

## **FRIENDS of the S&DR – 2025**

### **And More Walks**

Thanks to Jonathan Ratcliffe for joining me in establishing the Barnard Castle Circular Walk. The final draft of the Barney leaflet should be ready in the next couple of weeks.

**BARNARD CASTLE:** The Teesdale Railway History Group has been formed by Cllr Chris Foote-Wood (Member of the Friends and Lead Council Member for the 2025 Celebrations) under the umbrella of the Friends of the S&DR. There will be a railway exhibition at the Witham from 21<sup>st</sup> August to 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025 (excluding Mondays). Montalbo School was built on land which was the site of the extension of the S&DR and its garden will be open at certain times in the summer holidays for visitors (the pupils are involved). The Fitzhugh Library in Middleton will have an exhibition of S&DR papers and has arranged for a model (large) of Middleton Station to be on view in the Masonic Hall. GSK (formerly Glaxo), celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025, came to Barney because of the good communications provided by four railways into Barney! We are working with it on projects. Funding applications have been submitted.

**‘A HEAD of STEAM’:** As we have found it difficult to get the play presented, it was suggested a film might be the answer and I shall contact Michael Chaplin (playwrite and son of Sid Chaplin who wrote plays about the north-east, such as ‘Close the Coalhouse Door’. The Author of ‘A Head of Steam’, Bill Gibson thinks if we cannot go further, he would like to give the play to the Friends of the S&DR.

**OTHER:** Tom Walker would like to give his talk ‘The Three Greeners of Etherley and a model steam engine’; Mike Norman with his talk ‘It Wasn’t Rocket Science’ and Dave Reynolds with a talk about the history of ‘The STUTE’. These talks will be presented at The Stute on Wednesday evenings in June, July and August 2025. The Friends of the NRM, NE Branch, will be hosting talks on the lasdt Saturay of each month at 10.30.

We have had an order from Locomotion for 20 copies of ‘Timothy Hackworth & the Locomotive’ by Robert Young, which leaves us with 30. If the meeting agrees, I will contact the publisher I worked with in 2000 to see if we can get a good print deal.

Jonathon has assisted me in putting all my railway photos in files for easy assess and we are now working on filing papers, some gems among them, and we plan to make a list of all the railway books I hold, which are left to the Friends of the S&DR in my will.

I am continuing research for 2025 – something new every day!!!

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JANE HY.