

AVON VALLEY RAILWAY

RETURNING STEAM TO THE AVON VALLEY

2023 TIMETABLE



www.avonvalleyrailway.org

Find us just off the A431 between Bristol and Bath: BS30 6HD

WELCOME TO THE AVON VALLEY RAILWAY

Opened in 1869 by the Midland Railway as a route between the Midlands and the South Coast, the Avon Valley Railway was later linked to the iconic Somerset & Dorset Railway.

Closed under the Beeching Axe of the 1960's the line was preserved by an enthusiastic group of volunteers. Today, 40 years on, three miles of track has been re-laid, locomotives and carriages restored, and the sound of steam can once again be heard along the Avon Valley.

WHAT TO SEE ON YOUR VISIT

- ▶ See our beautifully restored Victorian station at Bitton
- ▶ Take a ride in a heritage carriage behind one of our steam or diesel locomotives
- ▶ Go for a walk alongside the track on the Bristol & Bath Railway Path (the 13 mile off-road route between Bristol and Bath city centres)
- ▶ Learn more about the history of the line in our small museum area
- ▶ Enjoy breakfast, lunch or afternoon tea in our station buffet (open daily)
- ▶ Pick up a railway-themed souvenir in our gift shop (open on our operating days).

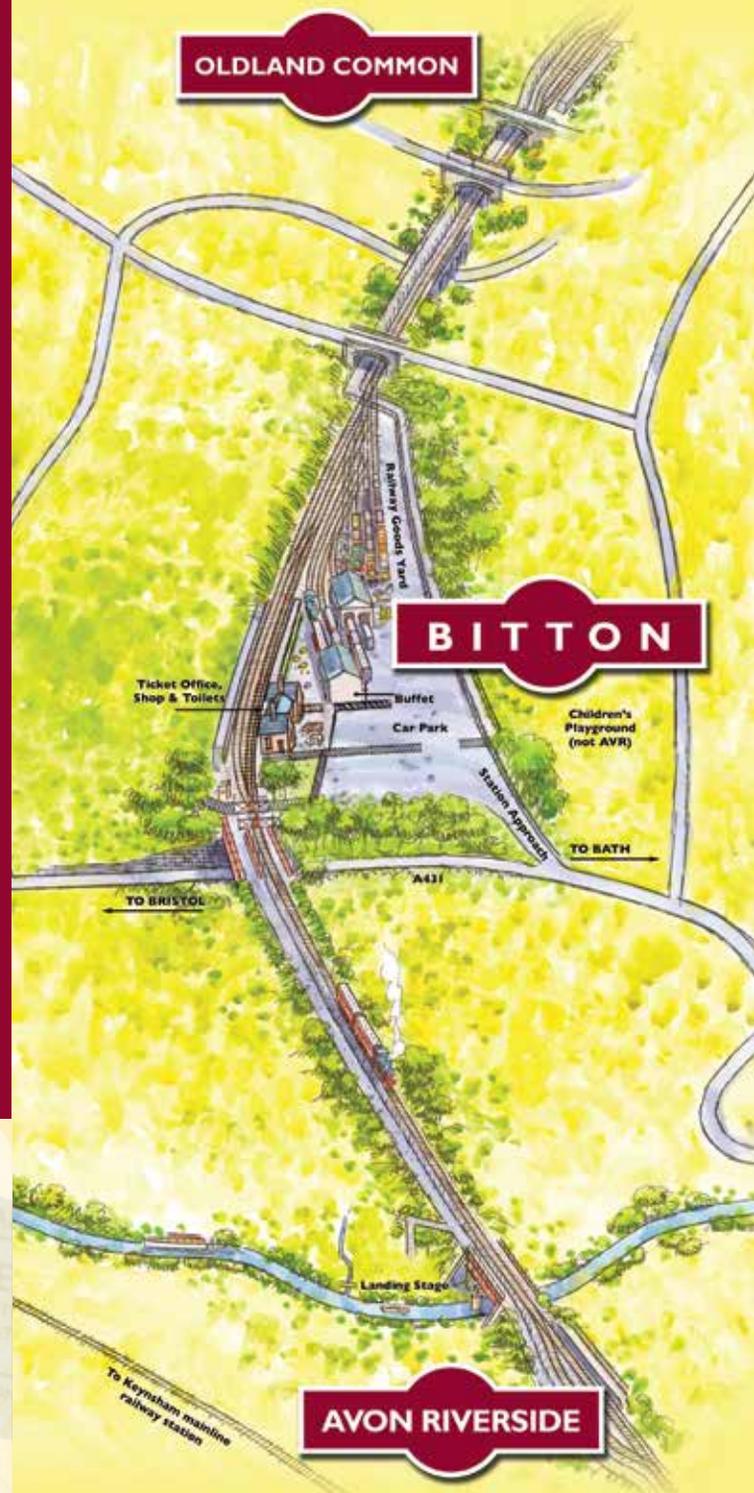


TIMETABLE

We run a mix of steam and diesel trains during February half term and then throughout the summer from April to the end of October, mainly at weekends and Wednesdays during school holidays. Exact dates and times can be found on our website. We recommend you book tickets in advance to guarantee a seat.

