

FRIENDS OF SOWERBY BRIDGE RAILWAY STATION

BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO SOWERBY BRIDGE RAILWAY STATION

NEWSLETTER 12 (JUNE 2014)



WANTED

GARDENERS
YOUNG OR OLD.
EXPERIENCED OR
NOVICE

If you've a few hours to spare and want to help your local railway station go for **Gold** at this year's Yorkshire in Bloom we need your help.

In return we offer a warm welcome and a chance to meet like minded people and make new friends.

See inside for more.....

Contact us: Tel: 07850 822590. Email: fofsbrs@gmail.com
Visit us at www.friendsofsbrs.org.uk

Appeal for gardening help...

This quarter sees us reaching out to you, our local residents and businesses for help to take our gardening initiatives to the next level. With the upcoming annual Yorkshire in Bloom competition and the planned launch of the station's Bronte Garden, we are looking for new 'friends' to join us and realise our ambitions over the coming months

Our regular 'work together' sessions provide a great opportunity to get involved in your local community. Perhaps you're retired and have a few hours to spare, or you could be a local business looking to motivate your staff with a community support event, whatever your story, **WE WANT YOU!**



To find out how you can get involved, just contact Chris at the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms (648285), or come along to our next "Work Together Session" at the Station from 6.30pm on **Wednesday, 18 June 2014.**

Major Planting Evening...



On Wednesday, 18 June we'll be replacing the flowers and plants in the many tubs and planters positioned around the station and its platforms. We'll also be focussing on the new Bronte Garden and planting varieties specially sourced for this dedicated area, including Phlox, Foxgloves, Lilies, Poppies and Forget-me-nots – all of which are mentioned in the various Bronte novels.

It promises to be a busy and eventful evening, whatever the weather so why not come along and join in the fun, we guarantee a friendly welcome.

Official Opening of The Bronte Garden...

2.00pm on Saturday, 30 August 2014.

Keep the date and join us at the station to celebrate the official unveiling of the town's very own 'Bronte Garden'.

We hope to have a well-known personality to open the garden, supported by local press. The Friendly Band will also be performing.



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Planter Sponsorship update...

So far, our 2014 campaign has seen 7 local companies show their continued support by renewing their planter sponsorship and we welcome 4 new sponsors this year - see Acknowledgements section for more details of our sponsors. This gives us sixteen planters for the 2014-15 gardening year and a great investment by local businesses. For sponsorship details email John Hartley at jhagardener@googlemail.com.

Coach Trip... Sunday, 31st August The Late Summer Gala at The Llangollen Railway in North Wales

Following our successful and enjoyable trip to the Dales Food and Drink Festival at Leyburn, and ride on the Wensleydale Preserved Railway in May, we are now planning ahead for our next outing. For more details and to reserve your place, please email jim.milner@tiscali.co.uk



Former Sowerby Bridge Railway Station workers Harold G M Wainwright (1933 -)

Harold joined British Railways on 18 March 1954 and he became a well-known figure on the Calder Valley Line in the early 1960s.

On 7 December 1960 (three weeks before his 28th birthday) Harold was appointed as Station Master at Mytholmroyd. At that time the

station was much busier than it is today; as well as commuters and other passengers, it also handled regular freight and parcels traffic, including prolific quantities of Thornbers day old chicks.

In early 1962 Harold was also asked to assume control of Luddendenfoot Station and he was Station Master there until its closure on Sunday 9 September 1962. As Harold states "Branwell Bronte was the first Station Master at Luddendenfoot and I have the dubious honour of being the last". Harold spent his time between the two stations; during the day he was at Mytholmroyd and in the evening he attended to the administration at Luddendenfoot.

After a short period at Healey Mills, Harold returned to the Calder Valley on 1 June 1964 as Station Master at Sowerby Bridge and remained in the role for approximately seven months. At the time there were impressive gardens at the station, but British Railways didn't provide funds to maintain them. The funds for new plants and gardening equipment were obtained by 'acquiring' a fairly large quantity of rusty cast iron drain piping (that had been left in the sidings by the Engineer's Department) and selling it to a local scrap metal merchant.

Harold has many fond memories of his time in the Calder Valley and he particularly remembers the 13 April 1962 when he became the Calder Valley Open Snooker Champion and, in the same evening, his wife gave birth to his first child, Janet. Harold retired in March 1993 after 39 years' railway service. He currently resides in Derby and is a Life Member of The Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Date	Event
Tue 10 Jun	Open 'Committee' Meeting. 7.30-8.30pm. Meet at JRR*
Wed 18 Jun	Major Planting Evening. 6.30pm at JRR*
Tue 8 July	Open 'Committee' Meeting. 7.30-8.30pm. Meet at JRR*
Wed 16 July	Work Together session. 6.30pm onwards. Meet at JRR*
Tue 12 Aug	Open 'Committee' Meeting. 7.30-8.30pm. Meet at JRR*
Wed 20 Aug	Work Together session. 6.30pm onwards. Meet at JRR*
Sat 30 Aug	Official Opening of the Bronte Garden. 2pm at the Station
Sun 31 Aug	Coach trip to Llangollen . 8.30am at JRR*. Pre-Book your place.
Tue 9 Sept	Open 'Committee' Meeting. 7.30-8.30pm. Meet at JRR*

*Venue: JRR = Jubilee Refreshment Rooms at Sowerby Bridge Railway Station

Work Together Days vary and may involve weeding, tidying up the station, planting or watering the flower boxes etc. If you enjoy a bit of cultivating and have a few hours to spare, please join us. Just ask for Chris at the Jubilee Rooms on the station.

Open 'Committee' Meetings are held monthly and the group discusses general updates on its activities and progress. Why not come and see what we're all about. You'll receive a warm welcome. Just ask for Chris.

Acknowledgements ...

THANKS .. To ACoRP for their continued support (and for funding 3 additional replica totems now in place in the station underpass). Also to new sponsors Martin Moore & Company (Elland), Roosters Brewery Ltd (Knaresborough), Mallinsons Brewing Company (Huddersfield), and The Jubilee Refreshment Rooms, and previous years' renewing sponsors (so far) : Rosehill Polymers Ltd., Abram Pulman & Sons Ltd., Smith Solicitors LLP (Halifax), Shire Cruisers, Ye Olde Oak Foods, Window Cleaning Services (Halifax) and Reece-Jones Consulting Ltd.

Also thanks to TESCO for the foyer event on 26/4/14 and for the donation of raffle prizes for our recent Coach Trip, and to Geoff Stewart for his donation of a quantity of quality railway books.

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