

Friends of Romiley Station



## NEWSLETTER

### MARCH 2022

Welcome to our March Newsletter. It's been lovely to see a bit of colour emerging at the station as our spring bulbs make a welcome return.



What hasn't been lovely to see is the increase in antisocial behaviour. There have been a number of occasions when the fantastic staff at the station have had to intervene to prevent damage being caused. Passengers have also been threatened and they have unfortunately had to be inconvenienced with the waiting rooms being locked out of use at times to prevent access to those intent on creating

havoc. We have also had a person or persons unknown ignoring poster requests to stop feeding the pigeons as they have been making the subway and steps to platform 2 a real mess.

Every time the staff sweep up the pieces of bread and seed they are being replaced. This makes it so difficult for all those doing their best to keep the station presentable for the benefit of the vast majority of station users.



However, the highlight of the past month has been the incredible progress made on our new garden area at the foot of the slope down to the station car park. This, as you will read below, has been made thanks to the generous giving of time and materials by everyone from Buckingham, the contractors who have been working on the bridge and platforms at the station.

#### TASK SESSIONS



We did manage to hold a very well attended formal Task Session on 12th February 2022, but as touched on in this month's introduction that doesn't tell the full story. There have been a number of ad hoc sessions where a great deal of work has been undertaken led by Boguslaw (Bogsey) Kozlowski (Project Manager), Ian Jackson (Jacko) and all the team from Buckingham Group Contracting Ltd.



It all kicked off when aware of what we wanted to achieve ballast was donated by Buckingham and placed in the proposed garden area ready for laying.

Then our planters were levelled up using sand before all the ballast was put into place.

As part of that work the Buckingham's Team indicated that they had a load of timber that had been removed from the station bridge as part of the ongoing work.

Seeing that we had already had a timber retaining wall built at the front of the garden they offered to recycle the timber from the bridge and use it to construct an all-round timber wall. In doing so they really made the whole area look fantastic as well as providing a sound barrier between the invasive ivy on the slope and our garden.

Having done all of that work, including the levelling out of the recycled stone ballast, they then set about putting in place our new interpretive board which will inform those visiting the station more about what we do as well as giving a potted history of the station and the line.



A few words here cannot really fully express our gratitude to everyone from Buckingham who have done such a tremendous job for us and all for the "price" of some Mars Bar and Ginger Cake.



In addition to the garden work they attached our "homemade" birdfeeder to the gable end of the station buildings.

We were sorry to see them all move onto their next job as they are an incredible bunch. If only all contractors had their community spirit.

We are aiming to finish off the garden (filling the planters with top grade topsoil followed by the planting of numerous plants – all kindly funded by Northern and TfGM) at the next Task Session.

This will take place during the afternoon of Saturday 12th March (from 2pm).





We will probably have a more “formal opening” in a few months’ time which will include the unveiling of a plaque, once we decide on a name for the garden, which will be based the fantastic achievement of Her Majesty the Queen having completed 70 wonderful years on the throne.

We will be discussing the name etc. at the Annual General Meeting on 15th March 2022.

Eventually, when everything is complete we will hopefully have improved that side of the station to such an extent that it not only provides a great visual welcome to those accessing the station through the car park but will also promote the station even more as people read all about it.

The photograph opposite was taken as the work drew to a close on a very wet and windy afternoon as Storm Dudley decided that everyone needed a good drenching



## **STEAM TRAINS PASSING THROUGH ROMILEY**



On Wednesday 2nd February 2022, 46100 ‘Royal Scot’, paid us another visit whilst on its way from Wolverhampton to York.

We are very lucky that so many steam excursions are routed through Romiley, primarily because of the splendour scenery provided as the trains make their way up the Hope Valley



## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - TUESDAY 15TH MARCH 2022**

May we remind you that our Annual General Meeting will take place on Tuesday 15th March 2022 commencing at 7.30pm in the back room at Jake's Ale House, 27 Compstall Road, Romiley.

Set out below is the final Agenda. If you are able to come along there is no need for you to print it out as copies will be available at the meeting.

Copies of the audited accounts for the year ending 31st December 2021 will also be available.

They were set out in our last Newsletter should you wish to look through them and formulate any questions to put to the Treasurer at the meeting.

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 9th March 2021
3. Matters arising from the minutes

#### 4. Officer's Reports

- Chair
- Secretary/Membership Secretary
- Treasurer (including presentation of Annual accounts (kindly audited by John A Simpson BA ACA))

If anyone would like to put themselves forward for any of the elected positions and cannot be at the AGM please let the Secretary, Angie Clark, know in advance of the meeting at [clark.theateam69@btinternet.com](mailto:clark.theateam69@btinternet.com)

#### 5. Election of Officers and Committee

#### 6. Projects for 2022

#### 7. Ramp access to platforms 1 and 2

#### 8. Summer Day Trip

#### 9. New Garden Area – Adjacent to the station car park

#### 10. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee – Station Celebrations

#### 11. Any Other Business

### **A STATION GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ**

This month's quiz is really just a general knowledge quiz.

