

Stories of the West Somerset Railway

Hello All,

The WSR company have asked Ian Coleby and Allan Stanistreet to put together a book to celebrate the 40th anniversary of reopening to Lydeard.

The idea is to have a book that contains stories about the significant events and milestones since the reopening, as seen through the eyes of those involved at the time. Although this will cover from the earliest days up to date, we anticipate it will be largely focused on the early years, prior to say around 1990. But that is dependent on the content that we receive. The book will consist of a series of articles written by the individuals each covering a different topic and an average length of around 1500 words each.

The book will be full colour and will be illustrated with contemporary photographs.

We are now looking for individuals who could write an article to go in this book. Telling us a story of what you did on the railway years ago or about a particular event or just your general memories of working on the railway over the past years. We are looking at an average article length of approximately 1500 words but can clearly accommodate shorter or longer if necessary.

As regards timescales, we would like to have all the articles put together by the end of February, so that we can get it prepared and printed ready for June.

Is this something you would like to do? If so, please let me or Allan know with an idea of what you might like to write about. If you have photographs then fantastic but don't worry too much as we have quite a lot in the archives already!

We are both quite excited about this as it is a chance to document some of the hard work that has gone in to make the railway what it is today! These things don't often get written down and all too easily forgotten.

This book is provisionally titled 'Stories of the West Somerset Railway' and subtitled 'personal recollections of those who built today's West Somerset Railway' - we look forward to hearing from you soon!