

Wednesday 31 May 2023

RAILWAY 73

| | | |
|----------------|-------|-------|
| Regent Centre | | 1151 |
| Pelaw | 1213 | 1219 |
| South Shields | 1236 | Ferry |
| North Shields | Ferry | Ferry |
| South Shields | Ferry | 1356 |
| South Gosforth | 1433 | 1439 |
| Regent Centre | 1441 | |
| | | £6.20 |

I have usually been by myself on my various Metro jaunts, but today Harry came too - and he paid (all zones ticket). As we left RC, we spotted one of the new units hiding in the depot (just behind the fence). I also photoed the old station building at Felling - to quote its listing: *Disused stone built station of 1842 on the Brandling Junction Railway opened in 1839. A small chapel-like station with a tall narrow projecting cross gable having triple lancet windows, above which is the Brandling family crest and the prophetic initials 'BR'. Towards the end of 1842, Joseph Colthurst, the B.J.R. manager, was able to report that "the Felling Station House had been contracted for at £175 and will be completed in 6 weeks from the 7th inst.". Thus the building was probably completed in December 1842 or January 1843. The old Felling station remained in use until c.1896, when the railway between Gateshead and Pelaw junction was widened from two tracks to four, and a much larger station was opened on an island platform between the two new tracks. LISTED GRADE 2*





We changed at Pelaw and went down on to the South Shields branch. This has now been doubled, with a freight connection onto the branch and off again for the Jarrow oil terminal. On through Bede and Chichester, which I learned is pronounced Chi-chester, and up to the terminus at South Shields (a very impressive building). It is just a shame that SS High Street is not as impressive - very run-down with lots of empty shops.



We walked down to the Tyne and had a ferry ride - there and back are included in our ticket. The ferry dates back to at least 1377 and a century ago there were 11 separate river crossings. The opening of the Tyne Tunnel in



1967 led to a major decline, and this route is the only one left. Like an idiot, I didn't note if we travelled on "Spirit of the Tyne" or "Pride of the Tyne" - and you'll see my photos don't help. There were a reasonable number of people on board, lots of cyclists and lots of grandchildren!





Back on the south side, we said “Hello” to the Snowdog and walked back up to dine at Gregory’s (we had a steak bake at Greggs). Then headed home, changing at South Gosforth.

