

## Editor's Report

### *S&DR Podcasts*

The second S&DR podcast went live on the 27<sup>th</sup> March. The main subject was why the S&DR is so important. The Stars of the S&DR section covered Mrs Anderson of Thickley Spout and there was the usual news and events. So far (as of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024) this podcast has been downloaded 100 times. The first podcast has been downloaded 203 times. I am hopeful that by doing this, we are reaching a new audience as well as existing followers of the S&DR. The feedback has been positive and in at least one instance 'life changing'!!

If you haven't listened already or if you know someone who might enjoy listening, you can access them both here: <https://talesfromtherails.podbean.com/>. Please forward this link to as many people as possible and spread the word.

I am hugely grateful to Dave Reynolds (of the Stute in Shildon) for composing the theme music for the podcast, to Lee Morris, Darlington based actor from Tall Tales Mysteries for being the voice of Edward Pease and to Archie Mackay of SW Durham News who manages the technology which I have yet to grasp and does the editing.

A new podcast will be published on the 27<sup>th</sup> of each month. The next one will be on Heighington Station and the Star of the S&DR for that month will be John Carter.

Please forward any news or events that I can include. If you'd like to be a guest on the podcast, please get in touch. More voices makes the podcast more interesting. You can join me in Shildon where we do the recording, we can chat on site or I can chat with you via phone, so you don't need to be local to take part. Here are some thoughts for future podcasts:

-  How have we celebrated the S&DR in the past? Can we learn from them when planning our festivities in 2025?
-  Death, destruction and a dalmatian on the S&DR. (Possible guest Chris Lloyd?)
-  Educating the people of Shildon – guest expert Dave Reynolds of the Railway Institute
-  The Hackworth family of Shildon – guest witness, Jane Hackworth – Young
-  Women on the S&DR
-  Young people on the S&DR and afar
-  Walking the line – an outdoors series of podcasts? Pick a different spot each month in summer.
-  Myth busting – the gold dash/ craniology/it's just a one way colliery waggonway/it started at Shildon/Edward Pease didn't attend the opening because his son Isaac died overnight
-  The first railway planned town in the world – Middlesbrough

### *S&DR Music*

I am so excited to tell you that we have been awarded an S&DR Community Grant for our S&DR Music project. This is 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. It will also create a series of videos on the music and the historic instruments targeting KS1-2 children – again they will be freely available for anyone but will be of most interest to primary schools.

### *The Globe*

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. This will save a lot of time when it comes to preparing The Globe and means you are less likely to be asked to make changes. We can also publish research on our web site. This lends itself to raw material and sources such as transcriptions of historic documents – we want your research to be widely available and the web site is a great way to do that.

### *Webmaster's Report*

Since our last meeting (1<sup>st</sup> April) we have sold 14 products bringing in £128.25, the bulk of these have been renewal of memberships. Don't forget that we have a number of publications including second hand books for sale in our [online shop](#).

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