

# Platform



# Welcome

In celebration of the Severn Valley Railway Charitable Trust's 10th anniversary, we would like to thank you for your incredible support for all the important rolling stock, infrastructure and educational projects that your donations are helping the Railway to deliver now and into the future.



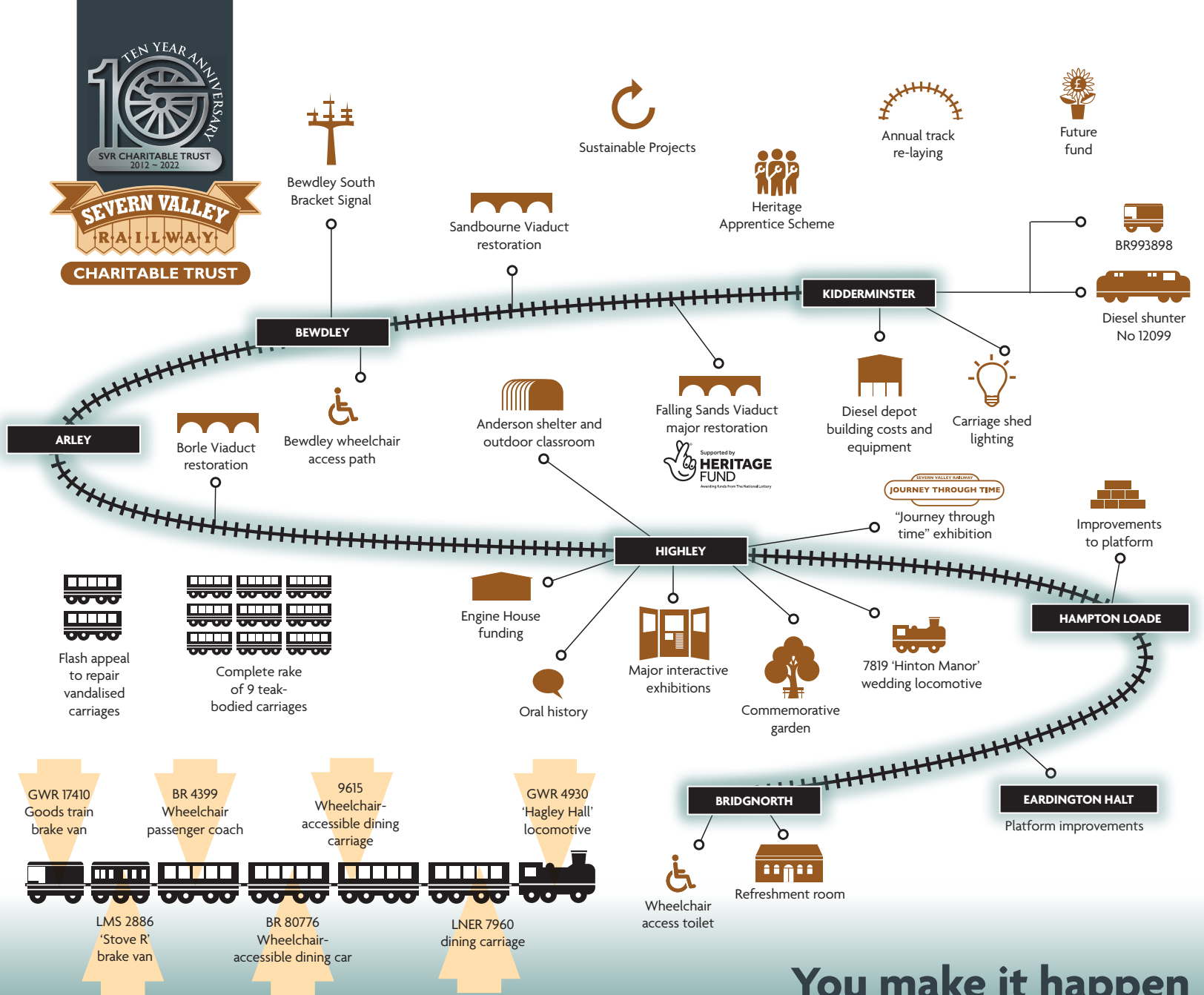
In total, since 2012, when the Charitable Trust was set up to build on the foundation created by the Rolling Stock Trust, you've helped us raise £8.74m.

