

## PRESS RELEASE

### West Somerset Railway Station Benches Project Complete.

A group of West Somerset Railway volunteers, representing all the stations on the line met at Watchet Station on Easter Sunday afternoon to mark the end of the project to review and enhance the station benches at all ten WSR Stations. The last two refurbished benches had been delivered to Watchet that morning.

Over 3 years, twenty new GWR benches have been obtained by the Railway, some originals and some authentic reproductions. Stations have exchanged benches between them so that they have matching sets. Correct woodwork profiles and paint colours have been researched and used. Visitors have declared the new-old benches 'very comfortable'. A number of Southern Railway benches from the WSR have found new homes at the Dartmoor, Lynton and Barnstaple, Swanage and Kent & East Sussex heritage Railways.

WSR plc Chairman, Ian Coleby said:

'There is much more to a heritage railway than our admittedly wonderful steam locomotives. Its often the small things that make our stations feel authentic, and the benches project is a good example of that. Our visitors often remark on our attractive stations and getting that environment right in heritage terms is very important. This project shows how our whole Railway can work together.'

Most of the work to refurbish the new and exchanged benches has been done by the Railway's 'Repair and Maintenance Section' ('RAMS') based as Bishops Lydeard. If you would like to volunteer there, or on any WSR station, contact your local station or the Minehead information office on 01643 704996.

WSR volunteer Robin White, who co-ordinated the benches project, has now turned her attention to station signs.

For further comment, please contact:

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