

# Platform



June 2017 - June 2018 Issue 3

**A fantastic year of achievements for the Charitable Trust**

**Sell-out Flying Scotsman VIP Charity Day**  
p6

**Significant contributions to rolling stock, infrastructure and the Heritage Skills Training Academy**  
p3

**£1million raised for endowment Future Fund**  
p4



**Text 2 Donate to the SVR Charitable Trust. Just text 'SVRC00' and the £ amount of your donation to 70070**



**CHARITABLE TRUST**



# Why does the Railway need a Charitable Trust?

**Many people visiting the SVR don't readily appreciate that the cost of their tickets and the money they spend in the Railway's shops, cafes and pubs only pays for the day-to-day running costs.**

It cannot stretch to cover the huge restoration costs of locomotives, carriages, track and infrastructure, or to train engineering apprentices.

For example, it will cost an extra:

**£600,000+** to overhaul and restore a steam locomotive

**Up to £90,000** to restore a heritage carriage

**£1.25 million** to restore our ageing viaduct at Falling Sands

**£21,000** a year to train an engineering apprentice

The Severn Valley Railway Charitable Trust is helping to find the money needed for these and other essential projects.

[svrtrust.org.uk](http://svrtrust.org.uk) • 01562 757940 • [fundraising@svrtrust.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@svrtrust.org.uk)



# The impact we've had at the Railway

- £300,000** for carriage restoration
- £300,000** for the Heritage Skills Training Academy
- £150,000** towards 'Hagley Hall' locomotive, including £95,000 secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund
- £120,000** towards track re-laying
  - £60,000** for restoring Sandbourne viaduct
  - £40,000** for the Diesel Depot
  - £40,000** so far for Bridgnorth: Building for the future
- £15,000** for platform improvements at Hampton Loade

And we're helping to future-proof the SVR with our endowment Future Fund, which, as we report on page 4, has reached its £1 million target. All of this is only possible because of the generosity of our loyal supporters, and on behalf of the Charitable Trust, I would like to say how grateful we are to everyone who plays their part.

**Hugh McQuade, Chairman**



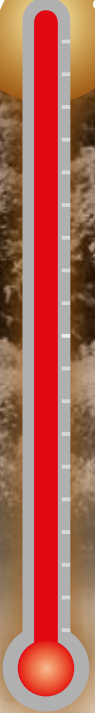
## Locos on film!

Look out for our exciting new film in autumn 2017, promoting the Railway and the work of the Charitable Trust. Worcestershire-based creative agency DRP are kindly producing this for us at no charge, a clear demonstration of their strong support for local heritage rail.

**drpgroup.com**



£1,000,000



# We did it! With your help, we've raised £1million for the Railway's future!



**The Heritage Lottery Fund set us a challenge; if we could secure £500,000 in donations, they would match them, pound for pound, to raise a total of £1 million to invest for the Railway's future. But we only had until June 2017 to do it.**

The generosity and passion of our supporters was nothing short of overwhelming. So much so, that we'd made it to £1 million several weeks before the deadline had expired. This money is invested in our endowment Future Fund, and is generating income to pay for essential restoration work on the SVR's rolling stock and infrastructure in the years to come.

We could not have done any of this without the inspirational response of our supporters. Some people signed up to give a regular amount

each month, and many of these were so impressed with our work that they pledged to continue their monthly gift even after the expiry of the HLF match funding offer. Others made a single gift of whatever they could manage. Every pound that we received (along with an extra 25% Gift Aid if the donor is a taxpayer) was doubled by HLF and invested into our Future Fund. It's going to make all the difference to the way in which the SVR can plan ahead and future-proof its continuing existence.



## You helped in all sorts of ways ...

To the right, are just a few of the many hundreds of people who have donated to the £1 million appeal. Each one has played their part in helping to future-proof the SVR, and we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for their support.

There's another benefit to achieving our £1 million target. It sent a strong and clear message to HLF that we deliver on our promises. It will undoubtedly have played a part in HLF's decision to support our application for a further £1 million towards the restoration of Falling Sands viaduct. There's more about this on page 20.

