

2011 draws to a close...

With the year drawing to an end, the Group can reflect on the many successes achieved this year, ranging from the implementation of key initiatives aimed at improving rail users' experience at the station to increasing our membership numbers through awareness raising activities.

I hope you find this newsletter of interest and wish all our supporters a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. If you would like to get involved with our Group, please call me on 07850 822590. Thank you.

Christopher J Wright, Convenor (FofSBRS)

Breathing new life into Sowerby Bridge Railway Station...

Without doubt, one of our biggest achievements this year has been the **Yorkshire in Bloom 'Silver Rose Gilt' award** which our members and volunteers within the local community worked together to make possible. Next year, with more involvement from youth and community groups, we aim to achieve an even higher award.



Members with the YIB Certificate

A formal presentation ceremony was held in Harrogate, which was attended by representatives from the Group. The judges commented that **'it is obvious that the group are making every effort to care for, and enhance, as many aspects of the station's heritage as possible'**. This feedback is a fantastic result for the Group.

A major donation from WP Eglin Ltd will see **brand new seating** installed on both platforms in the New Year and we will continue to seek support from local businesses to help us enhance the gateway to our town in 2012.



The Group took part in the **Royal Horticultural Society's annual 'Dig Together Day'**. The Group has adopted uncultivated areas of land in the approach to, and around, the station and volunteers have spent many hours tidying and planting flowers and shrubs to improve the attractiveness of the station, as well as supporting conservation.

The annual **Rushbearing festival** also brought many visitors to the railway station and the Group raised funds by holding a stall selling railway memorabilia and books.

The Group also held its first **Annual General Meeting** on 8th November which was well attended. The report and accounts were approved and key positions voted on.

Zodion Ltd of Sowerby Bridge have donated a large **Yorkshire millstone boulder** which has been positioned at the entrance to the car park. We aim, through local business support, to see this sandblasted and engraved with 'Welcome to Sowerby Bridge Railway Station' in the New Year.



Current projects...

These are just a few of the projects and initiatives the Group are currently progressing:

- creation and development of a website for the Group;
- installation of Convex security mirrors on the underpass to allow rail users to feel more comfortable about their personal safety;
- youth involvement (local schools) to provide artwork for the station and bird boxes etc.

If you think you could help with any of these, or other projects, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Chris Wright on 07850 822590.

Contact us: Tel: 07850 822590 or email: fofsbrs@gmail.com

Memories of the station ...

Another project the Group is undertaking is to identify people in the community who have memories of the station pre-1980 who would be willing to share their memories and photographs with us.

We aim to showcase the heritage of the station for the benefit of existing station users as well as new visitors to the town.



We hope to engage local schools and youth groups to bring these memories to life through artwork and other creative approaches, to be displayed around the station.

Can you help? We are looking for people who used to work at the station; or have memories of the station; or people who have photographs of the station. Perhaps you know someone?

If you can help us, or have friends or relatives who may have interesting stories about the station in years gone by, please contact John on 01422 358853. Thank you.

Did you know?....

....Sowerby Bridge's first railway station was situated close to the present Tesco Supermarket's car park. Branwell Bronte, brother of the famous sisters Charlotte, Emily and Ann, was employed there as "Assistant clerk-in-charge" from the station's opening on 5th October, 1840 until 1st April 1841 when he was promoted to the position of Clerk-in-charge" at Luddendenfoot. Branwell died in September, 1848 aged 31 years, 28 years before the opening of the town's present railway station on Station Road.

Latest station developments...

Northern Rail have completed the installation of a **Ticket Machine** on Platform 2 which now allows rail passengers to purchase tickets more easily. And, wiring installation has commenced in preparation of the **live departure/arrival screens** which will be completed in 2012..... more in the next newsletter.

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Calendar of Events

The following are our upcoming events and ALL are welcome.

Work Together Days will vary and may involve weeding, tidying up the station, planting or watering the flower boxes etc. Meeting place is the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms at the Station – just ask for Chris.

Open ‘Committee’ Meetings are held once per month and the agenda includes: Updates from the Convenor, Secretary, Treasurer and group discussions about relevant topics such as upcoming events or ideas.

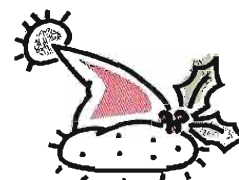
Tues 10 Jan	Open ‘Committee Meeting’. Starts 7.30pm at the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms.
Sat 21 Jan	Work Together session – 9am-12noon – meet at the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms.
Tues 14 Feb	Open ‘Committee Meeting’. Starts 7.30pm at the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms.
Sat 18 Feb	Work Together session – 9am-12noon – meet at the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms.
Tues 13 Mar	Open ‘Committee Meeting’. Starts 7.30pm at the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms.
Sat 17 Mar	Work Together session – 9am-12noon – meet at the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms.

Acknowledgements

THANKS..... to **EPS Hire** of Wharfe Street for their offer of free plant/machinery hire; **Linda Riordan** (MP Halifax) and **David Draycott** (Councillor Sowerby Bridge Ward) for their support at the Royal Horticultural Society’s National Dig Together today; **Dr Nader Fekri** (Mayor of Calderdale) for his hospitality and for taking a keen interest in our work and for pledging future involvement; **Zodion Lighting Ltd** for the donation of the Yorkshire Millstone Grit stone; **Go Local** for their help raising awareness of the Group’s initiatives and **Simprint** (Sowerby Bridge) for the discounted printing of this newsletter.



Finally – Merry Christmas from all at Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station



Contact us: Tel: 07850 822590 or email: fofsbrs@gmail.com