



CHINNOR & PRINCES RISBOROUGH RAILWAY

JOIN OUR VOLUNTEER TEAM

The Chinnor and Princes Risborough Railway is run by Volunteers. There are no paid staff, and every penny is ploughed back into the Railway. Its future depends on its Volunteers. Could you be one of them?

Here we will try to give you an idea of the range of activities needed to keep the Railway operational and explain how you can get involved.

VOLUNTEER VACANCIES

We need people in all Departments, to run and look after the Railway, and to contribute to its projects. Whether you can come along every weekend, or some other days, or just occasionally, your help is needed. Without enough Volunteers the Railway would simply not survive.

GETTING STARTED

Every Volunteer must first be a Member of the Chinnor and Princes Risborough Railway Association (C&PRRA). You will find a membership form in our Timetable Leaflet and on www.chinnorrailway.co.uk. When you apply, don't forget to tick the box about Volunteering.

The Railway runs an induction session for all new Volunteers, usually on a Saturday morning in Chinnor. Once we process your membership, we'll be in contact to arrange a date.

Please contact our Volunteer Coordinators at volunteersupport@chinnorrailway.co.uk for more information.

SAFETY

If you want to have a role which involves walking along the track, or is safety critical, you will need to have a Personal Track Safety (PTS) certificate. There is also a minimum age of 16, or 18 for operations crew. The PTS course and test are on the Saturday afternoon following the morning induction for new Volunteers. Once you have your PTS you can go 'trackside' by yourself. Beyond the PTS, the training you receive will depend on the Department(s) you wish to join and the jobs you want to do.

Our public service days are when we need station staff, on-board stewards and train crew, and are usually at weekends. Much of the engineering and maintenance take place on specific days of the week.

After the Induction Course and PTS training, Volunteer Support will match new Volunteers to one or more of our Departments – read on for outlines of what they do.



OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT

This is obviously the high-profile activity as far as our visitors are concerned. The Department provides all the crew for steam and diesel trains and the signal boxes and line. If you have previous railway experience, we can discuss how you will progress. You will start your training in Operations as a crossing keeper. This gives a chance to play a part and to see how the Railway operates, absorbing its safety procedures and culture. You will then be able to decide how you want to progress through the grades from there.

For safety reasons you may be asked to attend a medical examination to make sure you are fit and safe for the job you are to do.

Steam Loco Crew

Starting in a 'Steam Support' role you can assist the Driver and Fireman in preparing and cleaning the locomotives, then look after watering and coaling through the day, and assist with the disposal of the locomotive when operations finish. At the same time, you will learn about the workings of a steam locomotive. You will also need to train as a shunter and a secondman, because you will need these skills to progress to the next step: Fireman.

Managing the boiler and fire is just part of the Fireman's task; the role is also to assist the Driver in every aspect of the job. That includes learning the line, its gradients, locations and signals; and gradually acquiring the knowledge and skills you will need to pass your own Driver's exam on diesel first and then steam.