



South Tynedale Railway, Alston, Cumbria

Media Information

An historic weekend for the South Tynedale Railway Preservation Society.

South Tynedale Railway Society (STRPS) is very pleased to announce that the line extension to Slaggyford will open on Saturday 9th June 2018 with the departure of the first Slaggyford Special at 10:45a.m.

Slaggyford Specials will run on both Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th June leaving Alston at 10:45, 13:15 and 15:15. Tickets for these special trains **must** be purchased in advance through the website www.south-tynedale-railway.org.uk

Return tickets for these historic journeys, the first since the line closed in 1976, will be priced at £13 for adults and £5 for children aged 1-15 and will be available to pre book **from 9.00 a.m Wednesday 30th May** on a first come first served basis.

Travellers will receive a welcome drink and nibbles on arrival at Slaggyford together with a souvenir fridge magnet to mark the occasion.

Chairman Richard Graham said, "This will be an historic weekend for the Society one of whose main aims is to recreate a community railway linking Alston Moor, South Tynedale and the wider North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) with the national railway network at Haltwhistle. Opening the extension to Slaggyford is the first step towards fulfilling this aim and I would like to thank the team of staff and volunteers who have worked really hard, overcoming numerous obstacles, to help us reach this milestone in the Society's history."

From 12th June the new operating timetable will come into force and trains will run to Slaggyford via Kirkhaugh and Lintley on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays (daily in school holidays). Passengers can also start their journey at the newly refurbished Slaggyford station in Northumberland. The journey through the tranquil South Tyne Valley in the North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) will take approximately 90 minutes and takes in beautiful views of rolling hills, native woodlands and verges full of wildflowers.

As Richard Graham says, the South Tyne Valley is a fantastic place to visit and it will be the first time since 1976 that the public will be able to experience the views from Lintley to Slaggyford from the window of a train!"

The opening of the line to Slaggyford represents completion of the final strand of a major development project which included a £4.3 million award from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).



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For further information please contact

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About South Tynedale Railway

The South Tynedale Railway is the North of England's highest narrow gauge railway, winding Northwards from its home at Alston in Cumbria into Northumberland.

Built on the track bed of the former Newcastle and Carlisle standard gauge Haltwhistle to Alston line the STR is 2 foot (610mm)gauge. The South Tynedale Railway Preservation Society opened its first short stretch of track in 1983 and has extended it over the years. The charitable society's goal is to reinstate a railway all the way from Alston in Cumbria to meet the national railway network at Haltwhistle in Northumberland. Trains run from early spring until November each year and Santa Specials operate at weekends leading up to Christmas.