Your ticket is valid for one round trip of the line (approx. 50 minutes) and all under children must be accompanied by a fare-paying adult. **Trains will generally depart at 10:45, 12:00, 13:15, 14:30 and 15:45.**

Every effort will be made to provide the advertised services and locomotives, but unforeseen circumstances may entail alterations or cancellations at short notice.



A FIRST CLASS DINING EXPERIENCE

PRE-BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL FOR ALL OUR DINING TRAINS

BITTON BELLE £48 per person

Our classic roast lunch dining train. Enjoy a classic two course roast dinner and all the trimmings. Trains depart at 1.15pm on: **19 Mar, 2 Apr, 9 Apr, 30 Apr, 7 May, 14 May, 18 Jun, 30 Jul, 13 Aug, 27 Aug & 24 Sept**

FISH & CHIPS £39 per person

Enjoy a classic meal of freshly battered Cod and Chips served with a wedge of lemon, mushy peas and homemade tartare sauce (or battered sausage and chips served with mushy peas). Followed by lemon cheesecake or fresh fruit salad dessert. Trains depart at 1.15pm on: **7 Apr (Good Friday), 17 Jun, 15 Jul, 5 Aug, 12 Aug & 2 Sept**

FIRST CLASS EXPERIENCE

Take your seat in our First Class carriage and enjoy:

Tea & cake at 10.45am (£17.50 per person),
Soup & a sandwich at 1.15pm (£21.50 per person)
or **Cream Tea at 3.45pm** (£19.50 per person)
as you travel the line.

**Various dates between April and October,
please visit the website for more details**

SAUSAGE & CIDER £39 per person

Enjoy a trio of local sausages served on a bed of mash and seasonal vegetables, followed by dessert.

Trains depart at 1.15pm on: **1 Apr, 29 July & 23 Sept**

BREAKFAST £32 per adult and £27 per child

Enjoy fresh fruit salad and yoghurt followed by a full English cooked breakfast (or vegetarian breakfast). Plus a selection of fruit juices, teas or filter coffee.

Trains depart at 10.45am on: **10 Apr, 1 May, 29 May & 28 Aug**

WHAT BETTER WAY IS THERE TO ENJOY A CLASSIC AFTERNOON TEA?

Enjoy a welcoming glass of local Three Choirs sparkling line followed by an Afternoon Tea of finger sandwiches followed by freshly made scones and a selection of dainty cakes. Plus a selection of teas or filter coffee.

£39 per person

Trains depart at 2:30pm on:

**10 Apr, 1 May, 21 May, 29 May, 9 Jul,
23 Jul, 6 Aug, 20 Aug & 28 Aug**



MURDER MYSTERY £55 per person

Gather on the platform to hear the plot unfold, then board the train to quiz the suspects as you enjoy your two course meal. Then, once back at Bitton it's your turn to reveal who you believe committed the crime.

Some elements of the murder mystery event are enacted on the station platform, so it is advisable to wear warm clothing.

15 April The killer takes it all

20 May Death of a diva

8 July Sherlock Holmes

19 August Murder on the Disorientated Express

16 September Crime at Café Rene (1940s)

Guests arrive from 6.15pm, train promptly departs at 6.45pm.

PIE & PINT £39 per person

Enjoy a Jon Thorner's Steak & London Pride Ale, Chicken, Leek & Bacon or Curried Squash and Sweet Potato pie served with chips and garden peas. Accompanied by a bottle of local ale (or cider, glass of wine or soft drink alternative). Followed by an apple filo pastry pie.

Trains depart at 1.15pm on: **13 May, 15 Jul & 3 Sept**



FESTIVE EXPERIENCES

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Board our First Class carriage and enjoy a small cooked breakfast before Santa visits and gives out presents to all the children.

FESTIVE FIRST CLASS

Take your seat and your host will serve you a glass of mulled wine, a selection of cakes and a mince pie.

TEA WITH SANTA

Board our First Class carriage and Santa will visit and give out presents to the children as you enjoy a selection of cakes with tea, coffee or juice.

MINCE PIE SPECIALS

Join us on Boxing Day or New Years Day for a train ride and mince pie.



Tickets available from July at www.avonvalleyrailway.org

EVENTS 2023

(All events subject to change or cancellation without prior notice).

LOCAL RESIDENTS

1 & 2 APRIL

Travel for half price on our first weekend of the year if you live in a BS or BA postcode. Bring proof of address.

1990

BITTON BEER BASH

9 & 10 JUNE

Enjoy our usual great selection of real ales but this year with the added bonus of being able to take them onboard our diesel-hauled trains.

2031

CHOCOLATE TRAIN

9 & 10 APRIL

Help us celebrate Easter and see our restored locomotive from Fry's chocolate factory in Keynsham.

1908

TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC

24 & 25 JUNE AND

9 & 10 SEPTEMBER

FREE train travel for children who bring their Teddy Bear. Plus magic shows and balloon modelling.

