

Friends of Romiley Station



NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2022

Welcome to our August Newsletter. Well July has certainly been a hot and dry month which has brought with it many challenges with regards to the garden areas and planters, but with a lot of help we have been able to keep on top of things. One of our biggest challenges is not having a water supply at the station. Romiley & Marple Lions did manage to install a waterbutt by premises on Guywood Lane but a lack of rain means that it has not been filled. Still we are sure that the British weather will do its bit sooner rather than later.

Below you will read about an on-line course provided by the Samaritans that some of our members attended in July. It was sponsored by the Rail Industry Suicide Stakeholder Group and covered how to identify and safely approach people in need, who may well be contemplating suicide on the railway. It was a superb course and is still available so please do read more about it in this month's newsletter and sign up for it if you feel that you would like to attend.

TASK SESSIONS

In August our formal Task Sessions will take place on Saturday 13th August (from 2pm) followed by our evening session on Tuesday 23rd August (from 7pm). This will be the final evening session this year.

However, as mentioned in last month's newsletter, quite a few members are now attending individually to undertake gardening duties and the like. So if the formal sessions don't fit in with you then do contact Angie Clark. We can always make arrangements to have a further session that fits in with you.

DAVIES AND METCALFE LIMITED (FORMERLY OF ROMILEY)

Last month we announced that having been in contact with Richard Metcalfe, who now operates Davies and Metcalfe Limited out of premises in Sutton, near Macclesfield, we were having two very large fully weatherproof posters printed which we would be putting up at the station.

We are delighted to be able to report that during the first week of July we took delivery of the posters and a few days later we





were able to put them up thanks to Ricky Williamson of Richard and Richard's from Pear Mill in Bredbury who kindly gave freely of his time and expertise.

One of the posters can be found at the top of the stairs leading onto Platform 1 with the other being attached to the gable end of the station buildings facing the ramp up to Platform 2.

The posters look super and have become something of a talking point given their origin, age and connection to railway history in Romiley.

Richard Metcalfe has kindly offered to let us have sight of the Davies & Metcalfe archives so in due course we will take him up on his offer and hopefully we may be able to come up with something else that can usefully be added to our ever growing art collection at the station.



SUMMER WALK – FRIDAY 1ST JULY 2022

The weather on Friday 1st July was somewhat mixed but that did not prevent all those taking part in our summer walk having a great time.

Mike Hanson led the walk (extreme right of the photo) which by and large followed Walk 2 in the Friends of Marple Station's walks booklet.

Everyone set off from Marple station in sunny conditions gradually climbing up to the hamlet of Millbrow (and the first pub stop of the evening at the Hare & Hounds).

Chris Walters (second from the right in the photo) was a mine of information about Millbrow having been brought up there.

The views from Millbrow are stunning, but everyone had to leave and make their way towards Compstall (and the second pub stop of the evening at the Northumberland Arms). This is a pub now run by the local community and is well worth a visit.

By this time the weather had taken a slight turn for the worse but that didn't put anyone off walking back to Marple Bridge (and the final pub of the evening – The Royal Scot).

So our readers may be forgiven for thinking that this was a pub crawl. Certainly not as there was far more walking than drinking, so each of the drink stops were in effect well earned breaks.



“WHAT A MISTAKA TO MAKa” QUIZ

Some of our eagle eyed readers have over the month's spotted a few inadvertent errors in our quizzes. Indeed there was a mistake in last month's quiz when in Question 12 we missed out a letter “R” from “Hollie R Palmer slowly” which would make solving the anagram a little tricky. We apologise for that typographical omission.

So this month we thought let's go for it bigtime and make a deliberate mistake in every question.

So that is what we have done. Below are a number of statements which feature a station/place served by Northern. However, each contains a deliberate mistake.

To make the statement correct you will need to change a single word (which may or may not be the station/place name).

For example: You can get off the train at Edale if you fancy starting a walk at the southern end of the Milky Way.

That's not quite right, but if you change 'Milky' to 'Pennine' then it is.

So look at all of these and change a single word in each statement and it will then be correct.

