

Friends of Romiley Station



## NEWSLETTER

# JULY 2022

Welcome to our July Newsletter. June was an exciting month with so much going on, most of which was centred around the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

Our Platinum Jubilee Garden was officially unveiled by youngsters from our local Primary Schools, Romiley came alive with a truly splendid Jubilee Street Party, the station was decorated with over 160 pieces of artwork provided by local schools and community groups and the station was decked out with traditional bunting and yet more artwork.

We even had another steam train visit us over the Jubilee weekend as well.

### ROMILEY PLATINUM JUBILEE STREET PARTY



Romiley came together on Friday 3rd June with the first street party in living memory (for most people that is) which saw the closure of the main B6106 (Compstall Road) through the village.

The party, organised by "Walk Ride Romiley" was blessed with some fantastic weather as the village pulled out all the stops to ensure that everyone attending had a day to remember.

There was live entertainment throughout the afternoon (provided by the NK Theatre Group), some very fancy dress, activities for everyone and even a dog show to ensure that our four legged friends could play an active role.

It was a wonderful atmosphere and the Romiley Community really pulled out all the stops to ensure that things ran smoothly.



## DECORATE A TRAIN FOR THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE



Regular readers will know that as part of our Platinum Jubilee celebrations we invited young people in the area to help us brighten up the station by designing their own jubilee train using an outline of one of the new Class 195 trains as it passed through Romiley.

We contacted our four local primary schools and let them have everything needed for their pupils to have a go.

To say that we were delighted by the number and quality of entries would be something of an understatement.

By the closing date at the end of May we had received well over 160 entries.

Thankfully, we didn't have to carry out the judging as our friends from the Romiley and Marple Lions Club kindly volunteered to go through all the entries before selecting the four winners, one from each school.

Our task was to set about displaying every single entry at the station so that they could all be seen and appreciated.

We practically filled the two waiting rooms with them but it was really worth it.

As for the four winners we created a separate display of their entries by the main entrance on Stockport Road. We also had their individual entries framed and mounted to show that they were a winner.

Becky Styles, Northern's Regional Community and Sustainability Manager, very kindly provide four family train tickets and came along on Friday 3rd June to present the framed pictures and prizes to the excited winners.

The presentations took place during the opening of our new Platinum Jubilee Garden (more about that below).



One of the proud winners of the Decorate a Train Competition, Matthew, with his prize and 3 generations of his equally proud family

Below, are just a selection of the “Decorate a Train” entries which can still be seen on display around the station.



Platform One Waiting Room



Platform Two Waiting Room



## QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE GARDEN

Our Queen's Platinum Jubilee Garden has now been formally opened.

Although, perhaps formally is not the right choice of word, as at a very informal ceremony that took place during the Romiley Jubilee Street Party on Friday 3rd June two plaques commemorating the opening were unveiled by the proud winners of our 'Decorate a Train' competition and the garden was declared well and truly open.



Alf Clark says a few words before the unveiling to let everyone know the story behind the garden

As mentioned above we were joined by Becky Styles from Northern who presented the youngsters with their framed pictures and Family Travel Tickets.



Our chair, Alf Clark, also presented Phil Daniels, President of the Romiley and Marple Lions with an engraved "Thank You" trowel to mark the Lions contribution not only in helping to prepare the garden, but to also commemorate their kindness in taking on its future maintenance so that it will always be something that we can continue to be proud of.

Phill Daniels and a colleague with the "Thank You" trowel

The two plaques that were unveiled separately record the names of the youngsters who performed the ceremony as well as saying thank you to those organisations who contributed either physically or financially towards the garden's creation, out of what was hitherto known as "The Hill of Doom".



The "Hill of Doom" before work commenced on the new garden



## NORTHERN STATIONS GET INTO A JUMBLE QUIZ

In this month's quiz we have been very generous as each clue contains the answer within it.

However, to make it a bit trickier we have then jumbled up the letters.

These are in **bold type** as well as being underlined.

Every correct answer is the name of a station on the Northern Network

1. As he arrives at the last station before Morecambe please give Declan a **beer** as he is thirsty having run with no clothes on to catch his train.
2. If you fancy staying you can usually find a decent **price hotel** in this Ribbles Valley town famous for its Norman castle and Royal Grammar School.
3. Rock band 10**cc on train** get off in this Lancashire town famous for its bricks, football team's name and World War One "Pals" Battalion.
4. The indoor market **chairman** loves to use the Metrolink to get to Manchester as well as the train to Chester from this Greater Manchester town.
5. Drop **eBay** please if you want to buy a foal at the famous Annual Horse Fair held each June in this town that was the county town of Westmorland.
6. In a district of Stockport a station **adopter** visits this place, which sounds like a type of writing desk, in order to catch a train for Buxton.
7. The highest station on a mainline in England receives **tender** loving care from the Friends of the Settle - Carlisle Line.
8. There are several **new titles** for books written about walks from this village station which can be found on the line from Bolton to Blackburn with trains only stopping on request.
9. An **edible bra** has its advantages if you have no food left having been stranded in the Yorkshire Dales close to what is also locally known as Batty Moss Viaduct but has a more famous name.
10. **Daily more** and more people are visiting this station to admire its new Queen's Platinum Jubilee Garden.
11. There is **ample** room to park at a station where Agatha Christie and one of her characters is commemorated by a blue plaque.
12. **Hollie Palmer** slowly walked from this station to Bollington using a path that starts here utilising the track of the old railway that closed in 1970.

