

Friends' Web Site Report on Completion

Our new web site is now live. It retains the original address of www.sdr1825.org.uk.

It is a more modern looking web site and it conforms to current standards relating to accessibility and security. It can be used on desk tops, tablets or mobiles.

Images on the site are from members and Facebook followers as well as being sourced from our archives.

The site has the capacity to grow and we can add new archives, publications, merchandise and enhance our Community Museum.

The web site is fairly large so that it can fulfil several roles.

1. ABOUT

It promotes the Friends and the work that we do. Information about Trustees, our constitution and charitable objectives can be found here and ensure that there is transparency about how we work. Our partners are listed at the foot of the first page to show who we work with and adds credibility to our work. The JOIN button is visible throughout the site. There is also a countdown clock to 27th September 2025 – we will take this down when we get there.

2. JOIN

It encourages people to join in several places and highly visible buttons will take potential members to the relevant page to do so.

3. EXPLORE

It signposts people to other places such as Locomotion, Head of Steam and Preston Park. It also makes available all our walks booklets as free downloads (or to purchase from the shop)

4. EVENTS

It has a page devoted to events. This will be the go-to place for events, although if they are open to all, we will continue to promote them through social media. Events can be found by scrolling through the list in date order, or by viewing a calendar or by searching on dates. This slows people to plan their visit for example around holiday dates.

Please send me any events that you think should be listed. I'll need dates, times, cost and a general description.

5. NEWS

It has another page devoted to latest news. Please send me newsy items as soon as you have them. Photos are welcome too

6. CONTENT MANAGEMENT

It is also a content management system providing an increasingly valuable resource for people wishing to carry out research or learn more about the S&DR. This is divided into:

COMMUNITY MUSEUM with ARTEFACTS OF THE S&DR, PEOPLE OF THE S&DR and ARCHIVES OF THE S&DR as three sub headings.

👉 Artefacts is a bit thin but we'll gradually fill it up with objects and railwayana belonging to members.

👉 Archives consists of material transcribed by members, newspaper clippings that are out of copyright, the John Proud Collection (excluding anything that is copyright someone else). We will add to this in due course. I've started a Dennis Ibbetson Collection.

👤 People of the S&DR – this is a list of people who have had some connection and a biography of them. Many of the articles by Brendan Boyle are to be found here on John Carter or Martha Howson.

7. ONLINE LIBRARY

This is a library of publications and grey literature that might be of interest to people and which is available digitally and without copyright issues. Again, we can expand this over time.

8. SHOP

It has a shop which allows anyone to join and pay by debit card or to purchase our walks booklets, back copies of The Globe and merchandise from the Royal George collection.

9. MEMBERS' AREA

This will house minutes, agendas and the latest version of The Globe for paid up members. If we are able to negotiate offers, events etc we can put them here. It can only be accessed by password. Members should have been sent the password for this year coming, but if not, please get in touch.

Training

We need people to learn how to add and edit content to the web site. It cannot be left to me. However, I appreciate that amongst the Trustees there seems little interest in doing this. So, I have banked the training from our web designer, Lisa Johnson, for the moment in the hope that we can recruit new members willing to take this on.

Snagging

As the site is used, it is possible that we will uncover glitches. If it is simple I can deal with it. If it is more tricky, we have 12 months of support from Lisa. Just send me a note of any glitches.

CHH Sept 2021