, or tick the relevant boxes on the donation form on p11 when you return this to us.

You can change your mind about how we contact you at any time, either through svrtrust.org.uk, by emailing fundraising@svrtrust.org.uk or by phoning 01562 757940.



Using social media to spread the word

The SVR has a large following on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and using these platforms is a powerful and fast way of spreading a message. When we launched our flash appeal for the vandalised carriages in January, we received many donations from people who'd heard about it on social media, and quickly raised £13,000. Follow the SVR on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram and you'll get regular news and insights into everything SVR-related.

The SVR Charitable Trust would like to thank the following organisations for their generous support:

- Bransford Trust
- Department for Transport
- EJ Thompson Memorial Fund
- Franche Village Sports & Social Club
- Hendy & Pendle Charitable Trust
- Heritage Lottery Fund
- Grantham Yorke Charitable Trust
- Grimmitt Trust
- Ian Addison Charitable Trust
- Lady Forester Trust
- Owen Family Trust
- Roger and Douglas Turner Charitable Trust

Below you can see the beautifully restored interior of 24105, one of the Charitable Trust-owned teak carriages. Keen to support the restoration of this wheelchair-accessible carriage, the Roger and Douglas Turner Charitable Trust contributed towards the authentic upholstery fabric.



THE ROGER & DOUGLAS TURNER
CHARITABLE TRUST



When you get married on the Severn Valley Railway, you'll be celebrating in vintage style

For a wedding ceremony and celebrations that are memorable, different and come with a special heritage twist, then look no further than the SVR!

Imagine the thrill of meeting your steam locomotive, fired up and ready to transport you and your guests back into the golden age of travel. Think of stepping on board your own private luxury carriage or dining car, all beautifully laid out just for you. Picture your big day, made even more special with the added ingredients of steam, noise and joy that only a heritage railway can supply.

The picturesque Arley station and The Engine House Visitor Centre at Highley are both licensed for marriages and civil partnerships, and at the Visitor Centre your guests can get up close to a host of historic locomotives and carriages on display.

Both the Engine House Visitor Centre at Highley and the picturesque Arley station are licensed for marriages and civil partnerships. Plus the Valley Suite at Kidderminster is an ideal venue for your evening reception.

To find out more about the bespoke wedding packages on offer, please contact: Nicky.Vale@svrlive.com, or phone 01746 862387



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