



Emergency Newsletter
March 2020
No 1



The Friends of the Settle - Carlisle Line

Volunteers Newsletter

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times" - "What a carry on" - "I've never known anything like it" - "Never a truer word spoken", I'm sure we've been using or heard some of these phrases lately. I think throughout all S&C history this is probably one of the most uncanny, unusual, surprising but most serious events we've experienced.

So, while we do our bit for Queen, country and for self-preservation, under Government instruction in Isolation terms, the committee members and I thought we'd put together a newsletter to keep you all up to date with the day to day things relating to the S&C route and services, its volunteers and in general.

On Tuesday 17th March some FoSCL officers took the decision to stand down all volunteer activities - shops and sales, on-train guides, preserved signalboxes, leaflet distribution, station adopters and Unit 8a workshop. Thank you all team leaders for your help in this.

On Wednesday 18th March news came through that the S&C Development Co. would be suspending trolley services from that day onwards to reduce the risk of staff members contracting the coronavirus whilst undertaking their activities, mixing with the travelling public. This also applied to the S&C Dev Co. members of station staff because of the high risk of dependents at home. Thus, leaving the main Northern employees in post at Settle and Appleby to cover station duties, i.e. myself and Manny Wright.

On Tuesday 24th March an emergency "Key Workers" timetable was introduced on all Northern Routes; our route is now currently running 4 train services in either direction per day, Monday to Saturday. Those services are the 07.48, 10.49, 13.18 & 16.48 from Leeds and the 08.24, 10.49, 14.50 & 16.18 from Carlisle. A revised separate Sunday timetable is being looked at during the present time and should be implemented over the next week or so.

On Thursday 26th March an instruction came through to lock up and isolate all station waiting rooms and shelters, with exception of those waiting rooms which had ticket offices within that portion of the building. A strict instruction came through to mark up the waiting room seats in those areas as "Not a Seating or Waiting area". It also saw the withdrawal of cash transactions for tickets at booking offices, card only.

At present the trains have consisted of 2 car units and for those of you who are unit cranks we even had a lesser spotted 156 unit down from Carlisle, No.156468. The units that usually work the S&C are class 158s coupled sometimes with 153s and if something has completely conked then class 150s. Class 156s generally work the West side of the Northern network and Carlisle – Newcastle.

Since the inception of the "key worker" timetable the trains have been running very much empty, virtually 3 to 5 people per train if that, a heart-breaking sight by all accounts but realistically, it's good and imperative that people are taking the various restrictions seriously.

Postponement of the May FoSCL AGM: With regret but under the current isolation lockdown restrictions, the May FoSCL AGM is presently postponed. All officers and committee members will remain in post during the restrictions of the pandemic. We will re-call an AGM as soon as we are permitted to and advertise the venue, date and time accordingly.

Unit 8A Workshop volunteer - Ged Pinder: I arrived back to work on Thursday 19th March where I met workshop volunteer Ged Pinder at his usual arrival time of around 09.00 for the usual update on projects and coffee before undertaking the usual unstoppable work mode progress. It soon became apparent to me that something was seriously wrong, sadly he'd

lost the ability to speak and he looked confused, the words he attempted to speak became a drone. I took him to the station office where I performed various recommended tests and called 999 for the ambulance. There was no restriction in movement of his arms or legs, just his speech. The Ambulance turned up within 5 to 10 minutes and promptly took Ged to Bradford Royal Infirmary where tests were carried out to find a small blood clot on his brain. Ged was alert, comfortable and the hospital informed us they could treat the affected clot. While he was in Bradford hospital he was given some speech therapy which he was responding to very well. After 2 days Ged was well enough to transfer to Airedale Hospital on ward 5 where he currently is. I'm told he's in good spirits, comfortable and progressing very well with his speech so much so he's practising various chat up lines with the lady nurses. He's very determined to get back to the workshop and press on with the outstanding projects but realistically he needs to rest and progress sensibly and steadily. Best well wishes to him from all at FoSCL.

