

Bridlington Station - steaming ahead

Regeneration by Restoration..



The stylishly restored station buffet interior

THERE aren't many places where you can step over the threshold and be transported back to the early 1900s. But there's a special place in Bridlington where you can do just that.

If nostalgia is your thing – then a visit to Bridlington's Station buffet is an absolute must. Here you will find an authentic interior with original fixtures and fittings and a warm, friendly welcome all year round.

The original interior has been lovingly restored to its former glory with marble and mahogany in abundance.

Railway memorabilia or 'Railwayana' bedecks every inch of available wall space while ale casks, old bottles and jugs hang from ceiling hooks. Much of the collectable Railwayana was discovered hidden away in the buffet cellars.

John Sadler is the local man who took over the buffet three years ago and is also Chairman of the local Community Rail Partnership.

He proudly states the buffet is one of only three left in the country. The other two are in Lancashire and Essex.

John said: "I love the feel of the place. It was built in 1912 to cope with

the increase in rail travellers. Since I took over, the original mahogany window frames, doors and fire surround have been stripped back and restored to their former glory."

Outside on the station concourse, the summer abundance of prize winning flower displays draws the travellers' eye. As well as winning a special award as part of Bridlington in Bloom last year the stunning display of Bizzie Lizzies is entered in two national competitions this year.

John said: "The displays were originally started by Madeleine Crook who works at the Station Buffet – I do it now and it's a job in itself – but very worthwhile.

"We get really nice comments from people. On any day, some 38 trains arrive and depart at Bridlington Station carrying hundreds of rail passengers. Many do call into the buffet and are pleasantly surprised at our wide choice of food and beers and the charm of the place.

"The buffet consists of two rooms. One is a cafe serving a variety of beverages and food to eat in or take out and the other is a licensed bar serving a variety of alcoholic drinks including hand pulled real-ale. We are also in the Good Beer Guide 2005."

As well as the transport improvements already planned for Bridlington, the Regeneration Partnership aims to form closer links with the Community Rail Partnership to promote rail travel to and from Bridlington.



Award winning stylish entrance & concourse

..and another successful package

Partnership Support for OLD PARCELS OFFICE ARTS CENTRE

Bridlington Regeneration Partnership is working with the Old Parcels Office Arts Centre to take the project forward in the longer term. The project has been running for several years, and aims to reach all members of the community, particularly focused on inclusion, innovative arts, and mental health projects operating within the community. It is managed by Hull and East Yorkshire Mind and set on the main railway concourse within Bridlington Railway Station.

The Regeneration Partnership Core Steering Group gave their support earlier in the year, to enable the current activities at the Parcels Office, such as woodcarving, creative textile sessions, art classes and creative writing workshops amongst others, to continue into the future. A request had been made for part of the running costs to be met through the Regeneration Programme, after all other possible funding sources had been explored and a funding gap remained. The project was able to show

that it met many of the aims of the Regeneration Programme, and therefore recommendation was given to support part of the running costs for the next three years.

Linked to this, a development project was recently supported 'in principal' by Bridlington PACT Board for the expansion of the Arts Centre with the repair and refurbishment of the unused rooms on the south side of Bridlington Railway Station; a grade II listed building within the central area of Bridlington. The European Regional Development Fund grant for this project (if approved) will be in the region of £165,000

The present premises are limiting, with one large activity space and a small office. The expansion project will bring the whole side of the Railway Station into active use adding to the current historic and innovative use of the Railway Station. The current premises, although limited in amenity, are ideal in character and situation for community based activities.

The project is also looking to appointment a Coordinator of Volunteers and Skills Development and Outreach Arts Development Worker. It is envisaged that these posts, together with the expansion project, will assist with individuals to build confidence, increase self worth, combat depression and reduce stress.



Regeneration update

Bridlington

REGENERATION PARTNERSHIP NEWS



So just how far have we come ?

The Regeneration Study work last year set out the Regeneration Masterplan and the projects that are needed to deal with some of the problems that are currently affecting Bridlington's fortunes. Bridlington is poised for renaissance, with help from Yorkshire Forward's Renaissance Towns initiative to make our town, already a beautiful place, even better. The Masterplan aims to preserve and celebrate the unique character of the town, but to improve the town offer – to make our town a great place to live, work, invest and visit.

