

Friends of Romiley Station



NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2020

Welcome to our August 2020 Newsletter.

It was wonderful to be able to get back to tending the station gardens and planters on Saturday 18th July 2020.

Once again this month we have some puzzles for you together with news about the publication of our Walks from Romiley Station Booklet, plus lots of other stuff, including some worrying news about the line to Rose Hill Marple.

IDENTIFY THE STATIONS (YET AGAIN)

This month we have come up with 12 anagrams that when solved will give the names of stations that are all in Greater Manchester. They are a bit harder than our previous anagram quizzes as you have far more stations to choose from, but to help we have set out the number of letters in each word which should help when the station name comprises more than one word.

For example - SEABIRD STUDY (4, 8) = East Didsbury

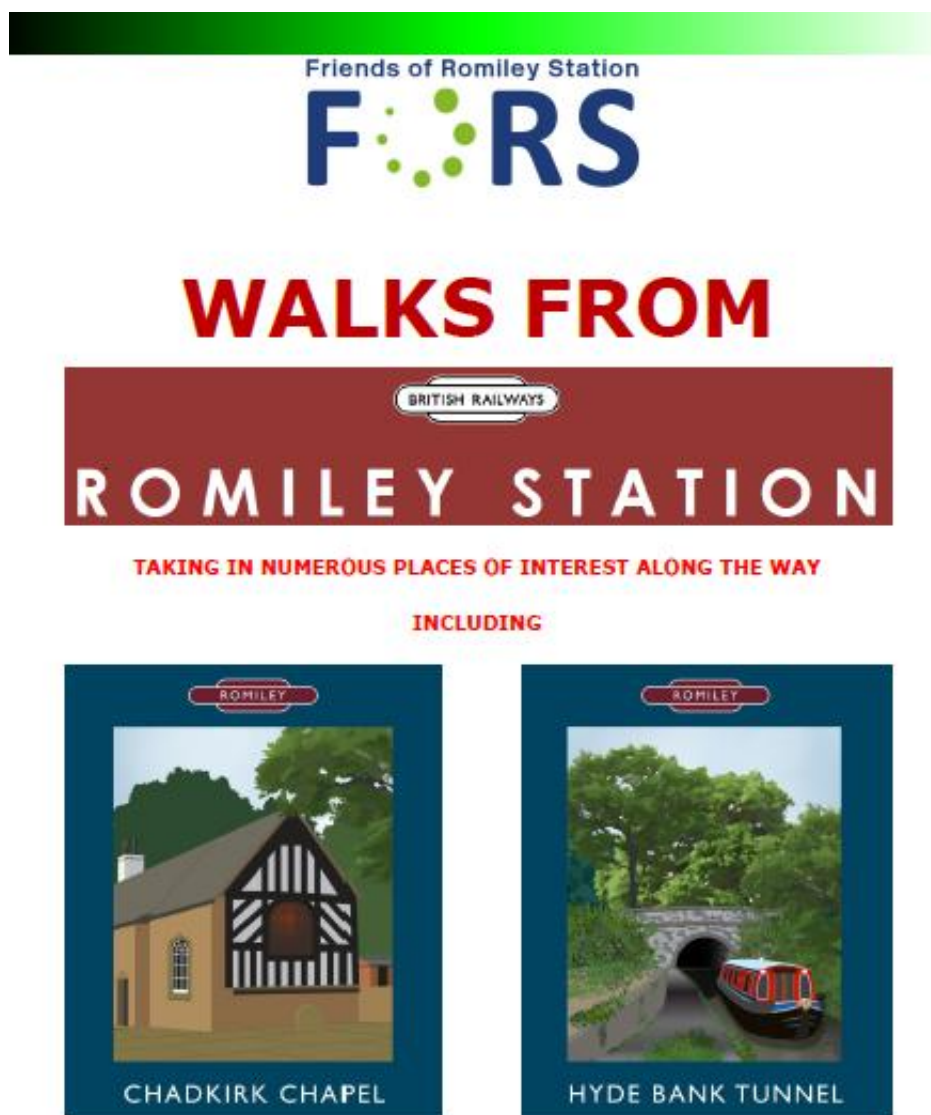
Have fun solving them - the answers are at the end of the newsletter.

