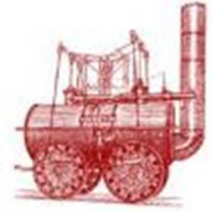


Friends of the Stockton & Darlington Railway.
WWW.SDR1825.org.uk. Registered Charity 1177252



Chair's Report/activity for September 2023

Dear Friends,

September as ever is a busy month for the S&DR with a number of events and initiatives leading up to celebrating the S&DR's birthday on the 27th. This year, the 198th was marked by a number of things. Firstly an excellent S&DR Fair at Locomotion, Shildon on the 23/24th with heritage groups and railway traders. Thanks go to our member George Morton for organising this, to all those volunteers who manned stalls and talked to the public and sold our publications, and to all the staff at Locomotion for helping it happen. On the 27th itself we were again at Locomotion for a lecture by Dr Michael Bailey and Peter Davidson on their long-awaited in-depth study of Locomotion No.1. (report available very soon), followed by a visit to the ever welcoming George and Cindy Alderslade at St Helen Railway Station for an excellent tea, cake and wine birthday party for the S&DR (and we survived Storm Agnes!).

Cait Barratt the 'S&DR Heritage & Community Participation Manager' has now opened the S&DR community Fund for applications, grants of a few hundred to a few thousand pounds and which are available over the next 4 years to help people celebrate and conserve the S&DR, If you have an idea then get in touch with Cait and she will provide initial feedback on your idea and if it fits the community grant objectives encourage you to submit an application. Ideas can be submitted to Cait on the following email address s&drcommunitygrantsscheme@darlington.gov.uk

No news since last month on our proposed bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund for development funding as yet, we're still waiting for a costed proposal and timetable to take this forward with financial support from Durham, Darlington and Stockton Councils. This is becoming more urgent and needs to see progress before Christmas.

Last week on behalf of the Friends, I finally signed the transfer and contract documents to acquire the former S&DR coal depot at Fighting Cocks after some significant scrutiny of documents over several years (thank to you to trustees and especially Ross Chisholm). Working with Middleton St George Parish Council and other partners we'll now be arranging a public meeting in late October/November to garner support and discuss how we take forward all of our 'heritage hub' ideas for Fighting Cocks, a date will be published as soon as we know.

As ever no month goes by without attending plenty of meetings to lobby for our cause, and this month I've liaised with colleagues at Durham CC, chaired the Rail Heritage Board in the absence of Reuben Kench the usual chair, and met with councillors in Darlington to discuss Edward Pease's House and Northgate.

Finally great news this month from Historic England, that they have now listed the Railway Tavern on Northgate in Darlington at Grade II and upgraded the former Heighington Station to Grade II*. These, along with the St John's Well Railway buildings at Stockton, were the S&DRs first attempt at building railway facilities for passengers and depot users, in effect the world's first if simple railway stations. Getting all three listed (and at a high grade), again reflects the crucial roll the S&DR played in creating the modern railway. Thanks go in particular to Eric Brance-Instone at Historic England and to Caroline Hardie and our late member Brendan Boyle without whom none of this would have happened...do call in at the Railway Tavern and raise a glass to him.

**Chair, Friends of the S&DR CIO, Marian Cottage, Lartington, Barnard
Castle, Co. Durham, DL12 9BP.**

Email: chair@sdr1825.org.uk

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2025 Planning.

Following our contribution of research and guidance towards the construction of the replica Locomotion train for 2025, the first waggon has now been tested at Beamish and a small snagging list of technical and historical detail developed. We're now contributing to the replica passenger carriage 'Experiment' referred to in 1825 as 'elegant' and fitted with carpets and glass windows, certainly not the wooden shed shown in later drawings! This new replica will hopefully do justice to the 1825 aspirations of the S&DR directors. The carriage and waggons are being built by North Bay Engineering in Darlington and hidden within the historic exteriors are modern braking systems and running gear. I hope to talk about rebuilding Experiment and give members an update at our AGM on 28th October.

Following the Festival Director for 2025 Niccy Halifax talking at our last meeting and fielding questions from members, we've continued a healthy dialogue with Niccy and contributed several fantastic images from our members to the publicity for the new SDR200 festival website which you can find here <https://www.sdr200.co.uk/> . This has included an excellent day out walking the Durham stretch of the line between Witton Park and Heighington with Reuben Kench (Rail Heritage Board Chair), Niccy Halifax (2025 Festival Director), Richie Starrs (S&DR Project Delivery Officer) and Cait Barrett (S&DR Heritage and Community Officer), looking at the walking cycling route, interpretation sites and places for large gatherings in September 2025. Thanks to John Raw and George Alderslade and The Canteen at Shildon for lunch. Niccy is still looking for locations for murals and look at using local and nationally known artists. If you know of, or even own sites where murals can be placed, do let me know.

