

Friends of Romiley Station



## NEWSLETTER

### APRIL 2021

**Welcome to our latest newsletter, the first to cover good old British Summer Time. Hopefully, we are now moving quickly towards some degree of normality and it will not be long before we can return to what we would regard as being our normal activities, as well as putting some degree of effort into encouraging people to use Romiley station in the way that it was pre-Covid.**

#### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - TUESDAY 9TH MARCH 2021**

Our Annual General Meeting took place (using Zoom) on Tuesday 9th March 2021 and it was pleasing to see that quite a good number managed to cope with the technology and were not put off by other Zoom meetings that had taken place previously in such exotic places as Handforth.

It was great to welcome Becky Styles, Northern Rail's Central Region Community and Sustainability Manager, to the meeting together with members old and new.

At the meeting there were no changes to the officers and committee and these are:

Alf Clark - Chair and Treasurer  
Angie Clark - Secretary and Membership Secretary  
Tim Tuff - Committee Member  
John Seraj - Committee Member  
Alan Clark - Committee Member

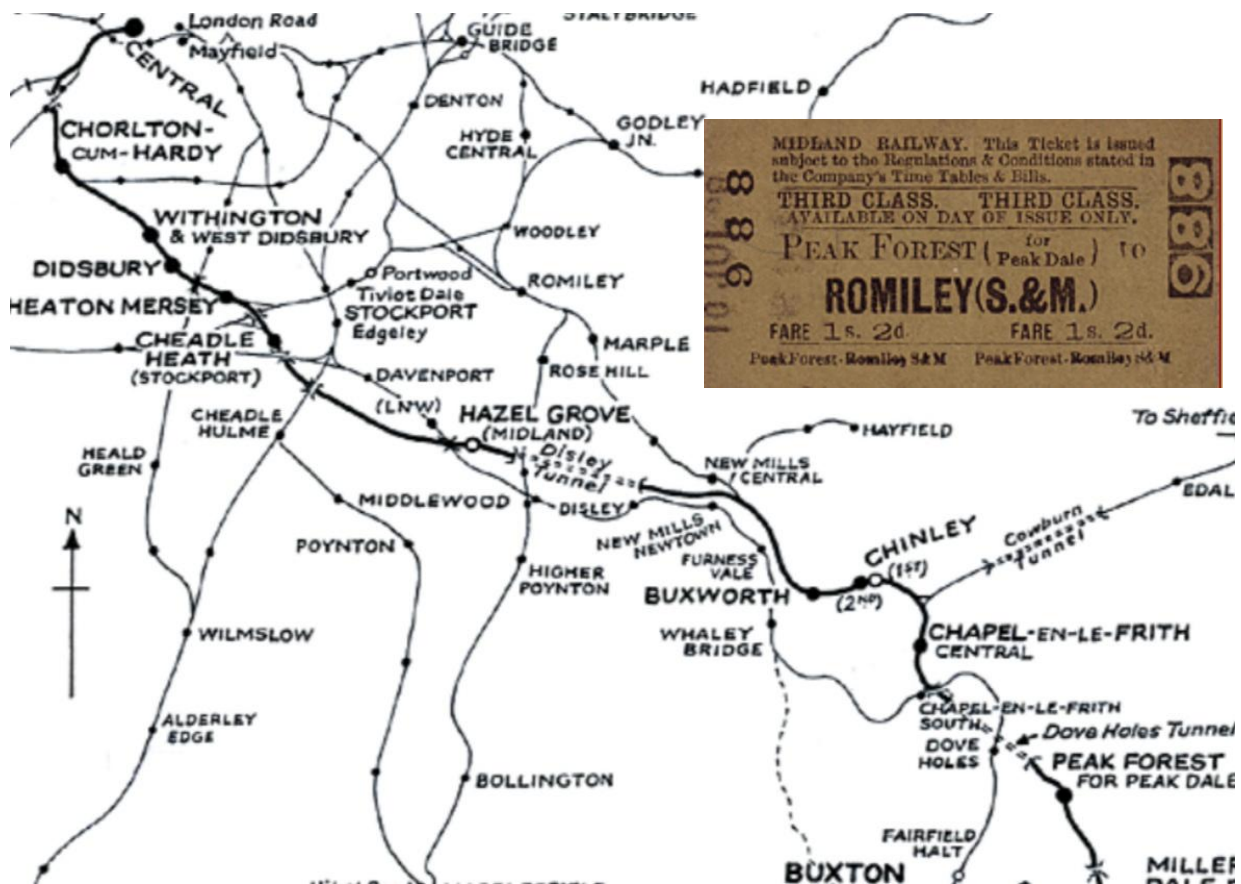
There is still a vacancy for one more Committee Member, so if anyone is interested then please let Angie know ([clark.theateam69@btinternet.com](mailto:clark.theateam69@btinternet.com)).

