



PRESS INFORMATION

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Severn Valley Railway teaches visitors about the birds and bees!

VISITORS to the Severn Valley Railway's annual 'Severn Valley in Bloom' event this coming weekend (July 24th/25th) will get the chance to learn things they never knew about the birds and the bees!

For 'Severn Valley in Bloom' - the see-for-free event at which the Kidderminster-Bridgnorth steam heritage line shows off its stunning floral displays, neatly-tended gardens, hanging baskets and flower tubs at their blooming best, will focus on fauna as well as flora this time around.

European Eagle Owls - around 75 centimetres (2ft 7 inches) tall and renowned for their predatorial liking for snakes, frogs, hares and even foxes, will contrast with the pint-sized insect-eating Little Owl, when husband-and-wife team Gill and Peter Hales bring 'Chelmarsh Owl Rescue' to the railway's Engine House Visitor Centre at Highley on both Saturday and Sunday.

Displaying eight owls in all of five different species - Barn Owls, Tawny Owls, Eagle Owls, Little and Asian Brown Owls - the couple will talk about their rescues and introduce their feathered friends to visitors.

On a related theme, members of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds will be down the line with a stand at Bridgnorth station, explaining the work of the Society, its efforts to conserve bird habitats, and the issues facing birds in today's climatic changes.

Meanwhile, back at the Engine House Visitor Centre at Highley, members of the 120-strong South Staffordshire Beekeepers Association will show how honey is produced, offer visitors a taste of it, explain the importance of bees in nature's chain and provide some insight into why bee populations have plummeted in recent years, and what they have been doing to counter the alarming fall in bee numbers.

Also at Highley, Engine House gift shop staff member Sharon Harvey - a dab hand at flower arranging - will demonstrate her craft to visitors with four demonstrations each day at 12 noon, 1.00, 2.30 and 3.30pm.

'Severn Valley in Bloom' - a free event to ticket-holding passengers - has its roots in the old days of steam, when railway stations up and down the land competed with one another for cups and trophies for the best-kept gardens and floral displays.

A busy timetable of eight trains in each direction on Saturday and seven on Sunday will shuttle passengers between the stations, starting from 09.50 and continuing at approximately 45-minute intervals.

Severn Valley in Bloom' is a free event to passengers. Under the railway's newly announced 'Kids for a Quid' promotion, children (4 - 15 years) travelling with an adult who buys a return ticket, will be able to travel for just £1.

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