**Ian Hunter inherited a model railway layout after the sad death of a friend, and made a £200 donation in recognition = £500 for the appeal**



**Brian Garrett and his pals had £20 left in their beer kitty after visiting the Railway = £50 to the appeal**



**Gillian Mowforth, a longstanding supporter, has been making a monthly donation of £10 over the past year = £420 to the appeal**



## Travelling in style! Our Flying Scotsman Charity Day was a roaring success

**It was hard to miss the news of Flying Scotsman's visit to the SVR in September 2016, and as well as raising £85,000 for the Charitable Trust, we also made history! This was the first occasion since 1964 on which this iconic loco had hauled a full rake of nine teak carriages by Sir Nigel Gresley, who also designed Flying Scotsman itself. All these beautifully restored coaches are owned by the Charitable Trust, which made it an extra pleasure to be able to share this special occasion with so many of our supporters.**

The day attracted a huge amount of press coverage and helped us to raise the profile of the SVR as a major heritage attraction, and to highlight the Charitable Trust's important role in ensuring the Railway's long-term survival.

The sheer style and glamour of the day shines through in our photographs, and you can see more at [svrtrust.org.uk/flyingscotsman](http://svrtrust.org.uk/flyingscotsman).

Many guests told us how impressed they were by the professional and friendly volunteers they met, and we owe a huge debt of gratitude to the hundreds of wonderful people on duty during our very special day.



**£85,000 raised!**



[svrtrust.org.uk](http://svrtrust.org.uk) • 01562 757940 • [fundraising@svrtrust.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@svrtrust.org.uk)

# £75,000 award from DfT to transform wheelchair accessibility

**The Department for Transport thought our plan to upgrade the SVR's wheelchair accessibility was so good, they selected us for an award of £75,000 towards its costs. A Charitable Trust team travelled to London to make a Dragons' Den style presentation to the DfT judging panel, beating off intense competition from across the UK.**

A largely volunteer team has been working at Bridgnorth on the massive job of restoring and converting the previously disused 4399 into a wheelchair coach. Project manager and Chairman of the Charitable Trust Hugh McQuade says they've faced a sizeable challenge:

"The coach had suffered a great deal from being stored outside for 20 years, and had become severely corroded. We've had to entirely rebuild the south end, including the gangway, to deal with this. We're replacing all the windows, and re-veneering the interior, before re-upholstering

**£75,000  
accessibility  
upgrade**





the seating with a 1950s reproduction moquette. Finally we'll paint the exterior, in carmine and cream, with imitation gold, authentic to the coach's original livery"

The Charitable Trust devised this project in the knowledge that many of our passengers have mobility issues, so we're planning ahead to properly accommodate them and their families when they visit. We've also purchased new lightweight ramps for each of the SVR's fleet of wheelchair coaches, and



early in 2018 work will start to convert coach 80776 into a first class wheelchair-accessible dining car, as Hugh explains:

"There'll be an innovative zig-zag layout for the tables so that the accommodation will be as flexible as possible.

Both these coaches are now owned by the Charitable Trust, and by the time the project is completed in 2018, we believe the SVR's on-train wheelchair facilities will be the best in the heritage rail sector!"



## Want to keep in the picture?

If you'd like to receive the latest news on what the Charitable Trust is doing, just sign up for our e-newsletter. Delivered straight to your inbox, this is packed full of project updates, and the latest developments on our fundraising activities. Please send your name and email address to [fundraising@svrtrust.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@svrtrust.org.uk) and we'll add you to the mailing list.

# There are so many ways you can get involved and help the Railway ....

**Whether it's your time, your money or a planned gift in the future, if you care about the SVR's future, you can make a difference:**

Make a single or regular donation

---

Ask friends and family to donate to the Charitable Trust instead of buying you a birthday present

---

Leave a gift in your Will to the Charitable Trust

---

Make a gift in memory of a loved one

---

Make a quick and easy donation using your mobile – text SVRC00 and the £amount to 70070. It only takes seconds!

---

Ask your company to join our Corporate Partnership Club, to benefit from unique money-can't-buy experiences at the SVR

---



# Keeping the track on track

**The Charitable Trust has contributed £120,000 to track re-laying in the past few years. Keith Brown is one of the 18 Permanent Way volunteers who worked on this year's section, just north of Hampton Loade station:**

“Each section of steel rail is 60 feet long and they weigh a tonne apiece. You'd certainly know about it if one tapped you on the shoulder! Seriously, good spatial awareness is a key requirement of the job. And a willingness to work outdoors in all weathers.