- 1. INN MALT ARCH (10)**
- 2. NYLONS UNEARTHED (6, 5, 4)**
- 3. CLOSET TAN (9)**
- 4. SET AGENDA (9)**
- 5. CHEAP ETHANOL (6, 6)**
- 6. MIGHTY BRIDES (6, 6)**
- 7. CREATIVE MONARCHIST (10, 8)**
- 8. AVIATION DRAGON (10, 4)**
- 9. DIRTY BAGELS (10)**
- 10. FIT CARPORT (10)**
- 11. UNLEVEL HEMS (11)**
- 12. SOME STAGE (5, 4)**

FRIENDS OF ROMILEY STATION - WALKS FROM ROMILEY STATION BOOKLET

We hope that you have enjoyed the walks set out in recent newsletters. We have now pulled these and some others together into a 28 page booklet. The booklet contains details of 7 walks all starting and finishing at the station.

We have had 2,000 copies printed (using funds provided by the Co-op Local Community Fund). The booklets are available free of charge and hopefully most members will now have their hands on one. They will be distributed widely throughout the local area and beyond



SEVEN WALKS SUITABLE FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES THAT ALL START AND FINISH AT ROMILEY STATION

However, if anyone would like a copy or copies sending directly to them please email our Chair/Treasurer Alf Clark (alfredvclark@btinternet.com) letting him know how many you would like and to where he should send/deliver them.

We are very grateful to those who tried out the walks under the guidance of John Simpson who chose the 7 walks for us.

ANOTHER CIRCULAR WALK STARTING FROM OUTSIDE ROMILEY STATION

As mentioned above we now have a booklet of walks from the station, but to keep you going in case you have not yet got a copy here is another walk for you.

ROMILEY STATION TO WERNETH LOW AND BACK DISTANCE - 8.6 KM (5.2 MILES) TIME - 3 TO 3½ HOURS

This month we are giving you details of another walk which starts and finishes outside the station. It's a bit more strenuous than last month's walk as it involves climbing up Werneth Low, but the views on the way and from the top are worth the effort. Thankfully, the return part is very much downhill. Walking shoes/boots are essential



From the Station entrance head towards the bottom of the station car park turning left onto Guywood Lane (A). Walk up to the top of Guywood Lane and past the “No



through road” sign (B) and along the rough track which is tree lined. Continue forward along this lane (Healdwood Road) until at the top you will reach Healdwood House, turn left and after about 200 yards turn right (C).

You should (if the weather is half decent) now have a great view over Greater Manchester with the Winter Hill TV Transmitter in the far distance. Look back the other way and you get a good view of the Peak District.

Continue down this lane until you reach a gate. After the gate turn half left and continue along the path with the stone wall on your right. At the end of the wall turn right (D).

You will soon reach a sign for Heald Wood by a kissing gate. Pass through the gate and follow the path up the slope.

After a short distance the path forks, take the right fork up the side of a steep bank. You will eventually reach a stile. The covered water reservoir (E) should now be on your right. Keep along the path until you reach two posts. You will now be facing the back of Greave Primary School. Turn right over the stile and continue along the path until you reach the main road where you will turn left (F).



Cross over the road and after a short distance turn right up the rather narrow Werneth Low Road (it has a sign at the bottom stating that it is "Unsuitable for heavy goods vehicles"). Whilst this is certainly not a main road do take care as vehicles may well pass at speed.

Pass “Moorfield”, a modern style house on the right (G). There is a stile on the left opposite this house but the ground in the field is very boggy. So continue up Werneth Low Road for about 200 yards until you come to a stile with a yellow way-marker on the left. Cross over the stile and follow the path slightly left up the slope.

There is a bench on the right. Continue up the path until you reach another stile. After this stile the path levels out. Next cross a double stile. Carry on along the path between the fields and at the end of the field turn half right and pass through a gap in the stone wall.

