

Volume 2

Issue 9

May 2017

“PROGRESS”

The newsletter of Tarka Valley Railway
C.I.O.

Registered Charity Number 1162632

TARKA VALLEY RAILWAY

On a very wet Tuesday afternoon, our new loco, to be named “Torrington Cavalier” arrived at the railway on a low loader accompanied by an enormous mobile crane both provided by Nick Sampson. A great day for TVR and a fantastic spectator event for the brave few who saw its’ arrival.



Photo: Den Baker

This is an important acquisition for the Railway as the locomotive was the last one built by Ruston of Lincoln. It was ordered in 1968 by Nevill’s Dock & Railway Co. Ltd of Llanelli and delivered new to them in 1969. Unfortunately it appears that the Company ceased trading soon after, and the locomotive was actually taken into stock by Batchelor, Robinson & Co. Ltd who operated in the same dock.



Photo: Den Baker

When the locomotive was eventually disposed of, it thankfully went into preservation and ended up at the Chasewater Light Railway from where it was purchased by TVR. It is thus an historic locomotive and we look forward to seeing it run on the Tarka Valley line once restored. It has already had a good wash and the proverbial rub down with an oily rag.

OPEN WEEKEND

Our first OPEN WEEKEND is rapidly approaching so make a note in your diaries for **Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th June** when we will be setting out our stalls at Torrington Station (aka The Puffing Billy). Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue will be in attendance on Saturday dispensing free advice. There will also be model railways and a variety of stalls. The carriage will also be open for sales and for renewal of membership – due shortly.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

23rd & 24th June – We have a stand at North Devon Veterans Association at RMB Chivenor.

1st July – We will be collecting at ASDA in Atlantic Village, Bideford. Any offers of help will be much appreciated.

6th August – Outing to **Yeovil Railway Centre**. Return coach from Puffing Billy £20, to include entry to the Centre and tour of engine sheds. To reserve a place phone 01805 623714 or drop in to the carriage on a Thursday.

12th – 13th August – We will have a stall at the Appledore Summer Festival.

100 CLUB

April winner was A.Wright No.6,
May winner was M.Sampson No.22.

If you would like to join the 100 club in time for the June draw please send a cheque for £10 to Tarka Valley Railway, Treasurer, Brierley, School Lane, Torrington, EX38 7AJ

Tarka Valley Railway CIO - Chairman's notes for the members' newsletter, May 2017

When we met in Torrington on 9th and 10th January, you took a series of decisions enabling us to tidy up a number of loose ends and getting down to the real business of developing the Tarka Valley Railway project at Torrington. I now want to bring you up to date with the progress and frustrations since January.

The Tarka Valley Railway Group has been wound up. All its assets, responsibilities and liabilities were transferred to the Tarka Valley Railway Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 9th March 2017. This included tools and equipment, artefacts, rolling stock, and our most important asset of all, our members; you! I think we should take a moment to say thank you to the people who formed the TVRG, worked for it and then had the foresight to create the Charitable Incorporated Organisation to carry forward their dreams and ambitions.

You will recall from the January meetings there were concerns arising from the transition process. Your Trustees have been working hard to resolve these. Our governance arrangements are appropriate for a developing railway company. We have procedures in place to look after the Company's tools, equipment, artefacts and rolling stock. This includes a condition survey for the TSO coach. There are many tasks needed to secure its long term future, and we will have to turn this into a work programme so that the most urgent tasks can be tackled first.

David Morgan reported the successful outcomes of our meetings to Devon County Council. This enabled them to progress our lease renewal and completion was reported to the April board meeting. Completion of the extension lease has not yet been achieved. I believe officers from both Council and Railway have come to agreement, but the Council's work has been disrupted by elections. I am in touch with the council, seeking action, and will see that you are kept up to date with progress.

By contrast, evidence of progress is easy to see out on site. Clearance of the coal dock is going well, making it easier to imagine the eventual installation of track with a short rake of wagons alongside. The land between the station and the first overbridge has been surveyed in readiness for realignment of the cycle track and installation of fences. Whilst the coach has acquired a jobs list but no action to date, the rest of our rolling stock is clearly benefitting from the working party's repair and repainting activities.

Away from Torrington, people are working both behind the scenes on administration tasks and very publicly at fund raising and publicity opportunities. All these activities remind us that on a heritage railway there is work for everyone. Perhaps this is a good time to remind ourselves we are working towards an operating railway with all the safety critical standards that implies. Safe railway work is achieved by careful adherence to the Railway Rule Book. Our signing on when starting work is an important first step. Please make sure you sign on each time you start work at Torrington.

Finally, I would just like to offer my personal thanks for the friendly welcome and encouragement you have given me. There is still a lot of money to be raised and a great deal of work to do but I believe we have an opportunity to create an active railway scene for the enjoyment of a new generation of railway enthusiasts, Tarka Trail users, holiday makers, and for the benefit of the people of the North Devon communities.

Mark Smith

Chair Tarka Valley Railway CIO, Vice-chair Heritage Railway Association