1. If you want a day out at the Kelham Island Museum then get the train to Shenfield from Romiley.
2. If Blackpool is more to your liking get the train to the Pleasure Beach station before taking a ride on the chicken dipper.
3. Both Forster Square and Interchange Stations in Bradford are near to the National Science and Media Museum where you can watch a film on the 60 foot high IKEA screen.
4. Now Whitwell is the place to visit by train from Middlesborough if a ghost or Dracula walk is more up your street.
5. In 1876 the Hovis bakery, which has featured the Muppets in its TV adverts, was founded in Bolton.
6. Along the Cambrian coast you will find Sellafield station which lies close to one of Britain's first nuclear power stations.
7. Stalybridge station buffet bar is now well known for its award winning range of real milks as recommended by CAMRA.
8. Michael Schumacher enjoyed his visit to Fairfield station and the nearby Moravian settlement during one of his Great British Railway Journeys.
9. Only one passenger train a week, in each direction, stops at Reddish North on its way to and from Stockport.
10. The TESCO World Heritage site in Saltaire is well worth a visit.
11. Quarry Bank Mill in Styal, built in 1784 by Samuel Johnson, is now managed by the National Trust and is a Grade II Listed Building.
12. Skipton in North Yorkshire lies on the Leeds to Lancaster Canal as well as the River Aire. It is also home to a medieval castle built in 1090 by Robert de Romille, a Norman baron, so it is really worth a visit.
13. One of the nicest walks from any station on the Hope Valley line starts at Grindleford Station and takes you up through Pudsey Gorge on to the moors and into the National Trust's Longshaw Estate (with its excellent tea shop).
14. On Saturday 30th July 2022 why not head down from Romiley Station to Chadkirk Chapel and Country Park for the Well Dressing Celebrations and Fete, which is from 12 noon. There is lots to do and you can get refreshments, including scones, jam and bream.



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

SAMARITANS MANAGING SUICIDAL CONTACTS COURSE

As mentioned in the introduction to this month's newsletter some of our members attended a course offered through the Rail Industry Suicide Stakeholder Group (RISSG) by the Samaritans.

The course was certainly worth attending (it lasts for about 3 hours).

We know that some more of our members would have liked to have attended but their availability didn't fit in with the date of the course that was on offer to us.



TACTICS For **approaching** people in need

If you feel someone may need support, trust your instincts. You can help someone by simply giving them an opportunity to talk. If it's safe to do so:

- Introduce yourself and encourage them to talk. Listen.
- Offer to talk in a safer environment.
- Offer Samaritans' support:

Call free anytime on **116 123**

Report interventions to your manager and email: interventions@samaritans.org

In an emergency contact:

- Signaller
- British Transport Police on 0300 123 9101



TACTICS For **identifying** people in need

If someone is considering suicide on the railway there aren't always clear warning signs. But below are some common behaviours to look out for:

- Not boarding any trains.
- Standing alone/isolated.
- Looking distant/withdrawn.
- Out of the ordinary appearance.

'Something doesn't feel quite right...?'

RISSG A registered charity **SAMARITANS**

However, during the course the presenter indicated that the course is offered several times each week and that anyone interested in attending can make the necessary arrangements by emailing railcompaniestraining@samaritans.org

There is some very useful material available on the RISSG website and we have downloaded some of it and will be placing it on the back of the board to our Platform 2 storeroom at the station.

CREWE TO MANCHESTER AND SOUTH EAST MANCHESTER COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP (CRP) - ACCREDITATION

We are very much part of and dependent upon the South East Manchester CRP and really welcome and benefit from the support provided to us by the Partnership.

We were, therefore, delighted to learn that through the hard work of the Partnership, particularly John Kenny and Sarah Morgan (Senior Transportation Officer - Community Rail and Community Rail Officer respectively) that along with the Crewe to Manchester CRP they had received Department for Transport (DfT) Accreditation.

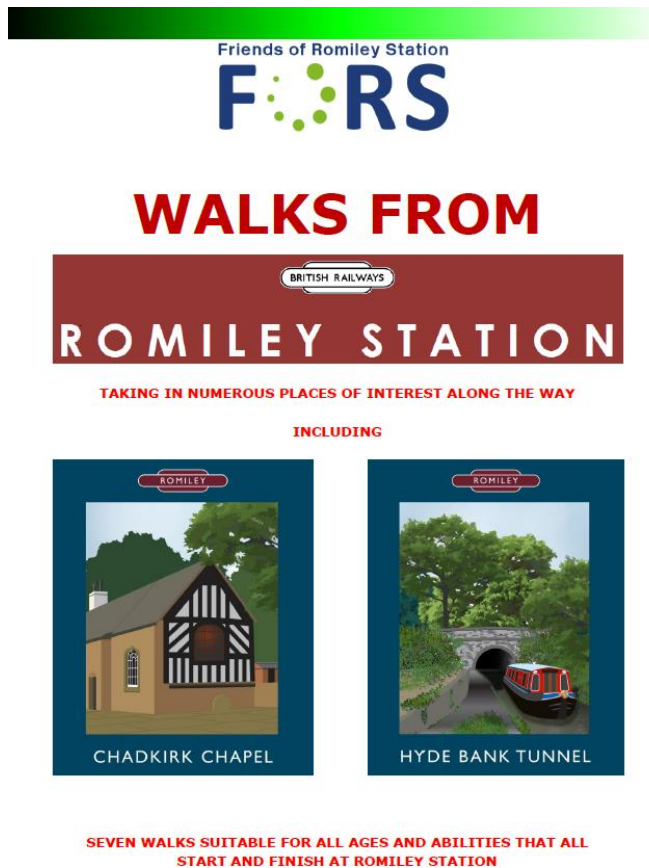


Accreditation is formal recognition by the DfT that a CRP operates to a high standard and that its objectives and activities are supported by Government.

