

PRESS RELEASE



S&C 2010-06

19 April 2010

Trust notches up 20 years of Preservation Success.

The Settle & Carlisle Railway Trust has celebrated its 20th birthday with a programme designed to raise awareness of its activities. Repairing the famous Ribbleshead Viaduct and restoring three stations on the famous Settle Carlisle line are among the highlights of its many successes over the last two decades.

Shortly after the line won its dramatic reprieve from closure in 1989 the Trust was set up to safeguard and maintain the stations and other structures on this historic line. Unlike any other mainline in Britain, most of the buildings were still in their original condition, albeit in need of substantial TLC, and as such formed a unique piece of our heritage. The Trust has been central in making sure this heritage is in the best possible condition for years to come, starting with co-ordinating the funding of repairs to Ribbleshead viaduct - the iconic symbol of the line and the reason it was so nearly closed back in the 1980s. Horton-in-Ribblesdale, Ribbleshead, and Kirkby Stephen stations have all been painstakingly and expertly restored, picking up many awards, and in the case of Kirkby Stephen being reopened by Prince Charles. There have been many less glamorous projects too, such as providing authentic clocks for six of the stations.

The Trust's current major initiative centres on Ribbleshead, with restoration of the Stationmaster's House at the heart of an ambitious plan to make the site a draw for railfans, those with an interest in transport and architectural heritage - and indeed everyone who enjoys the majestic setting of the viaduct and station.

For too long the Trust's work has not, perhaps, had the recognition it deserves. Now everyone on the web can see the achievements of the past two decades at www.sandctrust.org.uk, and there is an online donations facility so that people can help directly with this important work. Station posters and postcards are also being produced to raise awareness.

David Ward, Chairman of the Settle Carlisle Railway Trust, said "It seems incredible that 20 years have passed already - the Trust has delivered so much, but there is still so much more to do. Looking after historic buildings is an ongoing and intensive commitment. We're up for the challenge, but can't have too much support - especially in these recessionary times. So far we haven't exactly shouted from the rooftops about our great achievements, but now is the time to really make people aware of what's been done and how they can help."

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Notes to Editors:

The railway from Settle in Yorkshire to Carlisle in Cumbria is one of the world's great scenic rail journeys. It is a mainline forged through the dramatic Three Peaks mountain country, with the iconic Ribbleshead Viaduct at its heart.

The **Friends of the Settle Carlisle Line** were formed in 1981 to campaign against a proposal to close this famous historic and scenic route, and played a vital role in the campaign that led in 1989 to the Government deciding that the line must remain open. Established as result of the line being saved was the **Settle & Carlisle Railway Trust**, which has leased and fully restored three stations (Horton-in-Ribblesdale, Ribbleshead and Kirkby Stephen), and which is currently working on a plan to renovate the Station Master's house at Ribbleshead. Also set up after the line's future was secured was the **Settle & Carlisle Development Company**, which delivers station improvement schemes, group travel booking and on-train & station catering.

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