



Ecclesbourne Express

*Newsletter of the Ecclesbourne Valley
Railway Association*

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The Wirksworth to Duffield Line

Ecclesbourne Valley Railway Association

(Company No. 5257082 - Limited by Guarantee)

(Charity No. 1106810)

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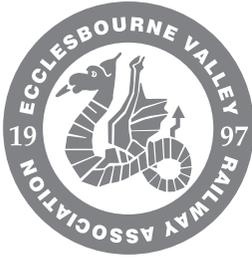
Website: www.evra.org.uk Web Master – Robin Lee.



Next Edition will be published in April 2019 - Contributions welcome by email or post to John Hastings-Thomson, see above, **by Friday March 29th 2019.**

Front Cover: Graham Walker on a Photo Charter at Idridgehay. Frank Richards.

Back Cover: Wirksworth's new Station Building progress 11.2.2019.



NEWS UPDATE - Ian Bowley

As your new Company Secretary, I would first of all like to wish you all a Happy New Year. I would also like to introduce myself to anyone who doesn't already know me. I retired from my garage business in 2005 and then joined EVRA helping Paul Rayner for a short time on the vegetation team. I returned as a volunteer as part of the steam team a few years later and have been a regular at Wirksworth ever since. I was invited to become a Trustee in 2015, and appointed Company Secretary at the recent AGM upon the retirement of Mike Craft. I have also taken over organisation of the steam driving experiences from Pat Craft and look forward to my wife Lindsey becoming Treasurer at the start of the next financial year.

Events that have taken place since October include the Santa Specials and Carols on the Train. I was Santa on four occasions, as I have been in previous years, and would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers and organisers. Without the volunteers, this event simply would not happen and we would welcome any help the membership can offer with this event in the forthcoming year. June Cooke is stepping down from some of her duties including the work she does for the Santa Specials. She has made a massive contribution to Santa Specials and she will be very much missed. We will need someone else to fill this important role.

The station building is progressing at a pace, and hopefully the exterior will be finished in the next few weeks. Once completed, this will be a huge asset to Wirksworth Station complex. Many thanks to all those who have contributed so far and apologies for the slowness in responding to your generosity.

We welcome three new directors to the EVRA board, elected at the AGM: Lindsey Bowley, Ben Field, and Eric Hills.

The new subscription rates agreed at the AGM are listed on p15.

So we enter a new year, and a new era for EVRA. I hope that we can continue to expand and move forward with greater cooperation with Wyvern Rail, which can only be of benefit to all concerned.

SALES MATTERS - Pat Craft

This quarter has had the benefit of the reinstated Model Railway Exhibition both in the book sale in the shop and the stall and tombola in the Town Hall taking £1510 in total. The railway generally also benefitted with ticket sales and buffet income up on last year when there was no Exhibition.

In addition, in November 2017 the shop was closed as the concrete base for the Station building was being laid, but this year the weekend trains to Shottle proved not only successful for the railway but also in terms of our shop sales. Some of the good

days being helped by the pre-Christmas Sale of Bachmann models, a large donation of Backtrack and other premium magazines (which helped to reduce several people's wants lists), craft materials and craft books as well as the volume of other donations. As I said in the last Express we do have something for most visitors!

We have discussed in outline the new shop in the Station building at our shop volunteers meeting in November but will meet for detailed discussions once we can see what it looks like! It is likely that we will need more volunteers in the new building.

Once we are ready to move we will announce another "Lighten our Load" Sale Weekend so we have less to carry across to the new building.

Please keep the donations coming – in addition to books of all sorts, DVDs, jigsaws etc any unwanted Christmas gifts are always welcome for the Prize Draw or for the Tombola.

MIKE PEARSON & GRAHAM WALKER

John Hastings-Thomson.

Sadly, yet again, I have to report the passes of two more stalwart members of the railway both of whom served as EVRA Trustees.

MIKE PEARSON.

I am sad to report the death of Mike Pearson. He was one of the Wirksworth Eight who turned up on November 8th 2000 to start the mammoth task of clearing the line of 12 years of vegetation growth. Mike was a skilled carpenter and he put this to good use to create the first Midland Railway style fencing at Wirksworth. This has now spread to all our stations, but sadly not created by his skilled hands. He was an early EVRA Trustee and for some years our Chairman.