“Each week we inspect every single mile of track, so we can pick up on issues before they become problems.”

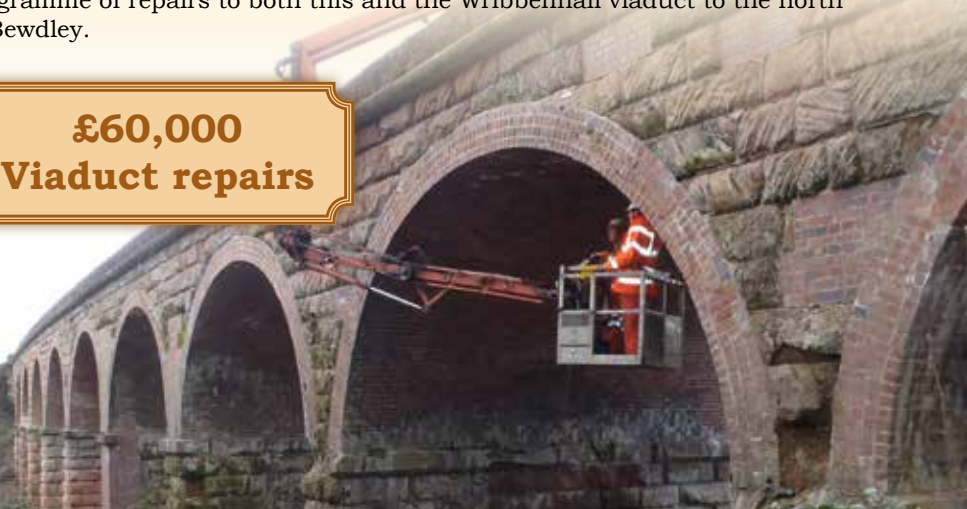


**£120,000  
track re-laying**

## Repairing Sandbourne Viaduct

This impressive 10-arched structure has stood to the south of Bewdley since 1860. Made from local sandstone which is very vulnerable to erosion, the viaduct has needed ongoing repairs. The Charitable Trust has given £60,000 towards stonework restoration on the viaduct. With the generous support of donors, we hope to make further contributions to the continuing programme of repairs to both this and the Wribbenhall viaduct to the north of Bewdley.

**£60,000  
Viaduct repairs**



# Getting the Toad out of the hole

**The LNER Carriage Group volunteers took pity on a dilapidated GWR Toad brake van, and when 17410 was transferred to the ownership of the Charitable Trust, the scene was set for restoration. Project manager Richard Gunning takes up the tale:**

“We were amazed by the sheer extent of rust and decay in the vehicle, which hasn’t had an in-depth overhaul since it was built in Swindon in 1940.

“Our other challenge is finding up to £15,000 to pay for materials. We’re still actively fundraising, and donations made through the Charitable Trust at [svrtrust.org.uk](http://svrtrust.org.uk) will attract 25% Gift Aid at no extra cost.”

Look out for the Toad back in service on the Railway from early 2018.



## Just in time: an SVR triumph for 52255

**In summer 2016 there was a growing sense of urgency in the Kidderminster Carriage & Wagon paint shop. The last of the Charitable Trust’s Gresley teak carriages, 52255, was still undergoing restoration and the honour of the SVR rested on getting it finished in time to join the Flying Scotsman train (see page 7.) Head of C&W and Charitable Trustee David Mead explains how they pulled off this amazing feat:**

“We completely re-jigged our work schedule; 50 or so Kidderminster volunteers were involved, plus members of the Bewdley-based

LNER Carriage Group and staff from other parts of the Railway. The SVR did it again, turning out another superb restoration job.”

[svrtrust.org.uk](http://svrtrust.org.uk) • 01562 757940 • [fundraising@svrtrust.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@svrtrust.org.uk)



## Back to the drawing board for Hagley Hall

**Finding out that Hagley Hall's cylinder blocks were beyond repair was one thing. However, as 4930's volunteer engineering co-ordinator Martin White explains, the problem didn't end there:**

"No patterns have survived to cast new cylinder blocks, and no drawings could be traced either! Fortunately, we're in contact with a talented design engineer who'd already produced 'new' drawings for other Great Western cylinders. We're confident that with his experience, skills and enthusiasm we'll be able to reverse engineer the new cylinder blocks for Hagley Hall."

