

JOIN US

on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway



All you need to know about becoming a
MEMBER or VOLUNTEER



Award Winning Heritage Railway

Registered Charity No. 1133186

Introduction

The Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway ('The Railway') runs from the edge of Cheltenham Race Course northwards to Broadway through glorious Cotswold scenery.

The Railway is owned and operated by Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway Plc and is supported by the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway

Trust (The Trust). Both organisations are separate legal entities that operate autonomously.

This booklet is published by the Trust, an independent charity whose aim is to support and maintain The Railway as a living museum through grant aid and to promote volunteering on the Railway.



A little about the railway

Since 1981 a group of enthusiastic volunteers have been working hard to bring one of England's most scenic railway lines back to life.

From a once barren empty track bed, fourteen miles of railway has been re-laid, station buildings reconstructed or refurbished and platforms that were demolished by British Railways have been restored.

Today the track runs northwards from the Race Course Station past

Gotherington and through the second longest (and reputedly haunted) tunnel on a preserved railway to Winchcombe Station, the home of our carriage and wagon works and the Railway's administrative office. Continuing northwards the line passes Hayles Abbey Halt before reaching Toddington our main operational base and the home of our locomotive departments. The line then continues over the beautiful Stanway Viaduct to the edge of Broadway, a scenic Cotswold village.

"By becoming a Member of the Trust, and volunteer, you will be helping the Trust achieve its ambition for the Railway to remain a living museum recreating a railway based on British Railways Western Region practice for future generations."

Philip Young, Promotions Director, GWRT



Winchcombe Station

We have also undertaken ambitious projects to remove period railway buildings from other sites and re-locate them to this scenic line. An example of this is the station building at Winchcombe, which came brick by brick from Monmouth Troy.

extension to Broadway opened. Here a brand-new station, sympathetically designed to reflect the original buildings of the Great Western Railway, has been built and the track laid. As far as possible, all work has been undertaken by dedicated teams of volunteers.

In 2017 Hayles Abbey Halt was reopened having been rebuilt by a team of volunteers to recreate the former Great Western Railway halt that stood on the site for many years until 1960.

In 2018, another major landmark was reached when our



Broadway Station

"This line curving its way through the Cotswolds is like a time capsule, brilliantly run for posterity, mainly by an army of dedicated knowledgeable volunteers."

Leigh, Member London

How the Trust has supported the Railway

The Trust has supported the development of the Railway through Grant Aid from its available funds or by promoting appeals for specific projects. Examples of Grant aided projects are:



■ Hayles Abbey Halt
■ The Tim Mitchell Building including Terry Creswell room at Winchcombe



■ Refurbishment of Toddington Signal Box windows



■ Purchase of British Railways Mark 1 coaches for use on the Railway



■ New workshop and volunteer welfare facilities at Toddington

Financial assistance was provided to enable the Construction of Broadway station through a combination of appeal and Grant Funding.

Help with landslip repairs has also been provided, again a mixture of Grants and Appeals, including the 2020 appeal for the Gotherington Landslip. Money was also provided from the Trust's Fundraising Club for sleepers for the Broadway extension, with money currently being raised for a Viewing Gallery allowing our visitors to see what is going on in our locomotive works.

"I joined in the early days because of the friendly nature of the volunteers and have enjoyed visiting ever since."

John, Member Wirral

Supporting the Trust

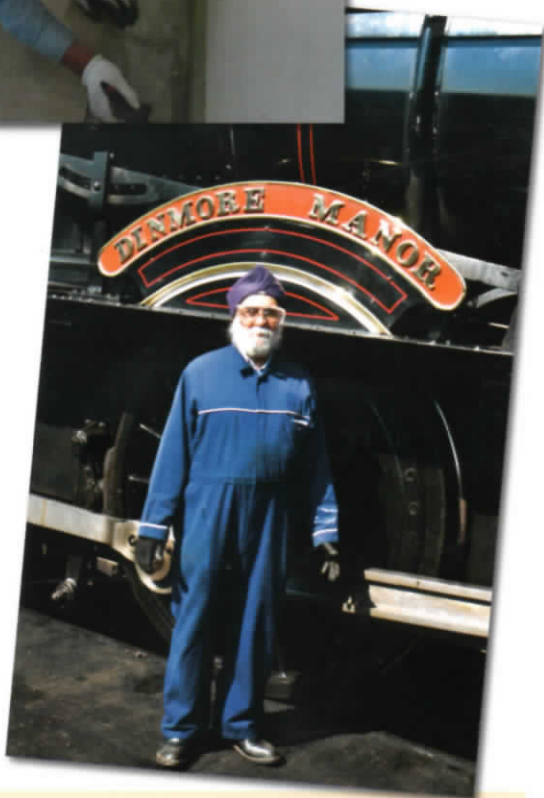
Why not consider joining as a member?



