

SUMMER 2021

ATLANTIC COAST EXPRESS

BIDEFORD RAILWAY HERITAGE CENTRE CIC

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BIDEFORD

Chairman's Report

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Tim Steer Family History on the Railway

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£3.50

Finally, I'd like to introduce and welcome one of our volunteers who is joining the Board of Directors. Tim Steer is the son of one of our former Drivers and also serves as a Parish Councillor for Fremington. One of the things we were asked - as we came to the attention of higher levels of transport planning during the running rights campaign - was what were we doing with regard to reversing the rail closure? An extremely good and pertinent question in the current atmosphere of restoring rail links! I've also been very public with the opinion that the best option for more rails to be added at Bideford, would be from the Barnstaple direction and that would be in the form of a Tarka Line extension. The matter of a line from the Torrington direction being the concern of the Tarka Valley Railway.

Tim has joined BRHC with this portfolio and will be working with external bodies to build support for a Tarka Line Extension to Bideford and develop the case financially with a view to securing further funding for feasibility studies. It is very pleasing that the wider Rail Industry regards BRHC as being the ideal local body to take this forwards and equally pleasing Bideford remains an ambition for them. This is a fairly significant and exciting development and like myself, I'm sure we wish Tim the best of success as I truly believe this could be the start of something similar to Okehampton.