The Heritage Lottery Fund made a grant of £95,000 towards the Hagley Hall project, and the Charitable Trust has successfully negotiated with HLF for an extension to the original completion date. The

Friends of Hagley Hall Group has itself already raised £110,000.

Acting Chairman, Paul Hobson, explains that until you really get stuck into a loco overhaul, there's no way of knowing what's involved:

"We take it all in our stride. The project costs have gone from £400,000 to £600,000 but we're continuing our ongoing fundraising efforts to help meet the new cost. With a new completion date, and a 10 year boiler certificate in place from 2020, we're hoping Hagley Hall will still be in full steam to celebrate its 100th birthday in 2029!"



Use Text 2 Donate to support Hagley Hall. Just text 'HALL29' and the £ amount of your donation to 70070

[svrtrust.org.uk](http://svrtrust.org.uk) • 01562 757940 • [fundraising@svrtrust.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@svrtrust.org.uk)

# Diesel and the Charitable Trust

## A solid working partnership

**We were delighted when judges at the Heritage Railway Association unanimously voted the Kidderminster Diesel Depot as the winner of their 2016 Modern Traction award. The Trust contributed towards the cost of building the state-of-the-art diesel maintenance facility, which is undoubtedly the envy of many a mainline operator! In the words of the HRA judges, the Depot makes a “major contribution to modern traction preservation”.**

The Charitable Trust is working with the Diesel Groups to maximise their ongoing fundraising activities. For example, donation buckets at the 2016 and 2017 Diesel Galas and the 2017 Open House event have netted more than £9,400. Donations made to Diesel via the Charitable Trust attract an extra 25% Gift Aid, a significant boost to the fundraising efforts. Chairman of the Diesel Committee Jonathan Dunster says:

“Keeping up the fundraising momentum is vital so that we can build workshop facilities and an amenity block for the volunteers and staff who work so hard to maintain the Railway’s essential and valuable diesel fleet.”

To add your contribution, which can be ring fenced for Diesel, please visit [svrtrust.org.uk](http://svrtrust.org.uk), and look under ‘Our Projects’ for Diesel Depot.



## How could your company benefit from Corporate Partnership with the Severn Valley Railway?

You'd experience unusual, memorable and thrilling opportunities:

- Your own steam loco and private carriage for corporate entertainment
- Footplate rides
- Staff incentives
- Exclusive behind-the-scenes tours



Call the SVR Charitable Trust  
01562 757940 today  
[svrtrust.org.uk](http://svrtrust.org.uk)



*Love the Railway?*  
Then why not volunteer on the SVR?

**1,700 people already do so, performing a huge variety of jobs**

From inspecting the tickets to restoring rolling stock.  
From operating on-train buffets to driving the locomotives.

*It all starts with a call to the Volunteer Liaison Office on 01299 401776*  
[svr-vlo.org.uk](http://svr-vlo.org.uk)

## For the perfect wedding day...



*...your carriage awaits!*

The Severn Valley Railway offers unique wedding options for your big day.

How about a wedding breakfast on our beautiful dining car?

Or marrying on the footplate of a steam loco?

Or inside the historic Royal Carriage?

We have reception packages to suit all budgets  
Please telephone 01746 862387 for full details

## HIGHLEY ENGINE HOUSE

*Ladies and Gentlemen!*

Next time you travel on the SVR, make sure you visit the Engine House at Highley.

- Marvel at the massive locomotives on display
- Rub shoulders with Royalty in King George VI's carriage
- Sort the mail in the travelling Post Office
- Find out the fascinating history of the SVR



Café - Gift Shop - Children's Play Area

**01746 863387**



## 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 give to the Railway. As a regular donor, you become a member of our Patrons' Club, and we'll send you 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 26 on why legacies are so vital for the Railway's future and why your support will be so gratefully received.

Please use the form opposite to make your donation. You can also donate online at [svrtrust.org.uk](http://svrtrust.org.uk) or use our Text 2 Donate service. Simply text SVRC00 and your £ amount to 70070.

