Friends of Romiley Station



Welcome to our July 2020 Newsletter. We are publishing it a few days earlier than usual given that we wanted to share some of the news items with you sooner rather than later.

It's amazing to think that we are already almost half way through the year. Let's hope that the second half is far less traumatic and eventful than the first half.

Again, we hope that everyone is keeping safe and well and are able to get out that bit more so as to enjoy some fresh air. This month we have included a suggested walk that starts and finishes from the front of the station.

We also have some more puzzles for you again this month. We do include some recently issued guidance from Northern on the resumption of station activities together with details of our plans to hold a Members' meeting on 13th July.

Do stay safe and well.

IDENTIFY THE STATIONS (AGAIN)

This month we have come up with 12 anagrams that when solved will give the names of stations that are all served by direct train from Romiley. Have fun solving them - the answers are at the end of the newsletter.

- 1. ADD ONE LOTTERY
- 2. YACHT LENDER
- 3. IDEAL RIFF
- 4. INSERTS
- 5. SAY SHRUB
- 6. LENTIL CALMS WREN
- 7. BAD FORM
- 8. HYDRO THEN
- 9. ELF FISHED
- 10. CHEMICALLY DISCREPANT
- 11. HELLO SIR PALMER
- 12. HEATH'S GEAR

CIRCULAR WALK FROM THE FRONT OF ROMILEY STATION

CHADKIRK, MARPLE DALE, MARPLE & PEAK FOREST CANAL DISTANCE - 8.1 KM (5 MILES) TIME - 2 TO 2½ HOURS

As more and more of us are able to get out and about for a walk we give below details of one of the walks that Mike Hanson put together earlier this year and which will eventually feature in a leaflet that we are to put together.



This is a relatively easy walk with no steep climbs. The section towards Marple Dale on the other side of the bridge along the side of the River Goyt can be muddy, especially after wet weather, so suitable walking shoes/boots are recommended.

 From the front of the station cross the road and walk down Church Lane to the right of the Romiley Arms passing St Chad's Church. Continue along Chadkirk Road which gradually slopes downwards and passes under the Peak Forest canal (A). You then pass the delightful Burymewick Cottages.





2. Keep to the road as you drop down towards Chadkirk and join the designated path that runs parallel with Vale Road (B). Chadkirk Chapel is to your left and you can divert into its grounds and walled garden. At the end of the path there is a gate (C). Go through the gate, cross the road and bear left going through a kissing gate by the entrance to a bridleway. 3. After only a few yards you will turn right where you see a sign marked "Chadkirk Bridge." Go over the footbridge (D) (but do stop to look up and down the River Goyt so as to admire the view and perhaps even spot a kingfisher). Once over the footbridge take a left turn and follow the path which runs along the bank of the River Goyt.



4. The path eventually joins Dale Road (E) which climbs through woodland and you approach a housing estate. At Bowden Lane (F) turn left, pass over the railway bridge (this is the branch to Rose Hill Marple station) and take a left onto Seven Stiles Drive.



5. Take the second right onto Aspenwood Close. At the end of the Close opposite Marple Cricket Club is a path which you can take through the estate, ending with a walk down Grosvenor Road (G). At the end of Grosvenor Road take the path over the canal at lock 7 (I).

6. Turn left onto the towpath and follow the canal down to the end of the flight of locks. After a short distance you will reach Marple Aqueduct (J) which takes the canal over the River Goyt. It is the highest canal aqueduct in England and the highest masonry-arch aqueduct in Britain.



The difference in water levels in the river and canal is some 90 feet (27.4m). It was opened in 1800 and is a Grade 1 Listed Structure. Running parallel to it is the railway viaduct (which itself opened in 1862). Linger here for a while to take in the scenery and the sheer splendour of the two structures.

7. Continue along the canal towpath and you will reach Hyde Bank Tunnel (K). At this point you need to go up the steps and follow the path over the tunnel passing Hyde Bank Farm (L). Follow the path going under a small stone bridge before re-joining the canal towpath. After a while you reach the top of some steps (by a Council litter bin) that lead back down to Burymewick Cottages (M). At the bottom of the steps turn right and walk back up Chadkirk Road and Church Lane to the station (N).

HELPING THE COMMUNITY DURING LOCKDOWN

During lockdown the usual community events (such as May Day on the Meadow and Romiley Fun Day) have all been cancelled but that has not stopped some people from bringing the community together.

