

Sowerby Bridge people and events



The Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station are busy working on our latest project aimed at creating interest and pride in the town, and also improving the station environment for the benefit of local rail users and visitors to the town. The project involves the provision of Information Boards; 30 have already been produced and 28 of these are now installed on the station platforms. The other 2 boards are to be positioned in the Bronte Garden. All but one of the boards are A1 size (84cm x 60cm) and give details of either **“person(s) of note” with a connection to Sowerby Bridge (and surrounding villages) or an interesting event in the town’s past.** The odd one out is a larger board, positioned centrally on Platform 2, which lists the names of the railwaymen employed locally by the former Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway Company who sacrificed their lives in the Great War 1914 – 1918. This first batch of boards has been funded by the Community Development Foundation. Additional funding has also been awarded by ACoRP which will enable another 6 boards to be added in the forthcoming weeks.

The boards have been researched by our members, and we hope that they prove interesting and informative to all who read them. We invite feedback and comment, and also suggestions regarding possible further topics for inclusion in the future. See overleaf for a full list of the people and events currently featured. Sowerby Bridge Library is hosting a promotional display (4 July-24 July) to coincide with the Information Boards appearing on the station.

Information Boards

PEOPLE: Sir Norman Howard Bottomley, Henry Briggs, Branwell Bronte, Sir Paul Elmore Oliver Bryan, Tom Foy, Joseph Greenwood, Roger Hargreaves, Douglas Houghton, Vera Houghton, Glyn Hughes, William Lang, Walter Scott Lees, Joseph Riley, Lt Col Gerard Chipchase Roberts, John Tillotson, Sally Wainwright, Frederick Edward Walton, John Whiteley, Walter Widdop.

EVENTS: The Battle of Sowerby Bridge, The coming of the Railway, When Mallard came to town, Sowerby Bridge Canals, Sowerby Bridge Detention Barracks, Sowerby’s Doodlebug, HMS Unsparring, Submarine crew visits Sowerby Bridge, Gardening at Sowerby Bridge Railway Station.

OTHER: Local employees of the L&YRy who sacrificed their lives in WW1, Sowerby Bridge Stationmasters.

2015-2016 Station Planter Sponsorship

We are pleased to welcome and thank new planter sponsors this year: Dugdale Ltd, and (a personal sponsorship) David Harriott.

At the time of writing 10 of our sponsors from last year have already renewed their planter sponsorship for 2015-2016, and we thank them for their continued support:-

Kate Clarke (Portrait Artist /Illustrator), Jubilee Refreshment Rooms, Martin Moore & Co., Reece-Jones Consulting Ltd., Roosters Brewery Ltd., Rosehill Polymers, Shire Cruisers, Smith Solicitors LLP, Window Cleaning Services, Ye Olde Oak Foods.

A number of planters are still available for new sponsors, details below:-

Sponsorship cost for 12 months:	Semi-circular fence planter	£50
	Rectangular planter	£100
	Large half barrel	£150

To sponsor a planter simply email: jhagardener@googlemail.com

Coach Trip, Sunday 4th October – Great Central Railway, Autumn Steam Gala, Loughborough, Leicestershire.

Our coach will depart from Sowerby Bridge Railway Station at 8.30am for a day out at the Great Central Railway’s Autumn Steam Gala at Loughborough.

Ticket prices are £15.50 adult, £6.00 child (10% discount for members or sponsors).

Everyone is welcome to join this trip. For further details or to book your seat please call at the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms or contact Jim Milner – jim.milner@tiscali.co.uk

(A deposit of £10.00 secures a seat on the coach. Please book early to avoid disappointment.)

Can anyone help with the transportation of a storage container? – Approx. 8ft. x 8ft. x 8ft. and weighing over 1 ton. We need to move it from Bolton Brow to the Railway Station. If you can help, please get in touch.

Station Gardens update...

Recent additions to the Bronte Garden include a stone bird bath and a “hedgehog house”. Also a number of bird nesting boxes and feeders have been provided, a couple in the Bronte Garden and others in the trees along the whole length of the car park. A “solitary bee-hive” and bat box have now been installed in the Station Road Garden.



Planters and half-barrels update...

The annual Summer plant changeover was carried out on 20th May. The new plants have had a number of weeks to “bed-in” prior to Yorkshire in Bloom judging on 8th July.

Three Generations Working at Sowerby Bridge Railway Station

Karen Doyle, owner of Blackberry Bakery in Sowerby Bridge, is proud to have three Generations of her family having worked at Sowerby Bridge Railway Station.



In 1928 Harold Gregory, Karen’s grandfather, came to live in Calderdale from Doncaster having worked for the railway there for 16 years. He started work at Luddendenfoot Station as a porter and from there he worked at various stations in Calderdale, finishing his career at Sowerby Bridge and retiring in 1958 after 46 years’ service.

Karen’s late father, Frank Gregory, started working for the railway after returning from the war, his first post in 1947 was at Greetland Station. He also worked at various stations in Calderdale as a shunter in the goods yards, in the signal box at Sowerby Bridge and at the coal drops in Sowerby Bridge and Halifax. Frank retired with over 30 years’ service with the railway.

Robert Doyle of RS Groundworks, Karen’s son, is the third generation to work at the Sowerby Bridge Station when he constructed the pathways and raised beds in the Bronte Garden in 2013. Robert was pleased to have been given the opportunity to work where his grandfather and great grandfather had worked before him.

Harold and Frank had a keen interest in the original Sowerby Bridge station garden that was sited near to the new Bronte Garden. The photograph above is of Harold (extreme right) with colleagues in the original station garden.

Can anyone put names to the other four railwaymen in the photograph?

Contact us: Tel: 07850 822590. Email: fofsbrs@gmail.com

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Date	Event
Wed 8 July	Yorkshire in Bloom Judging at the Station from 10.00am
Tue 14 July	Open ‘Committee’ Meeting. 7.30-8.30pm. Meet at JRR*
Wed 22 July	Work Together session. 6.30pm onwards. Meet at JRR*
Tue 11 Aug	Open ‘Committee’ Meeting. 7.30-8.30pm. Meet at JRR*
Wed 19 Aug	Work Together session. 6.30pm onwards. Meet at JRR*
Tue 8 Sept	Open ‘Committee’ Meeting. 7.30-8.30pm. Meet at JRR*
Wed 16 Sept	Work Together session. 6.30pm onwards. Meet at JRR*
Sun 4 Oct	COACH TRIP , GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY, LOUGHBOROUGH 8.30am Departure from JRR* Pre-book your seat.
Tue 13 Oct	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 the new planter sponsors this year, and to all those from last year and before who have renewed their sponsorship for 2015-2016.

ALSO .. To the Community Development Foundation (CDF) for their grant funding of the 30 Information Boards already in place and to the Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP) for a further 6 boards now being researched, **and** to Calderdale Council for funding the nest boxes and other items aimed at encouraging and supporting wild life to the gardens, **AND..** To the Halifax Model Railway Club for the donation of railway-related cine film and DVD, to the lady who gave us a large quantity of wild bird food and to all those who have donated books and other items to be sold in order to raise funds to support our Group’s activities.

Contact us: Tel: 07850 822590. Email: fofsbrs@gmail.com