



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

## **Chairman's Report – January 2013**

Welcome to the first Branch meeting of 2013 and therefore “Happy New Year.”

The second half of the 2011-12 season was a mixture of seasoned veteran speakers and a couple of new faces. We do try to have a varied programme in both content and the speakers themselves. The season was rounded off with an evening visit to the [miniature 7¼” railway](#) at Weston Park on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012 (2<sup>nd</sup> Monday). The good news it was so enthusiastically received on all sides that we will be returning on the forthcoming second Monday of June. Sadly Pam and I were making our way back from Switzerland that day so missed out. I already have the next date highlighted in my calendar. This could become a permanent feature of the programme...!

Later in June there was another successful excursion. This was in the form of a car sharing return visit to Scunthorpe Steelworks for [brake van rides](#). Watch and listen for further outings announcements.

The first half of the current season contained presentations concerning different aspects of our varied railway history from another mix of speakers old and new (to us). If you have any ideas and/or contacts for new places to visit why not let us know.

The Branch continues to raise funds ring-fenced for supporting the return to traffic of 7819 Hinton Manor. The book “[Wolverhampton's Railways in Colour](#)” is still ticking over making a steady contribution to those funds. Sales in unusual places continue to surprise us! The [OO gauge brake van](#) is also being sold far and wide at a steady pace. The [limited edition print](#) has been a bit of a disappointment in sales figures. Perhaps it is a victim of the continuing economic climate? Another slow mover is the production of a limited edition [model of 7819](#) in a variety of gauges. As you can see our portfolio of sales items is quite varied although if you have any fund-raising ideas why not pass them on to a Committee member? Or maybe you would even like to spearhead this important section of the Branch activities?

This brings me on the annual appeal for an increase in the membership of the Committee. We now meet on a bimonthly basis with interim meetings when the need arrives. A “fresh face” can bring with it new ideas.

I would like to finish off with the standing 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

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