Accreditation also provides assurance to others, including potential funders and partners, that a CRP operates to high standards of governance and financial propriety, adopts a collaborative approach, is worthy of trust by others and is a suitable entity for receiving public funds.

So we very much offer our congratulations to the two CRPs on their success.

WALKS FROM ROMILEY STATION BOOKLET



As part of our work in the community during the first lockdown in 2020 we published a 28 page booklet which gave details of some 7 walks in the area all of which started and finished at the station.

Initially, we had 2,000 copies printed and these were distributed through a whole variety of outlets, including local shops and book swaps.

They were very much designed to get people out and about again in a healthy way once the lockdown was eased as well as promoting rail travel, especially to Romiley.

The booklets have been a wonderful success and not only did we run out of copies recently but other local Friends Groups have adopted a similar layout and style of booklet to promote walks from their local station.

We are delighted to say that in early July the Community Rail Network very kindly approved a funding application so that we could update and print a further 2,000 copies. These are now being distributed not only through our original outlets but also by Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) who are putting some in their Travelshops for us.



If any of our readers would like a copy of the updated booklet please do pick up one at the station or alternatively email Alf Clark with your details so that he can get one to you (alfredvclark@btinternet.com). The booklet is also available in PDF format if you prefer (or perhaps want to put a copy on your smartphone etc.). Again just email Alf and he will let you have a copy of the PDF.

MID-CHESHIRE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP (CRP) SUMMER PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

The Mid-Cheshire CRP have launched a photography competition which will be running throughout August, closing at midnight on the 31st.

It is aimed at encouraging rail travel and discovering the cities, towns, attractions and countryside that can be accessed along the Mid-Cheshire line.

There is an hourly service on the line which runs from Manchester Piccadilly via such places as Stockport, Altrincham, Knutsford, Northwich and Delamere to Chester.

All entries must be taken through the train window, either from a platform or train, but the platform or train must be part of the Mid-Cheshire line.



There are three categories which are 5 to 11 years, 11 to 18 years and 18+ years.

All entries will be judged by photographers John Horsley and Paul Worpole with the winners announced no later than Friday 23rd September.

There are lots of great prizes for the winners in each category. So why not get out for the day on the mid-Cheshire line with your camera or smartphone.

All entries can be uploaded on to social media using the #ThroughTheTrainWindow and #MidCheshireRail hashtags, as well as tagging the CRP's social media accounts (@MidCheshireCRP).

Alternatively, photographs can be emailed to sandracurties5@gmail.com.

Full details can be found on the CRP's website (www.midcheshirerail.org.uk).

BUG HOTEL – RAMP TO PLATFORM ONE



Last year pupils from Greave Primary School visited the station and built a bug hotel for us halfway up the ramp to Platform One.

They did make some notices giving a number of facts about bugs and the like but these were only meant to be temporary, being printed on laminated paper.

However, thanks to Phil Daniels from the Romiley and Marple

Lions Club, who reproduced the artwork for us in a printer friendly format, we have now had six permanent signs made.

These are fully weatherproof and as can



seen above have been

“WHAT A MISTAKA TO MAK” QUIZ - THE ANSWERS

1. Change Shenfield to Sheffield
2. Change chicken to big
3. Change IKEA to IMAX
4. Change Whitwell to Whitby
5. Change Hovis to Warburtons
6. Change Cambrian to Cumbrian
7. Change milks to ales
8. Change Schumacher to Portillo
9. Change North to South
10. Change TESCO to UNESCO
11. Change Johnson to Greg
12. Change Lancaster to Liverpool
13. Change Pudsey to Padley
14. Change bream to cream

Chadkirk Chapel
2022 Well Dressing
Celebrations and Fête
Saturday 30 July, 2022 – 12:00pm–5:00pm



Chapel opens at 12:00noon
Blessing of the historic well
at 1:00pm, opened by the
Mayor of Stockport
Fête in the chapel gardens from
12:00noon until 5:00pm
Drinks, cake, scones with jam and
cream available at the chapel
Stalls selling cakes, plants, cards,
paintings, second-hand books, Chadkirk
Comfrey and Chadkirk Elderflower Oil
Tombola
Making and crafting stall
Stockport Silver Band playing two sets,
around 2:30pm and 3:30pm
Refreshments and stalls cash only

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