



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020

Welcome to our October 2020 Newsletter. It's a little later this month due to the editorial team's holiday in sunny/soggy Scotland.

We have set out below the latest situation with regards to the Rose Hill Marple train service.

Work has continued on the station gardens and an update is there for you to read, including the obtaining of further grant aid to offset the cost of plants, seeds and bulbs etc.

ROSE HILL MARPLE STATION

School train services

To support the re-opening of local schools, the following train services will run on the Manchester Piccadilly to Rose Hill Line, Mondays to Fridays only from Monday 14 September 2020.

	Bus	Bus	Train	Train	Bus	Train
Manchester Picc.	-	-	0743	0805	-	1419
Ashburys	-	-			-	1423
Gorton	-	-		0812	-	-
Fairfield	-	-			-	-
Guide Bridge	-	-	0752	0817	-	-
Hyde North	-	-	0756	0821	-	-
Hyde Central	-	-	0759	0824	-	-
Woodley	0648	0740	0803	0827	0903	-
Romiley	0655	0747	0806	0831	0913	1445
Rose Hill	0707	0759	0811	0836	0925	1450

	Train	Train	Train	Bus	Bus	Bus
Rose Hill	0817	0852	1514	1530	1645	1745
Romiley	0823	0858	1519	1546	1701	1801
Woodley	-	-	-	1522	1553	1708
Hyde Central	-	-	-	1526	-	-
Hyde North	-	-	-	1529	-	-
Guide Bridge	-	-	-	1533	-	-
Fairfield	-	-	-		-	-
Gorton	-	-	-	1537	-	-
Ashburys	0840	0913	1541	-	-	-
Manchester Picc.	0845	0919	1546	-	-	-

More information regarding additional alternative travel options can be found at affected stations.

Our app
 @northernassist
 0800 200 6060 Customer Services
 northernrailway.co.uk or nationalrail.co.uk
 0800 138 5560 Passenger Assist

northernrailway.co.uk/rosehill2020

Since our last newsletter things have certainly moved on with regards to Northern's proposed total withdrawal from 14th September of train services (for 3 months) to and from Rose Hill Marple (via the Hyde Loop).

At a special meeting of the Marple Area Committee held on 2nd September Chris Jackson, Northern's Regional Director and Mark Angeluci (Rail Officer for Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM)) gave presentations and answered questions from local councillors as well as the chairs of the local station Friends Groups.

Both men gave a clear account of the position as they saw it and to be fair they were very honest and forthcoming with their answers.

Clearly, Chris Jackson set out the position that Northern found themselves in and Mark Angelucci expanded upon several alternatives that TfGM had put to Northern in

the hope of preserving the rail services in one form or another. At the conclusion of the meeting the councillors resolved that the suspension of rail services was an unnecessary, regrettable and avoidable decision. They also resolved to look at alternatives which included having another train operator run a service, initially at the Council's expense (through local Area Committee funding). This did not come to fruition, being overtaken somewhat by events a few days later.

In parallel to the hard work being put in by councillors the fight continued through the Friends' Groups, various individuals and also through our local MP, William Wragg, who on 10th September managed to have the situation debated in the House of Commons.

During that debate the Rail Minister, Chris Heaton-Harris MP, announced that Northern would after all be retaining a train service so as to at least provide a service for the pupils of Marple Hall School.

That service, as can be seen from the timetable on the previous page, provides two trains via the Hyde loop to Rose Hill each morning (Monday to Friday) with one back in the afternoon.

Shuttle Bus Times

From Monday 14 September until Saturday 12 December 2020

An hourly shuttle bus service will operate Monday to Saturday between Rose Hill, Marple and Romiley. The shuttle bus service will also call at Woodley, during the morning and afternoon peaks.

Rose Hill	0625	0717	0840	0955	1055	1155	1255	1353	1455	1530	1645	1745	1855	1955	2053
Marple	0631	0723	0846	1001	1101	1201	1301	1359	1501	1536	1651	1751	1905	2005	2103
Romiley	0641	0733	0856	1011	1111	1211	1311	1409	1511	1546	1701	1801	1911	2011	2109
Woodley	0648	0740	0903	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	1553	1708	1808	↓	↓	↓
Romiley	0655	0747	0913	1013	1113	1213	1313	1413	1513	1600	1715	1815	1913	2013	2113
Rose Hill	0707	0759	0925	1025	1125	1225	1325	1425	1525	1612	1727	1827	1925	2025	2125

The bus service connects at **Marple** with **trains to** Manchester and at **Romiley** with **trains from** Manchester. Train connections at both stations will be with the Manchester Piccadilly to Sheffield service.