Your support is truly valued because it has made a tremendous difference right across the Railway, most recently helping us restore Falling Sands Viaduct on time and on budget, raise the funds for vital repairs to Bridgnorth Locomotive Works, build a diesel depot, bring locomotive 4930 Hagley Hall back into steam after 36 years, keep our apprentices learning the heritage skills that are important for the Railway's future and much, much more!

In this special edition of Platform Magazine, you'll see all the latest developments, get 'behind the scenes' insights into how we work and find out how you can support this year's major appeal to rescue Bridgnorth Locomotive Yard which desperately needs repair.

Thank you for all your support.

**Shelagh Paterson** Executive Director, SVR Charitable Trust  
**Keith Norton** Chair, SVR Charitable Trust



## You make it happen

Donations to the SVR Charitable Trust from generous supporters like you have helped all these projects over 10 years. We couldn't do it without you!





## The Charitable Trust is needed more than ever

Thanks to the tireless work of the Charitable Trust, volunteers and the generosity of thousands of donors, we are not just protecting the precious history and heritage of the Railway, but ensuring journeying on our trains is an experience that can be enjoyed for generations to come.

While the Railway's day-to-day operations are covered by ticket sales and revenue from catering and retail outlets, substantial additional funding is required to restore and maintain both infrastructure and rolling stock as well as support educational projects that ensure young people are inspired to develop the skills to take care of them in the future.

As we strive to rebuild following the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are developing the masterplan for the future of the Railway, considering what will be most important in these new times. However, the financial pressures are far from over and are set to become more intense as fuel, energy and material prices rise rapidly. That's why we need your support more than ever.

The Charitable Trust works strategically with the Railway to fund the projects that are the most urgent and that will make the greatest difference to our continued ability to operate.

I'm proud of the professionalism with which projects like the restoration of the Falling Sands Viaduct and the current refurbishment of the Locomotive Works in Bridgnorth, are delivered. The level of expertise across the Railway is impressive. With great planning and a spirit of collaboration, volunteers and paid staff come together to make it all possible.

Despite all the challenges we continue to face, it's this dedication that makes the Severn Valley Railway special and it's why it continues to be one of the best visitor attractions in the country. It's also why VisitEngland awarded the Railway the bronze award in this year's national Awards for Excellence. Another moment to be proud. Thank you to everyone who continues to make us great and thank you for all your donations. Your support helps us make it happen. Thank you!

**Helen Smith**  
Managing Director, Severn Valley Railway



# How your donations support the Railway



## For every £1 you donate, we spend....

On restoration, training and investment for the future 83p  
On raising more funds 17p

## How we receive our income....

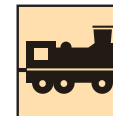
Donations 30%  
Legacies 34%  
Major gifts, trusts and corporates 29%  
Investments 2%  
Events 5%

## We have funded....

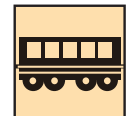
Education 12%  
Future Fund 20%  
Infrastructure 42%  
Rolling Stock 26%

## It costs approximately....

£1,000,000+  
to restore a locomotive



£80,000  
to restore a carriage



£21,000  
to support training each apprentice for one year



£225,000  
to re-lay half a mile of track





# Apprentices building a bright future

The Railway's apprentices are important for carrying rare, specialist skills required to maintain heritage vehicles into the next generation.

The Heritage Apprenticeship Scheme is a four-year programme during which young people learn by working under the supervision of experienced professionals across a number of departments including locomotive running, boiler shop, carriage mechanical, and carriage bodywork.

As well as intensive on-the-job training, apprentices work towards nationally-recognised NVQ 2 and 3 level qualifications at college.