You will find all the answers at the end of the newsletter

## STATION CONNECTIONS – ART EXHIBITION – CREWE HERITAGE CENTRE

Crewe Heritage Centre over the weekend of May 28th and 29th hosted an art exhibition dedicated to the wonderful work created by Eamonn Murphy, 6 examples of which we have displayed on Platform 2.



It was a great day out as not only did those attending get to visit the exhibition but they could take in everything that the Heritage Centre has to offer. This includes a miniature railway, a mainline viewing area, model railways, the (APT) Advance Passenger Train prototype, three signal boxes and much more.

If you have not been before then do try and visit as it is a cracking day out.

Full details can be found at [crewehc.co.uk](http://crewehc.co.uk). Crewe station is about a 1km walk away.

### TASK SESSIONS

Just a reminder that our regular Task Sessions continue throughout the summer with the next one being on Saturday 9th July (from 2pm) followed by our evening session on Tuesday 26th July (from 7pm).

There is always plenty to do so please try and get along if you can.

Quite a few members are now attending individually to undertake gardening duties and the like. So do feel free to pop along at your convenience. However, if you need access to our storeroom (for tools etc.) please contact Angie Clark so that access can be arranged for you. However, Rick and Ryan in the Ticket office do have a key as well.

## VANDALISM



Sadly the station suffered yet more vandalism in June with extensive damage being caused to the fencing on Platform 2 and by the ramp that leads up to the platform.

ISS, Northern's contractors, have been fighting something of a losing battle for no sooner have they repaired the fencing then it gets damaged again.

The British Transport Police have been advised but it is clearly rather low down on their list of priorities and accordingly their response is not what we would have liked to have seen.

On Thursday 2nd June several youths were spoken to at the station by two officers (and a photograph was taken at the time by station staff). However, once the officers had left the youths returned and not only damaged the fencing but also some of the children's artwork at the station.



Unfortunately, this is not a problem confined to Romiley, as other stations in the area are being targeted as well by youths who seem to freely travel about on the trains with impunity.

## DAVIES AND METCALFE LIMITED (FORMERLY OF ROMILEY)



For many years Romiley was home to Davies and Metcalfe, a railway equipment and locomotive manufacturer. It was founded in Aberystwyth in 1878 and in 1902 built two 2-6-2T locomotives for the 1ft 11½ in gauge Vale of Rheidol Railway at Aberystwyth before moving to Romiley. The company is now part of Sabwabco Davies & Metcalfe Ltd of Leek, Staffordshire.

We have been in close contact with Richard Metcalfe, the company's managing director, who supports our desire to mark the company's time in Romiley in some way at the station.

He has approved our using one of the company's old posters and so we now have on order two copies (pictured here) which will be some 5ft high and will be placed on the gable end of the ramp to Platform 2 and at the entrance to Platform 1.

## STEAM TRAIN – JUBILEE BUXTON SPA EXPRESS

During the afternoon of Friday 3rd June the steam hauled Jubilee Buxton Spa Express passed through Romiley on its way from Buxton to West Ealing.

It was pulled by “45596” Bahamas, which is now based at Ingrow (on the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway) where it is lovingly cared for by the Bahamas Locomotive Society.

London Midland and Scottish Railway (LMS) Jubilee Class 5596 (BR number 45596) Bahamas was built as a standard Jubilee Class locomotive in 1934 by the North British Locomotive Company for the LMS.

In July 1966, Bahamas, then located in Stockport, was withdrawn from traffic and a preservation society was founded to prevent it from being scrapped.



The society managed to acquire it for After repairs by the Hunslet Engine Company in Leeds, Bahamas was transported to Dinting Railway Museum, near Glossop..

Upon Dinting's closure in 1990 it moved to its current location. It's last big overhaul commenced in 2013 before being brought back into mainline service during 2019 with its first trip taking in the famous Settle to Carlisle route.

Unfortunately, a further steam train which was scheduled to pass through Romiley on Saturday 25th June was cancelled as a result of the rail strike.



## MORE PLATINUM JUBILEE DISPLAYS AT THE STATION

As already mentioned much of our Platinum Jubilee displays at the station consisted of the artwork provided in response to our 'Decorate a Train' competition.

However, we also worked closely with other local community groups (including the Romiley Women's Institute who made all the bunting for use, the Cherry Tree Project who put together some great displays and the local schools who provided some additional artwork).

Set out here are a few photographs that record some of the displays.



More Stamp Art



The Jubilee Express



The Cherry Tree Project Stamp



Platform 2 – School Art



Romiley Primary School's Jubilee Tickets



A large display created by the Cherry Tree Project



Romiley WI's bunting on Platform 1



Children's Artwork on Platform 2

## OLD PHOTOGRAPH

During a recent visit to the station two of our members were approached by a local resident, who lives in a house on Guywood Lane that has been in his family for many a year.

He wanted to show them a photograph taken in 1934 of three of his ancestors which showed them stood in what was then the family's backyard.

Those of you with a keen eye will see that behind the family group are the Platform 2 station buildings and what was then the coal yard (now the station car park).

You can just about make out the LMS wagon and a coal merchant's own railway truck. It's great that members of the public who appreciate our work are keen to give us a piece of station history in this way.



## NORTHERN STATIONS GET INTO A JUMBLE QUIZ – THE ANSWERS

- |    |            |    |                  |
|----|------------|----|------------------|
| 1  | Bare Lane  | 2  | Clitheroe        |
| 3  | Accrington | 4  | Altrincham       |
| 5  | Appleby    | 6  | Davenport        |
| 7  | Dent       | 8  | Entwistle        |
| 9  | Ribblehead | 10 | Romiley          |
| 11 | Marple     | 12 | Rose Hill Marple |

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