Today the Railway is thriving. By becoming a member of the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway Trust you will be helping one of preservation's most ambitious and exciting projects to grow.

We are a vibrant and friendly society, and we would love to have you and other members of your family on board.

You do not need to work on the Railway to support it, indeed our members are located not only in different parts of the UK, but also around the world.



"I love working on the engines and in the machine shop"

Davinder, Steam Dept



As a member of the Trust, you will be kept in touch with our progress through our award-winning magazine, *The Cornishman*, published four times a year. In addition, you will receive both a voucher for a day's free travel on your next visit and a £5 voucher towards the cost of an additional ticket for a friend or relation.

As a Trust Member you can apply to join the Railway's volunteer workforce in a suitable role.

As you would expect, operating a heritage railway comprising earthworks, track, buildings, signalling, steam and

diesel locomotives and rolling stock is an expensive business in the 21st century. The ongoing support from our members and the time given by our volunteers is essential to ensure the continued success of the Railway.

We will be delighted to welcome you as a MEMBER of the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway Trust.

Why not act today and join by filling in the application form, which can be found at the end of this booklet.

If you are a UK taxpayer, please remember to Gift Aid your subscription.

'It has surprised me how much I enjoy volunteering on the railway. It's great to see the enjoyment and pleasure the Railway gives to visiting passengers.'

Alison, Railway Catering

Other ways to support The Trust

You can also support the Trust by making a donation either by visiting our web site, sending a cheque payable to GWRT to the address on the rear cover of this booklet or by visiting the Trust Office at Toddington, open most days the railway is operational.

If you are a UK taxpayer, please do not forget to Gift Aid your donations. See page 10 for details as to how to do this.

Our Leaflet 'The Gift that Lives on' tells how you can remember The Railway in your will.

This is available from the Trust Office,

but you will also find details as to how to do this on our website.

You can also join our Fundraising Club, currently raising money for a future viewing area giving an insight of our locomotive works.

You will find our website at **www.gwrt.org.uk** or scan the QR code on the rear cover.

Why not consider joining as a volunteer?

Over the last few years, our heritage railway has been developing rapidly. All along the line from Cheltenham to Broadway, you only have to look around you to see the results of the time, effort, skills and commitment of our volunteers across all departments.

However, as we rely almost exclusively on volunteers to maintain this good work and to keep The Railway running, we continually need to recruit more.

Volunteering is a great way to keep fit and well, whatever your age. At the Railway we offer first class opportunities, new experiences and training, whatever your abilities.

If you enjoy meeting and interacting with people, why not consider volunteering in one of our public facing roles, such as:

Station Staff: The first point of contact our visitors have with us at a station, selling tickets, answering questions and making sure that our visitors are kept well informed and safe at all times.



"I volunteered for the railway when I moved into the area. Since starting I'm involved as station staff, shop and the Santa trains, the opportunities are endless!"

Debbie, Station Staff, Retail and one of Santa's helpers!

Travelling Ticket Inspector:

Assist the Guard and help to keep our visitors safe on the train, whilst making sure that our passengers have the correct ticket for their journey.

Railway Catering Services: Selling refreshments in our Buffet cars on the trains and at our cafes at Broadway and Winchcombe stations and our coffee hut at Cheltenham Race Course station.

Retail: Provide an efficient, friendly service selling souvenirs, books etc in our shop at Toddington station.

Our Railway runs for 14 miles through the charming Cotswold countryside, bringing a lot of enjoyment to tens of thousands of people every year.

To enable us to do this we need volunteers to restore and maintain our:

■ **Track** – you will need to be fit and enjoy working outside in all weathers.

■ **Line-side** – includes clearance of vegetation, fence maintenance and looking after all the track drainage and culverts.

This is vital work to reduce the risk of landslides and to ensure safe driver visibility whilst also giving our passengers a commanding view of the countryside beyond the Railway.

■ **Signalling systems** – ensuring that The Railway has a versatile and safe signalling system that is able to cope with the different levels of train operation required by our timetables.

■ **Carriages** – a constant challenge maintaining, cleaning and restoring our fleet of coaches.

■ **Locomotives** – the restoration, maintenance and operation of both steam and diesel locomotives.

■ **Buildings and other structures** – the maintenance and preservation of the historic character of our existing buildings and the construction of new facilities as the Railway expands.

Then there are the jobs that everyone wants to do!!

Footplate crew (steam and diesel):

You will start as an engine cleaner, learning how these machines work, before working your way up as a fireman, or second man, to the coveted job of driver, but be warned achieving this goal can take several years!



"Volunteering at the GWSR has boosted my confidence and helped me succeed both personally and professionally."

Bryony, Steam and Guard Dept

Guards: Qualifying as a Travelling Ticket Inspector is, for suitable candidates, the first step to becoming a Guard.

Station Master: You will normally start as a Station Assistant and then progress to Booking Office Clerk (although it may be possible to join directly as BOC), before having the opportunity to progress to the role of Station Master.