Around half the cost of running the scheme is covered by grants secured by the Trust and the rest by generous individuals who want to enable the next generation to develop important heritage skills. Thank you for helping to give these young people a bright start!



## Jacob Cox

Attracted by the traditional techniques used in preserving heritage locomotives, Jacob Cox began his apprenticeship in 2018 and, after a series of placements designed to develop a variety of skills, has been working most recently in the carriage works at Kidderminster.



## Barney Hill

Growing up in a family passionate about steam and traction engines inspired Barney to join the Railway as an apprentice in 2018. He decided to pursue a role as a machinist and fitter at the Bridgnorth Locomotive Works.

## George Whitehead

George Whitehead has great memories of visiting the SVR when growing up and this inspired him to join as an apprentice in 2019, alongside working on vintage cars in his free time. After completing his placements, George decided to stay at the locomotive shed at Bridgnorth and support the work of the restoration team.



## Duncan Ballard

A few years after completing a five-year apprenticeship in 2001, Duncan went on to expand his career with a variety of other organisations, before bringing all this experience back to the SVR in 2009 where he has developed into the Deputy Head of Engineering. He enjoys the opportunity not only to preserve history but create it through investing in the training of young people.



# Inspiring the next generation

The Severn Valley Railway is a fun place to learn while experiencing the exhilaration of travelling on one of the most popular heritage Railways, thanks to the support of donors.

As part of the first large-scale educational project the Charitable Trust has funded, outside of the apprenticeship scheme and Falling Sands Viaduct, over £100,000 was secured for the Engine House at Highley. More than 10,000 children visit the Railway each year as part of our educational programmes so the benefits are wide-reaching. The Engine House has been enhanced to draw in more visitors and encourage people of all ages to take a greater interest in the Railway's heritage, so much so that some visitors have become volunteers who now help to maintain the Railway.

Multiple exhibitions at the Engine House have been funded by the Trust including 'Journey through time' which was the first to cover the pre-preservation history of the SVR and the development of the line, starting with the growing need for rail transport during the Industrial Revolution.

Another popular exhibit was an enlarged WW2 Anderson shelter to help young people learn about life during the war, thanks to funding secured from the People's Postcode Lottery. This funding was also used to build a large, outdoor classroom at the Engine House.

Thank you for helping us inspire young people to continue learning about the Railway!

Thanks to the support of generous donors and grant makers, Falling Sands Viaduct is once more a majestic landmark in the Kidderminster landscape. The comprehensive restoration project was delivered under the expert guidance of volunteer project manager, Nick Yarwood, who ensured the project was delivered on time and on budget.

The team of volunteers, paid staff and expert contractors made the project happen no matter the challenges they faced including the discovery of protected bats, bees and an unmarked gas line, restoring the viaduct both operationally and visually, with missing corbelling courses and end piers reinstated.

So impressive was the restoration that the project was highly commended in the final of the National Railway Heritage Awards in a year when there were a record number of entries. The judges of the Costain Structures Award remarked on the “ingenuity and the value of positive team working with client, professionals, contractors and volunteers all contributing to a very successful outcome.”

**Well done to everyone involved!**

# Bringing Falling Sands Viaduct to life

The Falling Sands Viaduct restoration not only looks great but it has also acted as a springboard for all kinds of exciting and innovative events and activities at the Railway that bring to life the significance of the Falling Sands Viaduct and the building of the Severn Valley Railway in an accessible way.

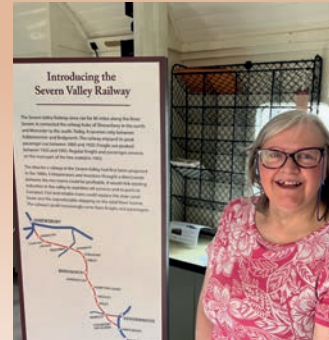
## Triumph over Tragedy - Engine House exhibition

An interactive exhibition opens at the Engine House in Highley in time for the summer holidays. Hands-on exhibits show how viaducts are constructed, why they are needed, and the life and work of the navvies who built the railway by hand. There is something for all ages!