2025

FARMYARD FRIENDS

15 & 16 APRIL

If you've visited us at Christmas you'll have met our festive donkeys.

Meet them again and some of their friends this Spring.

2145

1940s WEEKEND

16 & 17 SEPTEMBER

Turn back the clock and discover what life was like during wartime Britain. Admire military and civilian vehicles, re-enactors and Home Front displays. Enjoy music of the time from singer Jayne Darling plus you can meet Winston Churchill too!

1945

ENGLISH WINE & FOOD FESTIVAL

2 JUNE

Enjoy a selection of English wines together with gins and local foods.

2022

CHOCOLATE SUNDAYS

1, 8 & 15 OCTOBER

Enjoy a ride behind our Fry's locomotive from the old chocolate factory in Keynsham. Enjoy a chocolatey treat whilst you travel the line too.

1910

IT'S A HOOT!

28 & 29 OCTOBER

Join us for a family-friendly weekend this October half term. Go on a train ride, see birds of prey and owls from Pitcombe Rock Falconry and enjoy our autumnal trail around the station. But, best of all, children who come in Halloween-themed fancy dress will travel FREE!

2389

BRICK EXPRESS

3 & 4 JUNE

Jump onboard the Brick Express and try your hand at building with the world's most popular toy bricks. What will you be inspired to build? Then, admire the latest creations from Lego® Bricks from Bristol's GertLug group.

1932

MAKE CHRISTMAS ONE TO REMEMBER WITH THE AVON VALLEY RAILWAY



Join the Avon Valley Railway this festive season for a ride on one of our steam-hauled trains and enjoy a special visit from Father Christmas!

Each child receives a quality gift.

Tickets available from July at www.avonvalleyrailway.org

DRIVER EXPERIENCES



Take the controls and drive one of our steam or diesel locomotives. With just two participants per session you'll meet the crew and be given an introductory briefing covering what to expect, safety and how a locomotive works. You'll then

board the footplate to drive the locomotive yourself on one round trip of the line (under expert supervision of course!). You'll then swap over and spend a second trip with the Guard understanding this aspect of our train operations. On the morning session (10.15am – 13.45pm) you'll enjoy breakfast followed by lunch (included). The afternoon session (13.00pm – 16:30pm) you'll enjoy lunch followed by tea and cake.

STEAM EXPERIENCE

Price £375

Dates: 18 Mar (Sat), 26 Mar (Sun), 7 Oct (Sat) and 14 Oct (Sat)

DIESEL EXPERIENCE

Price £325

Date: 25 Mar (Sat) and 13 Oct (Fri)

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteers are essential to the running of our railway and we're always looking for more people to join us. You'll become part of a friendly team dedicated to the restoration, upkeep and operation of our railway. You'll gain new skills, meet people and help create lasting memories for our visitors. We have a wide range of roles, some require little previous experience (just a friendly, welcoming approach) whilst others, such as our Operations roles, require a regular commitment as they involve challenging and comprehensive training. Visit our website to find details about our current opportunities.

NEW VOLUNTEER GUIDE

2023

Pick up a copy from the station or download from our website

www.avonvalleyrailway.org

1230



CELEBRATIONS AND PRIVATE HIRE

Make your special event First Class by hiring our carriages to entertain your guests in the atmosphere of a bygone age. It's an idyllic backdrop for special birthdays, wedding receptions/anniversaries and corporate events.

GROUP VISITS

Bring your group and travel back in time to the days of steam. Enjoy a delicious cream tea served onboard as you travel the line. For a full day of Bristol's transport heritage why not combine your trip with a boat trip around Bristol's historic harbourside, visit the SS Great Britain in the city centre or the Aerospace Museum at Filton.

HOW TO FIND US

BY BIKE - from Bristol or Bath join the Bristol and Bath Railway Path (route 4 of the National Cycle Network) direct to Bitton Station. A cycle parking area is provided.

BY BUS - bus services operate between Bristol and Bath. For further information telephone 'Travel Line' on 0871 200233.

BY CAR - Bitton Station is situated midway between Bristol and Bath on the A431 road, one mile from Keynsham. Car parking at Bitton is free.

BY RAIL - the nearest mainline station is at Keynsham. For National Rail enquiries please telephone 0845 7484950.

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APPROXIMATE TRAVEL TIMES

Birmingham	1 hr 40mins	Gloucester	50mins	Swindon	50mins
Cardiff	1 hr	London	2 hr 20mins	Taunton	1 hr 15mins

CATERING - a wide selection of hot and cold food and drink, delicious cakes, sweets and ice cream are available from Bitton Station Buffet which is open daily (excluding Christmas Day).

SOUVENIR SHOP - open on all days trains are running, offering a wide selection of souvenirs and gifts for all ages.

WHEELCHAIRS - a number of wheelchairs can be accommodated in a specially converted carriage. Please let us know in advance so we can assist.

CONTACT US

Avon Valley Railway Bitton Railway Station, Bath Road, Bitton, Bristol BS30 6HD

Tel: 0117 932 5538 Email: info@avonvalleyrailway.org

www.avonvalleyrailway.org



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