



Western Locomotive Association AGM 2025

Election of Charities Officer – meet the candidates

We're pleased to announce we have two great candidates that the Management Committee are putting forward for election to the Charities Officer role. They have both been 'Proposed' by Committee at our July Committee Meeting. You can read all about the 2 candidates below and their motivation in putting themselves forward for the role. Please remember to only vote for one candidate on the Proxy Voting Form.

Haydn Mudford



My interest in railways started as a young boy clambering over rusting hulks of steam locomotives at Dai Woodham's scrap yard in my home town of Barry. I remember being fascinated by the three green diesels also stored there. What a shame they were not preserved.

Having started "spotting" in 1976 and witnessing the end of the Westerns on British Rail I initially supported the preservation of Western Lady, as at that time, I perceived her to be the most vulnerable of the seven saved 1000's.

During a career in banking, and following a move to the West Midlands in 1989, I started visiting the Severn Valley Railway and became a member of the WLA in the 1990's. I was initially a working member (in a painting and scraping capacity!) and then became a committee member.

I was the first Charity Officer for WLA, from 2006 to 2015 being responsible for successfully registering the WLA as a charity in 2006 and then setting up the Gift Aid process for the WLA which has been providing regular funds through Gift Aid claims ever since.

During my time on the committee, I also obtained funding for the WLA through activities such as successful Grant applications from the Preservation of Industrial and Scientific Material (PRISM) fund and National Lottery Heritage Fund and held the post of Acting Treasurer of WLA for two years, until a permanent officer was elected.

Now retired, I have a more time available to dedicate to committee work once again and despite living in the South West, look forward to visiting the Valley more often.

Mark Simmons-Jenkins



Hello every one. I am Mark Simmons-Jenkins, many of you will recognise me, as I am a working member, and I travel up from Mid Devon to help out as best as I can at Kidderminster TMD, and enjoy mucking in, and learning on the job. I have also been a member of the very successful Sales team for the past 3 years, and I have helped sales increase year on year in each of those 3 years, implementing many ideas for items you can buy at our stalls or online, and very much enjoy meeting new people in that role face to face, and relinquishing you of much needed funds to keep our Westerns running.

My love for Westerns and the hydraulics goes back to 1970 I was brought up in Exeter, and I witnessed D1017 Western Warrior hurtle through St Thomas station on a west bound passenger service as a 9 year old, the sight and sound that summer morning will live with me forever, it got me into train spotting, and once old enough chasing the westerns from 1974 onwards after getting a paper round to fund the hobby, I managed to bag 36 for haulage, and when I finally had D1062 Western Courier on the western running day at The Paignton & Dartmouth Railway in October 1977, it meant I had exactly half the westerns for haulage, not too shabby for someone who was still only 15 in February 1977, I also did manage a handful of each of Warships and Hymeks before their demise too.

I will bring huge enthusiasm to the role of Charities Officer as I do with everything I get involved in. I have vast experience in raising funds, Including helping to save our local Post Office from closure, by putting on concerts at our Parish Hall and a music and arts festival over 2 summers, raising over £30,000 which helped purchase the building, which now runs as a very successful community store, alongside the post office.