

## **Editor's/Webmaster's report July 2022**

### **The Globe**

The next Globe is due out this month. Thank you to everyone who contributed. If all has gone to plan there are articles about the inclines, the Gaunless Bridge, a water fountain at North Road Station, transcriptions from historic newspapers about the use of locomotives on the S&DR and a list of forthcoming events and consultations.

A reminder to members that you can opt to have either a digital copy or a hard copy when you join or renew your membership.

### **The web site**

On the web site, hopefully we will soon be selling the new Yarm branch book from our online shop. <https://www.sdr1825.org.uk/store/>

We have also agreed to sell the new CD of railway music from Citizen Songwriters called 'Cradle of the Railways'. This will be on sale later this month and will help to raise funds for the Friends. You can find out more about this CD featuring familiar faces and voices and especially written songs recorded at Shildon's Railway Institute. Listen to samples here: <https://www.citizensongwriters.org/cradleoftherailways>

In June we had 9 orders for new membership via the web site (some of which was joint memberships) and we also sold a complete set of walks booklets and a Globe. Our web site doesn't sell to countries outside the UK but we have been asked to post another set of walks booklets to Germany which is in hand.

As usual we have also had web enquiries from people carrying out research into historic figures associated with the S&DR. One came from a ranch in the Sacramento, California which was part of a much larger area owned by William Henry Dixon from that talented family of surveyors from Cockfield. The ranch's current owners are setting up a museum in an old barn of his dedicated to William and his brother Henry. I was able to put the ranch owners in touch with Jonathan Peacock who curated an exhibition about the Dixons at the Bowes Museum to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the start of the drawing of the Mason Dixon line. Emails and phone calls followed and hopefully we will hear more about this museum soon. (As an aside, Jonathan was able to confirm that Thomas Dixon who carried out the survey for the S&DR 1839-40 and Darlington Town, was NOT a member of the Cockfield Dixon family of surveyors!).

We have had another enquiry from someone doing family history and in doing so, have discovered a relative who worked for the S&DR. Hopefully we will be able to put them in touch with other distant relatives and more information will follow about some of the less well-known S&DR workers.

Other enquiries have been about general Friends' work this month and planning matters.

A reminder that current consultations on the review of the scheduled areas of the two inclines, the revised listing of the Brusselton engine house and engineman's houses and the Darlington Rail Heritage Quarter Conservation Management Plan can all be found on the news pages of the web site: <https://www.sdr1825.org.uk/latest-news/>

If anyone would like to take over the running of the web site, I'd be delighted to hear from them. Some basic IT skills and access to a PC or laptop are essential, but we have funding in place for training in how to edit and create content for the web site, so no previous experience required in web site management.

## **S&DR Music**

I had a meeting earlier this week with Tees Valley Music Service about getting schools involved in generating the musical backdrop to the S&DR celebrations. More on this later.

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