



Sandford Station Railway Heritage Centre

Registered Charity No. 1136266 - www.sandfordstation.co.uk

NEWS LETTER No.3 - Spring 2013

Heritage Centre opens at Easter for 2013 Season

Dear Members and Friends



The Heritage Centre is getting ready to open its doors to the first lot of visitors on Good Friday 29th March. Apart from general sweeping, cleaning and polishing, restoration work is currently underway on the 1950's Mark 1 carriage to help preserve the fabric, after which it will be re-painted. Hopefully, this year's weather will be drier and the open trucks will also be painted to protect the wood, last year's rains having made this impossible.

2013 Opening

From Good Friday 29th March from 11am to 4pm we will open on Saturday, Sunday and Bank holiday Mondays until the end of October. Hot and cold drinks are now served and we have fridge magnets for stations along the line for sale at only £2.50.

Also, we sell a range of local railway publications (see website). We have started a 'used' section to help with fundraising. Donations of books, jigsaws and any other items (preferably railway oriented) for us to sell are most welcome (please contact Lois)

Running-in Board Comes Home

As you may know from previous Newsletters, the original Bristol & Exeter Railway name board that was in situ on the platform from 1869 - 1963, (seen here to the left of the picture, by P.J.Garland), has been kindly returned to the station by its owner and is now fully restored. This iconic - and very heavy - item will be officially unveiled by:



Mr. Trevor Smallwood, President of St Monica Trustees

At

3pm on Bank Holiday Monday 6th May

SSRHC Chairman and Committee invite you to join us for the occasion.

A celebratory drink and light refreshment will be served. A simple email, note or call (01934 843868) to let us know you are attending would be appreciated



New Arrival - GWR 17 Gallon Galvanised Iron Milk Churn

This GWR 17 gallon churn, c1910, was bought at auction in need of attention. We have had it refurbished to enable it to go on display. Cast-on lettering around the top is 'Cheddar Valley Dairies Ltd, Brent Knoll, GWR' so therefore a genuine piece of local railway history.

Pictures above show it before & after restoration. (Photos T. Perks)

Below, churns in use at Winscombe station. (Photo, courtesy of the Yatman Collection).



For more on milk traffic see our web site

'Tales of the Strawberry Line and other Stories' Event

On Sunday 19th May from 1.30 to 4.00 the station will play host to a storytelling event, part of North Somerset Arts Week's extended programme. A professional storyteller, school children, local railwaymen and residents will relate their fascinating stories, memories, and insights and chat to visitors. This will be done in the comfort of the carriage and will appeal to both children and adults.

AGM

Our AGM in October was so successful that we were literally bursting out of the door with standing room only – for which we apologise. We know that everyone is keen to support all the work that is done at the Centre but, if we're honest, speaker, Richard Harman, was the real magnet! His knowledge of the line is second to none and it was a privilege to hear his talk and see his wonderful collection of photographs (you can purchase Richard's book from us price £25). We are investigating a larger venue for this year's meeting!

The Strawberry Line Café; on the down platform at Yatton Station, is becoming **the** place to go for all day breakfasts, tasty lunches and teas specialising in ethically produced produce and comes highly recommended by visitors dropping in to the Heritage Centre on their next pit stop. It is run by the Brandon Trust which supports people with learning difficulties and is open year-round from 8.30 – 4.30 weekdays and 9.30 – 4.30 at weekends. A real treat is to go on a Sunday to see the steam trains rumble through the mainline station and stay for refreshments – you will need to check the steam timetable for this – or just go anytime.

See our web site

www.sanfordstation.co.uk for more information and details.

Would you be prepared to receive your next News Letter by email?

If so please email either:

Lois: loisbrenchley@berrymead.eclipse.co.uk

Mandy: brading1au@btinternet.com

Trev: tcp@skrep.myzen.co.uk

Include your name, address & email details, thanks.

Please renew your membership if you have not already done so.

From Lois Brenchley & Trevor Perks; On behalf of Sandford Station Railway Heritage Ltd