Signalman: As this is a safety critical role, you will receive a comprehensive package of theory and practical training, followed by assessment of competency. However, if you are already a qualified signaller/signalman on Network Rail or another Heritage Railway, we do operate a 'fast-track' recruitment and training process.

Alternatively, you may prefer to work as part of our back-room team in one of the roles that is key to any successful operation and is vital to making everything else work on our Railway. For example, in **Administration**, either in our office, or as support to one of our Heads of Department; **IT**, **Promotions, Marketing, Health and Safety**, or as part of one of our **Station Maintenance Teams**.

The list is endless and there are opportunities for everyone, whether you want to use your existing skills, or try something entirely different.

You can learn more about the various roles and the volunteering opportunities that are currently available by viewing the Trust Volunteer Recruitment page at www.gwrt.org.uk. Alternatively, contact our Recruitment Officer (contact e-mail below), or if visiting the railway speak to one of the volunteers in the Trust Office at

Toddington who will be happy to answer your questions, or provide you with further information.

With all roles we offer training and support, ranging from the initial mandatory Induction Course to any department-specific training that is required. For operational jobs, you may be required to take initial and then periodic written and/or practical tests, or assessments and undergo a medical examination. Other roles may only require on-the-job training.

Becoming a Volunteer

To join as a volunteer, you will need to complete and submit an application form, the link to which can be found on the Trust Volunteer Recruitment homepage, or contact our Recruitment Officer at recruitment.officer@gwsr.com who will send a form to you. Can we just remind you that to volunteer you will need to be a member of the Trust? If you are not already a member, please submit a membership application or join online.

Once your application has been accepted, you will be asked to attend a half-day Induction Course (normally the third Saturday of each month except December), after which you will be able to join and start volunteering in your new department!

"Superb working space and conditions and a great group of helpful and friendly people not just in the steam dept but across the railway"

David, Steam Dept

If you wish to join us as a member, please complete the application form opposite or join online at www.gwrt.org.uk or scan the QR code on the rear cover.

Membership Rates Valid to 31st December 2024

Membership Category	1 Year	3 Years	Life Member
Adult (16-59)	£25.00	£67.00	£575.00
Two Adults*	£40.00	£107.00	£940.00
Senior (60 and over)	£20.00	£54.00	£370.00
Two Seniors*	£35.00	£94.00	£515.00
Child/Student	£15.00	£40.00	N/A
Family 2 adults, 3 children	£50.00	£135.00	N/A

*Living at the same address

Gift Aid Declaration

By signing the Gift Aid declaration on the New Members Application Form, you confirm that you have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that you donate to will reclaim on your gifts for that tax year. You understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. You understand the charity will reclaim Gift Aid on every donation that you give on or after 6 April 2008.

Please notify the GWR Trust if you:

- ☐ Want to cancel this declaration
- ☐ Change your name or home address
- ☐ No longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code

Data Protection: The Company complies with current applicable Data Protection Regulation and for the purposes of the Regulation, the Company is the data controller and sole owner of the personal data collected from this form. The Company does not sell, share or transfer this information except as set out in its Privacy Policy available on the website (www.gwrt.org.uk) or the GWRT Information Office at Toddington. (Note the Trust is a private company limited by guarantee).

"Steam, you need a whiff just to keep you alive"

Tony, Steam Dept

New Members Application Form

If you wish to keep this booklet intact please download a copy from our website or photocopy

Please complete the following form. If you are a UK taxpayer, we can claim Gift Aid on your subscription; to enable us to do so, please sign at the foot of this form, ticking both boxes if possible. See page 10 for categories, terms and cost of membership.



Registered Charity
No. 1133186

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE (*Mandatory information)

*Mr/Mrs/Miss, etc.....

*Full name.....

Additional Member Names

*Address.....

*Post Code.....*Tel No.....

Mobile No.....

E-mail address.....

For student membership, NUS number

I wish to become a Member of the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway and
I am joining as Adult ☐ 2 Adults ☐ Senior ☐ 2 Seniors ☐ Child ☐ Student ☐
Family ☐ and I would like to join for One Year ☐ Three Years ☐ Life ☐

Total subscription £..... Donation (optional) £.....

Total enclosed with this form £.....(cheques payable to GWRT)

Signed..... Dated.....

By applying for membership, all persons named on this form agree to be bound by the rules laid down in the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway Trust's ("the Company") Memorandum and Articles (which are available for inspection at Churchward House) and shall not commit the Company to any unauthorised expense. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership card(s).

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Please Gift Aid my payment: Today only ☐ Today and Future payments ☐

I have read and understood the declaration on the previous page.

Signed..... Dated.....

Send the completed form and your remittance to: GWRT, Churchward House,
Station Approach, Winchcombe Railway Station, Winchcombe, GL54 5LD



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