Friends of Hebden Bridge Station

Minutes of the meeting on Monday 17th June 2024 at 7.00pm at The White Lion Hotel, Albert Street, Hebden Bridge

Present: Martin Whittell, Heather Stanton, Lynda Howard, David Storr, Sue Storr, Paul Westbrook, Nina Smith and Lesley Mackay

Apologies: Kathy Pitt, Andy Grant, Danielle Clarkson, Diana Monahan, Paul Monahan, Sue Smith, Wayne Dean and Megan Smith

Minutes of previous meeting: 14.3.2024: These were agreed as correct.

Chair’s Report: Nothing further to report from the last meeting.

Treasurer’s Report: David Storr noted that our financial year runs from 1st September to 31st August. The balance at the start of this financial year was £448.15 and our balance now is £586. David reported that £120 has been received from Hebden Royd Town Council for our participation in the Big Spring Clean Up. A letter of thanks will now be sent to HRTC for their support. Action: Lesley

Matters Arising:

* Book Swap: Members have been donating books regularly so we’ve had a decent amount of stock for the last few weeks. So many thanks to all the Friends who have donated books recently. Keep up the good work! Action: All members
* Information Boxes: We are still awaiting permission from the various poets who have submitted poems so that we can put their poems on the internet and maybe submit them for publication in Hebden Bridge Times. Action: Diana/Lesley
* Visit from the Friends of Marple Station: David and Sue together with Lesley had a very enjoyable time with the members, comparing our experiences and our various achievements. All very interesting. They have invited us to visit Marple Station.
* David suggested we might like to visit other stations to see what they are doing and if we can learn from their activities, for example, displaying poems more prominently accompanied by art work. Knaresborough, Buxton and Grange over Sands were some of the stations mentioned. It was agreed that Lesley would email round the Friends to see what interest there was in doing this. Action: Lesley
* Signs donated by Peter Rushworth: Given the difficulties in seeking Calderdale Council’s permission to put these up on the Platform walls, we have agreed to put the signs up above the photographs in the waiting room on Platform 2. Suitably worded plaques will be made to be put up beside them. Action: Martin

Working Parties: We have had an excellent turnout at most of our recent working parties, so many thanks to all our helpers who have been making great efforts in keeping the Station tidy.

Future plans:

Cycle storage (Sheffield stands) – A detailed outline about finding out the demand for secure cycle storage at the Station has been received from the cycle spokesperson of the Upper Calder Valley Renaissance’s Sustainable Transport Group. We are hoping that, together with Karen Hornby, we can seek out opinions in and around Hebden Bridge to try to assess this. Action: Lesley

Bio-diversity initiative: Northern have selected Hebden Bridge as one of the Stations to have a bio-diversity make-over, replacing non-native plants with native species. Both Martin and Lesley have participated in a consultation about the initiative. It is not quite clear when this work will be carried out but we have been told that in July, 2024 non-native plug-plants will be used in the tubs to the front of the Station in order to maximise the colour.

Any other Business:

Piano: Northern have indicated that they are quite happy for us to seek a newer piano but that they would not be prepared to help with the disposal of the old one and delivery of the new one. It was agreed we should place a request on Hebweb to see if anyone would like to donate a piano to the Station. It was suggested we approach Hebden Royd Town Council for a small grant to cover the cost of disposal and transport of the pianos. Lynda Howard suggested we ask at the Town Hall if they knew of any possible pianos. Lesley will follow this up. Action: Lesley

Paper tickets: David Storr suggested we should be lobbying for the re-introduction of paper timetables. Nina Smith mentioned that Railfuture had been doing this for some time to no avail.

Date of next Meeting: Monday 12th August 2024 at 7pm in The White Lion Hotel.