**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:

**We'd like to keep in touch to update you on the SVR. Your details are safe with us and we will never share them with anyone else. You can change your mind about how we contact you. For full details of our privacy policy please visit: [svrtrust.org.uk/privacypolicy](http://svrtrust.org.uk/privacypolicy) or phone: 01562 757940.**

**Yes, I'm happy for you to contact me**     **No, thanks**

## 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](http://svrtrust.org.uk)

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

- I would like to speak to someone 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 volunteer...

**The SVR simply couldn't run without its 1,700 volunteers, including 15-year-old Harun Bashir and his mum Irshod.**

Harun loves being involved with the rolling stock: "I enjoy getting my hands dirty with the 'nitty gritty' of railway preservation in the locomotive workshop at Bridgnorth. I love being involved in this large preservation movement, and the other volunteers are inspirational."

Meanwhile Irshod is getting out and about on the Railway: "I started volunteering in the booking office at Bridgnorth, and now I'm working for the on-train buffet. The passion and pride people have is amazing. It's a happy but focused atmosphere, and I love that it's a complete contrast to my 'day job' as an accountant!"

To find out more about volunteering at the SVR, contact the Volunteer Liaison Office on 01299 401776 or email [vlo@svrlive.com](mailto:vlo@svrlive.com).



## ...or a Member?

By joining the 12,000 + people who pay a small annual fee as SVR Members, you could 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, become an SVR Member from as little as £21 a year, with reductions for senior citizens and young people. Join online at [svr.co.uk](http://svr.co.uk) or phone 01562 757930.



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

**Bransford Trust**

- Department for Transport • EJT Memorial Fund**
- Franche Village Sports & Social Club • Grimmitt Trust**
- Heritage Lottery Fund • Kidderminster College**
- Lord Leverhulme’s Charitable Trust • Owen Family Trust**
- Rotary Club of Wellington • RD Turner Trust**
- SVR London Branch • SVR Wolverhampton Branch**

**We are extremely pleased that the Worcester-based Bransford Trust has generously agreed to continue its support for the Heritage Skills Training Academy for the next three-year period.**

*“We support the SVR’s determination to train apprentice heritage engineers in its own Academy, where they are gaining practical and valuable skills. Together with the Railway’s volunteer force they’ll be key to ensuring a sustainable future, and as such we are proud to support the HSTA’s vocational programme.”*



**The Bransford Trust**

# If at first you don't

## - the quest for Falling Sands

**It could have been a severe setback when our original application for Heritage Lottery funding to restore the Falling Sands Viaduct was not successful. However, HLF indicated some very specific ways in which we could strengthen our bid, and they encouraged us to re-apply. We didn't need asking twice!**



HLF wanted to see a much stronger programme of community engagement around the restoration project, as well as an emphasis on the social history and importance of steam railway to the region. By the time we submitted our second application, we had a raft of ideas and proposals for activities, events, exhibitions and projects, all of which would see us working closely with schools and local interest groups throughout and after the restoration work. By speaking to dozens of organisations including community groups, schools, businesses, and arts, history and civic groups, not to mention around 700 Railway volunteers, we found overwhelming

# succeed



## Why is Falling Sands so important to the SVR?

support for the viaduct's restoration, and a strong desire for involvement from all quarters.

Our sheer determination has paid off! In June 2017, HLF announced they were extremely keen to support our bid, and would be awarding us a first tranche of funding so that we can further develop and refine our plans. They'll make the final decision on the rest of the £1 million award in September 2018.

In the meantime, we're launching a major fundraising campaign to secure the additional £250,000 that will be needed for this exciting project.

The viaduct was completed in 1877, and for years water has gradually seeped into its seven arches, causing the brickwork to crack and erode, and the mortar joints to crumble. There's already a 20 mph speed limit on trains crossing the viaduct, and things can only get worse. Forced closure of the viaduct would cut off Kidderminster from the rest of the line. Losing this essential operational hub, which houses our historic fleet of carriages, the Diesel Depot, mainline connection, and the point of departure for 80% of our visitors, would compromise the entire future of the SVR. It would be simply unthinkable.



