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# 4930 News

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## Apology

Sorry to all our Friends for the delay with this newsletter but as you will see things have been going on behind the scenes. Progress in our negotiations with the SVR management sometimes seems interminably slow but there now appears to be light at the end of the tunnel.....read on!

## Friends, Benefactors and SVR PLC Board

All our Friends donations are invaluable. The desire to see the return of "Hagley Hall" is very real and as a Group we are having to fight our corner as hard as the next to get our engine into the queue, notwithstanding that the locomotive is a PLC owned engine. The Holdings Company has many calls on its finances and with the events of recent years, they have become even more intense. These, coupled with commitments to other locomotive owning groups, have seen the overhaul of 4930 postponed, seemingly indefinitely.

However, progress is now being made. An anonymous "Friend" and benefactor has outlined his intention to generously provide a substantial sum towards the restoration work, subject to the Friends Group continuing its fund raising efforts towards its target. We intend to redouble our efforts on this front in the coming months.

As a Group we have been negotiating hard with the SVR management and we have, at last, reached an outline agreement with the SVR Holdings Board. Subject to the final detail it is intended that the Friends Group will receive a substantial equity holding in 4930 in exchange for the Friends financial and physical support. This is an extremely important step, as it will mean that all those who have generously contributed into the Friends funds will now have a direct say, via the Friends Committee, on "Hagley Hall" and its future on the SVR. Elements of the Agreement include the security of the locomotive remaining on the SVR and financial security for the Friends Group and our investing supporters. This is an extremely important step to have attained and we take heart from the PLC Board on their strategic foresight in reaching this agreement with us.

On the next page is a copy of the letter of intent that we have received from the General Manager of SVR (Holdings) PLC;

Telephone: 01299 403816



Facsimile: 01299 400839

**SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY (HOLDINGS) PLC**

Ref: NR/PMS      Patron: HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG, GCVO  
Date: 1 March 2010

Mr K Hall

Dear Keith,

**Overhaul of locomotive 4930 Hagley Hall**

As per our discussions, it is the intention of SVR (Holdings) PLC to begin the overhaul of Hagley Hall in 2012 subject to the following conditions.

- The completion of 34027 Taw Valley in 2010
- The successful fund raising efforts of The Friends of Hagley Hall which will be allocated to the overhaul in a way agreed between the Chief Engineer and the Friends.
- That there are no unforeseen locomotive failures prior to 2012 which may take precedence over the overhaul programme.

We look forward to working with the Friends of Hagley Hall in preparation for the overhaul.

Wishing you every success with your continued fund raising. Please do contact me again if you think I can be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

*PP Nick Ralls*

pp  
Nick Ralls  
General Manager

c.c. Phil Sowden, John Robinson

Registered Office: The RAILWAY STATION, BEWDLEY, WORCESTERSHIRE DY12 1BG Registered No. 1046274

The ball is now, therefore, very much back in the Friends court. Work on 4930 could begin once "Taw Valley" is complete and this now intensifies the pressure on the Friends to reach an all-important financial target of £100k minimum over the next two years.

## **Help required**

Thanks to your support so far we have now been able to enter into these serious and meaningful negotiations with the SVR management and PLC Board. Your continued support will be critical over the next few years and, as ever, will be gratefully received as we face the substantial challenges ahead.

We need to increase our fundraising activities immediately so that we can focus on getting the locomotive through its overhaul at Bridgnorth Works as smoothly and as quickly as possible. If you have an idea from which the Friends could benefit and which the Committee could possibly introduce to increase our income generation, then please get in contact with us as soon as possible as we are keen to consider new suggestions.

On the physical side, we are particularly keen to hear from younger supporters or indeed any other members who would like to join the group, either by helping us to run our sales stand on the Severn Valley Railway over the gala weekends or in any other capacity, both physical and administrative. You may like to help us with the restoration when 4930 arrives at Bridgnorth or you may just like a day at The Engine House at Highley, giving the old girl a polish to keep her spick and span. All help will be appreciated. The group was originally set up by younger volunteers of the SVR to help restore 4930 "Hagley Hall" and to look after her in future years. If any one would like to help us, whether you are a seasoned member or just looking for a new challenge, then please get in contact with us via the web site. We do have fun and a sense of humour is an essential prerequisite on joining us...please come along. You can contact us via the SVR or VLO offices at Bewdley and we will get back to you by return.

## **Hagley Hall group AGM**

Please make a note in your diary that the AGM for the group will be held on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November. In the Junior Club coach at Bewdley Station at 11am. This is your chance to meet the committee, ask any questions and put your points of view across. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

## **Sales items**

We have firing shovels for sale costing £39.50 plus P&P. These come in two sizes, long handled for tender locomotives and large cabs and short handles for use on tank engines and smaller cabs. These have been tried and tested by various firemen on the SVR and other preserved railways in the UK and Australia! For more information on these please see our web site.

We are still selling our branded merchandise, which includes polo shirts, t-shirts, fleeces, caps, mouse mats and much more. Hopefully by the start of December we should have the shop page of the web site up and running.

The Friends of Locomotive 4930 Hagley Hall can be contacted as follows;  
by post at Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley Station, Bewdley, DY12 1BG  
or via the internet at [www.4930hagleyhall.org.uk](http://www.4930hagleyhall.org.uk)

Thank you again to all Friends of 4930, past, present ...and future. Don't forget spread the word!