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THE WAYBILL



Mystic Valley Railway Society Newsletter
A Non-Profit Educational Corporation
1970-2023 53 Years of Service



credit R. Goelet

VOL. 55 NO. 1

ISSN 0897-7577 Got a question? Call us at 617-361-4445, 24 Hours • E-Mail at contactus@mysticvalleysrs.org

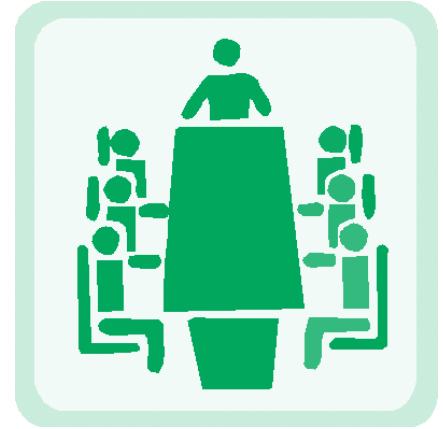
March - May 2024

www.mysticvalleysrs.org

Special Events



Annual Meeting
Thursday May 2, 2024
11:30 AM – 3:00 PM



Details on page 4

Berkshire Adventure

Sunday
April 24, 2024



Details on page 4

Day in Deerfield

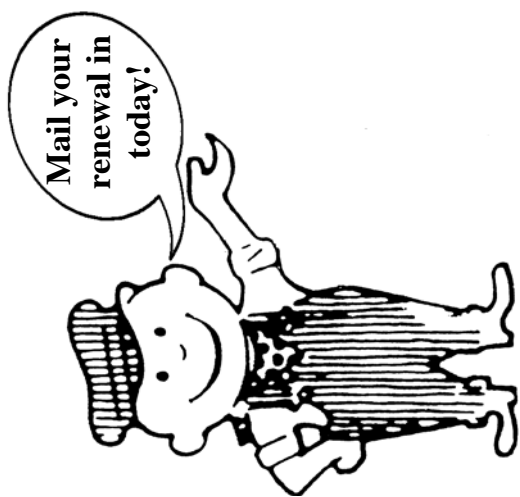
Sunday
May 19, 2024



Details on page 4

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P. O. Box 365486
Hyde Park, MA 02136-0009



Deadline for Next Issue: Wednesday May 1, 2024

Include your previous address with all address corrections

NOTICE!

Deadline
for next
issue:
Wednesday
May 1,
2024

Board of Directors 2023-2024

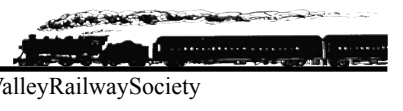
President - Theresa E. Rylko (Tracey)

Vice President -

Treasurer - Judy Berson-Hoyt

Recording Secretary - Nancy Roney

Directors:
Jeff Costello,
Nancy Juskin,
Marcia Pennington,
Gerard Sevigny



From the President - Theresa E. Rylko

Russell Rylko started this club in 1970. When He passed away in 2013, I became President to continue his dream of members volunteering together to promote trips and events for members and friends

From the Acting Vice President - Jeff Costello

Welcome! Happy New Year from Mystic Valley Railway Society! My wife and I enjoyed New Year with our granddaughters and their parents at the Cape Codder Resort and spa in Barnstable. The girls tubed down the lazy river and the water slides with lots of laughter and energy. Oh to be somewhat younger-grandparents that we are wished for. Our first event of 2024 was the nominating /photo judging event contest

to meet and have a good time. If you have a desire to volunteer and want to help your society to grow. Come to the Annual Meeting on May 1, 2024 and let your voice be heard

held at Pearl Street Station restaurant. Thanks to all the train enthusiasts who submitted the train pictures for the 2025 calendar. As the winter ends, MVRS will be planning trips for the upcoming year. Members are encouraged to offer ideas for places or events so we can plan those trips. In the meantime, I am enjoying running my trains in the family room-no rain or snow just the trains and the happy engineer and owner.

Artificial Intelligence and ChatGPT: What Is It? Are They the Same Thing?

- By Kimberly Calvi, Paralegal to Attorney Bradley C. Pinta, Pinta Law Group, LLC

“Artificial Intelligence” (commonly referred to as “AI”) is a term that describes one area of computer science. Sci-Fi films such as The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy and Pixar’s WALL-E are two examples of its introduction in pop culture. But do you know how it is used in our daily lives? In society, in general?

ating content that imitates human language, typically in response to questions. Examples of harmless questions might be: What is the distance between Boston, Massachusetts and Los Angeles, California? What are some good ideas for theme parties?

