



GOLDEN VALLEY LIGHT RAILWAY

www.gvlr.org.uk

(2ft gauge)

STUCK FOR A GIFT??

(Or treat yourself!)

Footplate experience days

on Orenstein & Koppel 7529 *



Built	1914
Cylinders	8" x 12"
Maximum Tractive effort at 85% BP	≈ 4500 lbs
Brakes	Air, single pipe automatic

Driving wheels	24"
Boiler pressure	170 psi
Weight (working)	8 tons
Valve gear	Walschaerts (slide valves)

The day is planned for one participant nominally, at a price of £550 or £600 for 2 in one party, sharing. (2024 prices.)

The prices INCLUDE a year's membership of the Golden Valley Light Railway Association for the candidate(s) (a prerequisite for insurance cover), unlimited tea / coffee & lunch.

Candidates must be aged 18 or over.

* Prop: E. & P. Draper

The day starts at 08:00 and finishes at 16:30 (or other times to suit the participant(s)). Our routine takes the participant(s) through the whole normal day for a GVLR fireman and driver. The following is a typical day's schedule, assuming an 08:00 start.

08:00 – 08:45	Induction, safety brief (with hot drink), draw loco out of shed, check boiler, light fire. Description of workings of a steam loco.
08:45 – 10:45 (approx)	Steam raising, loco cleaning and preparation.
10:45 – 12:00	2 light engine trips on the whole line.
12:00 – 12:30	Lunch
12:30 – 16:00	Up to 6 return trips over the railway, hauling coaches with progressively increasing train weight.
16:00 – 16:30	Dispose loco, wash up, feedback.

Guests accompanying the participants should note that the footplate experience days are held when the GVLR and Midland Railway are not otherwise open, so the other facilities on site other than the country park are unlikely to be accessible. Participants' guests may ride in the third & subsequent GVLR train of coaches driven by the participant, so long as the instructor is satisfied with the skill level achieved. There is a space for 1 wheelchair user in an open coach, if needed.

The GVLR footplate experience can be booked for anyone aged over 18 who has the necessary physical mobility, strength, stamina, mental capacity, eyesight and hearing. The blood alcohol limit for driving trains is approximately one half of that allowed for driving road vehicles, so participants should not consume much the night before. Unfortunately it is not suitable for disabled persons. You will need to be physically fit enough to participate and stand the pace and length of a working day, with eyesight to the standard required for car driving and hearing which is adequate for accurate understanding of instructions. The course involves standing for long periods of time, a hot environment and the operation of working equipment. However, the instructor will be on hand at all times to help out.

We ask that the fee is paid before any booking is confirmed.

We recommend that overalls and suitable footwear should be worn (ideally steel toe capped boots or shoes). GVLR and MRT cannot be held responsible for any clothing that is burnt, stained or damaged during the day. Please do not wear clothes made of synthetic materials.

Four weeks notice is preferred, to ensure that a volunteer crew is available.

GVLR & MRT reserve the right to alter, curtail or cancel the booking without notice, but will only do so if absolutely necessary. In the event of cancellation by us, full refunds will be offered. Once your course is confirmed, should there be a need for you to cancel or amend your course date, there will be an administration charge of £10.00. If you do not attend on the confirmed day without 48 hours notification, then no refund is available. We look forward to welcoming you to the GVLR and we are confident you will enjoy your Footplate Experience day.

The booking form on the next page can be downloaded from the GVLR website or is available by email. Please phone, text or email before sending it to us to check current date availability. Note: No other Midland Railway - Butterley bookings are available by these methods.

Available dates in 2025 will be listed on the booking form. If none of the available dates are suitable, please contact us to discuss alternatives.

GVL R Footplate Experience Days.

All dates for 2024 are now passed or cancelled. If you are interested in this for 2025, please email edward.draper@midlandrailway-butterley.co.uk and keep an eye on this page in the first quarter of 2025 when the available dates will be published. (Remember to hit the refresh button when revisiting this page, or otherwise you are likely to see the version stored on your PC.)

Lunch can be a sandwich or soup & bread + same for 1 guest. Sandwiches need to be chosen from a menu in advance. Extra guests are charged at £10 per person.

Option: Fish chips & peas for lunch instead of sandwiches / soup is £10 extra per person.

Tea and coffee are freely available throughout the day, alternatives are available upon request, and plenty of liquids should be taken due to the heat in the cab.

Please indicate overleaf any special food or drink requirements.

Local overnight accommodation is usually available at Premier Inn, Ripley, Derbyshire, or Travelodge, Alfreton, but this is NOT included in the course fee or arrangements we make.

Please pay by BACS (£550 for 1 participant, plus any extras as above) payable to:

“MRT Narrow Gauge shed fund – coach” Sort code 30 90 25 A/c no. 01340274.

Please notify us by email when payment has been made.

Contact details: edward.draper@midlandrailway-butterley.co.uk or 077 52 111 477