

## THE FRIENDS OF THE S&D RAILWAY

Notes on Meeting with the S&DR200 Festival Team  
Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024, Dolphin Centre

Led by Jill Read, Communications and Stakeholder Manager.

Supported by Festival Organiser, Nicci Halifax, and Cait, Jessy and ? who are the community engagement officers.

They are working with the three local authorities: Durham Darlington Stockton

Attended by about 50 people, mostly members of Darlington for Culture and Friends of the S&D.

Alan Townsend gave a brief intro about the Friends of the S&D, the Purpose and achievements.

He listed our activities for the Festival:

- Early Railways Conference in September 2025
- Public Talks on the Quaker Influence
- Walking Festival
- MSG Activity
- Yvonne encouraged people have a look at the Friends website which is a treasure trove of research and accurate information, with the guided walks booklets and much more available.

A brief summary of what the Festival will consist of was given with the proviso that this is confidential until the Launch in September. This will be the Core activity.

The Events will run from next Spring to October.

All other events from the Community – creative and charity groups - will be marketed as the Fringe. This will sit alongside the main Festival.

They will be seen as Ambassadors for the Festival.

- Festival branding and fringe logos will be provided.
- A comprehensive website Listing will be set up of all Events notified to them which will have a number of search options, e.g. date, type, venue etc.
- Events must be on the website at least 6 weeks before the Event.
- A flash of what others are doing can be shared.
- Grants are available in support of events – contact Cait.
- Some information about other Grant making bodies will be available.

Points raised by those attending:

- A film maker was keen to record the preparations of groups.
- Chris Foote-Wood from Barnard Castle was working more with Kirkby Stephen, but was keen that Groups from other places also joined in.
- It would be good to co-operate and share information amongst ourselves.
- There could be an issue with clashes of dates and duplication.

Its now clear that groups need to organise and be responsible for their own events, although some advice and support is available.

What will be on offer is marketing and publicity.

Yvonne Richardson