One important change though was the passing of a resolution to amend our constitution so that members no longer have to pay a subscription.

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will find a revised Membership Application Form. So if you know anyone who would like to join then please forward them this newsletter (or just the form) so that they can complete it and return the completed form to Angie.

We hope that the removal of a subscription will encourage more members of our local community to join use.

## DAYS OF OLD



Before Dr Richard Beeching was even born it was possible to make some local train journeys from Romiley to stations that are no longer on the rail network, thanks in part to Beeching. On the map above are many stations and lines that have been confined to history.

With that in mind we have this month come up with a quiz/ history lesson where we have provided some photographs of stations from years ago but which are no longer served by trains and next to each picture are some clues/information to see if you can identify them.

They were all accessible by a direct train from Romiley (even if that train didn't always stop there). So we hope you have a bit of fun identifying them.

1. This station was opened in 1880 and was built by the Manchester South District Railway. It closed on 2nd January 1967. Since then it has been completely demolished and redeveloped. However, the clock tower shown on the picture still stands to this day. The station had very long platforms so that it could be served by express trains that ran from Manchester Central to London St Pancras.

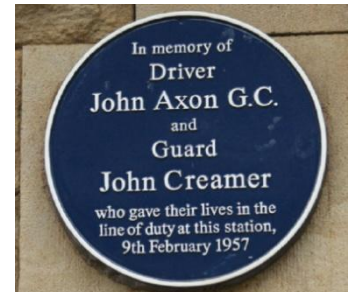


Indeed the last ever train to stop at the station was a Manchester Central to London St Pancras service. To encourage walkers to visit the Peak District in the 1930's special walker's trains ran on Sundays



2. This station was located in the centre of the town which it served having opened in 1867 closing some 100 years later. It was built by the Midland Railway some 4 years after the station that still serves this small Derbyshire town was opened by the London and North Western

Railway. The line that passed through this station is still operational, but only for goods traffic. In 1957 a tragic accident occurred at the town's other station. That accident involving a runaway freight train is commemorated by a blue plaque honouring the two railwaymen who lost their lives.



3. This station opened to passengers on 1st March 1868, being the terminus station on a branch line of about 2½ miles in length. The branch and station became the joint property of the Manchester, Sheffield & Lincolnshire Railway (later Great Central) and the Midland Railway.



Unlike some nearby lines, the station enjoyed an hourly Sunday service which was popular with walkers. Today the former line to this station is still enjoyed by walkers as it was converted into a dedicated footpath/cycleway/bridleway following its closure on 5th January 1970.



4. This is another station closed in January 1970 having opened in 1869. Following closure the station buildings were all demolished but the platforms remain to this day forming a feature and picnic area for the footpath / cycleway / bridleway that was opened in 1985 by Dr David Bellamy, the well known botanist. The building sticking out above the station buildings is a public house that in normal times

serves not just walkers but also the many people using the nearby canal.

At various times during its history you could get through trains from here to not only Romiley but also to the likes of Buxton, Macclesfield and Hyde.



**5.** Many of us in Romiley and hereabouts very much wish that this station was still on the rail network as it would very much ease traffic, especially at rush hour, from Romiley.

The station itself was opened in December 1865, but it was

not until some 10 years later than trains could serve Romiley with the building of a spur line. Like many other stations it was another of Beeching's victims. Trains leaving this station heading west went straight into a tunnel under part of the town. The line passing through the station was a very important freight route linking the east and west of the country until the closure of the Woodhead Tunnel in 1981.

**6.** This station closed well before the Beeching Axe. In fact it closed in September 1958 although to this day trains to and from Romiley pass by the station building (now a house) almost every hour in each direction.



The village that the station served has always had a bit of a complex over its actual name as to this day it has two different spellings. Not far from the former station is an extensive canal basin which is well worth a visit.

**7.** This station bore the names of the two districts of Manchester that it served and as can be seen from the photograph it was originally well patronised before eventually closing in July 1961 due to falling passenger numbers.