Sadly Mike has not enjoyed good health in recent years and has not been able to visit the Railway for a long time. As one of our early pioneers we are grateful for his skill and commitment and mourn the passing of one who helped to start this Railway on the road to success. Our thoughts and good wishes to his family.

GRAHAM WALKER.

By the time of the last edition we already knew that Graham was terminally ill, but were able to report that the Railway had named one of our 08 Shunters after him; particular appropriate as Graham made a massive contribution to the maintenance of our Diesel fleet, using the knowledge gained from a life time working on the big railway. He also served as an EVRA Trustee. I have asked Ben Field, our newest recruit to the EVRA Board, to write about Graham:

"Graham really was one of life's true gentlemen, who always had the time to talk, teach and above all make people smile. His ability to pass on knowledge has become an

overwhelming part of his legacy, as those of us who were fortunate enough to learn from him, know we continue to progress the railway's diesel fleet and forge our own careers in the 'big railway'. We owe it to him for helping start our journeys into the railway world and instilling a passion to learn and succeed into our hearts. Thanks Graham, it means a lot. Our thoughts and good wishes to his family". **Ben Field.**

WYVERNRAIL UPDATE - Mike Evans.

Happy New Year to all of you and thanks again for all your efforts in 2018. This update covers projects for 2019.

Shottle Box is presently being refurbished, painted and the steel legs are being constructed and fitted now the base has been completed. We have the signalbox for Wirksworth at another Railway. It is dismantled and will need to be containerised and moved to Wirksworth when funds permit. As lever frames and S&T materials need to be refurbished and kept under cover, the S&T department will require another two containers, one at Shottle and the other at Wirksworth.

Part of the Maintenance facility extension is the lowering of the tracks in the old part which will enable the whole part to be concreted. Twelve new lights for the old shed roof have also been purchased.

The Permanent way team are now using concrete sleepers when replacing rotten wooden ones and are presently replacing four at rail joints at mile post 134 ¼ between Hazlewood and Duffield.

The EVRA part of the Station Building continues to rise and the next module will be the toilet block albeit only with a temporary flat roof. Once this has been completed the slowly deteriorating Gents Toilet can be removed. The ladies will be converted to a new staff toilet with a shower which I am sure will be particularly welcomed by the steam crews. Funds permitting this block will be fitted with a pitched roof.

A NEW WAY OF WORKING FOR 2019 - Neil Ferguson-Lee.

As we move into 2019, the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway is upping its game. We will have Steam from Easter until mid-September, the station building at Wirksworth is growing daily, the miniature railway is extending rapidly, by the end of the year the new signalbox at Shottle will be on its legs and there is also the possibility of steam-hauled Santa trains next Christmas!

This Christmas we changed our approach and ran our busiest Santa trains ever over the weekend before Christmas, but in the background, other changes have been taking place. Earlier in 2018, we implemented a new accounts system: not very exciting but vital to manage our finances, while in the Spring we will introduce a new retail system which will be very visible in our booking offices.

We are also implementing some very significant changes in the way we work with our entire volunteer team. That's everyone else who makes time to support the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway. Part of this is a new system to hold our records and - importantly - certifications but there are other changes too in the way we manage the welfare of our whole team.

To begin, we are moving our volunteer records onto a new system called HOPS (Heritage Operations Processing System). This has been designed specifically for heritage railways and one or two of you may be familiar with the system if you volunteer at another line. This is an online system and you will be able to access your own record through the Internet. Naturally, this is a secure system and those who do not have internet access will still be catered-for but for the many of us who do use the Internet it means we can update our details (especially address and contact data) and between us we will have a much better view of what certifications (PTS etc.) we have and when they are due for renewal.

HOPS will be rolled-out during the year and you will receive further information before anything changes, so you need to do nothing for the moment. However, we will be introducing identity cards and these should start to appear from February. Linked to this, we are introducing a new induction process for new and temporary volunteers and as part of this we will include a 'career path' for volunteer roles.

We are updating our **Safeguarding policy**. The wellbeing of young and vulnerable people is an essential part of any organisation, and the heritage sector plays host to both volunteers and visitors who fall into this category. Modern standards for organisations require us to have a robust Safeguarding policy. The updated policy will be introduced in the New Year.

