



Friends of Reddish South Station Newsletter Spring/Summer 2022 Special Edition

VOLUME 14 ISSUE 1

MAY 2022

Hello, and welcome to the first Newsletter of the year - it's a bumper edition covering our recent unveiling of the VE Day celebration artwork as well the return of the Easter Folk Train, some great campaign news as well as Tai Chi on the station platform!

Thank you to everyone who came on 8th May you made it extra special..

INSIDE:

The VE day project 2

Campaign News 8

Tai Chi at the station 8

FORSS 15th Anniversary 8

Easter Folk Train 9

Transport Officers visit Reddish South 10

FORSS committee 10

Only 2 years late! The VE celebration artwork unveiling & 'street' party takes place at last!



Andrew Gwynne MP unveils the VE day artwork with the help of some of the 1st/4th Reddish Scout Group and Sam, their leader (far right)

We had been anticipating this event for some time in FORSS—the project began originally the week before lockdown only to be suspended almost immediately .

So, on Sunday 8th May 2022— exactly 2 years to the day of the 75th Anniver-

sary of the VE day celebrations in 1945 we were delighted to be able to unveil the finished artwork, designed by artist Jasmine Walne and commissioned by the Friends.

We enjoyed a platform party buffet (provided by the wonderful Marie & Tony of

Marie's café on Broadstone Road), music from the Belle Vue Brass Band plus attendance by Andrew, the Deputy Mayor & Mayoress Cllr. Dave Wilson and Ms Jeannette Slavinski, Cllrs Janet Mobbs, Kate Butler, Gary Lawson, John Taylor and over 100 guests.

How we did it -The Project.....



Some of the designs that became part of the mural and 2 very studious young men!



Following the success of the WW1 commemoration, we were eager to find another project to do with 1st/4th Scout Group, particularly the Cubs & Beavers, as Sam, their group leader, had been so pleased with the benefit the children had got from the experience.

An end-of-war celebration seemed the perfect solution, and this time we were able to commission an artist to work alongside them and develop the artwork.

In order to reflect properly the feeling of the day in 1945, Friends Dot and Kim visited the Reddish Breakfast Club and asked the members to reminisce about the day when they would have been about the same age as the children doing the project.

They were really welcoming and were happy to talk about that day.

We took back the memories to Jasmine, the artist, who suggested 4 workshops with the children, to develop the ideas.

We had completed one workshop when lockdown hit, so we ended up with 5 workshops and children now from 6- 11 years old who had participated in some way with the artwork.

Pictured R are Jasmine, Sam and the children working on aspects of the artwork.



Funding and thanks....

This project is one of the bigger ones in terms of the funding we have needed over the last 15 years.

We are, as ever, tremendously grateful for the generosity once more of **Heatons & Reddish Area Committee** who always support our activities.

We also thank **TfGM and Mark Angelucci, Northern Rail, The Community Rail Partnership (formerly ACoRP)**, and a welcome private donation to the Friends.

Thanks also go to:

Fusion Signs & Graphics for the help with the panel.

To Marie's Café: We can highly recommend the catering from Marie & Tony at Marie's café on Broadstone Road. She did us proud- It was a lovely spread. We got spam, ham, egg mayo, cheese, tuna mayo, corned beef, and sausage rolls and there wasn't much left!

To Dot, who saved her ration coupons to make fruit cake and lemon drizzle cake and Friend Tina who made lovely butterfly cakes that didn't last 5 minutes!

To Belle Vue Brass Band for entertaining us.

To the delightful Jasmine of Tactile Arts for the great work with the children and putting it all together so beautifully in a way that represented them and the VE Day celebrations.

To the 1st/4th Scout group of Reddish and Sam, who did all the work, and of course, last but definitely not least the lovely Breakfast Club members who gave us the memories that began our project.



From the top: Dot and a welcome cup of tea, Jasmine, ????? Dot & Sam, the Cubs group, Marie & Tony from Marie's cafe



Preparation.....



Tom & Dave painting the wall ready for the panel

As you can see (left), we had a bit of our own painting to do before the panel could be fixed. Once done the panel was fixed and ready for the unveiling.



Above: Mike & Gaz from Fusion



Unfortunately Noel had just cleared the area for the panel to be fixed, when some graffiti artists decided they would get in there first!

And, finally, the day!

We were a little nervous as we had waited a while for the day, but we needn't have worried.

Everything went very well and we were overjoyed at the reception to the artwork and the number of people (over 100) who came on the day.

Here we must thank Andrew Gwynne MP who unveiled the mural, Deputy Mayor & Mayoress, Cllr Dave Wilson & Ms Jeannette Slavinski, Cllrs Janet Mobbs, Kate Butler (pictured with Janet & Tom opposite), Gary Lawson & John Taylor who came to support us, and Matthew Brannigan and the Belle Vue Brass Band who entertained us musically for nearly an hour.

We also thank the FORSS Committee for their hard work to make the day a success.



Noel & Alan painting out the graffiti





These are some of the pictures capturing the atmosphere of the day. We were delighted that over 100 people attended and the children loved seeing the result of their work, and equally pleased that some of the Breakfast Club were able to come to see the finished artwork

The Unveiling.....

