

Brief for the Education & Interpretation Support Officer

1. Introduction

Background

This two-year project is built around the restoration of the now unique former Midland Railway footbridge (which the Trust acquired) to its original location spanning the two platforms at the station. In addition, there are many memories and stories about the bridge from the people who watched trains, used the bridge to safely cross over the railway from platform to platform or to carry on their journeys on foot up Station Road. These oral histories will be captured as part of the community engagement programme which will be delivered by this post.

This part of the project will need to:

- Develop interpretation for the local community, visitors and heritage railway volunteers to learn about the station and its history from its heyday until its closure (1967).
- work with people through intergenerational events
- work inclusively – e.g. with schools, older adults, bme groups, volunteer learning opportunities
- produce a 'timeline' history of the station through a variety of media.
- deliver 'show and tell' events (i.e. sharing memorabilia, stories/memories).

Research will focus on:

- The station buildings – links with Paxton (earlier station buildings and in context with other stations along the Midland line)
- The unique double staircase footbridge from 1911.
- The importance of Darley Dale Station/Goods Yard on the Midland line
- Whitworth Park – links with Sir Joseph Whitworth, Victorian inventor, engineer/ philanthropist

Produce a booklet and oral history archive: by training volunteers how to conduct interviews (oral histories) around memories, research historical documents, record information, present work for interpretation panels and create publicity materials.

Volunteers will be supported in basic learning and IT and will signpost to the WEA. Other training opportunities for oral history collecting and transcribing will be arranged by this post.

2. Outcomes/Outputs

The project will focus on:

Heritage:

This type of bridge (double staircases) with its original smoke guards will be unique. The unique feature of the story of Darley Dale station is that not only has a genuine Midland Railway footbridge been acquired to once again link the two platforms, it is the original bridge designed for this location and which served the station from 1911 to the 1960s.

Main beneficiaries:

All members of the community, by exploring this untapped area of heritage, especially:

- People who are isolated; elderly; suffering mental health issues; in isolated rural locations in the area
- Local farming community who would have sent their produce via the Station and Goods Yard
- Residents and former workers able to tell their stories;
- Young people working inter-generationally;

Overcoming barriers:

- Publicise via traditional media (local newspaper, talking newspaper, radio, leaflets, Parish magazines) as well as social media
- Workshops in accessible locations, both in Matlock, Darley Dale, Rowsley, Bakewell and rural venues where the line ran will bring the community into the project to learn about it.
- Design affordable activities to appeal to wide age ranges and backgrounds.
- Deliver sessions catering for people with mental health issues to support health and well-being.

Increasing participation:

- Publicity including press and radio coverage, pull-up banners, leaflets
- Open days and Research events, in Matlock, Darley Dale, Rowsley, Bakewell, and appropriate rural areas, through e.g. senior citizens lunch clubs in the area.
- High-profile themed days to help develop people and their stories
- Using the railway arts to bring the heritage of the location to life: with participants able to participate from mental health organisations /charities and in public workshops
- Developing a touring exhibition and booklet using the artwork, photos, writing etc.
- Enabling volunteers to learn new skills including IT, reminiscence, and research methodologies.
- Visits to archives and places of interest associated with railway.
- Work with local schools to raise the awareness and understanding of the railway heritage.
- Ditto local community

Numbers:

Development of new and supporters and volunteers from the locality. Core group of 10-20 including potential volunteers with 200+ dipping into different events and opportunities

Overall reach 1,000+ individuals throughout the project.

3. Specific requirements and tasks relating to this post:

Provide the following overall outcomes:

- Community, pupils and teachers will be able to appreciate the relevance of archive and family research relating to the project;
- Community, pupils and teachers will learn about their own communities, family histories and their links to the railway;
- Community, pupils and teachers will learn that heritage can be found locally;
- Community, pupils and teachers will learn about how to participate in local history;
- Participants will learn skills to communicate the results of research in the

Wordpress website, exhibitions, maps. Participants will develop and learn skills.

Host five 'show and tell' sessions on the heritage as part of the site's public heritage offer.

Engage with participants to develop promotional exhibitions and to produce a booklet relating to the project and its outputs.

Engage with participants to develop skills throughout process of creating the exhibitions.

Engage with participants to retain writing skills for future exhibitions.

Input to the development and creation of an exhibition toured locally which explores the heritage, and input to learning opportunities

Train and involve volunteers in collecting oral histories, heritage research and interpretation, and digital media. Oversee the recording of at least 20 oral histories telling stories of the bridge and its environment. Share podcasts showcasing the stories.

Writing workshops/activity sessions and mentoring for community activity sessions in the villages and communities including two schools for Key Stage 2 pupils (aged 7-11) in local Primary Schools showing pupils how to do local history research and telling them about the events.

Develop STEM education support materials with the education providers and final archive file for the school records and other appropriate archive bodies.

Ensure numbers of pupils at each session are recorded, including gender, ethnicity and whether any have disabilities.

Install three new interpretation panels and three hand wound listening posts at the station. Create an exhibition to be toured locally which explores the heritage

4. Timescales

Overall project timescale: 1st March 2024 – end February 2026

Fixed fee of £9,600 payable pro rata monthly (£400)

5. Selection procedure

We will select the candidate who appears to be match the skills and experience requirements; our decision is final.

Interested individuals should forward a concise CV (to include two referees) to David Lathrope (Chair of Trust) at dwwrtrust@gmail.com together with a covering letter specific to the post by 12.00pm on Monday 8th April 2024. Appointment of the contract will be on a fixed fee as quoted.

6. Terms and Conditions

The post's tasks are to be completed within the specified fixed fee.

Payment will be made on receipt of official invoice.

There is no holiday entitlement, pension scheme or other benefit associated with any appointments.

National Lottery Heritage Fund Contract Approved Purposes for Bridging the Past:

- *Reinstall the original double staired footbridge over the Midland train line at Darley Dale Station.*
- *Create a STEM schools pack for Primary school age children on the railway's social and economic history. Run schools' visits to the station to trial the new material.*
- *Train and involve at least 15 volunteers in heritage conservation skills such as riveting and metal work for the footbridge, collecting oral histories, heritage research and interpretation, and digital media.*
- *High visibility acknowledgement of the National Lottery Heritage Fund on site, online and in all activities as well as using your project to acknowledge and thank National Lottery Players.*
- *Record at least 20 oral histories telling stories of the bridge and its connection to the railway. Share podcasts showcasing the stories.*
- *Take proactive measures to be inclusive, remove barriers to access and reach new and diverse audiences through the delivery of this project.*
- *Install three new interpretation panels and three hand wound listening posts at the station. Create an exhibition to be toured locally which explores the heritage.*
- *Partner with local homelessness support services to organise pastoral visits.*
- *Share regular updates of the project's progress and heritage outputs online and via a programme of at least three public talks.*
- *Host five 'show and tell' sessions on the heritage as part of the site's public heritage offer.*
- *Print booklets which share the heritage research and memories of the bridge.*

This project has been made possible with Heritage Funding and thanks are due to National Lottery players.