First, AI is the ability of a computer to perform tasks commonly associated with intelligent human beings. More broadly, the term AI encompasses different technological services we use every day, based on a variety of technologies.

The caution with ChatGPT, though, is that it is devoid of authenticity and discretion. Incredibly, ChatGPT is capable of generating content that is false or misleading. This is called an “AI hallucination.” Users would be wise to verify—on another platform—the information that ChatGPT delivers. One attorney used ChatGPT to cite a case that was completely fabricated. The attorney’s license to practice law was revoked. This raises concern about liability issues, complex intellectual property matters, and unregulated privacy and legal compliance, domestically and internationally, to name a few of the challenges from the development of this more recent AI product. In addition to blindly relying on it to dispense factually accurate information, another concern regarding its use is the hinderance of critical thinking.

Some examples include websites like Amazon which use what are called machine learning algorithms to generate recommendations based on a shopper’s viewing history. Apps that translate from one language to another use deep learning algorithms. And ChatGPT uses large language models (LLMs) to create text in response to a question or a comment specifically posted. In other words, AI is a broad area of computer science with several different technological applications, with ongoing development in software, hardware, and newer algorithms. Its capabilities and impact in every aspect on society is immeasurable.

However, ChatGPT is a specific tool with limited use within the AI segment of computer science. Rolled out in November of 2022, its framework is based on an enormous set of data and text, specializing in gener-

So, while the many uses of AI are for the benefit of society, as previously mentioned, ChatGPT should be used with caution until laws governing its use are further developed and established. And for many of us, this is yet another technological concept to become accustomed to in our daily lives.

Riding the Rails

By Robert A. LaMay



New Power at Dover, NH



Aclea meets Ship at Bridgeport, CT



New Track Berlin, CT



Brightline at Cocoa Beach, FL



Downeaster at Crocketts Crossing, NH



Shore Line East rolls west - at Old Saybrook, CT. Here comes Shore Line East

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

For Our 2024-2025 Membership year
The Mystic Valley year runs from April 1 - March 31



- Here's what's included:**
- Our quarterly paper, *The Waybill*, filled with pictures and schedules of RR events.
 - Exclusive members-only tours to unique activities and locations.
 - Color Railroad calendar with 12 frameable prints (while supplies last).
 - Annual Calendar Color Slide Contest for members.
 - Railroad Socials.
 - Membership card, The Mystic Valley Pass.
 - Railroad films and guest speakers available upon request.

- Membership Fees & Classes**
1. **Regular Membership** (one person) \$10
 2. **Family Membership**
Price of regular membership for one member plus \$4 per additional person living in the same house with regular member. All are full members with only one copy of every mailing mailed to the family address.
 3. **Life Membership** (one person, U.S.A. only) \$125
 4. For membership outside the U.S.A., please double the above fees (remit in U.S. currency only).
- Calendars will be mailed to all current members as stated above and not necessarily presented at time of joining (while supplies last).

PLEASE INCLUDE A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE

Mail to:
MYSTIC VALLEY RAILWAY SOCIETY, INC.
c/o Membership Committee
P.O. Box 365486, Hyde Park, MA 02136-0009
 Check here if this is an address change



For Our 2024-2025
Membership year



Got a Question:
call us at 617-361-4445 (24 hours) or online at:
www.mysticvalleysociety.org

NEW	RENEWAL
Regular Membership	\$ _____
at \$10 per person	
at \$4 per additional person	\$ _____
to the price of the regular	
Membership	
Life Membership	\$ _____
at \$125 per person (U.S.A. only)	

Tax deductible donations to a 501(c)(3) organization are gratefully accepted.
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

If you join more than once in the membership year, it will be considered a donation. Please send a SASE, a #10 business size envelope. Cards will be mailed to you in 5-6 weeks. There will be a \$20 service charge for returned checks.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Please include telephone number (with area code) _____
Email: _____
Family members (no separate mailings). Please list full names:



Lines from Ireland

November 2023 to January 2024

By James Scannell

The National Transport Authority (NTA), in partnership with bus operators Dublin Bus and Go-Ahead Ireland, commenced the next phase of BusConnects, 5b, on Sunday November 26th with the introduction of five new orbital routes across south and west Dublin, as well as three other routes. The new routes S2, S4, S6, S8, W2, L25, L55 and 74 replaced routes 17, 18, 61, 75 + 75a, 76 + 76a, and 175, but other bus services in these areas continued and will continue to operate as normal. The new routes create many new journey opportunities with more direct and more frequent services between the main travel destinations and interchanges across south Dublin. These services will also be more frequent than the ones being replaced, resulting in a service increase of over 70%.