In addition the previously advertised shuttle bus also provides a service.

Other concessions were announced with a promise that from 26th October 2020, a 90 minute interval service on the Rose Hill - Manchester Piccadilly line, via the Hyde Loop, would be reintroduced.

There was also a firm formal commitment that a twice hourly service from Rose Hill to Manchester Piccadilly would return in full, hopefully before December, but by 14th December. An earlier resumption depending upon driver training and availability.

So whilst the result of all the hard work from everyone was not a full retention of the service at least in the short term there has been some retention compared to what had been proposed by Northern at the outset.

Also an earlier reintroduction of a higher level of service does look promising although given where things are with Covid at the moment nothing can be certain.

BAKE ME A TRAIN COMPETITION - 2020



As announced in September's newsletter the 'Bake me a train' competition which has been part of the Romiley Young Farmers Show was this year changed to a competition with a difference.

The difference being that those wanting to take part were invited to bake a train (or put one together using pre-baked cake, chocolate or indeed anything else that is edible) but instead of bringing it along to the Show they were asked to photograph their creation and submit up to 3 photographs to us before having the pleasure of eating your own handiwork.

Unfortunately, though by the closing date of Saturday 26th September we had not received any entries.

Never mind hopefully things will be back to normal by next September and we will be able to run our traditional competition.

SOUTH EAST MANCHESTER - COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP - GRANT



We are delighted to be able to report that Steve Fforde, Community Rail Officer based in Stockport, very kindly processed on our behalf a grant of £150 from the South East Manchester, Community Rail Partnership.

The money has been used to purchase plants, bulbs and seeds for use in the station gardens and planters.

TASK SESSIONS

At our task session on Saturday 12th September we not only collected a large amount of litter but continued with the work of getting the gardens and planters back into shape.



A large number of new bulbs were planted which will hopefully add a great deal of colour to the station next spring.

As mentioned last month some areas, especially the large plot by the station car park have really returned to nature.

Indeed, it is almost possible to lose a volunteer in that area if we are not careful.



(Play at spot the volunteer in the photo to the right).

One good outcome though of leaving things alone for several months is that our herb planter on Platform One has really flourished.

We would remind you that anyone can help themselves to the herbs that are growing there (leaving enough for other people of course).



Currently, you will find lots of oregano, thyme, chives, fennel and alpine strawberries.

The next Task Session is on Saturday 10th October from 2pm.

Please let Angie know if you can come along so that she can add you to the list.

She can be contacted on 07951 567147 or by email on clark.theateam69@btinternet.com.

The following day (Sunday 11th October) sees the rail industry Volunteer Day when from 11am until 3pm we will be attempting to clear the "Hill of Doom" by the station car park prior to then covering it in a heavy duty weed control membrane.

NEW TIMETABLE - NEW TRAINS

As you will no doubt be aware Northern introduced a revised timetable on Monday 14th September 2020 and at the same time some of the new Class 195 Diesel Trains were spotted serving Romiley.



The picture on the left shows the 10.45 service for Manchester Piccadilly (10.34 from New Mills Central) as it pulls away from Platform 1.

The new trains are manufactured in Spain by Construcciones y Auxiliaries de Ferrocarriles (CAF) which literally means "Construction & Other Railway Services".

In the picture you may well notice the end of a red barrier on platform 2. This was there to protect some workmen who advised us that they have been commissioned by Northern to carry out a large scale redecoration of the station.

They were certainly working hard rubbing down the windows etc. before applying Northern's corporate colours.

They indicated that they will be working at the station for a number of weeks.

FUNDING - CO-OP LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND



We have been benefitting from the Co-op Local Community Fund for almost a year now. However, our year comes to an end on the 24th October 2020 and shortly thereafter we will receive our final payment. To date some £1,020 has been raised for us by Co-op members.

**Published by
The Friends of Romiley Station**