## The Guard's Van - On-board exhibition

Housed inside a restored passenger brake van at Kidderminster Station, interactive audio and visual displays bring to life the story of the Railway and the restoration of Falling Sands Viaduct. Visitors will also get a glimpse of the specialist restoration skills that preserve historic rolling stock.

Restored Guard's Van



Researcher Gay Hill



Kidderminster College site visit



Engine House Exhibition

## Research project

The project engaged a wide range of volunteer researchers working with railway archives across the country, providing material for new exhibitions. Local historian Gay Hill (pictured) was one of the volunteer coordinators who helped to make it happen. In total, they donated an estimated £70,000 in time.

## Oral-history project

As part of the Falling Sands Viaduct project, 15 interviews captured amazing stories of people who have been the life blood of the Railway including founder members, volunteers and staff. The results were so fascinating that the Railway's archive team is carrying on the project.

## Youth and education sessions

Over 200 students have taken advantage of a new education programme exploring the methods and materials involved in building a railway. Especially popular is the viaduct-building activity as well as a new interactive route map of the Railway's original 40-mile route in the Engine House exhibit.

## The viaduct game

Students from Kidderminster College's Gaming Department have been recreating the Falling Sands Viaduct's Victorian building site, based on historic images of Railway construction sourced from archives around the UK, following an inspirational tour by volunteer project manager, Nick Yarwood.

## Illumination event

Falling Sands Viaduct lit up the night sky to the rhythm of songs and poems written and performed by young people from Kidderminster and District Youth Trust at a special illumination event featuring images of the infamous navvies who lived and died building the railways of Britain.

## Viaduct goes virtual

The University of Birmingham is turning the Railway into a virtual-reality experience designed especially to help dementia patients remember wonderful memories of travelling by steam in times gone by.





# Bridgnorth Locomotive Works nearly home and dry!



Just a few months ago, the roof at Bridgnorth Locomotive Works would leak badly every time it rained. The facility was also in desperate need of better lighting, insulation and energy-efficiency measures as well as an overhead travelling crane to improve working conditions and reduce energy costs.

Thanks to the support of 3,000 amazing donors like you, as well as grant makers, £475,000 was raised to refurbish the Locomotive Works and secure a second-hand crane.

The projects will enable everyone working in the facility to benefit from a lighter, brighter and safer workplace that also requires less energy to run as well as the support of an overhead travelling crane which will save the team days every month.

Locomotives will also be protected from the elements and there will be no more need for umbrellas when maintaining them



on wet days!

“The remarkable difference the translucent sheets have made to the light inside the shed is already apparent,” said volunteer project manager, Antony Bartlam. “Paired with the new lighting, this will make a positive difference to the working environment. Great progress is being made. We remain on budget and are set to complete the project on time.”

A special thanks goes to all the volunteers who have assisted with the project - they have been vital to enabling the project to be completed successfully.

# Major appeal launched to rescue Bridgnorth Locomotive Works

With the Roof & Crane project well underway, we're now turning our attention to the next most urgent project, the yard immediately in front of the Locomotive Works which is in desperate need of repair. Track work and points are wearing out fast, and drainage across the yard is clogged, accelerating the deterioration of the sleepers. If they fail, locomotives won't be able to get into the works for maintenance which would have a severe impact on the SVR's ability to operate.

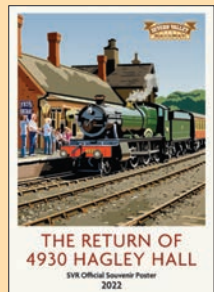
Our new major appeal aims to raise the £500,000 needed to restore the yard urgently, to minimise the impact of rapidly rising material prices. Volunteers with permanent way expertise have developed the most efficient solution and they are ready to oversee the

work with the same dedication, care and professionalism that has enabled a number of other important restoration projects to be successfully completed, such as the impressive work to Falling Sands Viaduct, thanks to the support of generous donors.