Phase 5b routes serve areas in the southern and western regions of Dublin including Blackrock, Tallaght, Citywest, Ballyfermot, Walkinstown, Rathfarnham, Drimnagh, Churchtown, Dundrum, Liffey Valley Shopping Centre, Crumlin, Stillorgan, Monkstown, Kimmage, Sandyford, Terenure, Dún Laoghaire, and University College Dublin.

The new S2, L25 and 74 routes are operated by Dublin Bus and routes S4, S6, S8, W2 and L55 by Go-Ahead Ireland.

Minister for Transport, Éamon Ryan T.D. [Congressman] was joined by An Cathaoirleach [Leader] of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Cllr. Denis O'Callaghan, Anne Graham, CEO of the National Transport Authority, and Jim Meade, CEO of Iarnród Éireann [Irish Rail] on Tuesday November 25th to turn the first sod to mark the commencement of construction of Woodbrook, Iarnród Éireann's newest DART Station.

Woodbrook Station is located midway between Shankill 10 miles south of Dublin, and Bray, 12 miles south of Dublin, and will serve the existing and new communities of Woodbrook and Shanganagh which are adjacent to it, and will be the 147th Station on the company's network - there are currently 145 stations on the network. Kishoge will open later this year and Woodbrook in 2025.

Funded by the National Transport Authority, the station will be at the heart of a new residential community of up to 2,300 housing units. The provision of the station will reduce reliance on private car use and assist Ireland in reaching its climate action targets.

Woodbrook Station will consist of two 174 meter long platforms with associated passenger shelters, seating, lighting, CCTV, customer information, bicycle parking and ticketing facilities. Access across the railroad tracks will be via a new pedestrian bridge with ramped and stepped access. The station design considers and allows for future plans for pedestrian and cycling access routes in the station vicinity. Access to the station is via Woodbrook Avenue which is a new road currently under construction. Existing DART services are planned to serve the station with a service frequency of approximately every 10 minutes in each direction on weekdays. The journey time to Dublin city centre will be approximately 40 minutes.

Enabling works commenced on the station site in 2022. This included the replacement of an existing bridge deck to allow

construction access and the relocation of railway infrastructure to accommodate the new station. Following a competitive tender process, John Cradock Ltd. has been awarded the contract to undertake the main station construction works. The station is expected to open in summer 2025. Approximately 15 people are expected to be employed on the site for the duration of the works.

The number of passengers using the Republic of Ireland's public transport network during 2023 returned to record highs, according to preliminary figures released by the National Transport Authority with more than 308 million passenger journeys in 2023 provided by Dublin Bus, Bus Éireann, Iarnród Éireann, Luas, Go-Ahead Ireland and TFI Local Link on 'Transport for Ireland' Public Service Obligation (PSO) services last year, making it the busiest ever year for the public transport network.

The preliminary figures represent an overall 24% increase in passenger numbers during 2023 when compared with 2022, and a 5% increase above the previous record set in 2019.

Dublin Bus carried over 145 million passengers, a 20% increase on the 121 million passengers carried in 2022.

Bus Éireann served in excess of 44 million passengers, a significant increase on the 35 million passengers who used its services in 2022.

Go-Ahead Ireland's Dublin Metropolitan area bus services, served over 16 million passengers compared to 12.5 million in 2022.

Luas carried 48.2 million passengers, a 25% rise compared to 38.6 million passengers in 2022.

Preliminary figures from Iarnród Éireann show rail passenger journeys in 2023 also grew

significantly, as the post Covid recovery continues. An estimated 45.5 million passenger journeys were made by rail up from 35.8 million in 2022.

Most of the discounted Leap fares introduced in 2022, including the €2 [US\$2.25] TFI 90-minute fare in Dublin, are to remain in place, according to the National Transport Authority as announced in January. The TFI-90 €2 fare which allows passengers free transfer between Dublin Bus, Luas and most DART, commuter rail and Go-Ahead Ireland services in Dublin, has been a huge success and has contributed to the increase in passenger numbers recorded across the city's network in 2022.