## Training the next generation of Heritage Engineers

**Apprentices within the SVR's Heritage Skills Training Academy work and learn across the different departments; locomotive running, boiler shop, carriage mechanical and carriage bodywork. For their first two years, they rotate around the departments, then specialise in one of the areas. Alongside their on-the-job training, they work towards nationally recognised NVQ 2 and 3 qualifications.**

George Brogan is in the second year of his apprenticeship and is still rotating around the different departments:

“I thrive on the atmosphere of heavy engineering. It might be noisy and dirty but nothing beats the satisfaction of seeing a loco you’ve worked on, once it’s back out in full steam on the Railway.

“Carriage mechanical is next on the rotations for me and I’m looking forward to that too. Every

department here has totally opened my eyes to something new. It’s going to be tough deciding where I would like to specialise next year.”

Max Green is in the final year of his apprenticeship and has specialised in locomotive engineering:

“My work is incredibly varied. One week I could be making new sets of piston glands, the next machining joints for a steam valve. I especially enjoy the fabrication aspects of what I do, like working on the drag box of



Hagley Hall's tender.

"It's been great to get the support of volunteers and paid staff, they really do want to help us achieve as apprentices."

The Railway will recruit two new apprentices to the Academy in 2018.

The HSTA was set up as a pioneering venture in 2013 to help address the inevitable decline in heritage engineering skills at the SVR.

Since the Academy was established, the SVR Charitable Trust has played a key role in its funding and currently we pay the majority of the Academy's costs.

## Could you or your company help to 'sponsor an apprentice'?

Not only would you be helping to secure the future of the SVR, an important regional economic asset, but you would also demonstrate a high level of corporate social responsibility to a community that cares deeply about the Railway. We would highlight your involvement through social media, apprentice blogs and on our website.

**Find out more by visiting [svrtrust.org.uk](http://svrtrust.org.uk) or calling 01562 757940.**

**£21,000 to fund an apprentice**

includes salary, supervision, college fees and travel.

# Turning heads, and locos, at Bridgnorth

**If you've visited Bridgnorth station recently you'll have seen that it's undergoing a huge transformation. A newly built refreshment room and restroom facilities, in a 1900s Great Western building style, are set to open in late summer 2017, and in the original station building there are big improvements to the layout for the Railwayman's Arms and the shop.**

We're getting very excited about the next phase of the transformation, because this will see the installation of a restored turntable in the locomotive yard. The Charitable

Trust will help fund this, so that for the first time ever, the SVR will be able to turn locomotives at the north end of the Railway. This will be a huge attraction for visitors, and an invaluable operational asset.

The Railway's 2016 Share Offer has funded the bulk of the costs of the Bridgnorth development, but the Charitable Trust is also making a significant contribution. Many people are donating to Bridgnorth through the Trust, and of course this method has the added advantage of attracting 25% Gift Aid at no extra cost to the donor.



*Artist's impressions of the new refreshment building.*





# In Loving Memory

Many people find that making a donation in memory of someone special is a fitting way to celebrate their life. Often families ask for donations in lieu of flowers at a funeral. These donations not only honour the life of a loved one and provide comfort to those left behind, but also make a real difference in helping to preserve the Railway for future generations. When a donation in memory is made of £500 or more, we create a memorial plaque for display on our dedication board at the Engine House, Highley.

***In the past year, the SVR Charitable Trust has gratefully received donations in loving memory of:***

**David Charlesworth**

**Ruth Davies**

**Brian Dicker**

**Arnold Gray**

**Ernest Hewitt**

**David Hickman**

**Henry Jenkyns**

**Anthony McCormack**

**Alan J Moore**

**Kenneth F Rea**

**Harry Suddaby**

**Les Thomas**

**Malcolm Thompson**

**Robert Michael Titmus**

**Martin Tunley**





## Preserving, Contributing, Enjoying - When Heritage Meets Business

**Our Corporate Partnership Club is flourishing as new companies sign up and existing members renew and upgrade to get even more out of their partnership with the Railway.**

Supporting the Railway makes a strong statement to the communities in which our member companies are based. And they enjoy a host of unique ‘money-can’t-buy’ benefits, such as chartering their own train, exclusive use of our luxury dining carriages, breathtaking views of the countryside, and well-equipped private venues for corporate entertainment with a special vintage twist. And, there’s always the thrill of travelling on the footplate as the crew fire and drive the locomotive!

