

Saturday 6 May 2023
Severn Valley Railway

RAILWAY 68

Derby		0637
Birmingham New Street	0725	
Birmingham Moor Street		0751
Kidderminster	0835	0900
Bridgnorth	1010	1045
Highley	1122	1145
Bridgnorth	1213	1220
Kidderminster	1330	1340
Worcester Foregate Street	1402	1406
Stourbridge Junction	1437	1445
Stourbridge Town	1448	1450
Stourbridge Junction	1453	1456
Smethwick Galton Bridge	1516	1536
Birmingham New Street	1545	1549
Derby	1631	

Coronation Day, and I am not feeling very Royal. I found Charles very pleasant on the occasions I met him, but I still struggle with Camilla. I struggle with someone who is apparently a “green king”, but who allowed them to fly him to Germany for a Royal Visit, and fly his car there as well - makes you wonder why we bother. Thursday might have helped - the Tories were trounced at the local elections (though they were still elected in Allestree) - but even so. J was keen to watch it all, so I decided to have a day out.

I drove to the station and was very pleased that Greggs was open. Not many of us on the Birmingham train. I gave the signallers a wave as we came into Brum. I walked to Moor Street and found the Centenary Bar, what a beautiful room (and the coffee was good too).



The GWR lines through the City - I realise how much of Brum I need to come and do - then out to Kidderminster. It's a short walk from the BR station to the Severn Valley Railway. I had booked in advance - £25 for a day ranger - and exchanged it for an Edmondson ticket. I also



got a free ticket for another day. The line is struggling financially at the moment, but they can certainly put on a good show. I ambled down the platform soaking up the atmosphere.



The 0900 was a busy train, lots of enthusiasts to have a ride on the class 52, the Western. "Western Courier" D1062 (and one who was very happy having a conversation when others wanted photos). They were all built between 1961 and 1964, and withdrawn by 1977. I remember seeing "Western Lady" D1048 at York, just before withdrawal.



I found an empty compartment - memories of the late night train back from Liverpool Street to Cambridge - and enjoyed the ride north. It is a lovely line, even in the rain. I had a "yes, I remember Arley" moment - we could have been paused at Adlestrop. Lovely 31 at Highley, though it is a very different livery to my youth.





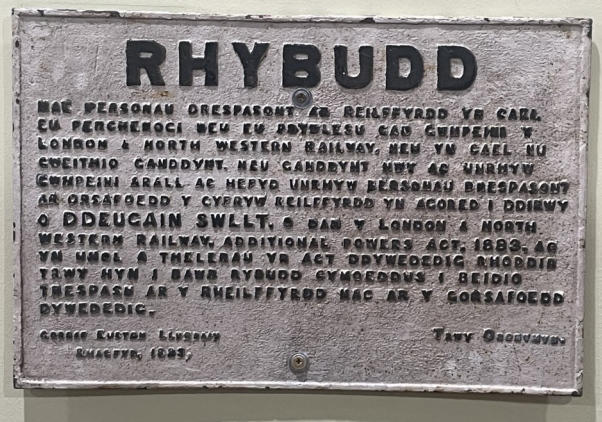
A wonderful selection of posters at Bridgnorth. I decided not to pause here but to head south and stop at Highley to visit the Engine House. "Western Courier" headed south, and I had a tea en route.





The Engine Shed at Highley had some model exhibits, but it was rather too full for me. I did enjoy the TPO, but trying to photo without children in the way meant I got no decent photos.







I went back up to Bridgnorth behind "Western Champion" D1015, built 21 January 1963, and had a good chat to an old boy who was TOPS manager at Cambridge in the 1970s.



A quick trot over the footbridge and onto the wonderful LNER set to head south behind 7714, a GWR Pannier Tank built in 1930.





I could have used my ranger to go up and down again. I could have had an explore of the Kidderminster Museum. I could have spent a fortune in their bookshop ...

I decided to use my time to come back via Worcester Foregate Street - otherwise I will have to do that piece of line again. As I couldn't return direct or via Droitwich due to engineering works, I might as well do the job properly. Down to Worcester, which still has all its semaphore signals. Back on the same train to Stourbridge Junction, then a ride on the Parry people mover to the Town and back (no one asked for the fare for that little line). On into Birmingham, but this time I changed at Smethwick so I didn't have to do the walk from Moor Street or Snow Hill to New Street. To my surprise I made a 4 minute change at New Street onto the Nottingham train, then slept back to Derby. I packed a lot in today!