However, so that we keep with our theme of having our quizzes related to the railway every answer is also the name of a station on the national network.

1. Which British car manufacturers, with models that had names like Viva and Velox, was founded in 1857 by Alexander Wilson?
2. What city lies on both the Rivers Foss and Ouse?
3. Where would you find Kellam Island?
4. The University Boat Race is over a 4.2 miles course between which two places?
5. The English headquarters for Blackberry, McAfee, Burger King and Lego are in which Berkshire town?
6. At 558 feet long where would you find the world's longest medieval cathedral?

7. The Richard III visitor centre is in which city?
8. Until production was moved in 2019 where was Colman's mustard manufactured?
9. Which classic horse race, open only to 3 year olds is run on the first Saturday of June each year?
10. What surname links a former English table tennis champion and a former Liverpool and England footballer?
11. Which Lord had 3 terms as Prime Minister whilst Queen Victoria was on the throne?
12. Anti-nuclear weapons marches during the 1950's and 60's were associated with which Berkshire village?
13. The UK's highest mountain overlooks which former garrison town that lies at the northern end of the West Highland Way?
14. The steam train that holds the world speed record, set in 1938, was built in which town?
15. Which 1992 Stephen Spielberg film was a sequel to Peter Pan

You will find all the answers are at the end of the Newsletter.

## **STATION BRIDGE AND PLATFORM EXTENSION WORKS**

We reported on the ongoing work last month as Network Rail and their contractors (Buckingham) set about repairing the station bridge over Compstall Road as well as undertaking work to extend both platforms.

They certainly weren't slow in getting things done and as anyone will have seen if they walked past the station at weekends or used the station during the week the team from Buckingham have been pulling out all the stops in carrying out their tasks.

As this picture shows the entire area of each platform carried on the road bridge was





removed before being replaced by what we would describe as massive Meccano pieces before the platform surface was either put back or replaced.



The contractors have also been busy with extending the platforms and the new sections were brought into use towards the end of February.

## GREEN HEARTS CRAFTING SESSION

Unfortunately we had published our last Newsletter before the details of a "Half Term Green Heart Crafting Session" in Romiley had been finalised.

As you probably already know climate change doesn't care about our differences, and that's why people here in the UK and across the world are putting them aside and doing what they can to tackle climate change and protect what we love.

So in February 2022, events took place to demonstrate to decision makers that people want to see real and rapid action to tackle the climate and nature crisis - for the love of our families, our homes, our livelihoods and our planet.

As part of this the Friends of Romiley Station worked closely with others in our local community to try and do their bit by running a "Half Term Green Heart



Crafting Session" which took place on Thursday 17th February at the Signol Community Centre, which is just down Stockport Road from the station.

As the photographs show a lot of imagination and effort went into creating green hearts from a whole host of material, all of which was recycled.



## VISIT TO ST ANNES ON THE SEA – THE FRIENDS OF ST ANNES STATION

At the end of January our Chair and Secretary, Alf and Angie Clark, went along to see and discuss the work of the great team of volunteers at St. Annes-on-the-Sea station.

The visit was at the kind invitation of Tony Ford, who not only chairs the South Fylde Line Community Rail Partnership but also pulls everything together at St. Annes.

Alf and Angie had passed through the station on New Year's Day and were incredibly impressed by what they saw and so made contact to express their admiration.

Tony very quickly responded not only with the invitation but also a lot of support material.

On the Wednesday morning of the visit Tony and his team (he is the one with the sunglasses and woolly hat stood behind Angie) were working







extremely hard but found the time to show us round and tell us all about their achievements and ongoing projects.

Even on a winter's day the station had so much colour and looked incredibly attractive. It is indeed a great credit to them all.

We very much want to go back in the spring or summer and take along some of our team so that more of us can not

only enjoy visiting the station but can also undertake one of the walks detailed in the South Fylde Line Walks leaflets (details available at <https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/lines/south-fylde-line/>).

During the visit it was also a great pleasure to meet up with Caroline Holden who is the Community Rail Development Office for the South Fylde Line.

So we would very much like to thank everyone at St. Annes for allowing us to take up some of their time which let us learn a lot as well as giving us some ideas for the future.



## A STATION GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ – THE ANSWERS

- |                        |               |                 |
|------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Vauxhall            | 2. York       | 3. Sheffield    |
| 4. Putney and Mortlake | 5. Slough     | 6. Winchester   |
| 7. Leicester           | 8. Norwich    | 9. Derby        |
| 10. Barnes             | 11. Salisbury | 12. Aldermaston |
| 13. Fort William       | 14. Doncaster | 15. Hook        |

**Published by**

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