

- West Somerset Railway Association
- West Somerset Railway PLC
- West Somerset Steam Railway Trust

Covid 19-Emergency Funding Appeal Update July 2020

The 22-mile West Somerset Railway (WSR) has been badly affected by the Covid-19 lockdown measures. The WSR has not been able to trade and earn the income needed to survive. Just at the point where the railway was ready to reopen in 2020 it found itself unable to operate any services and without any of the revenue required to meet day-to-day expenditure. At the moment the WSR plc is not running train services. The Railway is a complex business involving many sectors—transport, retail, hospitality, museums – all with differing Covid guidance.

The WSR needs almost £60,000 per month to meet its minimal base costs; items such as insurance, utility bills, interest and some staffing. Virtually all staff are currently on furlough but, with the forthcoming reductions in Government support, the WSR will in the coming months have to pick up its full wages bill again. It is key for its future that the Railway retains its workers with specialist skills. However, the threat to the railway is bigger than that. The enormous loss of income for WSR plc as it remains non-operational during the peak running season means that crucial and critical annual investment in the Railway will be impossible without your help.

The WSR Covid 19 Emergency Appeals had, as of the 29th June, raised £185,000.

THANK YOU so much

Still unable to trade the railway needs more donations, if it is to survive. **Can you help?**

- Make a commitment to a regular giving plan for 9 months Find out more in the **HOW TO DONATE** section of this update or on the joint fundraising webpage
- Make a one-off donation directly to the WSR PLC Covid 19 Emergency Appeal
- Make a one-off donation to the West Somerset Railway Association. WSRA* appeal funds are currently focused on rail renewal, carriage repainting and restoration of former GWR Prairie locomotive 4561
- Make a one-off donation to the West Somerset Steam Railway Trust. WSSRT* funds are currently focused on museums management, heritage carriage restoration and heritage education and learning

<https://www.wsra.org.uk/fundraising>

WSR Covid-19 Emergency Appeal

Donor Benefits

The WSR organisations have been considering how to express their gratitude to those who are helping the Railway survive the present crisis. We know that support has been given for love of the Railway without thought of reward.

Those who have donated to ANY fund held by the WSRA, WSSRT or WSR plc from the start of March 2020 will be offered the following benefits:

Donations from:

£250

A year's honorary membership of the West Somerset Railway Association, including 4 copies of the West Somerset Railway Journal. If the donor is already a WSRA member, that honorary membership can be passed on to a person of the donor's choice



£500

A private tour for two of either the Bishops Lydeard Museum, the Blue Anchor Museum or 1938 GWR Coach No. 6705 brought back from the USA at a time to be arranged with the West Somerset Steam Railway Trust.



£1000

A return ride for two between Bishops Lydeard and Minehead with morning coffee or afternoon tea as guests of the West Somerset Railway Association in WSRA-owned GWR-design 'Hawksworth' observation coach



£2500

A WSR plc 'Silver' Pass allowing lifetime travel for the donor and an accompanying person on the Railway. (Dining trains and other special services excluded.)



£5000

A WSR plc 'Gold' Pass allowing lifetime travel for the donor and up to 3 accompanying persons on the Railway. (Dining trains and other special services excluded.)



HOW TO DONATE:

9 MONTH DONATION PLAN - help us through to March 2021

Set up a standing order - you tell your bank or building society to make 9 regular monthly payments to your chosen fund, commencing 28th July 2020. banking details are set out below. ***If you are a UK taxpayer, remember, donations to one of the charities will be enhanced by 25% if you complete a gift aid form. ****

- The bank pays exactly the amount you choose.
- You set the monthly standing order up to keep on paying on a certain date or for 9 payments.
- You're in full control. You can start or stop them or change the payment amount whenever you want.
- Please quote the specific fund you are donating to as your payment reference

If you don't use online banking you can send an initial cheque for your July payment and request a Standing Order form for the next 8 payments.

MAKE A SINGLE DONATION - Thank you

Donate to the [WSR PLC Covid 19 Emergency Appeal](#)

Donate to the [WSR Rail Renewal Fund 2020](#)

Donate to the [WSR Loco Restoration Fund](#)

Donate to the [WSSRT Heritage Infrastructure Appeal](#)

Donate to the work of the [WSRA](#)

Make a bank transfer - details below. Please use the payment reference to tell us how you wish the funds to be used.

WSR PLC Bank	Account no 15963360	Sort Code 30-62-63
WSRA Bank	Account no 00443258	Sort Code 30-97-00
WSSRT Bank	Account no 15668968	Sort Code 30-62-63

OR send a cheque made payable WSR Plc, or to WSRA or to WSSRT to the organisation of your choice. Please complete the Gift Aid form overleaf and send it with your cheque to your chosen organisation 'care of the WSRA' to the registered address below.

For more information about the various funds and how you can donate visit our joint fundraising webpage at

<https://www.wsra.org.uk/fundraising>



GIFT AID

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate.

Gift Aid is reclaimed by the WSRA and WSSRT from the tax you pay for the current tax year.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box and complete the form:

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to: West Somerset Railway Association / West Somerset Steam Railway Trust. *(please delete as required)*

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Title _____

First name or initial(s) _____ Surname _____

Full Home address _____

_____ Post Code: _____

Email address: _____

Please notify the WSRA/WSSRT 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.

Signed Date:

We respect your personal data and privacy. Your address is required by HMRC to identify you as a current UK taxpayer and will be held securely for that purpose. We will not share your data outside of the West Somerset Railway Group. If you supply an email address we will use it if we need to contact you about your donation.