**We are so grateful to everyone who has supported the appeal so far. To find out more and donate, please read the enclosed leaflet or visit [svrtrust.org.uk](http://svrtrust.org.uk).**



When you donate £100 or more, you will receive a special edition of the official SVR 2022 season poster as a thank you. The poster features locomotive 4930 Hagley Hall which be a regular visitor to the Locomotive Yard. However, anything you can give will make a big difference in helping ensure all locomotives that rely on the yard can continue running.



**Donate today at [svrtrust.org.uk](http://svrtrust.org.uk)**





# Access for everyone

**The Severn Valley Railway offers something for everyone. That's why it's important that we can ensure that everyone has access. That's where the Charitable Trust's Access4All project comes in.**

Thanks to a £75,000 grant the Charitable Trust secured from the Department for Transport, wheelchair users will soon be able to dine in style on carriage 80776. The team at the Carriage & Wagon Works in Kidderminster took great care in crafting a zigzag layout which, when it enters operation, will accommodate a flexible number of wheelchair users and their companions.

Already in service is carriage 4399, which provides accommodation for five wheelchair users and their companions along with an accessible toilet, completed thanks to funds from our donors.

The carriage completed the Railway's fleet of adapted carriage and means that there are wheelchair facilities on every single timetabled train now running.

The Access4All project extends beyond carriages to a variety of infrastructural projects including an access path to Platforms 2 and 3 in Bewdley, formation of an accessible toilet in Bridgnorth using an existing building, and foldable ramps at stations, giving wheelchair users more flexibility as to where they would like to stop on their journey.

# Grants boost the Railway

Over the last 10 years, the Charitable Trust has raised over £2 million in grants to support rolling stock, infrastructure and educational projects across the Railway. A further £2.17 million was raised, in close partnership with the SVR, in emergency grants from the Culture Recovery Fund and Heritage Emergency Fund to help the Railway survive the financial difficulties caused by the Covid-19 crisis.

Securing grants is a complex and extensive process, beginning with detailed research to identify fitting grant-makers for each project. The larger the application, the greater the level of detail required. Some proposals can take months to compile in addition to comprehensive updates once the project is underway which can take years. But, it's all worth it when grants come in for vital projects!

Large grants secured through the National Lottery Heritage Fund have been critical to funding the restoration of Falling Sands viaduct (£853,800) and the complete overhaul of locomotive 4930 Hagley Hall (£95,000).

Smaller grants add up too. Funding from private charitable trusts and foundations ranges in size from £100 up to £30,000, and some have given larger amounts spread over several years. In total, The support from these grant-makers totals £980,000 for a variety of projects, particularly the Heritage Apprenticeship Scheme and wheelchair-access projects as well as, most recently, the new roof for the Locomotive Works in Bridgnorth.

The donations you generously make have a huge impact on the Charitable Trust's ability to secure funding as most grant makers, particularly the larger ones, take into account the volume of support from individual donors when considering whether to approve an application. Thank you!





# Hagley Hall back in steam



A major milestone was reached this year when the SVR's 'flagship' locomotive, 4930 Hagley Hall, moved under its own power at Bridgnorth for the first time in 36 years.

"We've waited many, many years for this moment," said Martin White, the SVR's head of engineering. "And even though Hagley Hall only moved as far as the locomotive yard signal and back, this still marks a rather momentous step in getting it back into service."

Over 75% of the £1.2 million

restoration was made possible by donations that came in worldwide, particularly gifts made in Wills for the treasured locomotive, in addition to tireless fundraising by the Friends of Hagley Hall.

The locomotive is expected to be relaunched later in 2022.

## Many other locomotives are supported

A wide range of locomotives right across the Railway have received support from the Railway over the last ten years including 7819 Hinton Manor which was brought home to the Engine House as well as Class 11 Diesel Shunter no. 12099.



## Making memories for generations to come

The Severn Valley Railway creates great memories for people every day and many look back fondly at the times they've enjoyed with friends, family and colleagues. Gifts in Wills play an important role in ensuring the Railway can be treasured by future generations too.

