

COVID - 19 Emergency  
Newsletter  
May 2020  
No 2



The Friends of the Settle - Carlisle Line

## COVID - 19 Emergency Newsletter 2

### Essential key worker passenger services

**A** month has passed since the last FoSCL newsletter so here is the latest update of what's happening on the S&C route.

Settle and Appleby ticket offices remain open at the present time, staffed by myself at Settle and Manny at Appleby. All the waiting rooms on the line are currently closed and locked out of public use. For Manny it's a 90-miles drive round trip (76 miles if by train) from home to work at Appleby, for me it's a 38-mile round trip to Settle. Appleby is open Monday to Saturday, closed Sundays. I'm currently working thirteen days with a compulsory one-day break, then back for another thirteen days. I've actually lost track of days in amongst the lockdown period.

We continue to be served with four trains a day, seven days a week. There is a Monday to Saturday timetable and a separate Sunday timetable service, the services are for key workers and essential travel only in accordance with the Government's guidelines. Monday to Saturday services from Tuesday 24th March until further notice on the S&C are served with:

From Leeds - 07.48, 10.49, 13.18 & 16.48

From Carlisle - 08.24, 10.49, 14.50 & 16.18

Sunday services from 5th April until further notice on the S&C route are served with:

from Leeds - 08.59, 12.28, 16.23 & 18.52.

From Carlisle - 09.25, 12.25, 16.07 & 19.11

These are for essential and key workers travel only. Around 0 to 4 key workers are using the train services on average daily.



*Paul Brown driving former 0-6-0 PBA (Port of Bristol Authority) Hudswell Clark 204bhp diesel No D23 'Merlin' in 2000 whilst loading steam loco Furness 20 at Ingrow West Yard, Keighley and Worth Valley Railway.*

**Freight services, Rail Tours and Coach Parties:** As most members are aware the S&C route operates a handful of freight traffic to keep the West and East coast main lines clear for the fast-express passengers to operate efficiently and frequently, as well as serving industrial operations based within its own corridor at the Arcow stone quarry in Horton in Ribblesdale and the Gypsum plant at Kirkby Thore. For operating crew members, it provides alternative route familiarity if other lines are blocked. About 8 different types of freight operate the route generally, Stone, Cement, Engineers, Timber, Gypsum, China Clay, light engine moves, tamper and stone blower units. Ever since the pandemic lockdown this has now reduced to the local stone quarry and NR engineers freight only. Another regular operation in suspension is Steam and Diesel Rail tours. Coach parties also are cancelled until further notice. Operations consist of running the essentials only until the danger has passed.



**Left: Manny Wright holds the fort at Appleby.**

**Photo: Simon Higgins**

**Twitchers:** The Willow Warblers have now returned to Settle and are joining in the dawn chorus with the Chiffchaffs. It's usually around this time we get some of the coastal birds back so I'm keeping a watchful eye and listening ear for the whole compliment to be back on parade. Volunteer Gardener for Settle, Marion Armstrong provides an update in this issue.

**Workshop volunteer - Ged Pinder:** I'm pleased to report that Ged has made a remarkable recovery since our last newsletter. Within two weeks of being admitted to hospital, Ged is now back home looked after by family members and thankfully his speech has improved tremendously. Friday 3rd April Ged called passed Settle station with his son while they were out on their daily exercise, very briefly Ged said a few words of thanks for contacting the emergency services on the morning of Thursday 19th March. He formulated his words and sentences perfectly, he was extremely grateful

to all the NHS Doctors, Nurses and other members of staff who looked after him at Bradford Royal Infirmary and Airedale hospital. You can probably tell how much true pride he takes with the workshop because on his return journey back from the hospital to home in Settle, chauffeured with a couple of lady nurses, he couldn't help but create a slight route diversion via the workshop to show them what work he undertakes for FoSCL. If you ask me, I think this was another attempted chat up tactic but decide for yourselves..... He passes on his sincere thanks to all who have wished him a speedy recovery and best well wishes.

Best wishes and remain safe everyone.....

**Paul Brown - FoSCL Chairman**





*Above 156480 with 158868 awaiting the few (no?) passengers at Appleby on April 13th.*

*Photo: Mike Summers*

*Front cover: A deserted Appleby station car park. Photo: Manny Wright*

## Spring birdlife

**A**t Settle station the super-quiet conditions have enabled a pair of collared doves to nest successfully. Station staff helped to secure the nest with a strategically placed board and the pair are happily and safely in the process of hatching their eggs. Our usual summer residents, the House Martins are being eagerly looked out for. One or two swallows have been sighted overhead and it's likely the southerly winds will encourage more of them up from further south. Before long the Swifts arrive, beginning the shortest of stays here often returning after about 3 months to warmer climates such as Africa.

Summer visitors are always a delight to hear and see. The chiffchaffs, Willow Warblers and Blackcaps are making their way back and being heard in the trees. It's an excellent time to spot them as the trees are still not in leaf.

If anyone hears a cuckoo soon then we'd love to hear from you. The British Trust for Ornithology is running a comprehensive tracking investigation which hopefully will shed light on their decline. Cuckoos migrate from sub Saharan Africa to here so their crossing involves a lot of distance and danger. But their call is something we all wait to hear every year.

Up on the moors our summer visitors include the Wheatear, again a migrant from Africa. Our own resident waders have come inland to the moors to nest. These include Curlew, Oyster catcher and Sandpiper. Our northern moorland just wouldn't be the same without the beautiful haunting call of the Curlew or the excited loud peep of the Oyster catcher.