Cross another field and pass through a wooden kissing gate. After the gate take the right fork of the path. Before reaching the house pass through a wooden gate on the right, walk up the slope about 15 yards and take a left turn.

Pass around the property (Lowside Farm) then turn right and follow the drive until just before you reach the road, where there is a path. Turn left onto this path, which can be very muddy. This path runs parallel to the road passing the Hare and Hounds (H) and Hyde Cricket Club to your right (Marked as Werneth Low Cricket and Squash



Club on the map). As you approach the top of Joel Lane (where several roads merge) take the unmade Mount Road (I) on your right (at the end of a row of cottages) for a short distance, then turn right onto the lane which runs along the side of Hyde Cricket Club (see map). At the end of this lane there are a few parking places. At the back of the parking places is a kissing gate and a sign pointing down the slope. Follow this path to another kissing gate in the left-hand corner of the field. Go through this and down the path.

Pass a small house called Silverdale on the right. There is another small gate – keep going down the path until you reach a track. Turn right and at Cloughside Farm keep to the right of the buildings where there is a track. After a short distance there is a blue gate with a smaller gate on the left. Continue along this track, passing through a five bar metal gate, then over a stile with a way-marker. Keep straight on and reach a five bar gate. Go through a smaller gate on the left hand side, following a way-marker to the right.

Follow the road through the farmyard to the right. Turn right at the farm along the rough road through an iron gate, passing a caravan store to the left.



Reach Benfield House and at the road turn right up Cowlshaw Road. (J) Cars may also travel at high speeds along this road, which does not have a footpath, so once again take care.

After turning right walk about 250 yards up this road until you reach a track on the left

with a very small sign pointing to Springwood Farm (K). Turn left here and follow this track passing Brow Cottages (N W 1809) to your right.

At the entrance to Springwood Farm take the track to the left, go through a gap between the gates, **DO NOT GO TOWARDS THE FARM**. There is a stile by the gate – cross over this stile and follow the path keeping the stone wall on your right.

Do not turn left into the Golf Course but keep straight on towards Greave. After about 150 yards you pass a sign to your left which would take you over the golf course, ignore this sign and continue along the lane.

You soon pass two houses (The Cottage and Beech Fairy Cottage). After about 200 yards you come to a lane with concrete tracks, take the lane to the left. You are now on Pinfold Lane (L) and start to pass several houses, the one on the right (Pinfold Farm) has a plaque with 1809 and the initials NW on the face.

When you reach the end of Pinfold Lane (M), turn right onto Sandy Lane and follow the road up the slope. Turn left just after the Foresters Arms (The Piggy) (N) and follow the lane (Greave Fold) passing a sign marked “Unsuitable for HGVs”. Walking along the lane you pass an old chapel (Holy Innocents) on the left. The lane then becomes a path between houses.

When the path reaches the road (Moadlock) (O) turn left, then soon right onto a dirt track between houses. The track leads onto a field, continue straight across the field towards the woods. The track continues through a gap in the trees into the woods.

Continue straight along this track until you reach the gates of Healdwood House on the right. You are now back at the top of Guywood Lane (B). Turn left and continue down the lane until you reach Compstall Road. Turn right and you are back at the Station.

MEMBERS' MEETING

Thanks to everyone who joined us on Monday 13th July for our latest Members' Meeting. The meeting was conducted using Zoom and it went very well indeed considering that many of us had to get to grips with the technology.

A special thanks though to Steve Forde, the Community Rail Officer based in Stockport, who was able to update us a lot on where things currently stand in the rail industry

He was also able to give us some sound advice for the future.

We have not fixed a date yet for the next meeting but it will probably take place during October.

Full details will be provided in a future Newsletter.

DITLOIDS

A ditloid is a type of word puzzle, in which phrases, quotation, date, or fact must be deduced from the numbers and abbreviated letters in the clue. For example 142 = C N for a P is 142 = Class Number for a Pacer.

