

THE 175 EVENT

The Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station have held numerous events since the Group was formed in 2010. One such event commemorated the 175th anniversary of the railway arriving in Sowerby Bridge. The event took place in early October 2015 and aimed to educate the public on the impact the railway had on the town when it arrived in 1840. Children participated in painting competitions, guided tours of the station were organised for both children and adults, the station was festooned with bunting and flags, railway related films were available for visitors to watch and a local ensemble, 'Breakaway Brass', provided period music. All those who attended were issued with 175 memorabilia and were provided with period food and many members of the Group dressed in period Victorian costume to make the experience more authentic.



THE WORLD WAR 1 MEMORIAL

The memorial commemorates the 42 local men employed by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company who lost their lives in the Great War. It took five years research, using the widest possible range of original resources, to uncover the names of the men and the memorial was unveiled on Remembrance Day 2018. The memorial is accompanied by a 384 page book which tells the life stories of each of the men plus an additional 160 local railwaymen who survived the Great War.



YOUR AWARD WINNING STATION

Yorkshire in Bloom Awards:- 2011 Silver Gilt Rose Award; 2012 Gold Rose Award ; 2013 Gold Rose Award and Category Winner; 2014 Platinum Rose Award; 2015 Gold Award; 2016 Gold Award; 2017 Platinum Award; 2018 Platinum Award; 2019 Platinum Award.

Yorkshire in Bloom Discretionary Awards:- 2013 The Yorkshire Rose Environmental Quality Award & The Yorkshire Rose Community Award; 2016 The Yorkshire Rose Tourism Award; 2017 The Yorkshire Rose Community Award.

ACoRP Community Rail Awards

2015 – The Bronte Garden – second place in the Best Station Garden and Large Floral Displays category, 2016 – 175 Event – third place in the Best Community Engagement Event category.

WHY NOT JOIN THE AWARD WINNING TEAM?

The Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station currently has around 90 members. Why not join?

Membership fees per annum: - Full membership = £5
Students, retired and unwaged membership = £1

PLANTER SPONSORSHIP AT THE STATION

Planters are available to sponsor at Sowerby Bridge Railway Station at the following rates per annum:-

Semi-circular fence planters = £50
Rectangular planters = £100
Half barrel planters = £150

If you or your company are/is interested, or require further details, please contact the Sponsorship Co-ordinator whose details are shown below

CONTACT DETAILS



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FRIENDS OF SOWERBY BRIDGE RAILWAY STATION

BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO SOWERBY BRIDGE RAILWAY STATION

The Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station is a voluntary organisation which receives no regular centralised funding. It was formed in November 2010 when a group of likeminded people joined together to 'Breathe New Life' into Sowerby Bridge Railway Station. The main aims at this time were to enhance the Station to make it more attractive for station users and local people and to attract more visitors and more custom to the town. These aims are still in place today, but from the early days of introducing colourful flower planters, the range of activities and projects has grown, wasteland areas have been reclaimed, new signage has been introduced, events and excursions have been incorporated, information boards have been located and a wide-range of other activities, schemes and projects have been completed to enhance the Station and to make it a more attractive, pleasant and enjoyable place to be.



Three different kinds of meeting are held every month. Committee Meetings take place on the second Tuesday of the month, usually last an hour and involve discussions on current activities and feedback from the elected representatives, Practical Gardening Sessions are held on the third Saturday of the month in winter and Wednesday evenings during summer and Strategy Meetings, where new ideas are generated, are held on the last Tuesday of every month and usually last 1½ hours.

A meetings' calendar can be obtained from the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms (The FoSBRs base). This includes all the meeting dates so why not try to attend?

LEAFLET SPONSORS



FLORAL DISPLAYS AND GARDENS

The Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station plant and maintain 43 semi-circular, rectangular and half barrel planters on the station platforms, 12 planters located in other areas and a number of larger gardens. These create an attractive and colourful environment for rail users and are re-planted every May and October/November. Approximately half the platform planters are sponsored by small and large companies, community groups and individual people in the local area and this generates valuable income which goes towards their maintenance. The planters at the eastern end of platform 2 are reserved as an area of remembrance for sponsors who wish to dedicate their sponsorship to the memory of departed family members or friends.



The largest garden at Sowerby Bridge Railway Station is the Bronte Garden which was reclaimed from an area of wasteland, close to the car park entrance, and was officially opened by the Mayor of Calderdale and her Consort on the 30th August 2014. This popular and much photographed garden is named after Patrick Branwell Bronte, the brother of the famous Bronte sisters, who was Assistant Clerk in Charge of the first Sowerby Bridge Railway Station from 1840 – 1841. Many of the plants and shrubs in the Garden are named in the novels, poems and letters of the Bronte family or are depicted in their drawings and sketches.



The tranquil Bronte Garden is an important attraction at the Station and offers two benches for locals and visitors to sit and for rail users to wait for their trains to arrive.

One of the main features in the Bronte Garden is the 1940s Slingsby Railway Hand Cart which was lovingly restored by one of the Group's members and accommodates period luggage containers which are planted with flowers and shrubs for added colour and interest.



Other features in the Bronte Garden include three raised flower beds made from reclaimed railway sleepers, the planter train (called 'Mavis' after a former Sowerby Bridge railway diesel shunter) which was donated by Forge Entertainment Ltd after they filmed at the Station, the original war memorial which commemorates local railwaymen who lost their lives in the Great War and an attractive and environmentally-friendly litter bin.



THE ENVIRONMENT, WILDLIFE AND RECYCLING

The Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station are particularly concerned about the environment, supporting wildlife and creating new wildlife habitats. Gardening is totally organic and the aim is to make every project sustainable

Rainwater is collected in three large water tanks and one water butt and these provide the water for the planters and gardens,

along with grey water from the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms, at times when there is a shortage of rain. Five compost bins have been built by Group members and the widest possible range of items are added to these to produce high-quality organic compost. Organic plant feeds are also used along with wildlife-friendly pest controls where necessary.

The Group have increased the number of wildlife habitats by introducing a bird bath, a hedgehog house, bird tables, bird feeders, a bat box and a bee house. Insect friendly plants have also been introduced.

INFORMATION AND SIGNAGE

In October 2015 the Group unveiled 36 imaginative and colourful information boards. They record information on people of note and events in Sowerby Bridge's history and enhance passengers' experience by providing them with something interesting and educational to read whilst they wait for trains. The boards are also intended to engender a sense of pride in the town and attract more visitors to Sowerby Bridge and were painstakingly researched, from original sources, by members of the Group. They include 25 boards on local people of note, 9 boards on local events and two 'special' boards which relate to railwaymen who previously worked at Sowerby Bridge.



A number of directional and tourist signs have been added to the station platforms and underpass and two 'Welcome to Sowerby Bridge' signs, incorporating the Sowerby Bridge coat of arms, have been located on each platform.

