



The Settle & Carlisle Railway A Priceless Gem of Victorian Railway Enterprise & Engineering

To many the Settle & Carlisle Railway will need no introduction. Built between 1869 and 1875 the line is synonymous with spectacular scenery. Perhaps less well understood is that the Settle & Carlisle is massively engineered with no less than 22 viaducts, 14 tunnels and 168 separate bridge spans. In its heyday the line also boasted 20 intermediate stations, 10 of which remain open today.

Being under threat of closure from the 1960s to 1989, the sweep of modernisation largely by-passed the Settle & Carlisle. As a result the line is the most complete piece of Victorian railway engineering in the UK, and is therefore very much a priceless gem. It also has a rich legacy of history, fact and folklore. The importance of the built heritage of the line was recognised by its designation as a Conservation Area, and the establishment of the Settle & Carlisle Railway Trust.

The Settle & Carlisle Railway Trust is registered with the Charity Commission (No 702724) and has as its core objectives conservation and restoration of historic buildings and structures, promotion of public knowledge in respect of the buildings and structures and the line's rich legacy of history.

Since its formation, the Trust has provided over £1m of funding to achieve full restoration of the station buildings at Kirkby Stephen, Ribblesdale and Horton in Ribblesdale and established a visitor centre at Ribblesdale. It has also provided support for Ribblesdale Viaduct repairs, provision of a new northbound platform at Ribblesdale, the restoration of Hellfield Station, new waiting shelters at four stations, a pedestrian footbridge at Kirkby Stephen and other minor projects.

Today, the Settle & Carlisle Railway is in many respects a line transformed. However, more remains to be done. The Trust has an ambitious programme of works it wishes to achieve including:

- **Restoration of the Station Master's House at Ribblesdale.** External restoration is currently in progress. Work then needs to turn to internal fixtures and furnishings to provide high quality living accommodation. Completing the renovation and internal works are expected to cost a further £50,000. The Trust urgently needs your support to complete this project.
- **Expansion of the Visitor Centre at Ribblesdale.** Established in 2000 the visitor centre was modestly updated in 2011. However, over the next 2-3 years the Trust wants to expand imaginatively the interpretation of this key iconic Settle & Carlisle location. Estimates for this work are in the order of £0.5m - £1m.
- **Garsdale** is intrinsically linked with Settle & Carlisle history and folklore, and the Trust is seeking to fully interpret this. The works are likely to cost in the region of £50,000.
- **Dent** is the highest main line station in England and is synonymous with severe snow falls that necessitated the snow fences built in the early 20th century. These fences still exist but have now largely fallen into disrepair and their restoration in situ is certain to be challenging. To help explain the importance of these structures to the early railway, the Trust is proposing to provide interpretive display panels in the station waiting shelter explaining their history, construction and operation. The aim is to undertake this work in the near future at an estimated cost of £2,000.
- The Trust took on operation of the existing holiday let at **Kirkby Stephen** in late 2011 and has now provided a second holiday let in the north end of the building. The central section of the building is devoted to a small scale refreshment/retail/display area. The two holiday lets provide an invaluable source of income to the Trust as well as providing excellent holiday accommodation.
- The Trust also requires funding support for the ongoing maintenance and upkeep of the historic buildings in its care.

Can you help us?

The Trust has an important role to play to ensure that the line's legacy of Victorian engineering and architecture are conserved and interpreted for future generations.

The Trust receives funding support from various organisations, as well as income from holiday let rentals and retail activities. However, to achieve the wider aims as set out here, the Trust needs your support.

Over the next year the Trust needs to raise £100,000 to achieve its planned programme of works. For the next five years that sum is expected to be in excess of £1m.

The following are ways in which you could help the work of the Trust:

One Off Donations: By making a financial donation to the Trust you are helping with the Trust's work. Donation boxes are placed within the Visitor Centre at Ribblesdale and Kirkby Stephen. Alternatively you can log on to www.justgiving.com/sandctrust, or text RIBB00 £x to 70070 (where x is your donation), or make a cheque payable to the Settle & Carlisle Railway Trust and send to the address in the 'Making a Contribution' section of this leaflet.

Regular Donations: By making a regular donation to the Trust's work you are providing the Trust with a regular source of income. Various monthly levels are offered according to choice and affordability. If you feel able to support the Trust in his way there is a Bankers Order Instruction on this leaflet for your use.

Gift Aid: If you are a UK tax payer the Trust can reclaim the tax on your donations so increasing the value of your contribution to the Trust. Please fill in the declaration on this leaflet.

Legacy Donations: You can help by establishing a personal legacy in favour of the Trust. If you wish to establish a legacy please either write to the Trust at the address on this leaflet or download the form from the Trust's website below:

www.sandctrust.org.uk