Because Safeguarding is a broad area, feedback from anybody at the EVR is essential. To support a feedback process, we have introduced a new - completely anonymous - feedback system called **Suggestion Ox**. We have added a link to the Roster page on our website (<https://www.e-v-r.com/rota/>) and you will note a link that reads Give WyvernRail anonymous feedback via 3rd party Suggestion Ox. Alternatively, the feedback system can be accessed directly at this address: <https://www.suggestionox.com/r/8dzUPu>. This system is completely confidential and in line with other parts of the transport industry: you can highlight areas of concern safe in the knowledge that your identify will not be compromised.

Naturally, you can still email any of WyvernRail's Board of Directors with your concerns, but if anonymity is required, then Suggestion Ox is there for you.

The implementation of these new features is being led by me and I can be contacted at neilfl@wyvernrail.co.uk if you have any questions.

2018 has been a busy year for our Railway and the Board extends its thanks to everyone who helped make it happen, particularly over the hectic Santa period. 2019 promises the Railway upping its game still further and we are working to ensure that we have an effective organisation in place to support its continuing expansion.

Happy New Year from the WyvernRail plc Board.

NEW EDITOR NEEDED - John Hastings-Thomson.

After over 10 years as Assistant Editor and now Editor of the Ecclesbourne Express it is now time to hand over to someone else. I am finding it increasingly difficult to find the time required to do the job to the standard I set myself, which is one of the reasons why the last two editions have not appeared on time. I think the magazine needs a fresh vision to move it forward. One can get to close to the job and get stale!

I would be happy to have a short transition period working with a successor, or just let the new editor get on with it!

Anyone interested please get in contact with me. Contact details on page 2.

WINTER 100 CLUB DRAW RESULTS - Andrew Denham.

| | | | | |
|----|------------|--------------|---------|--------|
| 1. | P Dungate | Reigate | No. 109 | £77.44 |
| 2. | G Lee | Duffield | No. 131 | £55.31 |
| 3. | R Parkin | Chesterfield | No. 174 | £44.25 |
| 4. | J Cooke | Belper | No. 156 | £22.13 |
| 5. | M Kingsley | Ripley | No. 224 | £22.13 |

Many thanks to all who contributed.

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"We only had a shovel!" - Graham Clark.

Cathryn progresses!





The successful November Shottle Shuttles at Shottle. - *Stuart Graves.*

.....and Wirksworth. - *Leigh Gratton.*

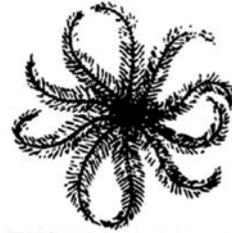


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ECCLESBOURNE VALLEY RAILWAY ASSOCIATION STATION APPEAL PRIZE DRAW 2018.

Income Ticket Sales £1830. Expenditure. Tickets £147. Prizes £800. Postage £28.87.

Net income £854.13

| | Ticket number | Prize | Winner |
|------|---------------|---|---|
| 1st | 2300 | £500 | Ian Cotter, Derby |
| 2nd | 5039 | £200 | Howard Sprenger, Southampton |
| 3rd | 2464 | £100 | Gary Dixon, Stockport, |
| 4th | 1907 | One hour steam driving experience | R. Webb, Birmingham |
| 5th | 8578 | One hour steam driving experience | Alan Smith, , Solihull |
| 6th | 2383 | Bachmann Midland Marvel set | M.H. Jobson, Burton-on-Trent |
| 7th | 1990 | 6 bottles of wine | G. Slater, Stevenage, Herts |
| 8th | 5570 | Book: Tornado 21st Century Steam | B. Cooke, Belper |
| 9th | 1838 | 4 DVD set Britain's Railways Then and Now | Bev Nock, West Midlands |
| 10th | 3279 | 3 DVD set Britain's Railways Then and Now | P. Molloy, , Stockport |
| 11th | 7626 | British Steam Locomotives Book & DVD set | L. M. Rowthorne, Long Eaton |
| 12th | 2978 | Three DVD set Archive of British Steam | Lt. Col.J. Tyson-Woodcock Painswick, Glos. |
| 13th | 2974 | Book: Letting Off Steam | John Slater, Belper |
| 14th | 6863 | 3 DVD set British Railways | D.C.Hall, Derby |
| 15th | 8545 | Art Game | Anne Grogan, Duffied |

WIRKSWORTH STATION APPEAL - John Hastings-Thomson.