However, following closure trains still passed through the station until 1967 serving stations on either side of the closed station.

Although the station buildings were demolished, to be replaced by a modern block of flats, the track bed was retained and now carries part of the Metrolink tram service.



## GARDENS AND PLANTERS

We really hope to be able to get stuck into looking after the planters and garden areas in the very near future.

As part of that we also want to carry on our work of developing the area of what was overgrown land at the bottom of the slope which we termed the Hill of Doom.



That area will initially require a decent size working party following the delivery of tons of small stones.

They will need spreading out on top of the weed proof membrane that we were able to put in place last autumn following the successful rail industry volunteer day.

Meanwhile though it was pleasing to

observe that some colour has been returning to the planters and gardens, as can be seen from some recent photographs.



Unfortunately, our large selection of daffodils in the Waiting Room Garden have again failed to show so we will need to look at planting a load of new ones this year.



This will be undertaken during our Task Sessions, details of which will be made available when we know where things stand.

However, as in previous years we will, when the time is right, aim to

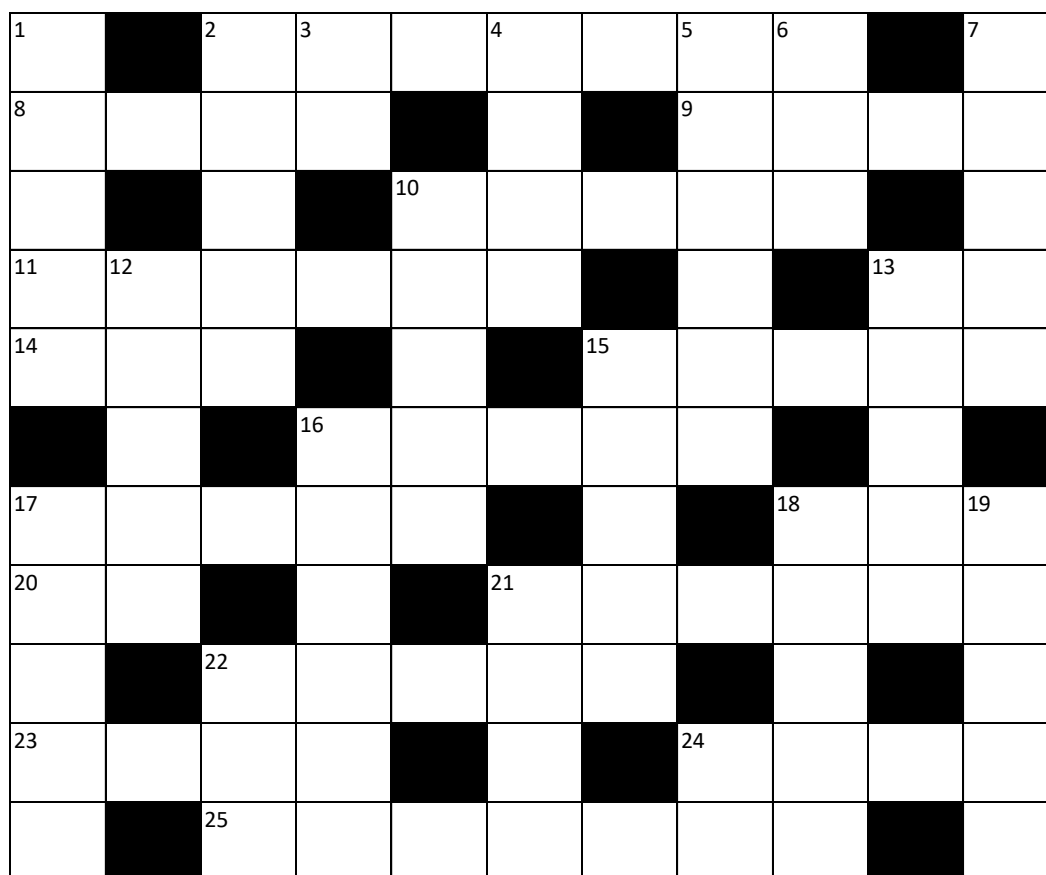
undertake those sessions on the second Saturday of each month (from 2pm) and the last Tuesday of each month (from 7pm).

Full details will be emailed out to members when we are in a position to do so



## CROSSWORD

This month we have put together a crossword where all the clues and/or answers generally have something to do with the rail industry. The solution can be found at the end of the newsletter.



