
~ Railway anniversaries ~

2017 marked 'decadal' anniversaries of two railway-related events that are of importance in the history of West Moors:

1. The **1st June 2017** marked the **170th anniversary** of the **full opening of the Southampton & Dorchester Railway**.

This was important for the whole of Dorset of course - its first 'main line' connection with the rest of the nation - initiating societal & physical changes across the county. But the line entered Dorset by crossing the area that is now covered by West Moors parish - and in so doing 'sparked' the developments that, over a period of several decades, would lead to the community we have today.

2. The **1st August 2017** marked the **150th anniversary** of the **opening of the station building**.

This was actually a single-storey goods-handling facility - the local population was too small to justify a fully-staffed station at this date: about 150 people / 30-odd households. The fully-fledged station would come when a second-storey was added as accommodation in the 1870s. The station helped to focus & promote development of the village - and left us with the name of the principal thoroughfare through West Moors.

[This note was written in 2017]

A brief history of the local railway can be found on this web site ... as well as a link to a small leaflet dealing with its history.