

# STRIVING

Newsletter of the South Tynedale Railway Inclusive  
Venture for the Education of Railway Staff

## Signing On

The old mess room and the room next to it are no more. The railway has vacated them as an economy measure. The signing on (and off—don't forget!) point is now the mess coach in the heritage workshop yard. So remember to go there, not where you always used to on autopilot!

## Merry Christmas to all our readers!

Now how many other railways can boast a harpist in their youth team to entertain Christmas café visitors?



NYMR

## We are not alone!

Other railways have youth teams too. The Chief Striver has been finding out what they do in a project for the Heritage Railway Association. Some great new ideas as a result. Read on!

Swanage Sygnets



## Survey Result

Thank you *all* (yes!) for returning your survey forms. The results have been combined with the results of my HRA research visits to other railways and will result in a new look for STRIVERS in 2019.

What you said you wanted boils down more or less to:-

- ⇒ Making things work and learning how to make things
- ⇒ Going on interesting/fun trips to railway places
- ⇒ Driving little engines and riding on big ones
- ⇒ Pulling levers and controlling trains
- ⇒ Find out how trains work by taking them to bits

So that's what STRIVERS now do—until they're 14 when they will have the option of work shadowing volunteer roles they might like to train for at 16, or more of the above but harder!

## Christmas 2018



*Yes. This is a GIRL working a lathe! Could it happen in strivers?*

## Making Things Work and Learning How to Make Things MINI-MACHINISTS?

Well, there's already been some of that. We have at last made some working signals for the Slaggyford Training Model, designing and building our own frame. But we're not stopping there. We *have* to work out how to make level crossing gates work and then tackle the big challenge of interlocking. You said you'd like to learn about lathes. Well there are a couple of projects to tackle. We have a "Barry wreck" 3.25" gauge Britannia we could restore. It would also make a rather nice project to build a STRIVERS' own ride-on 5" gauge wagon or coach. Either of these projects will require some lathe work and the deal will be you learn about lathes through helping turn your own component (so yours had better not be the egg shaped wheel!)

AND! The picture shows Haydon Bridge signal box. Why? The Chief Striver has been talking to the Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership with a view to a STRIVER presence at Haltwhistle. They were very taken with Northern Rail's safety demonstration layout and would quite like one of their own. There's a particular problem with level crossing safety at Haydon Bridge so what better way of teaching Absolute Block working than a model that shows why the barriers have to stay down for such a long time . . . (when we've finished the Slaggyford training model) You don't like "Mini-machinists"? Suggest something better!



## Going on interesting/fun trips to railway places.

Enter: **STRIVER TRAVEL**

Yes, our own railway travel "company". You have managed to convince me that you'd really like more visits to places of railway interest, and Ryedale last year was certainly a great success. Well, the following are possible for 2019:

- The Lancashire and Yorkshire Signalling School at the National Railway Museum (courtesy the Block Course)
- Exeter West box and Crewe Heritage Centre
- Shildon Museum with possible driving opportunity at GL5 event
- The Rail Academy at Gateshead (courtesy TVCRP)
- And an invitation by the Severn Valley Railway to be the guests of their Junior Club (this would need to be a sleepover event)

Sounds great doesn't it? But it will need to be supported (a) by the strivers who say they want it, (b) by some parents to help with all the child protection stuff and (c) probably some adult volunteers to make up the party (particularly for the NRM because they're not going to get all their signallers out for one and a half boys and a dog). SO, it's up to you to prioritise Striver Travel in your diaries as dates have to be dependent on what the venue is prepared to offer. To test the water, I'm minded to try a trial trip to Settle Signal Box via the Settle & Carlisle. It's rumoured that there are some Strivers who haven't travelled over the S&C. Outrageous! Not even the fact it's a Midland line is an excuse . . .

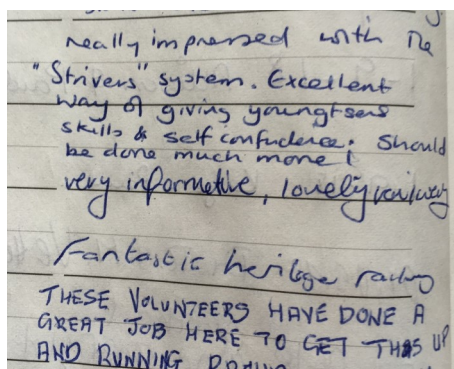


Note irony; Spam can on a Midland Line. Double fault!

## Finding out how trains work by taking them to bits.

Let's talk about that after we've helped erect and connect the new signals at Slaggyford. You'll learn a lot about S&T!

Seen in the Heritage Workshop Visitors' Book!



## Driving little engines and riding on bigger ones SHED 52C



An ever popular activity. We might even have four engines in ticket for 2019! 55468 and the 4F are both in ticket, 6106 has a new injector that works really well and is ready for her test and Steve Race, who's very kindly been fixing some slipped quartering (nasty

ailment, nasty job!), on 6918 has promised she'll be back by January. I can't say too much at this stage, but I'm looking into possibilities of more regular driving on a longer track (you might have to earn points by helping them with some jobs!)

As for bigger engines, we now have an established 52C COHORT day system. (1) You answer five technical questions on how steam locos work that you've learned through the little ones (2) you earn five *labouring points* through activities such as ash shovelling, (3) you find a means of getting to the shed by 7am (!) Then you can work shadow the driver or fireman during prep and have a footplate ride.

## Pulling levers and controlling trains CENTRE of BRITAIN SIGNALLING SCHOOL

Signalling is a difficult one because you can't train as a signaller until you're 18 and there are safeguarding issues with lone working in boxes. It's been really interesting finding out what the other railways do. We think we've come up with a solution to test for 2019. A CBSS COHORT day will look like this:

- (1) Sign-on. Work Alston box as much as permitted by signaller and supervised by your mentor until 10:30 departure.
- (2) Drive with mentor to Slaggyford, observe or supervised operation of level crossing (depending on experience level).
- (3) Ride back in guard's van, arr. 12:05 Alston
- (4) Rule book session in CBSS where you learn a rule through a video and/or accident re-enactment
- (5) Alston box for arrival of 14:35. Sign off after run-round.

