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SETTLE-CARLISLE RAILWAY COMPANY CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY

Formed following the re-privatisation of the line from closure, the Settle-Carlisle Railway Development Company celebrates its 25th anniversary this month.

It has been instrumental in many improvements for passengers along the length of the line. These include waiting shelters at Lazonby, Langwathby, Kirkby Stephen and Dent, heritage-style lighting on platforms, better toilet facilities and train information screens at Settle and Appleby.

In the late 1990's in response to the booking offices at Appleby and Settle not being open on a number of days each week, the company negotiated a ground-breaking contract to provide staff to work at the stations to sell tickets and help passengers.

Since 2004, the Company has operated the refreshment trolley service on trains between Settle and Carlisle offering a range of locally made produce.

Promotion of the railway and region has been, and continues to be, a priority encouraging people to use the railway and to support local businesses. Local residents benefit from the Dales Railcard scheme and the group travel team at Appleby actively encourage groups to travel on the line. The settle-carlisle website has been developed into a comprehensive resource for information about the railway, the region showcasing places to explore, eat, drink and stay.

Chairman, John Moorhouse, said:

"Passengers, local residents and businesses and visitors to the area have derived many benefits from the efforts made by the Company during the last 25 years".

The Company employs nineteen staff bringing job opportunities to the rural economies of Appleby and Settle and helps to support many more employment opportunities by using local suppliers wherever possible.

Drew Haley, General Manager, commented:

"The landslide at Eden Brows, near Armathwaite, and subsequent closure of a section of the Settle-Carlisle route has had a detrimental effect on passenger numbers. A number of exciting events and projects are in the planning stage to celebrate the re-opening of the line to Carlisle in March".

ENDS

IMAGE 1:



The Development Company provides a trolley service on many trains between Settle and Appleby
© J Shoosmith

IMAGE 2:



Northern service calls at a wintry Garsdale
© Stuart Petch

Editor's Notes:

The Settle-Carlisle Railway Development Company is a not-for-profit organisation that promotes the railway line and invests in projects which benefit the local economy.

More information about the Settle-Carlisle Railway can be found here: www.settle-carlisle.co.uk

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