

Friends of Romiley Station



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2021

Welcome to our July newsletter. June was certainly a very warm and dry month which certainly posed quite a few problems with having to water all our plants (bringing the water to the station in large containers) and trying to keep the weeds under control.

However, by and large we managed to do it and as you will read below we were able to create a new garden area behind the fence at the rear of Platform 2 just by the pedestrian access to the platform which was then planted for us by the Year 3 pupils from Bredbury Green Primary School.

We also benefitted from a very useful meeting at the station with Theo McLauchlan, Northern's Station Manager North / East Manchester & High Peaks.

JUNE TASK SESSIONS

Taking advantage of the good weather and light nights we managed to achieve quite a lot in June, although much of the work was aimed at simply keeping on top of things.

It was also great to see that many of the things that we had planted in the past are flourishing, such as the rose bushes at the rear of platform 2 by the gable end of the station building.



As mentioned in the introduction above, watering can prove problematic, but we are now hopeful of a solution following our meeting with Theo McLauchlan from Northern. Either an actual water supply or probably a water butt.



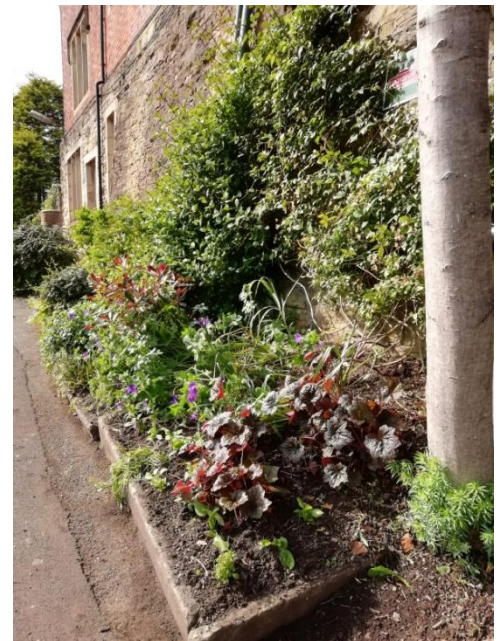


Certainly, the local wild birds appreciate the garden areas with blackbirds and other species paying frequent visits.

There are plenty of bees visiting

as well, enjoying the wide variety of plants and flowers on both sides of the station.

We have created a new garden area in what was previously just an overgrown mess.

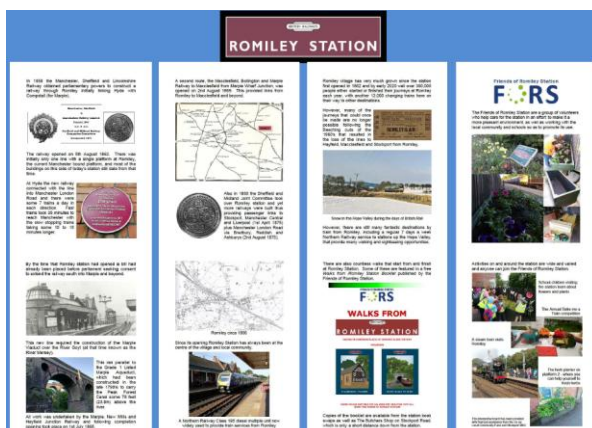


The before and after pictures show the transformation that can be made with a bit of effort, some masonry paint and well over a ton of border top soil.

This area has now been planted with some 35 sunflowers grown for us by the Year 3 pupils at Bredbury Green Primary School.



INTERPRETIVE BOARD



We are pleased to say that at its meeting on 21st June Stockport Council's Werneth Area Committee agreed to give us a grant of £750 towards the cost of our proposed Interpretive Board.

As such we now have all the necessary funding in place so as to go ahead with the project.

VISIT TO THE STATION BY PUPILS OF BREDBURY GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

In conjunction with the creation of the new garden area behind Platform 2 we contacted Bredbury Green Primary School with the idea that we provide everything needed for them to grow lots of sunflowers before coming along to plant them at the station.



We were delighted when they took up the challenge and on Monday 21st June the pupils in Year 3 brought along their sunflowers and in turn planted them in the new garden or in one of four planters placed at the front of the area.

The pupils were very excited to come along and they will be returning in the future once the sunflowers have developed into fully grown plants.

As part of the trip we gave them a talk about the station, including a bit about its history and the work that we do as a group.



Lots of the pupils (and staff) are very much into walking - a good job really as it is a fair walk from the school - and so we have provided each of them with a copy of our Walks from Romiley Station Booklet.

It was lovely to see so many smiling faces enjoying a morning out in the local community as well as having the excitement of a visit to their local train station.



ROMILEY STATION - TRIVIA QUIZ

Below you will find 12 trivia questions about Romiley station and the line passing through it.

See how well you can do in answering the questions.

You will find all the answers on the last page of this newsletter.

1. What is the 3 letter national rail code for Romiley station?
2. In what year was the station opened?
3. What is the number of the "B" road that passes the front of the station?
4. What was the name of the Minister of Transport who in 1969 reprieved the service to Rose Hill (following the Beeching Report) but allowed it to close beyond that to Macclesfield?
5. Alphabetically, which is the last station served by a direct train from Romiley on Sundays?
6. Which railway company built the original Romiley station?
7. Travelling from Romiley to Chinley the site of which former station, closed in 1958, do you pass through?
8. Travelling from Romiley to Sheffield which is the longest tunnel that you pass through?
9. In August 2019 the fear of what happening resulted in the temporary closure of the route from Romiley to Sheffield?
10. Which Derbyshire village, now at the end of the Sett Valley Trail, was once served by through trains from Romiley?
11. Which new station, opened in November 1985, provides a roughly once an hour service to and from Romiley on weekdays, but has no Sunday service.
12. Which station only has one direct train to and from Romiley each weekday?