Lindsey Bowley, who will become Treasurer at the start of the new financial year in April 2019, has now taken over the administration of the Monthly Donations scheme for which I am most grateful. My apologies for the slow response to everyone's generosity but Lindsey is now contacting everyone to confirm details. Any queries or for more details of the scheme, please contact Lindsey Bowley for address etc., see Ian Bowley, p2. Thanks to your generosity this appeal has now raised £42,000 but we still need lots more!

With this edition of the EE you will receive flyers for two important fund raising events:

Dinner: Lion Hotel, Belper - Saturday 6th April 2019.

Three Course Meal in our own room with private bar. Tombola. A good chance to get together at the beginning of the new season and raise money for the new Station Building. Cost of the Dinner, £32 each includes a donation to the Appeal. Bring your friends. Opportunity to make up a table of eight if you want. Please let Mike Ball know when booking. If you can provide a prize for the Tombola please let me know.

Visit to Statfold Barn Narrow Gauge Railway-Saturday 8th June.

An opportunity to visit this exciting Narrow Gauge Railway which has a large collection of working narrow gauge locomotives repatriated from all over the world. Expect around 12 locos in steam! Cost is £30 including donation to the Station Project, Coach and entrance to Statfold Barn. Contact Ian Bowley as soon as possible, see p2. There are only 38 tickets available and there has been a lot of interest already. A great day out.

Help please!

Although fund raising is going well, we still need a lot more money to complete the project. We would welcome volunteers to join the Fund Raising sub group, organise fund raising events and help with admin.

We particularly need people to travel on trains to fund raise, give out leaflets and tell people about the project. It's not hard, a nice smile works wonders! This can raise £100 per day. **Particularly at the Steam Gala 15th-16th June. We really need to be out in force for this! Please contact Ian Bowley for more information and to volunteer.**

Two Fund Raising Events for the New Wirksworth Station Building in 2019:

Dinner: Lion Hotel, Belper Sat 6th April.

Statfold Barn Open Day: Sat 8th June.

Full details above.

2019 TIMETABLE AND EVENTS - Leigh Gration.

Happy New Year to you all! Following a busy Santa season we have an exciting 2019 lined up featuring not one but two visiting steam locos! There are quite a few differences to the programme for the coming year, starting in March. The Diesel Gala, which got covered in snow last year has been swapped out for the Multiple Memories Railcar Gala so that, if the bad weather hits again, we can at least put the heaters on to make the passengers nice and warm. The early Diesel Gala has now moved to the 26th and 27th April (yes, Friday and Saturday) and will be combined with ale to make an interesting event. The details of this haven't been ironed out yet so watch this space!

Steam operations start earlier this year with the L&Y A Class 52322 (courtesy of Andy Booth) starting operations with us on Good Friday. The loco will then run for 20 steamings taking in both Bank Holiday Weekends in May and finishing on the 16th June. Thereafter, BR Standard 2 78018 (courtesy of LSLG and GCR) takes over with 30 steamings culminating on the 8th September at the Wirksworth Festival weekend. The really exciting weekend is the 15th and 16th June which will see both locomotives in action on the line, alongside our resident Barclay tanks in a new event called Steam in the Valley.

Another new feature for 2019 is that steam dates (Yellow Timetable) which are expected to be busier than normal feature an early return journey at 09:40 from Wirksworth with a heritage diesel locomotive and these are marked in the timetable with a * symbol. This is because it was felt that 12:50 on busy days was too late for the first arrival from Duffield.

Our popular Diesel Gala and running weekend which follows it remains in August on 10th and 11th. As does diesel operation on Tuesdays from 18th June until 24th September which also features our Luxury Afternoon Teas.

The Classic Transport Weekend is taking a break as we need to find a new organiser for this event. If you be interested in taking this on in the future, please get in touch with me. I would like to thank the previous organiser, Geoff Clark, for his hard work and effort over many years with both this event and the Bus Rally. It is pleasing though that the popular Bus Rally has found a new organiser and remains in the calendar.

The Model Railway Exhibition weekend is on the 19th/20th October, this year spiced up a bit by some diesel locomotive running and the successful Wirksworth Wizarding Day returns on 26th October with a yet-to-be-determined timetable.