Birthday Wishes: "Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday to Ruth and Lisa" A happy birthday to FoSCL committee member Ruth Evans and a happy 50th Birthday to Dev Co. Station staff at Settle, Lisa Smith. Rest assured your age will be the best kept true secret with everyone!!! All the best from all at the Friends.

Future Projects: Obviously with the current restrictions we can't hold public meetings but when we eventually get the green light to recirculate and mingle again I'm very keen to peruse The Nature Line project with Marion Armstrong, Pete Shaw and all our station adopters and gardeners. One more good point of interest as we're in nature mood and one for the "twitchers" the Chiffchaffs have returned to Settle. Bird song and warbling is very prominent with all the uncanny silence everywhere but the sound of the Chiffchaff is very distinct and they are back with us, so let's have some hope and look forward to a return to some form of normality soon.

Finally: We're looking for ideas while we're in isolation. Most of us have access to a computer and we can't rely on this lovely weather for ever so once we're confined indoors what things can we compile via computer which will have benefit to us later? Someone suggested a photo log of the S&C through the ages. Or maybe there are some old records we could digitise? Let us have your ideas and we can see what's possible.

Best wishes and stay safe everyone

Paul Brown - FoSCL Chairman

The S&C Journal

As the current COVID - 19 crisis unfolded and it was clear that the 2020 AGM could not go ahead as planned, discussions commenced on getting the May journal out early - rather than late as was the original intention due to the AGM timing.

Our printers, Fretwells of Keighley who also pack and post the journal for us, accepted the timeline which I proposed but warned that they may have to close down either voluntarily or on the advice of H.M. Government.

This proved to be the case and it is now very unclear when another journal can be produced: the worst case scenario is not until the end of 2020 but it is much better not to try and predict a date at this time. If you have anything for the magazine please email it to me at: editor@settle-carlisle.com but please do not be surprised if you do not see it in print for many months. We will issue another emailed newsletter/s if and when this is deemed to be necessary.

Keep safe!

Paul A. Kampen - FoSCL Secretary/Editor

FoSCL Membership

The Settle-Carlisle Railway Development Company (DevCo) have put the following statement on their web site:

"From Tuesday 24th March 2020 the office at Appleby station will be closed for the foreseeable future. All queries relating to website shop sales, Group Travel, Dales Railcard purchases and anything else will be dealt with via email only.

This is in response to the ongoing effort to overcome the current COVID-19 situation and the need to protect the health and wellbeing of our staff.

From Tuesday 24th March 2020, we will also be pausing all sales made through our online shop as we are unable to cover this function at this time.

We look forward to bringing these services back soon.

Any further update will be made available here on our website, Facebook and Twitter."

This affects the FoSCL membership system, as membership administration is carried out for us by DevCo staff at Appleby. I have collected the FoSCL membership computer from Appleby together with the external hard drive used for backup and they are now safely stored in my house.

At the end of February and start of March we were very pleased to be deluged with members paying their annual subscriptions. However, this influx means that there were some hundreds of membership renewals still outstanding when the office had to be closed at short notice. This will have no effect on people's memberships, they will be dealt with as soon as the staff are able to return. However our Treasurer will have to wait a little longer to receive some of the membership income! The roughly two hundred online renewals had all been completed when the office closed.

For the time being I shall deal with any queries sent by Contact Us from the web site and shall monitor the email address membership@settle-carlisle.com. Any post to the Appleby office will be checked on a weekly basis in case there is anything that needs to be dealt with urgently.

Richard Morris, FoSCL Webmaster - 27th March 2020





EMERGENCY TIMETABLE SERVICES FROM SETTLE MONDAY TO SATURDAY

**FROM TUESDAY 24TH MARCH 2020
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

<u>TO CARLISLE</u>	<u>TO LEEDS</u>
08.50	10.02
11.51	12.34
14.17	16.28
17.49	17.56