THE SCARBOROUGH FLYER - SATURDAY 5TH JUNE

The station was absolutely buzzing on Saturday 5th June when the Scarborough Flyer pulled into the station so as to pick up passengers on its way to the Yorkshire coast via the Hope Valley, Sheffield and York.

The 14 or so carriages were hauled by LMS (London Midland and Scottish) Jubilee Class 5690 Leander (BR No. 45690).



The engine was built at Crewe Works during March 1936 having been designed by Sir William Stanier.

Given the length of the train Leander pulled up well beyond the end of Platform 2 giving a great opportunity to photograph it from Oakwood Road by the railway overbridge.



JULY AND AUGUST TASK SESSIONS

We will be carrying out more Task Sessions during July and August.

They will take place on the following days:

- Saturday 10th July - from 2pm
- Tuesday 27th July - from 7pm
- Saturday 8th August - from 2pm
- Tuesday 24th August - from 7pm

Do try and attend if at all possible and please let Angie Clark know in advance if you intend to come along.

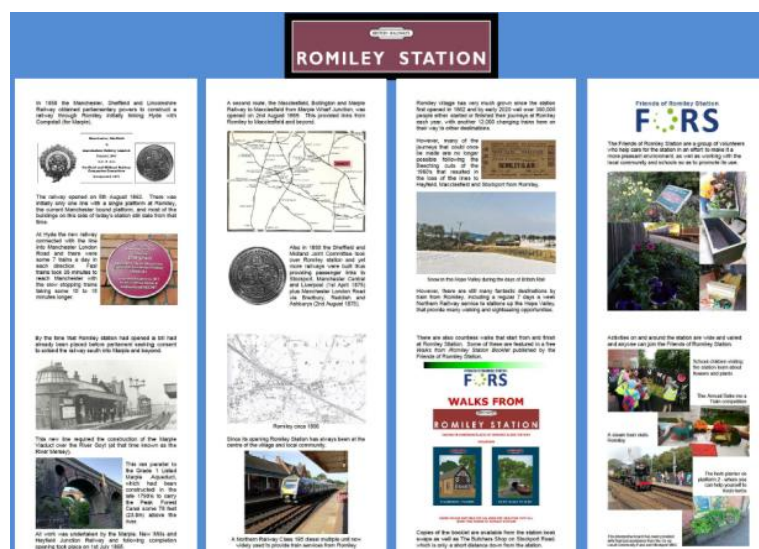
Everything is now beginning to grow really well as can be seen from the two pictures below taken of the more informal parts of the gardens beyond Platform 2 by the upper reaches of the station car park.



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THE FRIENDS OF HATTERSLEY STATION



One of the things that we have always liked to do is to go along and visit other Groups not only to see how they are doing things, and to learn from them, but also to appreciate what they have achieved at their stations.

Unfortunately, in the past 16 months or so this has not been possible. However, with the relaxing of restrictions the opportunity to visit other stations is returning.

In mid-June a visit was made to Hattersley station on the Manchester to Glossop line.

As the photographs show they have achieved a great

deal in what is a tricky location. The island platform is very narrow and can only be accessed via a long bridge and ramp. So the group have concentrated on making the front of the station a delight with garden areas and a striking marble commemorative bench.



PLATFORM 1 WAITING ROOM

Those of you who have used the station lately will have noticed that the Waiting Room on Platform 1 has been locked out of use (which unfortunately does prevent access to the Book Swap).

Regretfully, there has been a collapse above the ceiling (which has also damaged the room's suspended ceiling) and clearly until everything has been fully repaired and made safe it would be dangerous to allow public access.

BREDBURY AND ROMILEY WAR MEMORIAL

You may recall that in the past we worked very closely with the Romiley Remembers Group, indeed two of their superb display boards are located within the Platform 1 waiting room telling part of the story about those who fought in the First World War many of whom left Romiley by train, never to return.



Friday 18th June 2021 marked exactly 100 years since the unveiling of the Bredbury and Romiley War Memorial, paid for by local subscription so as to provide a fitting and lasting memorial to all those who made the supreme sacrifice.

To mark the centenary a special commemorative service was held at the memorial to not only remember but to suitably celebrate the one hundred year history.

The service included readings from the actual unveiling service in 1921, some poetry, the last post and two minutes silence followed by the laying of wreaths led by the Mayor and Mayoress of Stockport, Councillor Adrian Nottingham and Mrs Diane Nottingham with the Royal British Legion, local politicians and military groups.



Pupils from the nearby St Christopher's RC Primary School were also present together with our local PCSO Muhammad Aziz and representatives from other local organisations as well as some relatives of men named on the memorial.



ROMILEY STATION - TRIVIA QUIZ - ANSWERS

1. RML
2. 1862
3. B6104
4. Richard Marsh (who in 1971 also became Chairman of British Rail)
5. Strines
6. Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway
7. Buxworth (known locally as Bugsworth)
8. Totley Tunnel (between Grindleford and Dore & Totley (which at 6,230 yards (5.7 km or 3.54 miles) is the 4th longest national rail tunnel in England). You also pass through Cowburn Tunnel between Chinley and Edale which itself is 3,702 yards (3.385 km or 3.103 miles) which is the 11th longest in length.
9. The possible collapse of Toddbrook Reservoir in Whaley Bridge
10. Hayfield
11. Ryder Brow
12. Ardwick