How far has Regeneration come already? Here are some facts:

In 2002, Yorkshire Forward committed to a three year "Thriving Bridlington" programme of support, aimed at creating the right pre-conditions for realising the opportunities presented by the major investment planned through the wider Regeneration Programme which has now been established. These early projects completed in March 2005, and were able to produce results better than expected in most areas.

Between 2002 and 2005 Yorkshire Forward spent £2,500,000 on a range of projects, which successfully attracted a further £4,232,354 of match-funding from other sources. The total programme value of investment in Bridlington was therefore **£6,732,354.**

Some of the successes were :

Jobs Created	235
Learning Opportunities (+30 hours)	1892
New Businesses Set Up	22
Businesses Advised	390
Businesses Assisted	130
Increased Business Sales	£1.5m
Private Investment Attracted	£3m
People Accessing IT	1175
Childcare Places Created	122
Unemployed people trained and helped into work	129
Community Groups Assisted	10
People helped to gain employment	58
Volunteers in Schools	57

The success of the "Thriving Bridlington" programme has shown the value of several key projects, which are now being carried forward in the Regeneration Masterplan, with funding secured through to at least 2008. These include business support through "Opportunity Knocks", promoting Bridlington through activities, events and festivals and improving local business networks supported by Town Centre Management, helping young people to re-connect with learning routes "Young Aspirations", and support for local communities "Community Development Project" and "Bridlington PACT".



Regeneration update



Photograph by kind permission of:
Trish Watson, Old Town Gallery, High Street

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be proud of Bridlington...

IT'S YOUR TOWN

Regeneration The E-way

IN the past decade retail selling has changed beyond all recognition. With the introduction of ebay – the online marketplace – retailers are now open 24/7.

That's 24 hours a day - seven days a week. Instead of the usual shop opening hours of 9am to 5pm – ebay offers a constant saleroom to buyers from all over the world. It offers a way of reaching customers who wouldn't normally visit your shop. Locally, several savvy retailers have caught on to the ebay phenomenon and it's opened up a whole new marketplace for Bridlington businesses.

EXTREME

Steve Dixon, owner of surf and skate ware shop Extreme, on the town's Promenade, started trading on ebay last November. He's since set-up a dedicated ebay shop selling his stock that includes Atticus and Roxy.

Born and bred in the town – Steve who is 34 was delighted at the uptake. He said: "At any one time we list 200 to 250 items for sale. Through ebay people can bid for items and the highest bidder gets the goods. "For small independents such as myself the advantages are fantastic. I close the shop at 5pm and by midnight I can check ebay and often I've sold a dozen items. So even when you're closed, stock is still selling and making money. It can be time-consuming posting off items but it's now a part of my working life and I can't imagine not doing it."

Steve isn't quite sure whether selling on-line will take-over normal shop sales to the public. He said: "I think people will still like to visit a shop and feel the quality of the goods for themselves."

Steve also owns Sounds in the Promenade Shopping Centre which also has a dedicated website for on-line selling. The website addresses are:

www.sounds-brid.co.uk and www.extremebrid.co.uk.

AQUATIC WORLD

Husband and wife team, Chris and Sue Akrill, have run Aquatic World since 1991. Their vast array of products can now be purchased on line through their website.

www.aquaticworld.co.uk

Their enthusiasm for the business is clear to see. The moment

you walk into their friendly premises on the busy Promenade it is evident how their customer base has been built-up over the years. To develop their business further, they have recently launched their website. "We have a warehouse and through the website we are generating more sales to people who can't always visit the shop for whatever reason - be it health or accessibility to the town," said Chris. "We've noticed the difference. We have inquiries from all over the country. It's definitely the way to go these days."

Obviously live fish aren't sent through the post – but just about everything else sold at Aquatic World can be.

When Aquatic World first opened for business in 1991 it was very small and dedicated to the serious fish keeper. Then there were tropical and coldwater fish with just a shelf full of dry goods. Chris said: "Things have changed since then. In the past few years the business relocated to larger premises on the Promenade and of course, the onset of trading on the net. "As a family run outlet we pride ourselves on the knowledge of our highly trained staff. Experience is something that you cannot buy. Our aim is to keep people keeping fish. Professional, practical and concise advice is what we try to give our customers, as each one of them is an individual and not just a credit card at the till."

