

Editor's Report

The Globe

The next Globe is due out in July 2024, so I am looking for contributions by the end of June. You can send them in as soon as you like however. If you are thinking of submitting something, ask me for the Guidance Notes for Contributors. This will save a lot of time when it comes to preparing The Globe and means you are less likely to be asked to make changes.

S&DR Podcasts

The first S&DR podcast went live on the 27th February. One will be published on the 27th of each month. The first one concentrated on the Opening Day of the S&DR. The section on Stars of the S&DR looked at civil engineer Thomas Storey. I need constant information on events and news please. If you'd like to be a guest on the podcast, please get in touch. More voices makes the podcast more interesting. You can join me in Shildon where we do the recording, we can chat on site or I can chat with you via phone, so you don't need to be local to take part.

If you haven't listened yet you can do so by clicking here:

<https://talesfromtherails.podbean.com/e/the-opening-day/>. The podcast lasts about 45 minutes, but you can pause anytime, or download so you can listen to in the car.

The next podcast (27th March) will be on just why the S&DR is so important.

S&DR Coffee Table Book

We have decided to delay seeking subscribers for the coffee table book until late April as the Save Heighington Station campaign has been rather all consuming.

We plan to ask subscribers to buy a copy in advance and in return they can be listed as a subscriber at the beginning (with another section for In Memory of....subscribers) and their copies will be numbered and signed. Details on how you can become a subscriber will be issued to all Friends before the end of April and put on our web site.

S&DR Music

Our application for funding to the S&DR Community Grant Scheme is *still* awaited. This was to produce authentically sounding music as played in 1825 on the Opening Day and which will be freely available to anyone who wishes to use it at their events. The grant panel it was supposed to go to in February was postponed and that had also been postponed.

Save Heighington @ Aycliffe Lane Station

Our new web pages for our Save Heighington Station campaign produced by Jonathan, Niall and myself went live in the last month, along with links to the Just Giving donations page and an online petition. The Just Giving page is an easy way for people to make donations from anywhere in the world and was compiled by Jonathan. The petitions page is a valuable tool in displaying community support for the project – vital when we come to apply for grant aid. This means that there are two different ways to support us and signing the petition costs nothing.

Publicity for our campaign took off with the article by Chris Lloyd in Echo Memories printed on the 24th February. This triggered interest from other media outlets in this country and abroad. So far, I am aware of, or have been interviewed for, coverage in BBC Look North, BBC Radio Tees, the Daily Telegraph, Daily Express, Guardian, The Washington Post for the USA and The Moncrieff Show in Ireland, and Rail Advent (web site). Channel 5 will be

covering it on the 5th March. Jonathan Ratcliffe is currently sending out the press release which Chris Lloyd helped us to prepare to all railway magazines. We have also promoted the campaign to railway Facebook pages; the Disused Stations page appears to be generating most interest.

The donations at the time of writing (3rd March) have reached £4,339 from 142 supporters which equates to just over 4% of our target. This is a wonderful spread of generosity from these supporters and the amount is slowly increasing even as I write this report.

Of particular interest is the correspondence arising from people who have seen the publicity. We have been sent a huge range of material including, memories (site of a proposal!), photographs (a childhood at the station), blogs (working at the pub), songs (yes, really!) and a video (by our chums Lonely Tower and Media), but most of all best wishes for our campaign and a sadness that it is necessary.

We now have leaflets promoting the campaign. I'll bring some with me to the monthly meeting and if you can think of anyone with money to spare who'd like to boost our donations, please grab a leaflet and wave it under their nose.

If you'd like to find out more about our campaign to save the world's oldest railway station, why not join us at our Heighington History Day on the 9th March, at St. Michael's Church, Heighington, 2-4.30pm. You can register by visiting our web site at www.sdr1825.org.uk and click on the [events tab](#).

You can donate here: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/save-heighington-station>

Our dedicated web page is here: <https://www.sdr1825.org.uk/save-heighington-station/> along with a link to our petition.

Our Save Heighington Facebook page is here: <https://www.sdr1825.org.uk/save-heighington-station/>

Webmaster's Report

Since our last meeting (until 3rd March) we have sold 15 products bringing in £160.23, the bulk of these have been renewal of memberships. Don't forget that we have a number of publications including second hand books for sale in our [online shop](#).

There was a flurry of sales of the Bob Hattersley maps in early February then they stopped. So a reminder that you can buy his lovely maps of the S&DR at our web site shop. They are A3 sized and printed on to art quality paper and cost £9.00 ex P&P.

<https://www.sdr1825.org.uk/product/map-stockton-darlington-railway-hattersley/>

I have now put A3 prints up for sale on the web site of John Dobbin's Opening Day of the S&DR. These were kindly donated by Darlington Borough Council and can be bought for £6 each here: <https://www.sdr1825.org.uk/product/print-opening-day-of-the-stockton-darlington-railway-dobbin/>

S&DR Costumes

I have had a meeting with dress maker Jennifer Frost and Niccy Hallifax, the Festival Director, regarding the costs and practicalities of having authentic period costumes made for 2025. Hopefully we will get some indication of costs before long.

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