Andrew spoke of how, had he been able to unveil this project 2 years ago, he would have been able to say that we should give thanks for no more war in Europe, but of course the turn of events in Ukraine should give us pause for thought. He also mentioned our campaign news (see page 8)



Andrew Gwynne took time to remind us of the conflict in Ukraine and not to be complacent about taking peace for granted



Sam and the 1st/4th had opted not to have a preview of the finished artwork, preferring a surprise, and they were very pleased with the results: the children recognising and pointing out the details to friends and family that they had worked on.

It was a wonderful aspect of the day for us all.



In celebration of the 75th Anniversary of VE Day
Artwork by 1st/4th Reddish Cubs & Beavers with the help of the memories of the Reddish Breakfast Club
Artist: Jasmine Walne
Production: Fusion Signs & Graphics
Unveiled by Andrew Gwynne MP
8th May 2022

Pictures:

The finished mural (above), below, enjoying the day, some of the Breakfast Club, Tom with the Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr Janet Mobbs in the blue top, and Friend Keith (in the green jacket) with Cllr Gary Lawson



Campaign News

There will shortly be an online questionnaire available for you to make your views known about a service on the Stockport–Manchester Victoria line via Reddish South and Denton Stations, and as soon as we get the link we will pass this on. We hope you are able to complete the survey yourself and pass it on too – We need your support!!

Hot on the tail of the approval of funding from the 'Restoring Your Railways' Government Scheme, the Friends Committee have attended a meeting with Stockport Council discussing our campaign (which also includes a light-rail proposal for Stockport–Ashton Moss, and a Marple-Stockport service via Reddish South).

We have also (with the Friends of Denton Sta-

tion) discussed a Stockport–Manchester Victoria Service via Reddish South and Denton Stations with Stantec who have been commissioned to carry out the study.

Obviously it is early days, but both meetings were very positive and we await developments with a little more hope than in previous years.

There will shortly be an online questionnaire available for you to make

your views known and as soon as we get the link we will pass this on. Please pass the link onto friends and family in the area as well; we need as much support as possible.

It remains for us to thank (again!) Andrew Gwynne MP, Metro Mayor Andy Burnham, Angela Rayner MP, William Wragg MP and Navendu Mishra MP for all their support and work on our behalf.

Tai Chi at Reddish South Station

The Tai Chi class usually meet at the Bairstow Club, but owing to the elections were not able to use the room.

Friend Dot suggested the station platform where they managed to enjoy not as contemplative session as usual—and surprised 2 freight rail drivers and a few passersby!

Dot & Dave made sure all safety procedures were followed!



FORSS has its 15th Anniversary this year

We were able to hold an AGM for the first time in nearly 3 years this year.

It is 15 years this July since we formed, thanks to then-councillors Tom Grundy & Walter Brett and Andrew Gwynne MP and their will be celebrations—we don't know what yet though!

It is also 30 years this month (May) since the service through Reddish South was terminated, so we will mark that too. Thanks to Terry for the room.

*Pictured L to R back row: Friends Terry, Andy, Alan, Tom, Noel, Len, Keith, Kim, Walter
Front Row: Rachel, Sue, Mildred & Dot*



The Easter Breakfast Special Folk back on track

During the AGM it was mentioned about the demise of the Easter Breakfast Special, so the committee decided to reinvestigate the possibility of running it again just for our 15th Anniversary year.

Stalybridge Buffet Bar has changed management, and new co-manager Phil was quite enthusiastic about us landing on the Buffet Bar again.

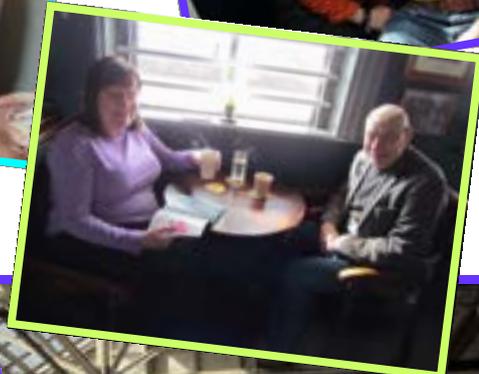
He was even willing to come in an hour earlier for us too—on an Easter Saturday which was great news, but could not cook as the kitchen had been condemned! However, he said he would get catering in; so we were once again up and running. Many thanks to Phil for his time and support.

Ged, Phil & Penny were pleased that the folk train was running again and came and performed for a bacon butty and a pint.

Everyone enjoyed it and we hope Phil will be up for it again—watch this space!

R- pictures of the day

Below Phil & Holly (yes really!)





Pictured clockwise from bottom left: Friend Dot, Sarah, John Kenny, Friends Tom, Alan, Keith, Noel & Dave



We had visitors to the station last Thursday, when Transport Executives for Stockport Council came to pay us a visit.

Sara Morgan –pictured below left with Noel, in front of our new artwork below, had not visited before but we had met at the meeting regarding the Restoring Your Railways project.

John Kenny cannot see the station properly due to his mobility—but we promised him we would do our best to get proper access, as it would be relatively easy to do at Reddish South when we get our longed for service!

We had good discussions around the Government scheme & future project funding. John & Sarah also admired the station improvements.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 28th May 11am–4pm

FORSS are at Broadstone Mill Artisan Market and Family Fun Day in the car park

colouring competition for the under 12s

1st prizes 2 x Family Rail Tickets , sponsored by Northern Rail

The Friends of Reddish South 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 forever 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.

Contact: forss1@ntlworld.com

Twitter: [@davdotFo](https://twitter.com/davdotFo)

Website: friendsofreddishsouthstation.co.uk