We very much wanted to bring to your attention the fantastic work being undertaken by the Cherry Tree Project.

The Cherry Tree Project set out as a youth-led community group that supported young people throughout the year with regular weekly sessions and holiday activities.

These include furniture up cycling projects to help fund the group, and the popular Fit and Fed sessions run in partnership with Life Leisure.



With the coronavirus pandemic they had to look for new ways to continue to support their community. This included moving the Fit and Fed sessions online where they have been a massive success. Every Friday at 2pm, Sasha from Life Leisure does a fitness session which is streamed live from The Cherry Tree Project Facebook page to get families moving and to work up an appetite.

Then at 4pm Rachel and Nigel Stephens live stream a video teaching people how to make easy, tasty and nutritious meals for families to cook along with in their own homes. The cooking sessions have been incredible and 100's now take part. Rachel and Nigel, with help from local businesses and others now obtain, prepare, pack and deliver all the ingredients required to for the cooking sessions to almost a 100 homes

each week. Young and old alike now look forward to every Friday.

It was fantastic to learn that Rachel and Nigel had received a special award from the High Sherriff of Greater Manchester. In May he had launched a Special Recognition Award Scheme so as to publically acknowledge the amazing acts of thoughtfulness and kindness being done by so many during the pandemic.

Rachel and Nigel and all those involved in the Cherry Tree Project are such worthy recipients of the Special Recognition Award. As you can see from the photo they have so much to rightly smile about.

They are a superb example to everyone in Romiley.



A VISIT BY A NORTHERN TRAIN TO THE COAST

Northern serve a whole host of stations that are on the coast.

Below we have put together some clues, which hopefully you can solve, so as to identify 10 of these coastal stations to which Northern provide a service.

The number of letters in the station name can be found in brackets at the end of each clue. Good luck!

- 1. The colour of snow is next to a place of safety or refuge (10)
- 2. i.e. is inside a small insect with two wings (5)
- 3. The bottom of a ship perhaps (4)
- 4. Yorkshire town featured in Bram Stoker's novel Dracula (6)
- 5. An abbreviated street and the makers of honey (2, 4)
- 6. A Wise man teamed up with him to bring us laughter (9)
- 7. Members of the landed gentry could be five bar (7, 4)
- 8. It's to be found within the darn sideboard (7)
- 9. A large all-black passerine bird next to a vessel used for drinking beer (10)
- 10. A permanent mark in your skin teams up with an administrative division (11)

THE STATION WAITING ROOM GARDEN

Even with nothing going on at the station and very few people travelling by train a lot of people do walk through the station car park as it leads to the local Health Centre and Pharmacy, which can be accessed by the steps at the far end of the car park.





A recent passerby took the two photographs here, which they kindly sent us, showing that nature is still working well and even with a current lack of tender loving care the gardens are blooming.

TIMETABLE EXTRACTS

There have been quite a few changes of late as the rail industry put together a suitable timetable so as to serve key workers whilst keeping everyone safe.

In fact over the years timetables have always been of great interest to many people and whilst researching for other purposes we came across the timetables below from the Great Central Railway era.



The Great Central Railway came into being when the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway changed its name in 1897, anticipating the opening in 1899 of its London Extension. On 1 January 1923, the company was then grouped into the London and North Eastern Railway.

| 8 | Dp. | Week Days. |
|----------|---|--|
| MIN | Manchester (Lon. Rd.) dep. | mrn mnn mnn mnn mnn mnn mnn mnn mnn mnn |
| 9 | Ardwick u | 5 21 6 15 6 41 6 567 15 7 267 327 468 499 11 9 29 11 6 1140 1218 1221 1228 1245 1258 1 11 1 46 2 86 2 55 |
| 34 m 25 | lelle Vue Reddish | $\dots 6 \ 43, \dots 7 \ 3, \dots 7 \ 417 \ 53, \dots 9 \ 18, \dots 1147, \dots 1127 \ 1230 \ 1251 \dots 1 \ 101 \ 16 \ 1 \ 39, \dots 2 \ 43, \dots 4 \ 374 \ 52, \dots 5 \ 19 \ 518 \ $ |
| 0 0100 0 | Gorton and Openshawdep. Fairfield | |
| 67.9 | Hyde Junction | 5 40 . 6 57 7 357 44 |
| 0 | | 7 47 |
| 244 | Rose Hill (Marple) F High Lane | |
| 91 | Poynton : | |
| 18 4 51 | Marple F 638, 640 Strings New Mills & 483 | 721 8 6 -206 1 4 -14 -551 -551 -798 8 14 -404 -551 -551 -551 -798 8 14 -404 -551 |
| 7 | Hirch Vale | |

However, the timetables show the sort of service provided in the early 20th Century between Manchester and Hayfield.