In fact, over a third of the Charitable Trust's income is in the form of legacies, left by donors with a passionate desire to help protect the future of the Railway.

A gift in the Will of one donor provided the very early funding that led to building the Carriage Shed at Kidderminster. Another supporter's gift meant we could set up the SVR's pioneering and ambitious Heritage Apprenticeship Scheme, which is training the next generation of heritage engineers. Almost half of the £1.2 million it's costing to restore the flagship locomotive 4930 Hagley Hall was provided by gifts in Wills and, additionally, £120,000 of emergency funding to repair the damage caused by a landslip at Sterns, between Hampton Loade and Bridgnorth, came

from gifts left in Wills.

In future years, we know that the SVR is going to rely even more on gifts in Wills, as it strives to maintain its fleet of heritage locomotives, carriages and wagons, not to mention the track and buildings along the 16-mile route between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth.

Guardians Paul and Jill Tetlaw, said: "For us, the SVR is in the premier league of heritage railways. It's got a clear purpose and direction and we see a long-term future for it. It's also progressive in terms of bringing on young people in the Heritage Apprenticeship Scheme. These are reasons why we are remembering the SVR Charitable Trust in our Will".

"Including the SVR Charitable Trust in our Wills was surprisingly easy," said another of our generous supporters. "We didn't need to rewrite them. We simply made an appointment with a solicitor to add a codicil".

**Discover the difference you could make by leaving a gift in your Will to the SVR and the support available by visiting [svrtrust.org.uk/Gifts-in-Wills](http://svrtrust.org.uk/Gifts-in-Wills)**



When you tell us you intend to leave a gift in your Will, you become a member of our Guardians' Club. You'll receive a gold Guardians' lapel badge and invitations to special thank you events at the Railway.





# Did you know?

A few decades after the Severn Valley line was reopened, the need for a charity to support the work of the Railway became apparent as it would help secure additional financial support needed to maintain the growing fleet of rolling stock and would allow the Railway to benefit from Gift Aid, making funds go further, which would be particularly useful for costly restoration projects.

Initially set up as the SVR Rolling Stock Trust, the charity had a clear purpose to look out for the long-term future of locomotives, carriages and wagons ensuring that, even when times were hard for the Railway, there would be the funds needed to carry out maintenance, repairs and restoration projects in a way that was true to the originals, so that passengers receive an authentic experience.

As time went on, it became clear that the not-for-profit Railway needed a greater level of support and so, in 2012, the organisation was reformed into the Severn Valley Railway Charitable Trust with expanded objectives to also support vital infrastructure and educational projects. The team aimed to secure substantial grant funding in addition to the great support from individual donors.

The Charitable Trust has continued to evolve and grow, flexing to the changing needs of the Railway while remaining true to its commitment to protect and preserve authenticity so that passengers can immerse themselves in a golden age of travel every time they step on board.



Just as it's important to protect and preserve the Severn Valley Railway, it's becoming increasingly vital to take steps to protect our planet.

Making a heritage railway greener is challenging but with our pioneering spirit, resourcefulness and reputation for collaborating to make things happen, we're determined that the Severn Valley Railway will be the first to innovate and develop the solutions needed for the future.

