

SHROPSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

A SUMMER TRIP TO A PRIVATE RAILWAY IN THE COUNTRY!

SUNDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2018

An opportunity has arisen for a Society group to participate in one of the “VIP Open Days” which are held from time to time at the privately owned Fawley Hill Railway, which is situated near Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

Lying on the estate of the well known enthusiast the late Sir William McAlpine, this standard gauge line is around a mile in length, and incorporates what is thought to be the steepest adhesion worked incline on any standard gauge railway in the British Isles. Main motive power is 1913 built “No.31” a Hudswell Clarke 0-6-0ST, and the set-up at Fawley also incorporates many full size railway installations recovered from all over the country, including the GER station building from Somersham in Cambridgeshire.

There is also a very extensive museum of small exhibits, housing what must be one of the largest collections of railwayana in private hands anywhere.

The railway and museum is managed on behalf of Sir William’s estate by the Fawley Museum Society (“FMS”) who provide volunteers to enable the “VIP Open Days” to take place, and the Shropshire Railway Society has a confirmed invitation to attend the 2 September event with a group of up to 20 people.

There is no entry charge as such, but the FMS ask for a donation on a per head basis, currently £10, felt to be a modest amount for a day at such an unusual and interesting railway venue, on an occasion when the railway and museum is not open to the general public, and all those attending are likely to be from other club and hobby groups.

In addition, one member of the SRS group will get a footplate ride on “No. 31”, a privilege given to each visiting group as an added attraction by FMS.

Fawley Hill is not well placed to be reached by public transport, especially as the event is on a Sunday, and it is likely that the Society group will travel by way of

shared private cars, with of course each participant making a contribution to cover the driver's fuel costs; alternatively, dependent on the numbers expressing interest, the hire of a minibus might be justified.

It would be appreciated if members interested in participating would advise Lionel Price accordingly as soon as possible please, so that numbers in the group can be notified to FMS in good time, and the transport arrangements given further consideration. Those doing so should also please indicate their address, so as to assist with planning of the transport to and from the venue, and as mentioned below.

In addition, it would be helpful at this stage if anyone who wishes to take part is also willing to use his/her private vehicle to transport other members of the group on the basis of shared petrol costs as referred to above could so indicate.

Fawley is about 140 miles from Shrewsbury, with the drive time being about 2.5 hours each way, mainly via motorway.

Lionel Price – jldprice@btinternet.com or on 01691 654488 (message may be left if necessary).

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