

NORTHERN VIADUCT TRUST

NEWSLETTER No. 7 SUMMER 2012

THE TRUST

Last year our chairman Gordon Biddle retired as a trustee, as did his predecessor Michael Sewell who had been a trustee since the Trust was set up in 1989. We are very grateful to them both for all their hard work over the years. Gordon excelled in locating sources of grant funds and obtaining money for the Trust as a result, and Michael can really be said to have been the saviour of Smardale Gill viaduct because as the then chairman of the Eden District Planning Committee he supported the speedy listing of the structure when in the late 1980s it was discovered that British Rail were planning to blow it up. We wish them both a happy retirement from their duties. Our new chairman is Kirkby Stephen Grammar School teacher Mike Sunderland, who has achieved much for the Trust over a number of years.

SMARDALE GILL VIADUCT

Much work is still being done in relation to the complete replacement of the viaduct deck, and currently it is hoped that exploratory research and planning will be completed this year, with the job being done in 2013, probably during the autumn. The one thing that is all too clear is that this will be very expensive... Masonry repairs on some of the piers will be carried out once we have a new waterproof deck in place. Regrettably the consulting engineers referred to in last year's newsletter did not prove helpful, and as the result of research carried out by our vice-chairman Jonathan Miller we are now receiving helpful and practical advice and assistance from Brian Hobson, a consulting civil and structural engineer based in Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire, who is clearly supportive of our aims and objects.

Our friends and neighbours at Smardale Gill, the Cumbria Wildlife Trust, have recently cleared tree growth in the nature reserve through which the access track to our viaduct passes, and this has resulted in clearer views from the west of Smardale viaduct, another magnificent Victorian structure very much in use as part of the Settle - Carlisle railway.

We hope shortly to have a collecting box in place at Smardale Gill viaduct, as we are sure that its many visitors will be keen to contribute to its upkeep...

BRIDGE PLATES

Surprising what can be found on eBay... Earlier this year our trustee Paul Thompson noticed the availability of resin replica North Eastern Railway bridge plates at a very reasonable price, and so in the interests of authenticity these have been purchased by the Trust for our bridges and the viaducts, and Paul is in the process of fitting them. We are grateful to him for his work on this.

HARTLEY - STENKRITH NEWS

Our Viaducts Walk between Hartley and Stenkrith, outside Kirkby Stephen, and the Stenkrith car park, continue to be well used and enjoyed, and routine

maintenance work is kept up to date. The contractors who carried out the pointing work on the overbridges in 2010 and last year are having to re-do some of it, without charge, because they were caught out by unexpectedly early hard frosts when starting the job. A detailed management and conservation plan has been drawn up by our trustee Martin Holdgate, with assistance from other local trustees, in the interests particularly of safeguarding the fine display of wildflowers on the old railway banks, and thanks are due to all concerned for their work on this. The plan will help us to keep grass cutting to what is absolutely necessary.

Unfortunately dog fouling is a continual problem in spite of our provision of dog bins which are emptied regularly, and we do ask visitors exercising dogs on our walks to act responsibly. The Trust secretary has the useful term 'stick 'n' flick' in mind...

STAINMORE RAILWAY COMPANY 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Over August Bank Holiday last year the Trust was pleased to support our friends at Kirkby Stephen East with their impressive anniversary event, and our stand on the platform at the preserved station attracted much interest. We manned it on a rota basis and the trustees involved enjoyed their duties and talked to many interesting people.

ON THE TV AT LAST!

Following filming for the BBC last summer our flagship viaduct at Smardale Gill and trustees Paul Thompson and Martin Holdgate appeared briefly in the T.V. series 'Britain's Heritage Heroes', and this publicity was pleasing although the rather irritating presenters gave little information about the Trust or even the whereabouts of the viaduct. There were however some fine shots of it, which will no doubt have stimulated interest.

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS - AND ALL DONATIONS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED

The Trust thanks all those who forwarded Gift Aid and other donations in response to last year's newsletter, and this income really is invaluable. The usual Gift Aid donation form is included with this edition and we do hope that our friends will be as generous as they have been in past years. Thank you in anticipation! For those of you well into the 21st century it is possible to give £10 to the Trust by texting 'NVT A01' to 70070 (please note that the 0 in the code is a zero, not a letter 'O'), and online donations can be made to www.bt.com/mydonate.

Users should then search for Northern Viaduct Trust in the 'Donate to Charity' box, and can use a credit card or Paypal. However, it has to be said that Gift Aid payments are most beneficial to the Trust.

For information about the Trust please visit www.nvt.org.uk

THE TRUSTEES

Mike Sunderland, **Chairman**

Tim Bounds, **Treasurer**

Peter Robinson, Glenys Lumley

Jonathan Miller, **Vice-Chairman**

Michael Pettigrew, **Secretary**

Paul Thompson, Sir Martin Holdgate

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NORTHERN VIADUCT TRUST APPEAL

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Name(s):

Address:

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. Postcode

We hope to send further editions of our newsletter by email - and also to keep supporters informed of events as they occur. If you would like to receive these, please complete your email address here:

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If you require a receipt, please tick here: Thank you.

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Please complete if applicable, giving your full address details above. Completion of this Declaration will enable the Trust to reclaim tax on your donation from H.M. Revenue and Customs.

I confirm that I pay income tax in the United Kingdom and I wish Northern Viaduct Trust Limited to reclaim tax on all my donations from the date of this declaration.

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Date: 2012

Address for Correspondence:

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