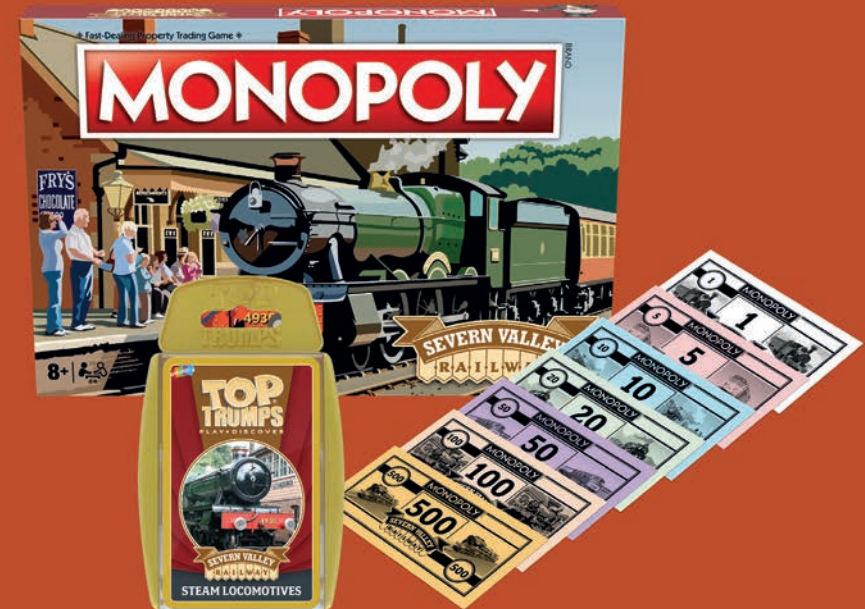
Starting with immediately achievable actions, LED lighting is being installed incrementally, electric charging points have been fitted and every team is taking steps to save energy in their areas. Innovative ideas are also being explored, with a 'hydro shunter' project in its early stages.

Sustainability, however, isn't just about making operations greener. It's about ensuring long-term viability. For this, a robust strategy is required that is built for the future. The Railway has set up a sustainable development committee and the Charitable Trust has secured funding for expert guidance so that the optimum plan can be developed. The Trust will be involved at every stage and we'll be looking for opportunities to support the Railway on its journey toward a greener future.

A sustainable future



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ONLY AVAILABLE AT [SVRSHOP.CO.UK](http://svrshop.co.uk),  
VISIT A SVR STATION SHOP OR CALL 01562 757 900



# Top ten ways you can support the Railway



Give a single cash donation. You can do this by post or online.

1

Tap to donate when you visit Kidderminster Station.

2

Become a Patron by signing up for a regular donation. Why not start by giving £10 per month to celebrate the 10th anniversary?

3

Leave a gift in your Will. Over a third of our annual funds come from legacies.

4

Ask your family and friends to sponsor you to cycle, walk, trek or swim and donate the proceeds.

5

Make a gift in memory of a loved one.

6

Find out how your company can support the Railway through partnerships and sponsorship.

7

Sign up to donate a percentage of your Amazon purchases at no cost to you when you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).

8

Contact us at the email address below to sign up for project updates.

9

Spread the word about our latest appeal

10

## How to find out more and donate

Visit [svrtrust.org.uk](https://svrtrust.org.uk)  
 Email [fundraising@svrtrust.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@svrtrust.org.uk)  
 Call us on 01562 757940

Write to us at  
 Severn Valley Railway Charitable Trust,  
 Number One, Comberton Place,  
 Kidderminster DY10 1QR



## Volunteer to support projects funded by the Charitable Trust and other Railway activities

The whole SVR family relies on teamwork. The complexity and cost of projects funded by the Charitable Trust would be far greater if there was no volunteer input. Although we do put a financial value to volunteering when we apply for grant funding, I'm sure that the true costs would be much higher if we were to exclusively use contractors. We know that, within the 1,700 working members at the Railway, there are a huge range of abilities and skills that are highly useful.

For example, clearing everything out of Bridgnorth Locomotive Works for the Roof and Crane project would have cost an absolute fortune if we hadn't asked for volunteers to help us out during the three months leading up to the work starting. Thank you to everyone who supports the Railway through volunteering.

**Diane Malyon**  
 Chair  
 SVR Company Limited

Find out more about volunteering at [svr.co.uk/volunteering](https://svr.co.uk/volunteering) or call (01299) 401776.





# Thank you!



**Your support has been helping the Severn Valley Railway Charitable Trust fund important rolling stock, infrastructure and educational projects for 10 years. You're helping to make a big difference right across the Railway now and into the future.**

Visit [svrtrust.org.uk](http://svrtrust.org.uk)  
Email [fundraising@svrtrust.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@svrtrust.org.uk)  
Call us on 01562 757940

Write to us at  
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Kidderminster DY10 1QR