As mentioned previously we are aware of a significant area of area concern relating to the perceived lack of live steam events for 2025. While we are reassured there will be the three-day journey of the 1975 replica Locomotion and a series of events at Shildon and Darlington Museums, it seems unlikely there will be a cavalcade of steam engines along the Network Rail Line. We have recently been told of a new initiative which may deliver some form of gathering of steam engines locally and once we have some firm news will be only too happy to report this.

Nationally Lord Peter Hendy and Network Rail are delivering what they are calling RAIL200, firmly stamping this as the 200th anniversary of passenger travel (please note L&MR 😊). Clearly the S&DR and L&MR are both key developments in railways, but Network Rail have chosen to mark 2025 nationally as the year when the modern railway began. You can read about RAIL200 here <https://www.networkrail.co.uk/stories/all-aboard-railway-200/> .

As ever I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at monthly meetings and events, but please do drop me a line if you want to discuss anything else S&DR related. If you are contacting me, then please note I have a new address for S&DR business which is Chair@sdr1825.org.uk Due to personal commitments I may not make it to the October Friends meeting, in which case I leave you in the capable hands of our Vice Chair Alan Townsend.

All the best.
Niall Hammond,
Chair,
Friends of the S&DR. 28/09/2023.

**Chair, Friends of the S&DR CIO, Marian Cottage, Lartington, Barnard
Castle, Co. Durham, DL12 9BP.**

Email: chair@sdr1825.org.uk

Planning Officer's Report; S&DR Friends Meeting 5 October 2023

Any further updates or new applications will be reported at the meeting. Otherwise, this report will be taken as read unless members have comments or questions to raise. Decisions and new applications are highlighted in red.

1 DURHAM COUNTY

k DM/22/01891/FPA Craggwood Holiday Park proposed extension

Nothing further to report since last month

l DM/23/00486/FPA Proposed Bluestone Solar Panel Farm, High Lands, Cockfield

Nothing further to report since last month

n DM/22/03739/FPA New wall etc at Northern Metal Recycling. Hackworth Industrial Park, Shildon

As reported to last month's meeting, Council officers have confirmed that the hedge has to be removed and that the applicant, Mr Bell, will be responsible for submitting the mural design for approval and for paying for its installation. However, there is disagreement over the removal of the hedge, the ownership boundary and the precise location of the former incline.

p DM/23/01151/FPA Change of use from agricultural land to private garden; Land North Of Chapel House Phoenix Row

Nothing further to report since last month

2 DARLINGTON BOROUGH

f 21/00529/FUL Residential development by Story Homes of 260 no. dwellings on Land To The West & South Of Station Road Station Road MIDDLETON ST GEORGE

Further to previous reports, revised plans have been submitted. The updated Planning Statement refers to the non-designated heritage asset of the former Fighting Cocks pub and confirms that a developer contribution will be made. I will ask for information about the amount and on what the contribution is to be spent. Previous information was that this would be paid to the Friends to assist implement the proposals of the Heritage Hub projects.

i 23/00186/CON Details for the Head of Steam Station Building

Nothing further to report since last month.

m 21/01353/FUL Site of Former Corus Works (East Site) Whessoe Road

Nothing further to report since last month.

o 22/00213/FUL Installation of a solar farm on land north of Burtree Lane

Still nothing to report on the details for information displays and the walking and cycling route

p 22/01342/FULE Greater Faverdale (Burtree Garden Village)

Nothing further to report since last month.

t 23/00216/RM1 Reserved matters approval for landscaping etc pursuant to outline planning permission 19/00036/OUT for industrial etc development west of The A66 Bypass and south of Tornado Way.

Nothing further to report since last month.

u 23/00367/FUL Expansion of MJ's Cake Café at 15 Station Terrace, Middleton St George.

As reported to last month's meeting, **the application was approved** at the Planning Applications Committee on 6th September.

I sent an email sent to owner regarding the S&DR Walking and Cycling Route and the proposals of the Heritage Hub with an invitation to be involved, but I have received no response to date.

v 23/00694/FUL Erection of 2 aircraft hangars for maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) use, new access road to the airport train station, etc. Land north of the runway Teesside Airport.

Further to last month's report, the Council's Transport Policy Officer has commented;

It is stated in the Transport Statement that there is going to be a 22 space car park, including 4 electric vehicle charge points. A sustainable transport contribution will be sought for this development site in line with the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which will be based on £200 per car parking space. This contribution will be used to enhance the walking and cycling routes in the vicinity of the development. In particular to try to improve access from Dinsdale Railway Station to the development and also to improve the walking and cycling route between the airport and Stockton as part of the Stockton and Darlington Railway walking and cycling route.