## ACROSS

2. Will put the wind up this most recently built steam train (7)
8. This musical instrument also gives out a warning of an approaching train (4)
9. This northerly station is a must for any candle (4)
10. Train leasing company that features in part on the London Underground and a Monopoly board (5)
11. In freezing weather one of these may form in a railway tunnel (6)
13. Not the Down line (2)
- 14, 20 & 23. What every train wants to do so as to keep to the timetable (3, 2, 4)
15. First or Standard? (5)
16. They stop the oil leaking out of the engines pipes (5)
17. Recap in reverse for the class of 142 (5)
18. Ours on the windows at the station won us an award (3)
20. See 10 across
21. A lamb or beef dish that was in days gone by often served in the dining car of trains from Liverpool (6)
22. If the brakes fail on entering the station the train may do this into the buffers (5)
23. See 10 across
24. Remote railway stations could be out on this? (4)
25. What track possessions are designed to do for those working on the railway (7)

## **DOWN**

1. The train driver would love a comfy one to sit on if in charge of a meeting (5)
2. Athletes probably do this before then catching it home (5)
3. See 15 Down
4. This 2009 film is also the number of carriages in a short Pendolino train set (4)
5. What your train does when waiting at the station before leaving (6)
6. Lots of this needed to lubricate your train (3)
7. This is what a train does when it passes your station without stopping (5)
10. Railway enthusiast R Dale got all mixed up when he saw that this lovely wood had been used to decorate the old railway carriage (5)
12. No smoking now on trains or at stations so these famous Havana cigars are banned (5)
13. People who travel on trains everyday are regular ones (5)
- 15 & 3 Railway staff may have to do this before starting work (5, 2)
16. North Yorkshire station shares its name with a type of bowler in cricket (6)
17. Some railways signals are found at the top of these whilst lineside fencing is attached to them (5)
18. An independent examination of the train companies finances (5)
19. Station on the Pembrokeshire coast that sounds like part of a multiplication of 6 to produce 60 (5)
21. This Royal express steam train ran between London Euston and Glasgow Central (4)
22. Female railway staff would qualify for this benefit if having time off to have a baby (1, 1, 1)
24. The two letters that the Ordnance Survey use on their maps to mark where a road crosses over the railway lines at track level (1, 1)

## **STEVE FORDE - COMMUNITY RAIL OFFICER**

We were very sorry to learn recently that Steve Forde, Community Rail Officer, based in Stockport had decided to move on to pastures new. Indeed left his post on Friday 5th March 2021.

Steve had been a great supporter of our Group, as well as all the others in the area, not only in his capacity as Community Rail Officer but also in his other roles with the Community Rail Partnership and Cheshire Best Kept Stations.

We are indeed rather sad that he decided to move on at this time but we do wish him well for the future.

He will be a very hard act to follow but our loss will be someone else's gain.

We understand that the wheels have been put in motion to try and find his successor.

## ABSEILING FOR CHARITY

Never let it be said that our Secretary, Angie Clark, doesn't come up with some hair brain ideas from time to time.

Well her latest, along with two of our other members Mark Roberts and Lisa Smart, is to throw herself off the roof of an office block in the centre of Stockport. She did it a couple of years ago but seems to fancy doing it again.



This time the three of them are raising money for this year's Mayor of Stockport's Charity, Beacon Counselling. The charity supports people of all ages who are suffering mental and emotional distress. Something that is very prevalent at this time, so their work in the community is key just now.

Given the Covid situation this past 12 months the Mayor's Charity has been badly hit with so many of the planned fund raising activities having to be cancelled.

So if anyone would like to sponsor Angie, Mark and Lisa then just go to their Just Giving page.

It can be found online at [www.justgiving.com](http://www.justgiving.com).

On the site enter "Mark Roberts" in the search box at the top of the page and it will then bring up the page that you need.

The leap of faith takes place on Saturday 17th April down the side of Stopford House (which was the building used as a Police Station in "Life on Mars" from which Sam Tyler (played by John Simm) leapt).



## WINDOW WANDERLAND - TWISTED TREES PRODUCTIONS

You will recall that last month we provided details of the fantastic idea of a Community Art Project in Romiley which was being organised by Melanie Cove and Ami Horrocks who had formed Twisted Trees Productions.

As a group we were very keen to take part, something that so many others in Romiley have also done. Lots of people have spent many a happy hour designing and creating their artwork using tissue paper and tracing paper together with their incredible artistic skills to such good effect.







