

NEWSLETTER 8 (JUNE 2013)

Summer is almost here....

We've had a busy second quarter, with the planter sponsorship renewal, completion of our Bronte Garden and another successful group trip (to Whitby this year)..... I would just like to wholeheartedly thank the local companies who have renewed their support to the Group, as well as the new companies supporting us this year.

As always, we would welcome anyone interested in our activities – please see the Calendar of Events and join us.....

Christopher J Wright, Convenor (FofSBRs)

Planter Sponsorship update

Further to our campaign in the first quarter, seven renewals and four new sponsorships have been taken up, covering 16 planters, for the 2013-14 gardening year, and we are grateful for this continued (and new) support. Please see Acknowledgements section for details of the organisations who have pledged their support.



It's not too late.....

We still have a number of large half barrels, rectangular planters and semi-circular planters available for sponsorship. If you are interested in supporting the Friends Group with this, please contact John Hartley at jhagardener@googlemail.com. Prices start from as little as £50 per year.

Appeal for flower seeds

The Group intends to scatter wild flower seeds around the station gardens to attract insects, in particular bees and butterflies, and birds. If you are able to help us with this, please drop them in at the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms. No matter how many or little, all donations would be gratefully received and will help us to develop the local habitat for the enjoyment of all the station's visitors.

Our new 'Bronte Garden'

We began work in April 2013, to convert an area of wasteland near the entrance to the station car park into a 'Bronte Garden'. The initial landscaping was completed by R S Groundworks (Barkisland) and the area is now occupied by three large raised flower beds, lower garden-type beds, a lawned area and a gravel pathway.

In the near future, the beds will be planted with a range of shrubs and plants mentioned in the works of the Bronte family, including roses, verbena, nasturtiums, pinks, phlox, lilies and many others.



We are hoping that this will provide an educational experience for visitors and highlight the connection with Branwell Bronte, who was the first Assistant Stationmaster at Sowerby Bridge. We are also hoping to acquire a large centrepiece for the garden and a bench which will provide a haven of peace and tranquillity.

The 'Bronte Garden' is an ambitious project and we are grateful to the support of Community First for providing us with the initial funding. The garden will be developed over a period of time and will provide a unique, educational and sustainable feature of our station, to be enjoyed by all visitors.

Locally, totally...

The Friends Group strives to source local suppliers and contractors for its various projects. Over the last 12 months, over £4000 of the Group's funds has been distributed to local businesses, including landscape gardeners (Barkisland), Horticultural/nursery suppliers (Norland); Coach hire, printing/copying, hardware (Sowerby Bridge) and Engravers (Halifax).

Did you know....

Today there is a train service from Sowerby Bridge to Manchester, to Leeds via Halifax and Bradford and to Leeds via Brighouse and Dewsbury. There is also a limited direct service to Blackpool North and to Selby and York.

This is a far cry from the mid 1960s when direct services were also available to Wakefield, Harrogate, Bolton, Wigan, Liverpool, Southport, Chester and Llandudno!

Whitby Trip

The group enjoyed a fantastic day trip to Pickering, Grosmont (NYMRy) and Whitby on 7th May. The event, organised by Jim Milner of the Group, saw 40 members and non members enjoy a sunny and enjoyable day out.



Some spent the day travelling on the steam trains between Pickering and Whitby, while others chose to explore the harbour and town of Whitby, no doubt sampling the local fish and chips, and ice cream. A quantity of Whitby kippers returned with us on the coach!



Next Trip..... Vintage Bus Trip – Sunday 15 September

Following the success of the Whitby trip, we are organising a vintage bus trip to the annual '1940's weekend' event at the Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway.

A 1950s former Halifax Corporation double-decker bus has been hired for the trip, which will depart from Sowerby Bridge Railway Station at 10.30am on Sunday 15 September.

The initial ticket price is £15.00 but this will be reduced to £10.00 if 30 bookings are received. A 10% discount will also apply to members and sponsors. Everyone is welcome to join this trip so if you're interested, please contact the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms (01422 648285) or email jim.milner@tiscali.co.uk to register your interest or for more details.

Calderdale Heritage Walk – 'Sowerby Bridge West End' - Tuesday 18 June

A two hour walk, to look at the historic development of the west end of Sowerby Bridge, including the many textile mills, transport by road, rail and canal, and recent changes that have occurred as the town has adapted to the 21st Century

Meet David Cant at 7.15pm outside the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms. Cost is £3.00 (payable on the night).

John Mason – pastures new...

John has been one of the ISS station cleaners at Sowerby Bridge for a number of years but has recently been transferred to work away from the Calder Valley Line. Whilst John will continue to be involved with the Group, the station and its users will miss his hard work, commitment and enthusiasm, that has been evident during his time here. Thank you John, and good luck with your new duties.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Date	
Wed 19 Jun	Work Together session. 6.30pm. Meet at JRR*
Tues 9 Jul	Open 'Committee' Meeting. 7.30-8.30pm. Venue tbc
Wed 17 Jul	Work Together session. 6.30pm. Meet at JRR*
Tue 13 Aug	Open 'Committee ' Meeting. 7.30-8.30pm. Venue tbc
Wed 21 Aug	Work Together session. 6.30pm. Meet at JRR*
Tue 10 Sept	Open 'Committee ' Meeting. 7.30-8.30pm 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

THANKS..... to ACoRP for our acceptance for the 2013/14 Small Grants Fund which has awarded the Group £250.00 for the Bronte Garden. Also to Yorkshire Building Society (new sponsor of two station planters); Reece-Jones Consulting Limited, Window Cleaning Services and Kate Clarke (portrait artist and illustrator) and last year's renewing sponsors: Rosehill Polymers Ltd, Abram Pulman & Sons, Smith Solicitors LLP, Shire Cruisers, Calder Valley Aquatics, Ye Olde Oak Foods and Trinkette.

Also to everyone who has donated items to the Group in recent weeks. It is not possible to thank everyone by name, but this includes Jack Wild (for a selection of railway books), Mick Jowett (for several railway jigsaws) and to David Harriott (for a variety of railwayana items). The Group would also like to thank all the people who donated wild flower seeds following our recent appeal, those who have provided fruit trees, shrubs and flowers for planting at the station and those who have given up their free time to assist us.