Network Rail have confirmed that Teesside Airport Station has not closed and remains open (although no trains stop there!).

w 23/00632/OUT | Outline planning application for the erection of 3 no. units for industrial/business/storage and distribution use, with associated office floorspace (Use Class B2/B8/E(g)(i) together with infrastructure and landscaping works. Land At Lingfield Point. Darlington

Nothing further to report since last month.

3 STOCKTON BOROUGH

b 23/0061/REM Details for phases 3-9 for the creation of new urban Park etc at Castlegate.

We await the submission of details of all artworks, heritage details and interpretation signage artworks, as required by condition 6 of the planning permission.

e 23/1201/FUL Eaglescliffe station car park

Nothing further to report since last month.

j : 23/1340/LA Extensions etc at Preston Hall Museum

Nothing further to report since last month.

k Durham Lane Cycleway

Thanks to trustee Barry Thompson who alerted me to a Borough Council consultation that he attended about a proposed cycleway along Durham Lane linking the A66 at the Elton junction and Yarm. The former S&DR Yarm Branch ran along Durham Lane south from Allens West station but the consultation material was short on detail and made no reference to it or the impact the work might have on any hidden remains of the branch. I submitted the following comments on behalf of the Friends;

'How will the work affect the site of the 1825 Yarm Branch of the S&DR which ran along Durham Lane? This is protected by policy HE3 in the Stockton Local Plan. The work should include signs explaining that the Railway once ran here.

There should be a connection at Allen's West with the proposed S&DR Walking and Cycling Route.

Reuben Kench can provide you with information about this.'

Reuben Kench is Chair of the Rail Heritage Board and a senior officer at The Borough Council and Niall Hammond will be raising the apparent lack of co-ordination with him.

l 23/1730/FU L Application of render to the existing single storey extension to include removal of 1no window and 1no door, replacement of 1no window and 1no door and installation of 1no roof lantern and other ancillary works. Layfield House, Urlay Nook Road, Eaglescliffe.

The application to render the c20 extension to this Grade 2 Listed Building and to block up a doorway and window may not be contentious but the design of the widened doorway to the kitchen shows no regard to the appearance of the original windows elsewhere on the building (see proposed elevations below). This could be remedied by giving the individual glass panes a vertical emphasis by removing alternate horizontal glazing bars. The specification for the type and colour of the render has not been supplied.



 STADENFELL ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES LTD <small>01223 81 19 88</small>	
PROJECT	CLIENT
LAYFIELD HOUSE, WARR	V. LITTLE
DATE/NO	SCALE
PROPOSED ELEVATIONS	1:100 @ A1 1000x1414
PROJECT NO.	DATE
PLANNING	02-09-23

Ross Chisholm, Planning Officer, 30/09/2023

Membership Report – 02 October 2023

Fees & Donations: - To date (from 27 September 2022 to 26 September 2023):-
Ordinary Members - £2818.60 (including donations of £443.25)
Corporate Members - £999.10
Total - £3817.70

Membership as of 26 September 2023

Membership – **230**.

Members on Facebook – **30.87 %**

Corporate Members – **20**

Membership as of 02 October 2023

Membership renewal invitations/reminders have been issued to all members, mostly via email but for several members via the Royal Mail.

We are asking all members to pay their fees via **Standing Order** as this saves me a massive amount of work each year.

There will be a few members who cannot set up a **Standing Order** but for anyone with a bank account you will have **Standing Orders** to pay for various items – Gas, Electricity, Water Rates, Council Tax, etc. so why not add another **Standing Order** to save me a large amount of unnecessary work.

Despite issuing renewal invitations and reminders to all members I have not had any response from:

57 Individual Members and 9 Corporate Members.

For any members who are not renewing could you please let me know and I will delete from our membership database.

For any member who does not renew their membership by the end of October I will delete them from our membership database.

Thank you.

Peter Bainbridge
Membership Secretary
02.10.2023

BIG Report

BIG continue to maintain two short sections of the original line, one at Brusselton and the other in New Shildon. At this second site a weeding and tidying event took place on 16th September. Just down from this section D C C sub-contractors have started working on part of the cycling and walking route along the former works entrance running parallel with Station Street.

The groups next meeting and their A G M will be taking place on Saturday 7th from 10.15 in the former Whistle Stop Cafe Redworth Road New Shildon.

John Raw



Photograph from the clean up event on the 16th September.