The end result is that since Saturday 20th March the streets of Romiley have been turned into an art gallery with so many householders and others having transformed their windows into a magnificent display which can be viewed and admired from the streets after dark.

The event, partially funded by Stockport Council, but very much put together the people of Romiley runs until 4th April and it really has shown the strength of community spirit in the village.

If you go to <https://www.windowwanderland.com/event/romiley-2021/> on the internet you will find more details together with a comprehensive map that shows where all the artwork is located to be safely viewed from the street as you get some much needed exercise in a very Covid-safe way.

It will certainly take more than one evening to take it all in as you will really want to linger at each location given the wonderful displays that have been put together.

We have been able to show only a very small number of the many window displays, so to get the full picture do get out there for an evening stroll to remember.



Romiley Life Centre



The booking office and staircase windows  
(with thanks to Northern for keeping the lights on)



Below are just a few of the many other wonderful window displays around Romiley



## STATION UNDERPASS

We mentioned at our AGM that Network Rail would in the coming months be carrying out extensive work in the station underpass.

We are, therefore, pleased to observe that they have now installed protective boarding prior to commencing that work.



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

As mentioned earlier we have now changed our Membership Application Form so as to reflect the decision made at the AGM to dispense with a membership subscription. A copy is set out below. Please feel free to forward a copy to anyone that you think may want to join us.



Friends of Romiley Station



### Membership Application Form

[facebook.com/Romiley.FoRS](https://facebook.com/Romiley.FoRS) [twitter.com/RomileyFoRS](https://twitter.com/RomileyFoRS) [clark.theateam69@btinternet.com](mailto:clark.theateam69@btinternet.com)

You can support our activities by becoming a member of the Friends of Romiley Station

**Membership is free**

To join please complete this application form and send it to the Secretary who is Angie Clark

at 11 St. Andrew's Close, Romiley, Stockport, SK6 3JR or by email to [clark.theateam69@btinternet.com](mailto:clark.theateam69@btinternet.com)

Name <small>(required)</small>	
Email <small>(required if you wish to receive emails from us)</small>	
Address <small>(optional)</small>	
Postcode	
Phone <small>(optional)</small>	Mobile <small>(optional)</small>
Please note, that we do need to have at least one form of contact for you (email address, postal address, home phone number, or mobile phone number), so that we are able to contact you.	

The Friends of Romiley Station wishes to collect and process your personal data as set out above, for the purposes of:

- o maintaining our membership records;
- o communicating with you about our activities including sending you our regular Newsletter (which is issued by email);
- o communicating with you about related topics that we believe may interest you;
- o statistical analysis.

We will keep your data for no longer than 12 months after you cease to be a member. We will not share your personal data with any third party. We will only share anonymous statistics, for example how many members we have.

☐ Please tick this box to show that you consent to our use of your personal data as set out above.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

If at any time you wish to update or correct the data we hold about you, access a copy, or withdraw consent for us to hold and/or process it, then please contact the Secretary, Angie Clark by email at [clark.theateam69@btinternet.com](mailto:clark.theateam69@btinternet.com) or by post at 11 St Andrew's Close, Romiley, Stockport SK6 3JR.



## NEW PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT THE STATION

If you have walked past the station recently you will have observed that Stockport Council, after much local lobbying have installed a temporary light controlled pedestrian crossing which provides a safe way of crossing Stockport Road so as to reach the station.

We have now been advised that the temporary crossing will remain in place until it is replaced later this year by a permanent crossing.



This is great news as Stockport Road is a very busy road and crossing it to reach the station has not been the safest of things to do.

The temporary crossing has certainly been well used and once travel returns to normal that use can only increase yet more.

## QUIZ ANSWERS

### DAYS OF OLD

1. Didsbury
2. Hayfield
3. Chapel-en-le-Frith Central
4. Higher Poynton
5. Stockport Tiviot Dale
6. Buxworth (Bugsworth)
7. Withington & West Didsbury

## CROSSWORD

C		T	O	R	N	A	D	O		S
H	O	R	N		I		W	I	C	K
A		A		A	N	G	E	L		I
I	C	I	C	L	E		L		U	P
R	U	N		D		C	L	A	S	S
	B		S	E	A	L	S		E	
P	A	C	E	R		O		A	R	T
O	N		A		S	C	O	U	S	E
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T	I	M	E		O		L	I	M	B
S		P	R	O	T	E	C	T		Y