RN TEXTILES

Looking at an alternative way of selling products led Angela Langton to the Internet.

Angela's parents, Roy and Nicoletta, are well known in Bridlington. Their textile business RN TEXTILES is long established in the town supplying countless hotels and guest houses over the years with bedding and towels. Angela, 34, recently returned to the family fold to help assist her father with the running of the business – and care for her mother who is unwell.

Despite having a regular market stall in Bridlington for over 30 years, Angela said: "It's a long winter in Bridlington and we needed to look at alternative ways of selling our products. We have established a successful ebay site for RN Textiles where we send goods, such as towels, linens and tea towels, all over the world.

Due to the initial success, Angela has persuaded her father to go fully interactive with an on-line web page that is currently under construction and should be launched by November.

Angela said: "Businesses need to move with the changing times. We want to attract more of the hotels as customers. We thrive on providing quality products; people have been buying goods from us since we established 30 years ago and apparently some of our towels and sheets are still going strong!" Angela also wants to continue with the market stall, as well as running the website. She said: "The Internet is a great alternative. Developing our site can only be an advantage to the business. RN Textiles is my parents business and I will endeavour to see it running for another 30 years. I want to see it succeed. It's hard work but I'm determined to do it."

Roy Langton is Chairman of the Bridlington Market Traders' Federation. He said: "My daughter is keen to look at new ideas for the business. She is a determined individual and if anyone can make it happen she can."

The website address will be:
www.rntextiles.co.uk and www.rntextiles.com

If you would like to know what help is available to get your business on-line, please contact Bridlington Business Centre Telephone 01262 401399

Community Wardens Project

The Regeneration Partnership is currently working with ERYC to develop a Community Wardens Project, the first of its type in the East Riding. The project will run as a pilot and if successful could be extended to other areas of the East Riding. A number of funding sources are being explored including European Community Support Funding, Yorkshire Forward and Neighbourhood Renewal, which Bridlington has recently qualified for. The project would allow a group of community wardens to operate in certain parts of the town, to work with the community and police, to improve quality of life for residents.

New Office for BridWatch

Coronation Street's favourite busy-body Malcom Hebden, who plays Norris Cole, officially opened the town's Neighbourhood Watch Association's brand new premises on West Street. As well as looking after the 4,000 families in the Neighbourhood Watch Association, the centre now has a lending service with videos for the under fives with books and jigsaws available. Pete Saxby, who heads the association was delighted Mr Hebden had agreed to visit. Mr Saxby said: "We were staggered he agreed. He's a main character and to get him to come to Bridlington was fantastic."

The busy reception needs volunteers, if you can help please contact Pete Saxby on 01262 409352

Work Starts on First Major Regeneration Project for New Business Units, Bessingby Way



Building started in August on the first construction project to come forward through the Bridlington Regeneration programme. As part of the Regeneration Study work in 2004, the Bridlington Business Premises Study showed that there was an urgent need to develop small office/workshop type accommodation at Bessingby Industrial Estate for fledgling businesses. The development is on land in the same cul-de-sac as the Business Centre, which has been successful in helping young businesses to start-up.

The study research found that Bridlington has higher than average numbers of self-employed and entrepreneurs, and that these small businesses will play a very important part in the future of Bridlington. The study also identified the complete lack of good quality business space for firms that have started successfully, often using the existing Business Centre "Start Up" units, and need somewhere larger to move into, to expand their business.

Six new business units will be built, at a cost of approximately £1.1 million, shared between the Council, European Funding Grant, and Yorkshire Forward. The development takes place alongside the recently completed private sector led development for the first of two other plots at the same location. The project builds on the previous success of Bridlington Business Centre, and aims to further develop this popular location at Bessingby Way, specialising in encouraging local business enterprise. Work is expected to be complete by Easter 2006.

STOP PRESS: Bridlington Expo 2005
A free networking event for businesses of every size and type - Thursday 6 October 2005 at The Spa 12 noon - 8.00pm for details Tel. 01262 401399

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