*“The benefits of partnering with the SVR Charitable Trust align very closely with our core values as a travel and leisure business. We’ve been involved with the Trust since 2013, and are always delighted with the experiences and opportunities we enjoy as a corporate partner.”*

Diane Evans, Great Little Breaks



*“We wanted a unique and memorable venue for our high value networking event with key clients, so we chose the Severn Valley Railway. Our day on the Railway was a roaring success!”*

Claire Backler,  
Head of Family  
Law Division,  
MFG Solicitors



Find out more about our Corporate Partnership Club at [svrtrust.org.uk](http://svrtrust.org.uk) or phone 01562 757940.



# Our 2016 Day at the Races raises more than £20,000

**More than 200 guests had a fabulous time at our 2016 Race Day, raising more than £20,000, with further donations from Worcester Racecourse of £3 for every ticket sold. The Chairman of the organising committee, Phil Dutton of Handelsbanken, Worcester, said:**

“When you get the necessary business impetus behind an event like this, it’s amazing how much of a difference you can make. We’re proud to support the Severn Valley Railway because not only is it the most marvellous heritage attraction, but it also makes a significant contribution to our regional economy.”

Many thanks to the tireless members of the organising committee: Jenny Cheshire, Phil Dutton, Julie Woodhouse, John Leftwich, Steve Pitts and Max Edwards. And grateful thanks to our generous sponsors: MFG Solicitors and Allelys Heavy Haulage.

We’re doing it all again in 2017 and tickets have sold like hot cakes. Thursfields Solicitors and Allelys Heavy Haulage are sponsoring us, and this year guests will be getting even closer to the racetrack action as we host our event in the stunning marquee!



**£20,000  
raised in 2016**



# Are you thinking of leaving a gift in your Will?

**Donations in Wills are very important to the Charitable Trust, and will become even more so in the future. For example, we used a recent legacy to fund an apprentice in the Heritage Skills Training Academy.**

After they've taken care of their loved ones, many people choose to leave a percentage of the remainder of their estate to a charity such as the SVR Charitable Trust. There can be Inheritance Tax benefits in doing so, and we recommend you ask your solicitor for further information.

If you let us know that you are pledging a legacy to the SVR Charitable Trust, we'll invite you to become a founder member of our Guardians' Club. You'll receive a lapel pin badge, regular updates on

our work and invitations to VIP days on the Railway, so we can thank you, and recognise the important support you are giving us.

## **A Lasting Tribute Day**

If you pass away and leave a gift in your Will of more than £25,000, we will invite your family and friends to celebrate your life and commitment to the Railway, with private use of our luxurious saloon, for a 32-mile commemorative round trip from Kidderminster to Bridgnorth.

A discounted Will writing service is available from Thursfields Solicitors. Please call 01905 730450 for details of their preferential rates for SVR supporters.

**Thursfields**  
Solicitors



# Why I'm leaving a legacy to the Charitable Trust

**Joining the SVR as a 20-year old volunteer, David Massey soon developed a talent for painting, varnishing and joinery work. He's also turned his hand to locos on occasion, and has repainted locomotive 813 three times!**

"Railways were in the blood for my twin brother Bob and myself, and when the early pioneers began their mission to preserve the Railway back in the 1960s, it was a given that we'd both get involved.

"I'm leaving a legacy to the SVR Charitable Trust in my Will because I am right behind what the Trust is doing to secure the Railway's long-term future. I've already put in 50 years here looking after the rolling stock, and I hope there's a good few left in me yet. If it's looked after right, the SVR will outlive us all, and I'm happy that my gift will help keep the Railway running for generations to come."

If you would like more information about leaving a legacy to the SVR Charitable Trust, please phone 01562 757940.



**We offer our condolences to the families and loved ones of these Guardians, and would like to acknowledge the generous gifts they have left in their Wills, as their lasting legacy to the Railway:**

**Elizabeth Bancroft • Neil Ker • David McRae  
Ken Quanborough • Helen Spicer**



[svrtrust.org.uk](http://svrtrust.org.uk) • 01562 757940 • [fundraising@svrtrust.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@svrtrust.org.uk)

**Things are always busy at the Charitable Trust's office in Comberton Place, just around the corner from the SVR's Kidderminster station. Whether we're organising events for our individual or corporate supporters, launching a new fundraising campaign, answering the many queries we receive from supporters or writing grant bids, there's always something to do!**



"I'm gaining all sorts of office skills by volunteering. I update the website content, and design and send out our e-newsletters to supporters. I was virtually brought up on the Railway and love being a part of it."