Well we have put together some ditloids that are all about the rail route from Manchester Piccadilly to Sheffield, including stations, tunnels and other features along the way.

Have fun trying to work them out. The answers are at the end of the newsletter.

1. 14 = P at M P S
2. 10 = S between R and S, excluding R and S
3. 2 = W R on R S
4. 1862 = Y that R S was O
5. 11 = W covered by A at R S
6. 6230 = L of T T in Y
7. 5 = M from R to N M C
8. 1 = P at D and T S
9. 1875 = Y that the 16 S R V V was B

TASK SESSIONS

Our first task session since March took place on Saturday 18th July 2020. It didn't exactly enjoy good weather but the rain didn't put us off and we have now begun the task of tidying up our various garden areas.



As you can see, we have quite a job on our hands but we've already brightened up the platform planters and smartened part of the



Waiting Room garden. Thanks to Angie, Alf, Hugo and Fiona for braving the damp weather.

Pat Baker from the Friends of Chadkirk very kindly donated a large number of garden plants for our use.



They had been grown for their popular summer plant sale which had to be cancelled. Pat wanted the plants to go to a good home rather than be wasted

We have another session on Tuesday July 28th beginning at 7.00pm. We still have a couple

of places spare so if you want to join us let Angie Clark know (07951 567147 or clark.theateam@btinternet.com) so that you can be added to the list of attendees.

Remember, if you are coming along to bring a face covering. We will be providing a high-viz vest which you will be asked to take away and launder for your future use.

We have a good stock of hand sanitizer and disposable gloves.

KIOSK AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE STATION CAR PARK

It has been interesting to observe that the old goods yard weighbridge office, now owned by Stockport Council, has been brought back into use after lying relatively unused for some time.



As can be seen from the photograph it has been converted into a small takeaway fish and chip shop.

The chippy will be welcomed by many hungry residents of Romiley following the closure last year of the only other chippy which was just around the corner on Compstall Road.

Also in the photograph is the freestanding book swap located at the entrance to the Council's station car park. That is now rather full, given that the two main book swaps in the Platform 1 and 2 Waiting Rooms have had to be locked out of use since March. So for now please hang on to any books that you would have normally put into the other book swaps.

ROSE HILL MARPLE STATION

Northern have just announced that from mid September they will be withdrawing train services to and from Rose Hill Marple.

As devastating as this will be for those who rely upon the service at Rose Hill it does have quite a knock on effect for Romiley as it reduces the number of services to and from Manchester Piccadilly at a time when the government are trying to encourage a return to train travel. However, it also means that the likes of Woodley, Hyde, Guide Bridge, Fairfield and Gorton will no longer be accessible by train.



Local Friends' Groups, in conjunction with elected politicians from the area, have launched a campaign against the proposal and are meeting soon to discuss a plan of action. This includes the setting up a petition, accessible through the following link: <https://www.lisasmart.org.uk/rose-hill-rail>. At the time of writing the petition already had well over 2,000 signatures.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

IDENTIFY THE STATIONS (YET AGAIN)

- (1) ALTRINCHAM (2) ASHTON UNDER LYNE (3) CASTLETON (4) DEANS GATE
- (5) HEATON CHAPEL (6) SMITHY BRIDGE (7) MANCHESTER VICTORIA
- (8) NAVIGATION ROAD (9) STALYBRIDGE (10) PATRICROFT
- (11) LEVENSHULME (12) MOSES GATE

DITLOIDS

- (1) 14 = Platforms at Manchester Piccadilly Station (2) 10 = Stations between Romiley and Sheffield, excluding Romiley and Sheffield (3) 2 = Waiting Rooms on Romiley Station (4) 1862 = Year that Romiley Station was Opened (5) 11 = Windows covered by Artwork at Romiley Station (6) 6230 = Length of Toley Tunnel in Yards (7) 5 = Miles from Romiley to New Mills Central (8) 1 = Platforms at Dore and Toley Station (9) 1875 = Year that the 16 Span Reddish Vale Viaduct was Built