Last year's strategy also announced that a Dublin City Zone and a Dublin Commuter Zone were to be introduced. The Dublin City Zone is to extend approximately 23km from the city, and broadly equates to the existing 90-minute fare zone. The Dublin Commuter Zone extending to approximately 50km from Dublin city centre will include towns such as Drogheda, Navan, Trim, Enfield, Clane, Prosperous, Newbridge, Kildare, Greystones and Wicklow.

News from Britain

Historic Signal Boxes to close

In early January Network Rail said that it would close the historic railway signal box at Par, the oldest working signal box in Cornwall, built in 1880, along with signal boxes at Lostwithiel and Truro as part of a digital upgrade. The signal boxes at Par, and Lostwithiel, built in 1893, are Grade II buildings listed by Historic England which means that they must be preserved. The fate of Truro's box is yet to be decided, but there are no immediate plans to demolish it. Truro's signal box, built in 1899, currently looks after the entire Falmouth branch line and a section of the main line from Chacewater to Probus. Signalling at Par, Lostwithiel, and Truro will be controlled centrally near Exeter St. Davids, in Devon. Due to the mechanical nature of the signal boxes, signallers physically pull 51 levers in Truro that change semaphore signals. The number of working signal boxes has been dwindling since their peak of between 12,000-13,000 around 1914. British Railways inherited about 10,000 signal boxes when it was formed in 1948 and by end of 2019, Network Rail said 86 were still in use.

HS2 to Birmingham may cost Stg £65bn

The London to Birmingham stretch of the HS2 railway could cost more than Stg £65bn in current prices, according to Sir Jonathan Thompson, CEO of the company building it due to rises in the cost of materials such as concrete and steel which over the past few years have added between Stg £8bn to Stg £10bn to the overall cost.

In October 2023 the British government cancelled the sections between the West Midlands, Manchester, and the East Midlands and now HS2 Ltd and the government disagree on the cost of building the rest. The company's latest estimate for the London to Birmingham stretch is between Stg£49bn and Stg£57bn at 2019 prices but the British government believes that it should be delivered at the lower end of Stg£45bn to Stg£54bn, estimates put together before last October's announcement. However, Sir Jonathan does not believe £45bn is possible but that the price tag might be lower without the taxpayer funding a new station at London Euston, but doubts that this would bring down the cost as much as the government stated.

Sir Jonathan has also stated that HS2 trains will travel more slowly than existing Pendolino trains when they travel on conventional tracks between Birmingham and Manchester, because they cannot tilt on bends and expects fewer seats to be available on HS2 north of Birmingham now the legs to Manchester and Crewe have been scrapped, due to trains having to be shorter to fit existing platforms. HS2 trains of the same length as the current Pendolinos would be used, but would have fewer seats.

Sir Jonathan also said HS2 was waiting for the British government to make decisions on certain aspects of the project, including the tunnel south from Old Oak Common to Euston. Development of the railway's terminus at London Euston will depend on investment from private devel-

opers, with plans to develop housing around the station but until the new station is built, HS2 will end at Old Oak Common in West London, meaning people would have to change trains to reach the capital's heart.

Death of man thought to be Burma Railway last survivor

In late January the death of 104-year old former soldier Jack Jennings, believed to be the last surviving veteran of the infamous Burma Railway, at a Torquay care home, was announced. Jennings was one of the 60,000 Allied prisoners forced by the Japanese to build a railway between Thailand and Myanmar, then Burma from 1942 to 1943. Captured on February 15th 1942 in Singapore while serving in the Cambridgeshire Regiment, he remained a prisoner of the Japanese until the end of August 1945. He survived his ordeal, and overcame a period of serious illness, to return to his childhood sweetheart Lilian Mary, whom he married in December 1945, and who died in 2004.

Stg £2bn to re-open Carmarthen to Bangor lines

Transport for Wales believes that reopening railway lines that were shut in the 1960s and have left large towns without a direct rail link would cost £2bn. Transport for Wales looked at the line between Carmarthen and Aberystwyth, Ceredigion and Afon Wen and Bangor in Gwynedd. In the view of Chief executive James Price it would be very costly to develop and difficult to implement. Under the Welsh Labour government's co-operation deal with Plaid Cymru, Transport for Wales was asked to examine how transport links between the north and south of Wales could be developed. This included a potential travel corridor along the coast from Carmarthen to Bangor, with Transport for Wales looking at re-connecting the disused rail routes between Bangor and Afon Wen - about 28 miles. Owned by the Welsh government, Transport for Wales has been responsible for train services across much of Wales since 2018.