These days you can explore the section that ran from New Mills Central to Hayfield on foot, bike or horse along the splendid Sett Valley Trail.



SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

On Saturday 8th March this year a steam special excursion (Shrewsbury to Scarborough) pulled by British Railways Standard Class 7 Britannia passed through Romiley Station.

Below are two pictures of the train which on the face of it look the same. However, there are in fact 7 subtle differences between the two pictures.

Can you spot those differences? The answers are at the end of the newsletter.





MEMBERS' MEETING

It's that time of year when we would normally be having a Member's meeting in a local hostelry.

Of course, that is not possible at the moment so as an alternative we propose to hold a meetings using Zoom.

We are very much aware that not everyone will have access to Zoom, although it is widely available as a free download.

So to those who can't access to Zoom we apologise in advance. To anyone in that category you may still like to let us have any views that you may have in advance of the meeting, using email or the old tried and tested snail mail. We will then read your observations out at the meeting.

To those who can use Zoom the meeting will be on Monday 13th July commencing at 7.30pm. A couple of days before the meeting we will email out a link which you can click on just before the meeting starts so as to take part.

We will also include with that email a copy of the minutes from our last meeting plus an up to date financial statement.

Meanwhile we set out below the Agenda for the meeting.

AGENDA

- 1. Introduction / Apologies for absence
- 2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (14th January 2020)
- 3. Matters Arising from the Minutes (14th January 2020)
- 4. Treasurer's & Chair's Reports
- 5. Secretary/Membership Secretary's Reports
- 6. Present situation at the station (See Northern Guidance attached)
- 7. Current and forthcoming projects
- 8. AOB (including ideas for the future and any observations from Members)
- 9. Date of next meeting

RESUMPTION OF STATION ACTIVITIES

Northern have recently indicated a willingness to assess requests from Friends Groups who wish to resume adoption activities at stations.

These will be assessed on a case by case basis with Northern balancing the case put forward against the requirements faced by their station management teams in implementing social distancing measures to protect the safety of their customers and colleagues.

All requests will be treated individually and there will be different factors depending on the location that will impact on any final decision.

Quite rightly their priority must be to support government guidance on social distancing at the stations they manage. That means we may be able to agree to activity at some locations but not others.

So that Friends Groups are in a position to submit appropriate requests Northern have issued some formal guidance and for your information we produce that in full below.

We have approached Northern with our proposals to attend at the station so as to maintain our gardens and planters.

Given the Northern guidance we will need to organise various sessions that would be convenient for people intending to come along that are outside peak travel times.

To that end we are probably looking doing one evening session, beginning at 7pm, a weekend afternoon session and a weekday afternoon session.

We will need to give details of each session together with those intending to take part (with a maximum of two people per session).

Consequently, please could you let our Secretary, Angie Clark, know if you would like to spend a couple of hours maintaining the garden areas as you see fit and when this would suit you best.

You can either email her on clark.theateam69@btinternet.com or telephone on 0161 494 2012 or 07951 567147.

Once we have received the required information will then get in touch with Becky Styles, Northern's Regional Community and Sustainability Manager so that our detailed proposals can be given due consideration.

Hopefully, we will be able to know where we stand before our Members' meeting on 13th July so that we can discuss at that meeting what gardening tasks etc. will need to be prioritised. Remember, no one must undertake any activity without us having first received Northern's prior written approval.

GUIDANCE FROM NORTHERN TRAINS LIMITED

The guidance below will be subject to regular reviews in accordance with government guidance. A review is due to be undertaken 0by the end of June 2020.



Requests to Resume Station Adoption Activity – Northern Guidance Issued 11 June 2020

Introduction

In recognition of the easing of some lockdown restrictions, Northern is willing to assess requests to resume adoption activity at stations on a case by case basis. We appreciate many will be keen to get back to stations but must balance that with the requirements faced by our station management teams in implementing social distancing measures to protect the safety of our customers and our colleagues.

If members of your group would be interested in resuming some activity you must seek written approval from your local RCSM before undertaking any activity.

We will treat each request individually and there will be different factors depending on the location that will impact on any final decision. Our priority must be to support government guidance on social distancing at the stations we manage. That means we may be able to agree to activity at some locations and not others.

