

SVR to rename locomotive 'Elizabeth II' after name ballot

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The Severn Valley Railway has announced it will temporarily rename 34027 'Taw Valley' as 'Elizabeth II' after a ballot attracted thousands of votes from around the world.

The renaming is part of celebrations for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The locomotive is currently being repainted in a special purple livery to mark the event.

Of all the names nominated, 'Elizabeth II' reigned victorious in the competition, beating 'Severn Majesty', 'Valley Monarch' and 'Gloriana' to gain over a third of public support worldwide.

Throughout the process, more than 1,200 different names were submitted. 'Elizabeth II' was nominated by three separate people, who will all receive an invitation to the renaming ceremony later this year. Work has already begun on the locomotive's new purple livery at the SVR's workshops in Bridgnorth, and the railway will commission traditional metal nameplates, bearing the new name.

Michael Dunn, head of visitor experience at the Severn Valley Railway, said: "We worked with 34027's owners to decide on the final shortlist. We're thrilled that the public have chosen 'Elizabeth II' as their

winner and think this particular name proved popular because of its simplicity and its clear connection to The Queen.

“By repainting and renaming 34027, we’ve chosen a way of celebrating The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee that brings maximum impact! We’ve got plenty more surprises up our sleeve for our Platinum Jubilee celebrations over the extended Bank Holiday weekend on 2nd-5th June, so keep those eyes peeled.”

Following its livery change, the locomotive will haul Severn Valley Railway passenger services during the spring and summer. It will play a central role in the railway’s celebrations for both the Platinum Jubilee and the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

Day tickets, plus tickets for the Spring Steam Gala, the Spring Diesel Festival, and Step Back to the 1940s, can be purchased from svr.co.uk or by calling 01562 757 900.

Main Image Credit: A mock up of how Taw Valley might look in purple. Joe Connell, Trackside magazine; supplied by SVR