



Wolverhampton Branch
Severn Valley Railway
Supporting the SVR since 1967

Chairman's Report - January 2008

Firstly may I wish you all a Happy New Year, after all this is our first meeting of 2008.

Since my last report, our railway suffered a crushing blow last June when two weeks worth of rain fell in a space of 40 minutes. Despite this, what bits of the railway that could operate, did. Although many people thought that we were closed, the railway did in fact continue to run on all of its scheduled operating days, albeit in truncated form! They say that when you are in need you soon find out who your real friends are. The support from other heritage railways was well appreciated in the forms physical labour, monetary and morale boosting. We have been kept up to date by our man on the board and the working members of the Branch have been doing their bit to getting the railway back up and running. An Easter re-opening is looking very promising indeed.

One of the first things to suffer, as far as the Branch was concerned, was our 40th Anniversary get together at the new facilities of the [Engine House](#). Obviously that had to go on hold and I am pleased to announce that we will be holding a belated celebration in time for our 41st !

Our [second "wheelchair saloon"](#) has been and come back from its structural alterations and is well on the way towards entering traffic. If you have any offers of assistance, please see a Committee member to point you in the right direction.

The Branch [meeting programme](#) has been of varied topics with faces old and new. It has been complemented by our visits to Scunthorpe Steel Works along with the Cleethorpes Coast Railway, a mid-week trip to Blackpool with exclusive use of a couple of unusual trams, Oxley Maintenance Depot, a return visit to the miniature railway based at the Eccleshall Garden Centre and the amazing Statfold Barn Railway near to Tamworth. If you haven't managed to get to the latter yet, keep your eyes and ears open for an announcement of a return visit. I am sure there is going to be one. There also a couple of other visits in the pipeline. Watch out for announcements, or keep up to date by checking out the Branch website.

I now round off with many thanks for the continued attendance and support of the Branch members and fellow Committee members. May we continue supporting the SVR for at least another 40 years.

Dave Rowley

Branch Chair

PS At the meeting I was reminded that we also visited the [Amerton Railway](#).

<http://www.svr-wolverhampton.org.uk/>