



**Wolverhampton Branch**  
**Severn Valley Railway**  
*Supporting the SVR since 1967*

## Chairman's Report – January 2012

Both the second half of last seasons programme and the first half of this season continued to be a mix of faces old and new. Your committee does strive to bring variety in content and presenters to the Branch but in the continuing economic climate it does prove difficult at times. If you have any suggestions or ideas for speakers please do pass them on to one of the Committee

Between last season and this we did arrange a visit to the [Moseley Railway Trust](#) at Apedale. This included a visit behind the scenes, a guided tour of the stock both on display and awaiting overhaul. A footplate ride was also included. Sadly this visit was only taken up by two of the Committee and one other. We have also arranged an evening visit to the [miniature 7/4" railway](#) at Weston Park on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012 (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday). Attendance is by ticket only, priced £5.

Branch fundraising efforts, which include supporting the return to traffic of 7819 Hinton Manor, continue. The book "[Wolverhampton's Railways in Colour](#)" has turned the corner regarding repayment of external funding and is now a steady contributor to those funds. The [OO gauge brake van](#) is also proving popular at various outlets and there is talk of another venture into this field! Other fund-raising efforts continue, maybe not as successful, but they are steadily adding to the support.

One of the important parts of the AGM is the (re-)election of Committee members. This year we see the standing down of one of the Branch stalwarts, Colin Gall. Colin has been an invaluable Committee member who has brought a wealth of experience and many useful contacts. He did give us notice that once reaching a birthday which I am too polite to mention, he would be cutting back on his activities. So I would like to extend many thanks to him for his input and I am sure we will be seeing him at Branch meetings.

A replacement has been sought but alas no one has yet agreed to step into his place. This now puts the strength of the Committee down to its bare minimum, as per the constitution, and we desperately need at least one other to cover unforeseen eventualities. Please do remember that if we cannot sustain the Committee, we cannot sustain the Branch. And Branches do fail! I would like to think that ours has a varied enough programme and membership to ensure that this does not happen in Wolverhampton. So if one (or more) of you no longer wish to hide your light under a bushel, please do make yourself know.

I would like to close with the traditional offer of thanks to all Branch members and fellow Committee members for your continued attendance and support of the "Premier Branch" of the "Premier Line."

*Dave Rowley*

Branch Chair

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