

# 2014 Station Planter Sponsorship Now available.....



## **It's that time of year again...**

Building on the success of our Station Planter Sponsorship programme, launched in 2012 to encourage local businesses to get involved and support the group in improving the gateway to our town, we have a number of sponsorship opportunities for the 2014 planting year.

Sponsorship of these planters, located around the station, have played a key part in the Group's success in the annual **Yorkshire in Bloom** competition and we are keen to keep Sowerby Bridge on the map with renewed and new sponsorship from local businesses.

Please see inside for more details and you can also visit our website to see our current local sponsors at [www.friendsofsbrs.org.uk](http://www.friendsofsbrs.org.uk)

## 2014 Station Planter Sponsorship

### Sponsorship benefits include...

- ◆ A 'sponsorship plaque' attached to your planter which promotes your business (your business's name, location and web address (or telephone number if no web address) – and shows your support to station users;
- ◆ PR coverage in our next newsletter (June 2014) which goes to 200 businesses in Sowerby Bridge, as well as local youth and community groups – as well as on our website;
- ◆ A priority renewal reminder, giving you the option to retain your planter for the following year, before we approach the wider business community.
- ◆ No hassle. The group will maintain your planter for the full 12 months and we'll send you a picture of your planter along with a framed certificate which you can display in your customer-facing area to show your customers that you're supporting a local good cause.

### Sponsorship cost for 12 months



Large half barrel	£150
Rectangular planter	£100
Semi-circular fence planter	£50

### How to sponsor a planter

Simply email John Hartley of the Friends group at

[jhagardener@googlemail.com](mailto:jhagardener@googlemail.com) to sponsor a planter or to find out more..

### Station signage returns to Sowerby Bridge

Original station signage previously fixed to the front of the former station building has been located and is now on display in the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms. The sign, in BR North Eastern Region tangerine, and measuring 20 ft x 2 ft, dates from the 1950s and was a prominent feature at the station up until the demolition of the main buildings in 1980.

An interesting item of local historical railwayana has been rescued for future generations to enjoy!

Then



Now



Contact us: Tel: 07850 822590 or email: [fofsbrs@gmail.com](mailto:fofsbrs@gmail.com)



## Former Sowerby Bridge Railway Station Workers

### **Bernard G Whitaker (1927-2004)**

Bernard was appointed Station Master at Sowerby Bridge in January 1965 and remained in the role until the end of 1970. Towards the end of this period he was also given the additional responsibility as Station Master of both Mytholmroyd and Hebden Bridge.

Bernard had a wide range of experience when he arrived at Sowerby Bridge having had responsibilities at numerous other stations.

He began his railway career in September 1943 when, at the age of 16, he became a Probationary Clerk at Cullingworth Station and in 1951, at the age of 24, he became the youngest Station Master in the country when he took charge at Thornton Station. He still lived at Thornton when he worked at Sowerby Bridge and endured a lengthy journey (by trolley bus and train) to get to and from work.

Bernard was known for the precise, meticulous and fair manner in which he carried out his duties and was keen to ensure that everything was accounted for. During his time at Sowerby Bridge the station was a hive of activity and there were 27 other full time staff including 2 foremen, 4 porters, a lampman, 14 signalmen, 3 clerks, 2 shunters and a van driver for parcel deliveries. The station also had a lawned garden and a fish pond stocked with golden carp and these were not only appreciated by passengers but also helped to ensure that Sowerby Bridge Station always won a top prize in the annual regional station garden competition.

At the end of 1970, Bernard was appointed Yard Master at the modern Healey Mills Marshalling Yard at Horbury. His departure marked the end of 130 years of history as he was the last Station Master at Sowerby Bridge. He retired in 1985 after several years as Area Manager for Gloucester, Cheltenham and Worcester.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT\_ Thanks to Alan Whitaker of Bingley for the information provided on his father Bernard G Whitaker.

### **Places still available...**

For our organised Coach Trip to The Dales Festival of Food and Drink at Leyburn and Wensleydale Railway – Saturday 3 May 2014



The trip promises a great day out with optional visit to the Wensleydale Preserved Railway. For more information and how to book your place, please visit our News page on our website [www.friendsofsbrs.org.uk](http://www.friendsofsbrs.org.uk)

Contact us: Tel: 07850 822590 or email: [fofsbrs@gmail.com](mailto:fofsbrs@gmail.com)

If you'd like to know more about the Group or would like to get involved in any of our initiatives please let us know. You can visit us at [www.friendsofsbrs.org.uk](http://www.friendsofsbrs.org.uk) or contact Chris Wright on 07850 822590.

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

Date	Event
Sat 15 Mar	Work Together session. 9.00am-12 noon. Meet at JRR*
Tue 8 Apr	Open 'Committee' Meeting. 7.30-8.30pm. Meet at JRR*
Wed 16 Apr	Work Together session. 6.30pm onwards. Meet at JRR*
Sat 3 May	<b>Coach Trip to the Dales Food &amp; Drink Festival – see p2 for more information</b>
Tue 13 May	Open 'Committee' Meeting. 7.30-8.30pm. Meet at JRR*
Wed 21 May	Work Together session. 6.30pm onwards. Meet at JRR*
Tues 10 Jun	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 once per month and the agenda includes general updates on the Group's activities and progress. Why not come and see what we're all about. You'll receive a warm welcome. Just ask for Chris.

## Acknowledgements...

In memory of Mr Jack Wild of Rochdale Road, Halifax (railway enthusiast, photographer and co-writer of the excellent railway book 'Halifax and the Calder Valley') who passed away, in his 90<sup>th</sup> year, on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013. The Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station wish Jack's wife, Eileen, well and we would like to thank her for the generous donation of railway books.



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