Eurostar services suffer major disruption

Eurostar services to London, Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam were cancelled on Saturday December 30th 2023 after flooding in tunnels under the River Thames led to the cancellation of all Eurostar services to and from London for that day with services resuming on Sunday December 31st but subject to delays.

New trains launch for passengers on Scotland's Glasgow Subway

On Monday December 11th 2023 new modernized trains entered passenger service of Glasgow's subway as part of a Stg£288 upgrade program of the city's subway system. The first two trains were introduced by Strathclyde Partnership for Transport without ceremony and will run along existing services on the circular route connecting 15 stations around Glasgow with a further 17 trains gradually entering service in 2024 and will replace the current stock as they are retired from service.

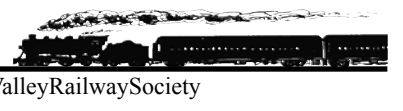
TRAIN SHOWS & EXCURSIONS

To publicize an event please mail details to Mystic Valley Railway Society -

Attn: Train Show Column, P.O. Box 365486, Hyde Park MA 02136 or else email contactus@mysticvalleys.org. Publication deadline: see page 1.

- **Sat 3/9 and Sun 3/10 (9am-4pm): 2024 Spring Open House and Model Railroad Show**, South Shore Model Railroad Club and Museum, 52 Bare Cove Park Drive, Hingham MA. Info: www.ssmrc.org/events.htm
- **Sat 3/9 (10am-4pm): 2024 Northwestern Vermont Model Railroad Association "Vermont Rails" Show**, Collins Perley Sports & Fitness Center, 890 Fairfax Road, St. Albans VT 05478. Admission: under 6 free, 6-12 \$2, over 12 \$6, family with active military ID \$6. Info: www.nwvrrailroad.org.
- **Sun 3/17 (10am-2pm): NETCA Spring Toy Train Meet**, Hudson-Concord Elks Lodge, 99 Park Street, Hudson, MA 01749. Admission: \$5, under 12 free. Info: www.netca.org/meets
- **Sat 3/23 and Sun 3/24: Greenberg Great Train and Toy Show**, Shriner's Auditorium, 99 Fordham Road, Wilmington MA. Info: www.trainshow.com/
- **Sat 4/6 (10am-3pm): Spring Great Northern New England Chapter (NoNEC) Train Show**, Dover Lodge of Elks #184, 282 Durham Rd., Dover NH 03820. Info: efminter@aol.com, 603-362-4300.

- **Sun 4/7 (9am-2pm): Model Train and Toy Show**, Classic Shows LLC, Warsaw Park, 119 Pulaski Highway Route 243, Ansonia CT. Admission: \$6, 15 & under free w/adult. Info: www.classicshowsllc.com/
 - **Sat 4/13 (9am-2pm): 2024 Southern Maine Model Railroad Club Spring Train Show**, Westbrook Community Center, 426 Bridge St., Westbrook ME 04092. Info: southernmainemrc.wordpress.com/train-show/
 - **Sat 4/27 (10am-3pm): Great Falls Model Railroad Club Show**, Mt. Ararat High School, 68 Eagles Way, Topsham ME 04086. Admission: \$5, under 12 free. Info: greatfallsmodelrrclub.org/train-shows/2024-spring-train-show/
 - **Sat 4/27 (9am-5pm) and Sun 4/28 (9am-4pm): 2024 Northeast Large Scale Train Show**, Amherst Railway Society, Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield MA 01089. Admission: \$10, under 15 free. Info: nelsts.org/
- Reminder: these listings are provided as a courtesy.
Please check all details before attending.



Railroad Boutique



A selection of gifts and unique items with a RAILROAD FLAIR
All prices US\$, including shipping & tax

- _____ 2024 N.E. Railroading Calendar, 44th edition: 14 full-color views\$8.00
- _____ RR engineer hats size Adults or Children\$9.00

CATCH ALL THE TRAINS YOU EVER MISSED

- _____ Vintage New England Railroading Calendars\$4.00 each OR 3 for \$10.00
- check desired years
- _____ 82 86 87 94 00 03 06 10 14 15 16 17 18 19
- _____ 20 21 22 23

- _____ 12 full-color frameable calendar prints of N.E. Railroading (our choice).....\$3.00
- _____ EXCLUSIVE Mystic Valley Railway Society 2" diameter sew-on cloth patch:.....\$1.50
- _____ Gold plated 1 inch train locomotive pin\$5.00
- _____ Our 50th Anniversary gold/red locomotive train pin.....\$5.00