Whatever happens with life for us humans thankfully nature carries on her unstoppable yearly creation of life and this is in evidence all around.

**Marion Armstrong**

## Newsletter Distribution

We had around 1100 members' email addresses on our membership database so we sent the first Newsletter to all of you – thank you for letting us have your address in the past. Around 200 bounced, not surprising when we've never done this before and some of the email addresses will have been very old. I've now been right through, deleting the invalid ones, and we can now send emails to roughly 900 members and be confident that they will receive them. It turns out that all email systems, even the big ones like Gmail, have restrictions on bulk emailing. We can send out to a maximum of 500 recipients a day and 100 per hour from our settle-carlisle.com email address. Tedious, but they can all go out over a couple of days. Should we use a third party online distribution service like MailChimp? While it would remove this sort of restriction, we think not. It limits the design of what you send out so we don't think it would be suitable for our newsletter. Also, it's designed for large scale marketing campaigns and that is something that we would not undertake with our members, nor would we want a third party to get hold of our members' personal data.

**The FoSCL membership system:** First, thank you to all those who have renewed online. This means that we get your subs and in some cases generous donations up front and it's a lot less trouble for you! Because of the current restrictions, there are a large number of cheques in the Appleby office waiting to be paid in, and at the time of writing it's not clear when we shall be able to process these and pay them into the bank. The FoSCL membership laptop was retrieved from Appleby at the start of the lockdown and is now safely stored in my house.

**Social media:** People appreciate tweets from @foscl even more than usual during the lockdown and the number of followers increases fairly steadily; we now have 1520. We had a bit of fun recently by posting a photo of Arten Gill viaduct, asking if people knew which one it was. Three got it right, and one of them sent us a couple of very fine photos of it with sheep in the foreground. Speaking of which, Mark Rand unearthed an old photo of Ribbleshead sheep market taking place on the track up to the station, which I duly tweeted. Nothing like a bit of variety to keep people interested! If you don't do Twitter, have a look at the [www.foscl.org.uk](http://www.foscl.org.uk) home page: all our tweets are viewable in the right hand column, just scroll down to see the older ones.

Dave Lacey continues to do an excellent job for FoSCL on Facebook and this is bringing in another increasingly large group of followers. Look for the page Friends of the Settle-Carlisle Line. All good publicity for FoSCL and the S&C, especially as we appear to be the only ones doing this within the S&C family.

## Richard Morris - FoSCL Webmaster

### Virtual Visits and trips down memory lane

Sadly, the lockdown restrictions mean that most of us are currently prevented from making a real world visit to the Settle-Carlisle railway. However, we can still make a 'virtual visit' via the following page on the FoSCL website:

<https://www.foscl.org.uk/content/virtual-visit>

This webpage includes links to

- \* A small image gallery.
- \* The webcams at Ribbleshead, Horton-in-Ribblesdale and Kirkby Stephen.
- \* The SCRCA Project database (which now boasts more than 7,000 photos of railway-related structures between Hellifield and Carlisle, plus hundreds of related articles and potentially interesting 'snippets' of information).
- \* The 'Explore More' system (with its high-quality aerial imagery and a steadily expanding collection of old photographs and other interesting material).

This period of relative confinement may also be an opportunity for some of us to take a trip down 'memory lane' by reviewing (and perhaps indexing and / or digitising) our personal collections of photos, videos and cine-film footage. If you are inspired to do this, please keep in mind that the SCRCA Project team is actively seeking images showing railway-related structures within the conservation area, especially structures that have been demolished or significantly altered. For more information about the type of material we're looking for, please refer to our

"Plea for Information and Images" on the SCRCA Project website at:

<https://scrca.foscl.org.uk/plea-information-and-images>

Finally, those with a nostalgic interest in the Settle-Carlisle line may enjoy the following 'free to view' clips available in the British Film Institute's online archive:

A 25 minute long Yorkshire Television documentary from 1985 entitled

"End of the Line?": <http://player.bfi.org.uk/film/watch-end-of-the-line-1985/>

A 51 minute film made in 1963 by members of Halifax Cine Club entitled "The Long Drag":

<http://player.bfi.org.uk/film/watch-the-long-drag-1963/>

During the filming trips for the latter, a significant number of still photographs were also taken and 65 of these have been uploaded to the SCRCA Project database courtesy of Steve Horsfall.

They can be accessed directly via:

[https://scrca.foscl.org.uk/gallery?field\\_scrca\\_image\\_contributor\\_target\\_id=9749&sort\\_by=title&sort\\_order=ASC](https://scrca.foscl.org.uk/gallery?field_scrca_image_contributor_target_id=9749&sort_by=title&sort_order=ASC)

Hopefully, this brief 'Settle-Carlisle line diversion' will help you to pass a pleasant few hours during this difficult time.

**Mark Harvey - SCRCA Project Coordinator**



*Hot off the press! 68032 'Destroyer' in TPE livery at Settle with 158871 in the background departing on the 14.17 to Carlisle. The loco is working the weekday engineers train - one of only two freight workings left on the S&C under COVID - 19 operations. Photo: Paul Brown*

**FoSCL AGM: just a reminder that the 2020 AGM is postponed until further notice. Please keep checking the website: [www.foscl.org.uk](http://www.foscl.org.uk)**

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