

Friends of Romiley Station



NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2021

Welcome to our November Newsletter. There has been a great deal happening at the station this past month with the completion of one of our major schemes with massive progress being made on another. You will be able to read about both in this issue. We also have another quiz, this time with a bit of a twist.

TASK SESSIONS

Despite some bad weather this past month we were blessed with dry weather when we needed it.

However, regrettably, a whole host of rats enjoyed getting out in the nice weather and we received reports that they were climbing the thick stems of the sunflowers in our newly planted area behind platform 2 to feed off the sunflower seeds.

So the first task to be undertaken was the removal of all of the sunflowers from that area which will hopefully remove the problem. Just in case it doesn't our friends in the rail industry have put a number of rat traps in place.



We had planned to replace the sunflowers with a whole host of tulip bulbs which would hopefully have brought along a lovely display of colour next spring.

That has now been put on hold following a meeting that took place with TfGM who came along in connection with the proposed extension of platform 2 and the creation of a more user friendly (and

safe) ramp to the platform that disabled users would find easier use.

It looks as if the best area to put a new ramp would be where we created our garden so it does not make sense to plant any bulbs as they would be all destroyed when the work takes place (possibly in January 2022).

Although tulip bulbs were not planted we did plant a large number of daffodil bulbs in the Waiting Room Garden.

That task was made much easier as there was a splendid turn out at the session with 8 members turning up, including one new member.

At the next session, which takes place on 6th November from 2pm we will be looking to carry on with getting the garden areas ready for winter as well as undertaking more work in our new garden area further down the car park (more on that below)..

CHANGING STATIONS QUIZ

This month we have yet another quiz with something of a difference. For each question the first part should help you identify a station served by Northern, whilst the second part gives you a clue to help you change the station name by altering just one letter so that it then fits in with the second clue.

The answers can be found at the end of this Newsletter.

For example:

This station on the Lancashire Coast is named after the adjacent amusement park but it could provide seating for two or three people.

The answer is - Blackpool Pleasure Bench (Blackpool Pleasure Beach, but with Beach changed to Bench to fit in with the second part of the clue)

1. Trains from Southport terminate at this Cheshire station, but it is now one of the Channel Islands
2. A battle between black and white American servicemen stationed in this Lancashire village took place during June 1943. It was on a convex or arch shaped section of road which may have been adverse
3. This station near Morecambe implies that it was exposed to view, when perhaps it is well looked after.
4. It once served a massive zoo on the outskirts of Manchester, but former Bake Off presenter Miss Perkins may take legal action

5. The senior officer in the House of Lords, who is sent to summon those in the House of Commons at its state opening, heads up to be near Bolton. May now be fishy
6. One of two stations in the centre of this West Yorkshire city that serves the likes of Ilkley and Skipton, but not the chief landowning noblemen for the area.
7. Thermal spa town on the edge of the Peak District and home to an annual festival and magnificent opera house may now sell you men's clothes instead.
8. This Greater Manchester station sounds like you are flagging down a taxi, but in the alternative you could be just telling you a made up story
9. A small station in Cumbria sounds like it may have something to do with a financial institution associated with Superman's surname, but could now be a male lavatory
10. The main station in the Beatles home town now has head based blood sucking insects in it
11. This station is shared by both trams and trains and sounds like it is all about finding your way at sea, although it has changed into a common amphibian
12. The home of glass where lines once met can be said to work properly
13. The most recent station to be built between Romiley and Manchester is now a type of corvid

By way of advanced notice next month we are putting together a quiz where you will have to find over 50 stations.

However, as it will be our last quiz before Christmas we will not be giving you the answers until the New Year

What we will be doing is awarding some appropriate seasonal prizes to those who enter the quiz and achieve the two highest scores.

It sounds simply but it certainly won't be. Indeed as part of being devious one station will appear twice and if you spot which one you will get some bonus points.

So make sure you read the December issue early in the month because entries will have to be in well before Christmas.

Full details then next month.

PLATFORM 2 – STOREROOM

Regular readers will know that some two years ago now we had to vacate the room we occupied (with others) on Platform 1 due partly to the discovery of asbestos and partly because of the prospect that Northern may be able to let it out commercially.

We were very kindly offered a smaller, but far more suitable room, on Platform 2 which would be for our exclusive use.

However, that room was not in a very good state of repair, had no real place to store our things in a safe way and lacked any sort of light.

Just prior to the start of the Covid pandemic we sought quotes to have extensive work undertaken to the room. This involved the replacement of some missing brickwork, some repointing, the installation of a ceiling, the provision of heavy duty shelving and the replacement of the four boarded up windows with wired Georgian windows so that natural light could once again get into the room.



Although we had accepted one of the quotations the work could not commence as a direct result of the lockdown. We had through the generosity and assistance of Northern and TfGM obtained grants that would have covered the cost of the work.



