

## The Friends of Reddish South Station Newsletter Spring /Summer 2021

Volume 13 issue 2

May/June 2021

Well , after not having much going on at the station or any events, it's a pleasure to be able to let you know that we have had a comparatively busy couple of weeks!

We trust that you will enjoy the newsletter, and we can be more optimistic that it is a pointer to things getting a little more back to normal; hopefully our calendar of events can start again at the latest in September when we have all had our 2nd vaccination and can socialize in safety.

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## The Friends are presented with Community Award



*Pictured L to R:*

*Theo McLauchlan, Station Manager, Mark Barker, Cheshire's Best Kept Stations, Tom Grundy, Friends Chair, Mark Angelucci, Transport Officer, TfGM*

As promised in December, The Friends were presented with their special Community Award from Cheshire's Best Kept Stations (CBKS) on May 18th at the station platform.

Due to the pandemic that kept everyone locked down last year, the CBKS award committee could not visit the stations, and of course no events could take place while lockdown was on.

So it was that the commit-

tee decided that they would ask the Station Community Groups to nominate what they considered their best event or campaign over the last few years for consideration of a special award for 2020.

The Friends of Reddish South were awarded for, as Mark Barker put it, for everything we have managed to do at the station, from campaigning for a reinstated service, to the events we have held on the station;

particularly the centenary commemoration for the end of World War One, and the projects with young people in Reddish, including our signature mural and the 'Welcome to Reddish' poster project.

We also are pleased that we have a new station manager, Theo, who is a familiar face to us having been our station manager a few years ago.

*More pictures on p2*



We were also particularly pleased to see Stephen Forde who supported us so much during his time at Stockport Council, and Mark Angelucci (hope that's spelt correctly Mark!) from TfGM. All our visitors were surprised by the new housing estate being built on the other side of the station, which has, indeed gone up very quickly.

Pictured L to R:  
FORSS Chair Tom  
Treasurer Dot  
&  
Vice Chair Keith  
with the award



Mark Barker from CBKS  
Presenting the award to  
Tom

From L to R:  
Former council  
transport ex-  
ecutive and  
CBKS commit-  
tee member  
Stephen Forde,  
Theo, Friends  
Dave, Mark,  
Tom, Dot,  
Keith, Alan and  
Mark Angelucci





## Mayor Andy Burnham visits Reddish South Station on the campaign trail

*Pictured L to R:*

*Holly McCormack, Labour Party, Friend Walter Brett, Councillor Jude Wells, FORSS Chair Tom Grundy, Vice Chair Keith Chapman Councillor Janet Mobbs, Councillor Yvonne Guarriento, Mayor Andy Burnham, Friend Dot Ashworth, Andrew Gwynne MP, Councillor Elise Wilson*



*Andy Burnham is a staunch supporter of the FORSS campaign for a regular rail service and was happy to have a picture with the Reddish South contingent!*



*As you can see it was a terrible Bank Holiday Monday— the blob in the purple jacket is FORSS secretary Kim, stood appropriately distanced is Andrew Gwynne, Treasurer Dot and Andy Burnham.*



We met up with Andy Burnham and Yvonne Guarriento on the early May Day Bank Holiday Monday, as part of the Andy's drive to improve public transport in Greater Manchester, should he have another 5-year term as Mayor, and his and Yvonne's re-election cam-

paign.

As we have been meeting with him in recent months to discuss our campaign he had also expressed a wish to see the station.

We were pleased that he seemed impressed with

what we had done to improve the platform and posed for pictures and filmed a short statement about improving buses and trains in Greater Manchester. He also agreed with us that it was a shame that as we (and Denton) had the

basic facilities for a regular service it was not being utilized.

Also in attendance but a little picture shy were our Vice-Chair Keith's wife Sue, and Denton Councillor Allison Gwynne

## Snippets.....

We have submitted a question to the next full council meeting regarding their response to the Manchester Recovery Task Force document. The Council are not happy with the document but we found their response unsatisfactory too, as it does not mention our line specifically—Tameside Council's response does. Unfortunately the next full Council meeting is not imminent but we will keep you informed.

Congratulations to **Pete's Plonkers** on becoming the champions of the Fantasy Football League. It's been an unusual season—we hope more of you will join for 2021-22 season. It's free and fun.

We think our next event on the station platform will be our annual Macmillan Biggest Coffee Morning in the World at the end of September.

We are hopeful there may be a Retro Railtour later in the year, probably a shorter distance but nonetheless very welcome—we've all missed it!

We were sorry to lose Councillor Guarrientto in the last elections as she had been a good supporter to our Friends group. We congratulate the new Councillor, Gary Lawson and have been in contact with him about a visit to the station and chat to the Friends. He plans to visit the station in June. On a similar note, as you probably all know, Andy Burnham won the mayoral election—we are very pleased - it will be really advantageous to have someone in post who knows all about us already. We do not know how the government announcement about Great British Rail will affect us—watch this space!

## The Friends of Reddish South Station Committee are:

**Tom Grundy Chairman:** former Councillor of Reddish South, who, together with Councillor Walter Brett initiated the formation of the Friends Group in 2007. When he retired from the council we persuaded him to stay as our Chairman.

**Keith Chapman Vice-Chair:** Keith and wife Sue have always been staunch Friends and Keith is extremely knowledgeable about anything rail, historic or current.

**Dot Ashworth Treasurer:** of course Dot is Treasurer + and is the Face of FORSS. Along with her partner-in-crime Kim they are the ones who cajole, smile and without the real knowledge of rail (although for-ever learning) tend to be the ones who jump up and down and repeat 'we want a service'!

**Noel Henry Technical Chair:** Is our oracle for technical information and writes excellent reports to submit to any number of consultations and regulatory bodies. He is also our station gardening expert

**Kim Burrows Secretary:** which includes the newsletter and the website. She and Dot collaborate a lot and tend to organize supplies for the events.

**Dave Ashworth Twitter:** He has the job of on-the-spot- reporting and keeping the committee informed of current events. He manages the gazebo erecting, table organization and general management at events

**Alan Burrows Membership Secretary** who also helps with the newsletters and website as proof reader and ideas man. He and Keith are Dave's second-in-command at events.

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