

## **Editor's Report**

### *The Globe*

The last Globe came out in December. Hard copies took a little longer to be printed and those have recently been distributed to those members expressing a preference by Peter Bainbridge, for which many thanks. Contributors to The Globe will also receive a hard copy of the book and I will be in touch regarding posting them out very soon.

The next Globe is due out in July 2024, so I am looking for contributions by the end of June. You can send them in as soon as you like however. If you are thinking of submitting something, ask me for the Guidance Notes for Contributors.

### *The World on Track*

We now have 1,000 more copies of The Railway that got the World on Track book, which is given to all new members, and which otherwise sells at £7.99. If you know anyone who would like to stock it, we can offer retailers a discount. They can be purchased direct from the Friends' web site and I can also bring copies with me for sale at our various meetings.

### *S&DR Podcasts*

A series of S&DR podcasts will be broadcast from next month through 2024 with Archie MacKay, the Managing Editor and Director of South West Durham News CIC. More information will be posted out to members, advertised on social media and via railway magazines and newspapers. If you'd like to be a guest on the podcast, please get in touch.

### *S&DR Coffee Table Book*

Work on the limited edition S&DR coffee table book has got off to a gradual start with Darlington based photographer Peter Giroux tasked with taking photographs throughout the year. We plan to ask subscribers to buy a copy in advance and in return they can be listed as a subscriber at the beginning (with another section for In Memory of....subscribers) and their copies will be numbered and signed. Details on how you can become a subscriber will be issued to all Friends before March and put on our web site.

### *S&DR Music*

Our application for funding to the S&DR Community Grant Scheme is still awaited. This was to produce authentically sounding music as played in 1825 on the Opening Day and which will be freely available to anyone who wishes to use it at their events. The next grant panel meets on the 7<sup>th</sup> February so fingers crossed that we can get the go-ahead then.

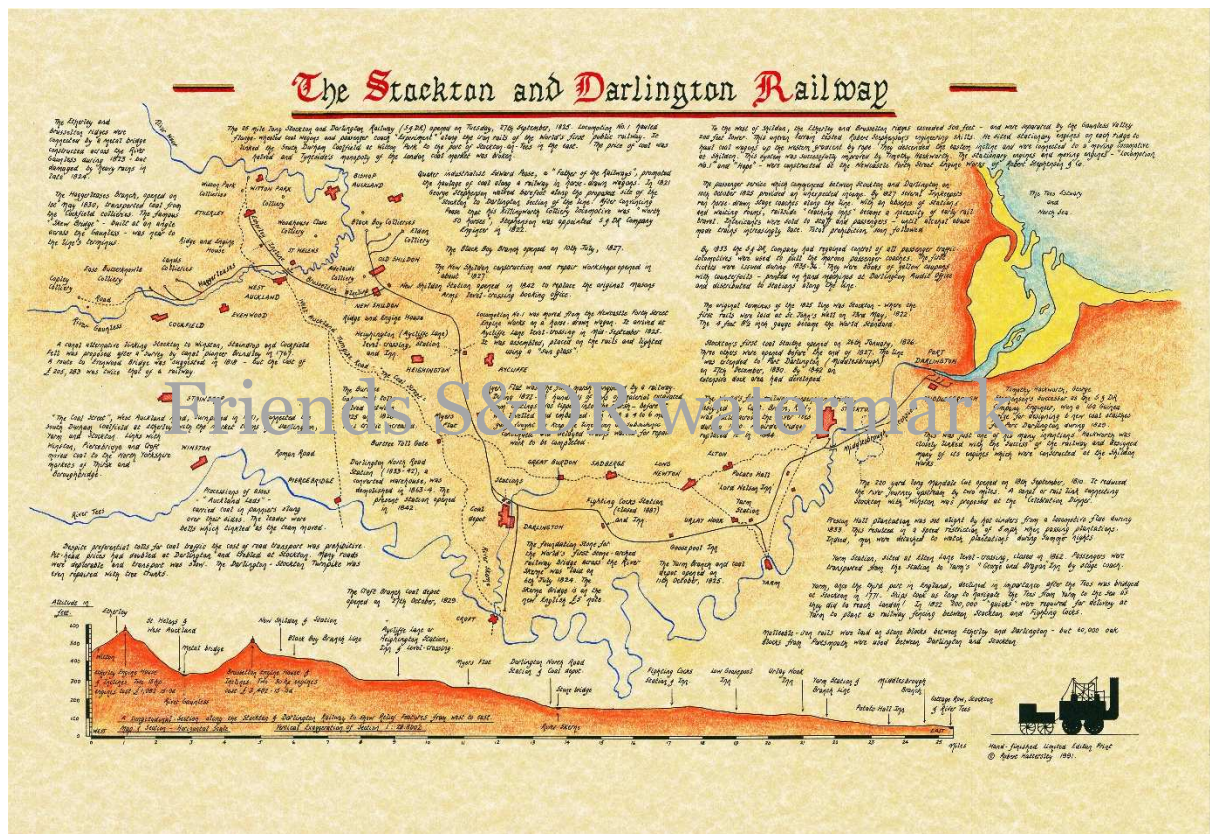
### *Creative Writing Group*

I have agreed to support an application to the above fund for a series of creative writing workshops based in venues on the S&DR/Bishop Auckland line and a competition, all linked to the S&DR bicentenary. It will run from later this year through to 2025. I will help to run a workshop on women of the S&DR. More details to follow depending on funding.

### *Bob Hattersley Maps*

Many of you will be familiar with the detailed maps of the S&DR produced by the late Bob Hattersley. Bob's wife Jean has kindly agreed that we can sell these maps and split the proceeds between the Friends and her chosen kidney cancer charity. They may be on our web site by the time of our meeting (I am waiting on suitable postal packaging being delivered) and I might be able to bring some to our meeting if people wish to buy any. They are A3 sized

and printed on to art quality paper and will cost £9.00. Thank you to Yvonne Richardson for helping to make this happen.



One of Bob Hattersley's maps showing the S&DR

## Membership Badges

We have had lovely dark red and gold metal and enamel badges featuring a plug wheel made for members. These will be distributed for free to members at monthly meetings. Additional badges can be purchased for £2.50 on our web site shop (or at meetings). We will make alternative arrangements for more distant members to receive one, if they'd like one.

## Save Heighington @ Aycliffe Lane Station

This will be reported elsewhere and at the meeting.

## Webmaster's Report

Since our last meeting (until 26<sup>th</sup> January) we have sold 10 products bringing in £92.50, the bulk of these have been renewal of memberships. As I write, we are currently preparing a new web page on our Save Heighington Station project. Don't forget that we have a number of publications including second hand books for sale in our [online shop](#).

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