

## **FRIENDS of the S&DR – Reports on Research and 2025.**

**RESEARCH:** Members of the Friends continue to research, much of which has been used in the fantastic articles in The Globe; the articles leave a legacy, leading to more research. Dave Pennington & Mike Norman continue in-depth research to ensure Timothy Hackworth receives the recognition he deserves.

.

---

**2025:** The Barnard Castle Group has people building/developing models, including that which belonged to the BC School of the Middleton line, and a model of the railway from Langley Viaduct to Barney. A model of the Station house at Middleton will be lent by the Cleveland Model Railway Club and displayed in Middleton. Work will continue on finalising the Barney Circular Walk; the exhibition at the Witham for 2 weeks is confirmed; suggestions are being made to the Council for info boards and small plaques on the unique railway seats. One member of the Group, whose family worked on the S&DR, is drawing up leaflets on Benjamin Founder, the railway lines, station houses etc.

Montalbo School will work with the Council and is planning a railway garden to be open to the public in the summer holidays of 2025. The school proposes organising a coach trip up to the Stainmore Summit.

The Group will provide details for the Festival Brochure and will draw up a leaflet specifically for Teesdale events. Funding Applications have been made.

.

---

The Thorpe Light Railway is rebuilding a British narrow guage steam engine which will be introduced in 2025.

.

---

**ONE ACT PLAY:** The Trustees of the Friends have agreed to support the production of '**Head of Steam**' by Author Bill Gibson (Stage Name: Leonard Williams). The Castle Players will produce and direct the play and their Lead Director, Laurence Sach, has agreed to direct. Both Laurence & Bill feel they can work together. Jonathan Ratcliffe has attended a meeting with me & the production team which was very encouraging. Most of the detail will be worked on in rehearsal & it is agreed there should be a workshop in the next few months for which funding has been acquired. Further applications will be made and interest has already been shown by funders. Performances will take place throughout 2025 in approximately 8 venues; John Raw has approached a number successfully; Laurence will follow up & draw up a budget. **JANE HY.**