

Kicking off 2015 with a bit of nostalgia.....



(photo by Gordon Heywood – L&YR Soc.Coll.8618)

The original station on the present site (above) was opened by the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway on 1st September 1876, replacing an earlier one situated approx. 1/3 mile further west (that site now being occupied by the Tesco car park).

The main station buildings of the 1876 structure were damaged by a fire in 1978 and subsequently hastily demolished in 1980, amidst rumours circulating at the time that an award of 'listed building' status was imminent.

A Booking Office was then provided for a few years in the surviving part of the buildings (now the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms) before the station was de-staffed in August 1985.

Annual General Meeting outcome...

The Group's 4th AGM was held in the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms on 11th November 2014. Reports were received, the Annual Financial Accounts were approved and the Committee Members, being unopposed, were re-elected en-bloc for a further year.

John King (Hon. President) thanked everyone for their efforts during another successful year. The level of membership subscriptions was discussed and it was agreed that, as from January 2015, the annual fee for those in employment or self employed be increased from £4.00 to £5.00, and that the subscription for students, retired or unwaged members remain at the existing rate of £1.00 per year

Bronte Garden update...

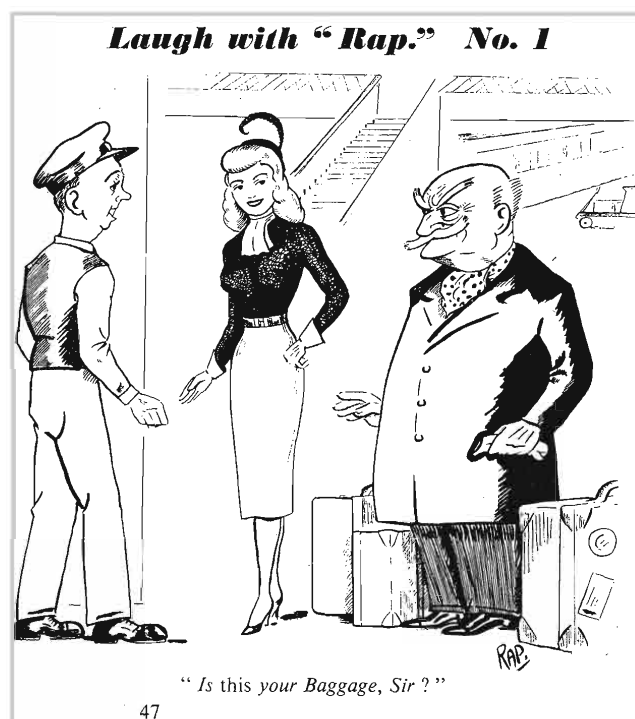
A second heritage bench has been placed in the Bronte Garden. This has been made possible by joint sponsorship from ACoRP (Association of Community Rail Partnerships) and 'Mike and Stephanie'. A big thank you to both sponsors for their support.



In addition, a specially commissioned metal steering handle has now been fixed to the front of the Slingsby trolley, which now completes the restoration of this central feature within the Garden.

Appeal for storage unit...

The Group is now looking for a large secure storage container (sea container or similar) so that the Group's tools and gardening equipment can be stored securely on site at the station. All options would be considered, including the possibility of the Group renting or purchase. **If you can help, please get in touch.**



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

Memories of Sowerby Bridge station

Keith Noble of Triangle has submitted some memories of Sowerby Bridge Station from the time he moved into the area in 1967. At that time, of course, the impressive former station building was still intact and Keith recalls that the ticket office was on the right-hand side of the central entrance and still had extensive racks of Edmondson card tickets.



Those for London were pre-printed and each one specified travel to Kings Cross, St Pancras or Euston. A full fare day return to Manchester was 10/- (50p). There were five platform faces, including the two which are still used. Two more served a single through line accessed both from the back of the present Platform 1 and another Platform in front of what are now the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms. The fifth was a terminating bay platform at the back of the present Platform 2, serving the residual service from Sowerby Bridge to York via Brighouse and Normanton.

“Some time in the mid 1970s, I took my son on a Saturday excursion to Devon, returning to Sowerby Bridge late at night. My wife had driven to meet us in good time and was sitting in the car in total darkness when a door opened in what is now the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms. Out came a dozen or so men, each with a tilly lamp, walking in file and in complete silence. She found it a very eerie experience, like something out of Snow White!

In October 1978, I had business in Ireland and chose to travel by train and boat. Returning to Sowerby Bridge I immediately saw something wrong and the ticket clerk wept as he told me about the fire. The ticket office was eventually reinstated and remained for a few more years in the Jubilee Refreshment building, but without all the evocative racks.”

If any of our readers have similar interesting recollections of the station or of eventful journeys, please forward them by email to wendyriordan@btinternet.com or submit in writing to the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Date	Event
Tue 13 Jan	Open 'Committee' Meeting. 7.30-8.30pm. Meet at JRR*
Sat 24 Jan	Work Together session. 9am- 12noon. Meet at JRR*
Tue 10 Feb	Open 'Committee' Meeting. 7.30-8.30pm. Meet at JRR*
Sat 21 Feb	Work Together session. 9am-12noon. Meet at JRR*
Tue 10 Mar	Open 'Committee' Meeting. 7.30-8.30pm. Meet at JRR*
Sat 21 Mar	Work Together session. 9am-12noon. Meet at JRR*
Tue 14 April	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 everyone who has supported us throughout 2014, especially the Community Development Foundation (CDF), the Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP) and all those who have provided sponsorship, donations, time or other help and assistance. Our Group can only continue to be successful with further support. We wish all our supporters and readers a happy and prosperous New Year for 2015.

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