



The Watercress Line,
Mid Hants Railway,
The Railway Station,
Alresford, Hampshire, SO24 9JG

Tel: 01962 733810

Fax: 01962 735448

31st March 2020

Dear Watercress Line Supporter,

This is an urgent request for financial assistance as the railway faces the unprecedented challenge presented by Covid-19.

We are sure you are aware by now that along with all other museums and heritage settings, the Mid Hants Railway is closed to the public due to the restrictions put in place to control the Coronavirus/Covid-19 outbreak. There is currently no projected date for reopening. Locomotives and carriages have been placed in the most secure places available, with almost all the former now under cover.

The restrictions mean that the company is unable to earn any revenue whatsoever. Whilst we are fortunate to have a moderate cash reserve as a result of the Flying Scotsman visit and the completion of the bridge in Alton, this is being used to meet unavoidable day-to-day costs rather than to finance vital planned investments.

Our priority now is position ourselves to re-open and resume services when Government restrictions are lifted. We are taking full advantage of the Government scheme to support staff wage costs, but the railway will still need around £75,000 per month for a basic care and maintenance regime. Without this income we will exhaust our reserves within a few months.

Although these will be difficult times for all of us, we are asking you to consider if you are able to provide financial support to the railway. There are around 7,000 members and shareholders. If each were to donate a minimum of £10 a month while the crisis lasts, the railway would be safe and in a good position to move forward rapidly when circumstances allow. It goes without saying that one-off donations would also be welcome.

The easiest way to provide a donation is through the website <https://preservation.watercressline.co.uk/support>. Click through to the UK Virgin Money site (<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/watercressline>) which allows you to pay monthly or donate a single amount.

This is a joint railway appeal for support from both MHR Ltd and MHRPS Ltd. The most effective way you can support is by gift aiding donations to the MHRPS Ltd who can then grant funds to support the MHR Ltd.

Please pass on the information in this letter to any member or shareholder whom you think may not be on our email list. We would be delighted if those in that position were to send their details to mhr.membership@btconnect.com. In these difficult times, we are keen to be in touch by email with as many members and shareholders as possible.

Thank you for continuing to support us during this unprecedented situation. We hope to be able to welcome you back warmly to the Watercress Line soon.

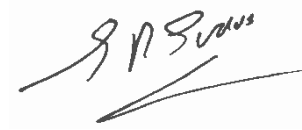
Yours sincerely,



Simon Baggott
General Manager



Richard Lacey
MHR Ltd Chair



Stephen Evans
MHRPS Ltd Chair

MID HANTS RAILWAY LTD
VAT Registration No. 293 505155
Registered in England No. 1117090

MID HANTS RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY LTD
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Registered in England No. 01126590

2020 Appeal – Donation Form



I enclose £

Cheques should be made payable to: **'Mid Hants Railway Preservation Society'**

Please send your donations to: **Mid Hants Railway 'Watercress Line'**
The Railway Station
Alresford, Hants
SO24 9JG

Charity Gift Aid Declaration – Multiple Donation

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer.

In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the box below:

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:

Name of Charity: **Mid Hants Railway Preservation Society**

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.

My Details:

Title: _____ First name or initial(s): _____

Surname: _____

Full Home address: _____

Postcode: _____ Date: _____

Email: _____

MHRPS membership no. : _____

Signed: _____

Please notify the charity 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. .

The Mid Hants Railway Preservation Society Ltd is a registered charity. No. 284406