If members of your group would like to resume activity there are some criteria that would apply to any request:

- To maintain social distancing no more than two members of any group should attend the station at any time. While government guidelines allow up to six people to meet, we must allow for customer movement around the station too.
- Unfortunately, we cannot support anyone who has been shielding to resume station adoption activity at this time although we will continue to review this as government guidance evolves.
- 3. Given the additional workload for our management teams (eg. station cleanliness and implementing social distancing measures) we will not be able to authorise any new activity. In other words, if the activity you want to undertake would involve the station manager being present for a site visit or in significant dialogue (eg to approve work in a new location, installation of items such as noticeboards /benches/artwork) we will not be able to authorise it. We will only support maintenance of existing sites eg watering or tendering to existing plants / planters. We will review this approach over time.

Next Steps

Please contact your Regional Community and Sustainability Manager (RCSM) providing:

- the names of those who would like to attend and confirmation that they haven't been shielding
- a brief outline of the activity you want to undertake (eg watering or tendering to existing plants / planters and updating notice boards)
- any equipment you will be using / bringing
- any days or times you would like to access the station (please note: Volunteers attending to do so outside peak travel times and not before 9.30am)
- when you would like to resume activity
- confirmation you have read and understand the COVID-19 advice for volunteers see list below

Your RCSM will then consult with the relevant station manager and consider factors such as footfall at the station, whether we are aware of any issues with social distancing etc. They will then respond letting you know whether you can resume activity, and whether there are any restrictions.

You should not undertake any activity without prior written approval from your RCSM.

Please note:

- Government guidance remains for essential travel only on public transport. Therefore, we will
 not be renewing any travel passes or issuing extension letters at this time, as we must maintain
 the limited capacity we can provide for essential use only. We cannot support travel by train to
 undertake station adoption activity at this time.
- 2. We are currently unable to accept any bids into the Northern Station Adoption Fund, we will update you when this changes.

Covid 19 – Advice to Station Volunteers

- Volunteers to follow government advice on age and specific medical conditions and to remain at home if required to do so
- Volunteers should not attend if displaying any symptoms that are listed within current government advice
- Volunteers attending to do so outside peak travel times and not before 9.30am
- Volunteers should have arrangements for travelling to the station which comply with current government advice
- Volunteers should not use trains as a means to travel to their station. These services remain for key workers and for essential travel only.
- Volunteer presence to be kept to a maximum of two people
- Volunteers to maintain social distancing standards as per current government guidelines including when signing in with station staff (where appropriate)
- Volunteers should plan activity and movement on platforms to avoid breaching social distancing standards
- No volunteer activity to commence if other contractors are on site and would prevent social distancing standards being maintained.
- When engaged in activity volunteers should remain aware of other platform activity i.e. passenger positions and movement, train arrivals and passengers alighting from trains and move position if necessary to maintain social distancing
- Volunteers should not remove or cover any COVID-19 safety signage at the station
- Volunteers should wear face coverings while on the station along with their usual PPE (eg high viz vests)
- It is highly recommended that Volunteers when on the station should be in possession of hand sanitiser for their own use. NB not all station public toilets may be available for use for handwashing
- · Volunteers should avoid sharing tools or equipment
- After the activity Volunteers must wipe / clean with disinfectant or sanitising wipes any tools or equipment
- Volunteers must similarly clean any touch points within station storerooms including storeroom or cabinet door handles
- When using storerooms ensure social distancing is maintained
- Should Northern employees feel volunteers are not complying with current national guidance, and any Northern specific guidance, they have the authority to stop any work

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SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

1 - WHITEHAVEN 2 - FILEY 3 - HULL 4 - WHITBY 5 - ST BEES 6 - MORECAMBE 7 - SQUIRES GATE 8 - ARNSIDE 9 - RAVENGLASS 10 - SCARBOROUGH

STATIONS ON THE COAST

1 - DORE AND TOTLEY 2 - HYDE CENTRAL 3 - FAIRFIELD 4 - STRINES
 5 - ASHBURYS 6 - NEW MILLS CENTRAL 7 - BAMFORD 8 - HYDE NORTH
 9 - SHEFFIELD 10 - MANCHESTER PICCADILLY 11 - ROSE HILL MARPLE
 12 - HATHERSAGE

IDENTIFY THE STATIONS (AGAIN)

PUZZLE ANSWERS