**Amy Baker**

"Before I volunteered for the Charitable Trust, I hadn't appreciated how much it costs to fund the Railway's restoration projects. It's incredibly humbling to see people's generosity. I'm happy that by volunteering I'm giving something back to the SVR, which has given me so much pleasure over the years."



**Horace Poole**



"The camaraderie I've experienced as a volunteer since I retired has been wonderful. Planning ahead for future preservation is vital, and the Charitable Trust is helping to put essential funds in place for the Railway's future."

**Mike Boast**

"Our Flying Scotsman Charity Day was amazing. My role was to co-ordinate the food delivery to our guests. We put in a 16-hour day but it was huge fun working with such a motivated team to support the future of this wonderful Railway."



**Michael Howard**

# MEET YOU...



“I help organise fundraising events, and I love the opportunity this gives me to meet people and get up close to the steam engines. The Railway depends on the donations and legacies that the Charitable Trust is working so hard to secure.”

**Barbara Fletcher**

“I’ve volunteered on the Railway since 1981, and got involved some years ago as the Treasurer of the old Rolling Stock Trust. I am incredibly proud of how the Charitable Trust has developed from those early beginnings, raising amounts never dreamt of back then.”

**Paul Thursfield, Honorary Treasurer**



**Our Trustees are all volunteers as well. Their role is to develop the strategy and govern the Charitable Trust, making sure it complies with charity law, and promoting its work as widely as possible. Two new Trustees have recently joined our Board.**



“I can’t claim any level of practical engineering knowledge, but as a heritage rail enthusiast I want to do everything I can to ensure this wonderful piece of our history continues for future generations to experience.”

**Peter Copsey, Partner at MFG Solicitors**

“The professionalism of the Charitable Trust, along with its achievements and plans for the future are impressive. There’s something rather special about the Railway, and the Charitable Trust can help preserve and enhance it for the long term.”

**Ron Treverton-Jones,  
Chairman of stockbrokers EFG Harris Allday**



# Diary Dates 2017/18



**The following events are taking place in 2017/18**

**We hope you will be able to join us at one or more of these events**

**Corporate Partnership Club Day, Thursday 6th July 2017**

Hosted by Mark Garnier MP, a special day to thank existing Corporate Partners and showcase the Railway to prospective new ones!

**Peep Behind the Scenes, Saturday 15th July 2017**

A rare insight into the normally unseen work that goes on backstage across the Railway

**Donors' Day, Wednesday 20th September 2017**

An invitation to our supporters to celebrate the success of our campaign to raise £1 million for our endowment Future Fund with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund

**Autumn Steam Gala, Thursday 21st to Sunday 24th September 2017**

Home-based and visiting locomotives guarantee to draw the crowds with a timetable that runs into the evening

*The Severn Valley Railway Charitable Trust is a registered charity, set up by the Severn Valley Railway family to help ensure the long-term future of the Severn Valley Railway.*

Number One, Comberton Place,  
Kidderminster, DY10 1QR  
Registered Charity No: 1092723

**Spring Steam Gala, Friday 16th to Sunday 18th March 2018**

The 2018 season gets fully underway with a mix of SVR and visiting locos that's guaranteed to draw the crowds

**Open House, Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th April 2018**

Behind-the-scenes tours, model railway layouts and brake van rides feature in this enjoyable event

**Spring Diesel Festival, Thursday 17th to Saturday 19th May 2018**

Steam steps aside for a Diesel takeover, with many visiting locos joining the home fleet

**Benefactors' Day, date in July to be confirmed**

A special day out for our Guardians and significant donors

*Platform is kindly sponsored by*

**MenziesNunn**

FINE COLOUR PRINTERS

[www.menzies-nunn.co.uk](http://www.menzies-nunn.co.uk)

**blastdesign**

[www.blast-design.co.uk](http://www.blast-design.co.uk)