Unfortunately, when the situation had changed so that the work could be undertaken the original contractor decided to pull out.

Thereafter, we struggled to find a replacement firm to carry out the work.

Thankfully, we were eventually successful during August in finding a new contractor who would carry out the work, but not until October and at a slightly higher price.

We are now pleased to say that our new contractor recently undertook all the work and the result is a fantastic facility in which we can safely store all our tools and much more.

NEW GARDEN AREA BY STOCKPORT COUNCIL CAR PARK

We have for some time now had plans to tidy up the area at the foot of what we termed the “Hill of Doom”, an area created when Network Rail unceremoniously removed all the trees that were there. The area was then overrun by bracken and ivy.



At a couple of volunteer sessions towards the end of last year the area was cleared and a special matting was put down in the hope that the bracken could be prevented from returning prior to our creating a sleeper wall at the foot of the hill.

The plan was to then back fill with something suitable in order to create a flat area before finally creating a garden area.



We are delighted to say that the sleeper wall has now been completed (and the area in front of it tidied up).

We have also been ever so pleased to have been gifted a number of large planters, of different shapes and sizes, made by Europlanters of Far Cromwell Road, Bredbury.

On Monday 25th October some of their team delivered the planters and they will very much form the centrepiece for the new garden area.

So our next stage is to obtain (hopefully free of charge – we have approached Network Rail) the necessary stone chipping base and top soil for both the planters and the garden area.



Once we have all of that in place then the project can be completed and we can get planting ready for next spring.

BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE (BTP) POLICING ON THE RAIL NETWORK SURVEY

The BTP are currently undertaking a customer survey on policing the rail network, as detailed in the adjoining poster.

We know that not everyone can use QR codes so the link below will also get you into the survey.

All responses are completely anonymous and the survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

<https://online1.snapsurveys.com/interview/1dba64df-25df-45be-a7ed-824c314a785e>



HOW ACCESSIBLE IS YOUR STATION?

Recently we had a meeting with John Kenny who is the Senior Transportation Officer - Community Rail with Stockport Council.



In gaining access to railway stations John uses a wheelchair and he was able to assist us with some very informed observations about the access at Romiley picking up on things that the vast majority of us would simply not spot.

Further meetings have taken place with representatives of Transport for Greater Manchester and the rail industry with regards to proposed improvements to the access at Romiley (particularly the ramped access) as part of their Access for All Programme.

A meeting has also taken place with Nathaniel Yates, a disability campaigner, who is undertaking a Greater Manchester wide campaign to improve access to all stations that fall short in serving all users, be they able bodied or not.

Amazingly some 60% of Greater Manchester stations don't have step free access and so cannot be used by an ever increasing number of people.

Nathaniel has organised a petition, which already has over 1,000 signatories, aimed at raising awareness of the situation, so the more who sign it the better. You can read all about what Nathaniel would like to achieve by using the link below.

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/how-accessible-is-your-local-train-station>

GREAVE PRIMARY SCHOOL - FOREST SCHOOL – BUG HOTEL



For quite a while now we have wanted to open a Bug Hotel at the station.

Indeed, before Covid hit we did have a very useful meeting with John Billinge who is the Site Manager and Forest School Leader at Greave Primary School.

The main focus of the Forest School is to deliver all aspects of the school curriculum in a stimulating outdoor environment and it is very much a long-term approach to education, for children, and young people.

It maximises the benefits of learning in the outdoors and is a fantastic process that provides opportunities and experiences for children to achieve and develop confidence, self-esteem and knowledge of our natural environment; through first hand experiences.



Before



After

So John agreed that the building and installation of a Bug Hotel at the station would be one way of giving the pupils at Greave a further opportunity to develop some key skills whilst at the same time contributing to the local community.

Unfortunately the Bug Hotel project was delayed by Covid, but during this year's October half term there was the opportunity to deliver it and as can be seen from the pictures John and his team of young workers have created a real 5 star Bug Hotel.

What they have produced has certainly contributed to the station and will hopefully attract great interest from humans and bugs alike.

The first guest was a woodlouse who took up residence almost upon completion



John and some of his Forest School team



We can't thank everyone who took part from the Greave Primary School – Forest School enough for their fantastic creation.

There are some temporary signs up at the moment with key facts about bugs which we will be making permanent in the very near future.

Answers to the Changing Stations Quiz

1. Alderney Edge (Alderley Edge)
2. Camber Bridge (Bamber Bridge)
3. Care Lane (Bare Lane)
4. Belle Sue (Belle Vue)
5. Blackcod (Blackrod)
6. Bradford Forster Squire (Bradford Forster Square)
7. Burton (Buxton)
8. Tale (Hale)
9. Gents Bank (Kents Bank)
10. Liverpool Lice Street (Liverpool Lime Street)
11. Navigation Toad (Navigation Road)
12. St Helens Function (St Helens Junction)
13. Ryder Crow (Ryder Brow)

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