

Friends of Romiley Station



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2020

Hello everyone. Since our last newsletter the problems facing not just the UK, but the world as a whole, have escalated and changed on a daily basis and the work that we do simply falls into total insignificance compared to the health, economic and social impact facing us all. Much is said about the impact upon physical health but it goes far beyond that and hopefully the energy that everyone puts into the likes of The Friends of Romiley Station can now be redirected into the community as a whole by helping those who need help, using modern technology to talk to those who need to talk or simply ensuring that you stay safe and well and that those around you do the same.

Despite everything, we decided to publish a newsletter this month (a bit earlier and shorter than usual though) so that you can see what did happen in those not too distant better times in early March. It will, however, be our last newsletter until everyone can return to normality (whatever that will be) and we are able to recommence our activities at the station.

Meanwhile, if you do need any support please email or phone our secretary Angie (who is also one of your local Councillors). She is on 0161 494 2012, 07951 567147 and clark.theateam69@btinternet.com.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - TUESDAY 3RD MARCH 2020

Our Annual General Meeting took place as planned on 3rd March 2020 when we discussed the events of 2019 and at that time looked forward to a successful 2020.

At the meeting it was decided to cut down on the number of meeting dates by holding Members and Committee Meetings on the same night (4 times a year), including our January meal out which is combined with a meeting.

The current officers and committee were all re-elected unopposed and so they are as follows:

Chair/Treasurer - Alf Clark

Secretary/Membership Secretary - Angie Clark

Committee - Peter Wightman, John Seraj, Tim Tuff and Alan Clark.

PLATFORMS 1 AND 2 - STOREROOMS

Clearly, we have put on hold the refurbishment of the Platform 2 storeroom. However, at the last Task Session we did move everything we had in the Platform 1 storeroom over to the Platform 2 storeroom.

We did this, even though the Platform 2 storeroom was not really ready for use because we had been contacted by Northern's property agents, Lambert Smith Hampton, to advise us that a survey had discovered asbestos in the Platform 1 storeroom and that work was to be carried out so as to remove the asbestos.

HAZEL LEES - COMMEMORATIVE TREE

You will recall that our former chair, Hazel Lees, sadly passed away in May last year. However, it was pleasing to see that many of her friends and



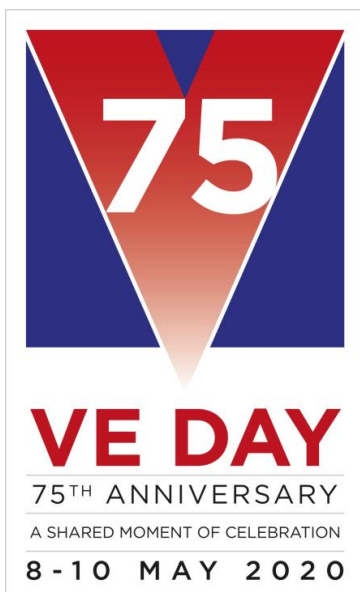
former colleagues attended a ceremony in Romiley Park on Friday 6th March when her husband Mike



and his family put the finishing touches to the planting of a tree in her memory.

As a Group we owed a lot to Hazel and it is really nice that her memory will live on in this way.

V E DAY - 75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS - 8TH MAY 2020



Although plans were well advanced and various things had been purchased in connection with the VE Day 75th Anniversary celebrations the event has now been called off.

We had been into our local schools so as to distribute some 75 bells that had been for display at the station.

These bells were to be decorated by the school children, some of whom were also going to be involved in a bell ringing ceremony down at Chadkirk Chapel.

Maybe we will be able to have a 76th Anniversary Celebration in 2021 or some other suitable event.

CO-OP LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND

We have been advised that some £360 has now been raised by Co-op members and that during April we will be sent a cheque as an interim payment from the fund.

STEAM TRAIN THROUGH ROMILEY STATION



On Saturday 8th March a steam special excursion (Shrewsbury to Scarborough) passed through the station and quite a few members of the public turned out to witness 70000 Britannia pulling a host of immaculate carriages.

We know that other steam trains were scheduled to pass through the station at the end of May and in early June, but no doubt it may now be much longer before such a splendid sight can once again be witnessed.

NEW STATION SIGN



In early March workmen were busy at work outside the front of the station replacing, on behalf of TfGM, the old station sign, which bore the former GMPTE logo, with a new up to date sign.



GOODBYE FOR NOW

As mentioned in the introduction to this month's newsletter this will be our last one until things return to normal and we are able to function as a Group once more.

So finally, may we wish everyone well and hope that you all remain safe throughout these difficult and trying times.