Small train books for children from Dover Publications

- _____ Your choice from 2 sets of 3 different TITLES:3 books for \$6.00
- _____ Set 1: Famous Train Stickers, Little Train Stickers & Trains Activity Book
- _____ Set 2: Little Train Sticker Activity Book, Train Stickers & Train Station Activity Book

Thomas and Friends

- _____ Thomas and Friends Traveling Tales- 3 books in 1\$9.00
- _____ Thomas and Friends Reward Stickers 200 stickers\$3.00
- _____ Thomas and Friends Jumbo Coloring and Activity Book\$5.00
- _____ Thomas and Friends Activity Book stickers and Coloring\$3.00
- _____ Thomas and Friends 3D Coloring Book\$5.00
- _____ Thomas and Friends Trace and Learn.....\$5.00

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Ship to Name _____
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Quantities limited

Please allow 2-4 weeks delivery. Make checks payable to Mystic Valley Railway Society
 Send orders to: M.V.R.S. – MAIL ORDER, P.O. BOX 365486, Hyde Park MA 02136-0009
 (\$20 service charge applies to checks returned by the bank)

Special Events



Annual Meeting
Saturday, May 2, 2024
11:30 AM – 3:00 PM

At Pearl Street Station Restaurant
53 Summer Street
Malden MA
Fare: \$40.00

Come meet your Officers and Directors and share your ideas and thoughts for the upcoming year
This is your time to voice your opinions and vote for any changes you wish to make.

MVRS – Annual meeting Saturday May 2, 2024
 Pearl St Station Restaurant
 Buffett Luncheon – Check enclosed \$40.00 per person



Please make all checks payable to Mystic Valley Railway Society, Inc.
 Mail to MVRS, P.O. Box 365486, Hyde Park, MA 02136-0009
 Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Thank you! Sorry – NO REFUNDS

Your Name _____
 Address _____
 City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Please include your telephone Number (with area code) _____

Commuter Rail is available – driving directions will be on your itinerary

Berkshire Adventure

Sunday April 24, 2024
All For \$145.00

TRIP includes:
 Round trip motor coach
 Trip to Arrowhead (Herman Manville's house)

Lunch at the RED LION INN
 CHOICE OF
 MEATLOAF
 CHICKEN POT PIE

TRIP TO NORMAN ROCKWELL MUESUEM
 SPEND A WONDERFUL DAY IN THE BEAUTIFUL BERKSHIRES.

TIMETABLE

7:00 A.M. 7:30 A.M. 8:00 A.M.	BRAINTREE WELLINGTON RIVERSIDE	8:00 P.M. 7:30 P.M. 7:00 P.M.
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All times are approximate and subject to change



Reserve in advance – capacity limited. Please read carefully and complete all details when requesting passage. Please include FULL NAMES OF ALL IN YOUR PARTY when completing this form. Tours run rain or shine. Timetable is subject to change. NO REFUNDS.

Berkshire Adventure

Sunday April 24, 2024
All For \$145.00



Meal Choices
 MEATLOAF
 CHICKEN POT PIE

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

Name(s): _____ Phone# _____
 Address _____ Boarding Station _____
 City/Town _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Email _____
 Emergency Contact Name & Phone # _____

Please make all checks payable to: Mystic Valley Railway Society, Inc. and mail to:
 MVRS, P.O. BOX 365486, Hyde Park, MA 02136-0009. Thank you.
 Information for handicapped Accessibility will be provided upon request. Your tickets and itineraries will be mailed about 5 days prior to departure.
 Note: A service charge of \$20 will be assessed for returned checks.

Day in Deerfield

Sunday May 19, 2024
FARE: \$114.00

TRIP includes:
 Round trip motor coach

AN EXHIBIT AT FLYNT CENTER OF EARLY ENGLAND LIFE CALLED
 UNNAMED FIGURES , BLACK PRESENCE AND ABSENCE IN EARLY
 AMERICAN NORTH.

A BUFFETT LUNCH AT THE DEERFIELD INN

AND A HERITAGE SHEEP SHOW WITH RARE AND HISTORICAL BREEDS
 NOT SEEN EVERY DAY.

TIMETABLE

8:00 A.M. 8:30 A.M. 9:00 A.M.	BRINTREE WELLINGTON RIVERSIDE	7:00 P.M. 6:30 P.M. 6:00 P.M.
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All times are approximate and subject to change



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Sunday May 19, 2024

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