



## PRESS INFORMATION

Release date: **Wednesday June 30<sup>th</sup> 2010**

### **‘Peep behind the scenes’ opens SVR ‘inner sanctum’ to visitors**

ENGINE and carriage sheds, signalboxes and other installations at the Severn Valley Railway normally ‘out of bounds’ to the public, are to be opened to visitors during the weekend of August 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>, to raise funds for the railway’s only unrestored Barry scrapyards engine, GWR ‘Prairie’ tank No.4150.

Members of a reinvigorated 4150 Group who have been making good headway over the past two years in rebuilding the 2-6-2T following a long period of inactivity, are taking on the organisation of the ‘Peep Behind the Scenes’ weekend, which will allow visitors access to many of the parts of the SVR they can’t normally reach, for just a fiver (£3 concessions).

Wristbands bought from booking offices or the 4150 stand at Bewdley station will permit access to the railway’s impressive ‘North Star’ carriage works and paint shop, turntable and signalbox at Kidderminster, the Carriage & Wagon department and paint shop, wagon works and North signal box at Bewdley (where 4150 is being restored), and the signal box and Loco Shed at Bridgnorth where the ex-Leicester wheeldrop is now being installed.

Platform 3 at Bewdley will feature an engine in steam with attendant footplate crew for footplate photographs, and visitors will be able to walk through the engine-room of one of the railway’s former main-line diesels. Designated ‘walkways’ will be marked out through the main sites, and stewards and SVR staff and volunteers will be on hand to provide information for enquiring minds about how the SVR operates ‘behind the scenes’.

No.4150 - originally a local engine based at Stourbridge Junction when new from Swindon in 1947, was despatched to Barry scrapyards in August 1965, and rescued from there in May 1974, going initially to the Dean Forest Railway. It moved to the SVR in 1978, but it is only in the last two years that the restoration - expected to cost around £100,000 - has taken off.

Visitors will be able to use the busy ‘C’ timetable on the Saturday (eight trains in each direction between Kidderminster and Bridgnorth), and the seven-trains-each-way ‘B’ timetable on the Sunday, to travel between locations. Says 4150 Group secretary and ‘Peep’ organiser Peter Willoughby: “Most visitors, and many SVR members have never been into some of these installations before. This is a real opportunity to see how the SVR ticks behind-the-scenes, for a minimal outlay.”

**Editors: For further information, contact SVR Press Officer David Wilcock on 01691-718351**