Steam and diesel top and tail runs to Shottle in November were successful and therefore make a come back this year too.

Of course, all of this excitement takes a lot of hard work and effort by our volunteers. I would like to thank them for their contribution in 2018 as we wouldn't be able to open without them! However, such an interesting and varied programme for the season does require a large number of volunteers to make a reality, so please consider joining our volunteer team..

For full details see the 2019 Timetable go to www.e-v-r.com or phone 01629 823076. Lack of space has meant that there is no room in this edition for the normal events summary.

EVRA COACHES - Mike Craft.

The BSK proved to be most successful with its internal heating whilst operating during the weekends in November when trains were running from Wirksworth to Shottle. Foxfield Railway then asked if we would hire it out to them for use on their Santa trains during December and the feedback seems to be favourable.

Work on the TSO has been progressing with the windows now watertight and the re-upholstered seats being fitted. Unfortunately, a number of seats and backs are missing but the upholsterer has located one or two. The crash pillars are being replaced at present and the refurbished and new luggage racks are being fitted.

CATHRYN - Mike Craft.

Israel Newton Ltd., who are repairing the boiler, have found it difficult to replace the copper which was stolen from their works and which was to be used in the firebox. We managed to source suitable copper from Severn Valley Railway, which was duly purchased allowing work to start on that aspect of the repairs.

WIRKSWORTH STATION BUILDING - Mike Craft

Work on stage one of the building was delayed until the beginning of November due to the fact that we could not find a builder who was prepared to quote for the stone and block work. The volunteer team who normally work on the coaches have done stunning work on building the stud walls in preparation for the start of building and in doing so have saved several thousand pounds. Once work started good progress has been made and contractors are now fitting the joists, the floor boarding on the first floor, and the roof timbers are being installed. We have secured a grant through the Derbyshire Environmental Trust, from Tarmac for some of the fixtures and fittings for the Museum area.

PERMANENT WAY REPORT – Graham Clark.

The main work this period has been resleepering around F4 footpath crossing. The sleepers here were not especially bad, but the track vertical alignment was, and was getting to the stage where it had to be dealt with to avoid a derailment risk. As the ballast was deficient, and of poor quality, we decided it was not worth trying to improve what we had, and to completely replace the sleepers and ballast. There is plenty of space on the down side of the line here to provide a working area and it provided an opportunity to refine our relaying technique in preparation for a big relaying job at Barnsley Lane.

We are using secondhand concrete sleepers as these are more cost effective than wooden ones, last much longer and have Pandrol clips holding the rail. These clips provide a much more effective grip on the rail than the old elastic spikes. The relaying method we are using is developing as we go, but is based around the two excavators we have; the Komatsu and the Takeuchi mini digger.

The job starts with the oiling and manual loosening of the spikes followed by their removal. The mini digger then digs away the ballast and drags the old sleepers out. These are, of course, graded into ones we can reuse and ones for disposal. We started by dealing with 4 sleepers at a time but have gone on to dealing with 8. The rails are left in place and the mini digger works around them, using its articulated arm that allows it to dig 'sideways' to good effect. The formation is trimmed to level by hand then the concrete sleepers are lifted in with the Komatsu. Pads and insulators are fitted and the rails clipped up. New ballast is dropped either from bags or directly from the grampus wagon using the Komatsu. Once we have a decent length relaid, the rails are jacked to line and level and tamped with the Robel hand tampers. The final stage will be to drop the top ballast from the dogfish, but we have not got that far yet.

Other work has been dealing with the drainage around MP 137. We installed a new catchpit here, which seems to be working OK as the Autumn rains have tested it. A small pond still develops beside the line near here as drainage of the area is being prevented by a couple of tree stumps. We plan to deal with these soon. The drainage work around 39 steps footpath crossing is not yet complete, but the flooding there has not been an issue so far this season, so our work so far seems to be working.

New EVRA Subscription Rates for 2019.

Standard: £20; **Senior** (National State Pension Age and above): £12; **Junior:** £12;

Joint (2 Standard + up to 2 Juniors living at the same address): £45.

5 Year Membership, taken out at the grade you are eligible for during the first year:

Standard: £90; **Senior:** £50.

Overseas members please add £5 per subscription.

