

Friends of Romiley Station



NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025

August was certainly an extremely hot month, at least during the early part, which in itself presented many challenges at the station. However, the highlight of the month was very much the massive display of cranes that we put up at the end of the first week as part of our commemoration for the 80th anniversary of VJ Day. You can read all about it below.

ANNUAL WALK (TAKE TWO) - SATURDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER 2025

As we mentioned in last month's Newsletter (which we inadvertently labelled as being for July) we will be undertaking our Annual Walk (Take Two) on Saturday 27th September with a start from Strines station at around 14.00.



So remember, If you are coming along please note that we will be catching the 13.39 (New Mills Central) train from Romiley to Strines.

It will be the same route as detailed in previous Newsletters taking in The Fox Inn (Brookbottom) before ending up in a suitable hostelry in Marple Bridge and possibly the Marple Bridge Chippy, which is open until 7.30pm on a Saturday.

COMMUNITY RAIL OFFICER

We would very much like to welcome Gillian Renshaw who has taken up the position of Community Rail Officer, based in Stockport.

Gillian replaces Sarah Morgan who as our readers will know joined Northern as a Regional Community & Sustainability Manager.

We very much look forward to working with Gillian.

RAILWAY 200 QUIZ



The Stockton & Darlington Railway opened on 27th September 1825, so what better way can we help celebrate the 200th anniversary of that truly world changing event than by having a Railway 200 Quiz testing your knowledge of railway history.

To make it a little simpler we are providing multiple choice answers for every question.

So good luck.

As usual all the answers will be at the end of the newsletter together with some additional information.

1. On 27th September 1825, George Stephenson's steam-powered train travelled over the newly created Darlington and Stockton Railway. How many miles long was the original mainline?
(A) 18 (B) 22 (C) 26 (D) 30
2. What was the name of the engine that pulled that first ever passenger carrying train?
(A) Puffing Billy (B) Locomotion No.1 (C) The Rocket (D) Blucher
3. In what year did the famous Rainhill Trials take place?
(A) 1829 (B) 1832 (C) 1835 (D) 1838
4. A year after the Rainhill Trials the Liverpool to Manchester Railway opened with the Manchester terminus being Liverpool Road station. What is the station today?
(A) Theatre (B) Hotel (C) Library (D) Museum
5. In 1842 a stationmaster on the Newcastle and Carlisle Railway called Thomas Edmondson, a trained cabinet maker, invented what for use on the railway?
(A) Pre-printed tickets (B) Colour light signals (C) Train safety lamps
(D) Station benches
6. Isambard Kingdom Brunel was the chief engineer for the Great Western Railway. What gauge did he initially adopt for his rail track?
(A) 4 ft 8½ inches (B) 5 ft 5 inches (C) 6 ft 6 inches (D) 7 ft ¼ inch
7. The Forth Bridge was the first major steel construction in Britain being built to carry the railway line across the Firth of Forth and today it is a UNESCO World Heritage site. However, what type of bridge is it?
(A) Cantilever (B) Beam (C) Tressle (D) Truss
8. Romiley station opened in 1862, but which railway company built it?
(A) LMS (B) MS&LR (C) L&Y (D) LNWR

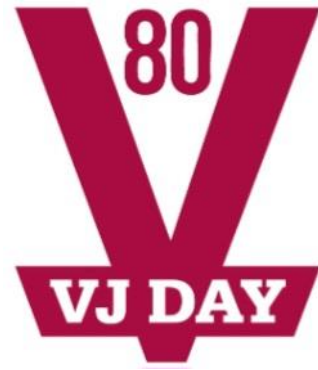
9. During which war did the government first have control of the British railway network so as to assist the war effort?
- (A) First Boer War (B) Second Boer War (C) World War I (D) World War II
10. The Railways Act 1921 authorised the creation of what became known as the big four railway companies. Which of the following was not one of the big four?
- (A) Southern Railway (SR) (B) London and North Eastern Railway (LNER)
(C) London & South Eastern Railway (LSER) (D) Great Western Railway (GWR)
11. On 3 July 1938, Mallard under the control of fireman Tommy Bray and driver Joe Duddington broke the world speed record for steam locomotives at 126 mph. Who designed Mallard?
- (A) Robert Stephenson (B) Sir William Stanier (C) Sir Nigel Gresley
(D) William Kirtley
12. On 1 January 1948, the four major railway companies were amalgamated by nationalisation and became known as British Railways. Who was the prime minister at the time?
- (A) Stanley Baldwin (B) Harold Macmillan (C) Clement Atlee (D) Anthony Eden
13. The last steam locomotive was built by British Railways at Swindon Works and became known as "Evening Star". In what year was it built?
- (A) 1957 (B) 1958 (C) 1960 (D) 1961
14. In 1961 the then Transport Minister, Ernest Marples, appointed Dr Richard Beeching as chairman of British Railways. In 1963 Dr Beeching published his first report on the future of the railways. What was its title?
- (A) British Railways Modernisation Plan (B) The Future of Britain's Railways
(C) The Reshaping of British Railways (D) British Railways – The Way Forward
15. On 9th February 1957, John Axon a train driver based at the Stockport Edgeley Depot died whilst trying to stop a runaway freight train after a brake failure. For his bravery he was awarded the George Cross. But where did the incident occur?
- (A) Peak Forest (B) Hathersage (C) Chapel-en-le-Frith (D) Disley
16. Which of these events took place during the 1990's?
- (A) The Channel Tunnel was opened (B) WiFi is first introduced onto trains
(C) A Eurostar train reaches 208mph to break the UK's train speed record
(D) Railtrack went out of existence
17. In what year did the Eurostar services start to operate from London St. Pancras having previously used London Waterloo as its terminus?
- (A) 1997 (B) 2002 (C) 2005 (D) 2007

VJ (VICTORY OVER JAPAN) DAY DISPLAY

In our last two newsletters we mentioned that we would be erecting a VJ80 display at the station centred around origami cranes, which are associated with the Hiroshima Peace Park.

We asked people to help us by making the cranes and either getting them to us or dropping them off at the ticket office. Several people offered to do this, in particular, Gill Fryers and Anne-Marie Warwick, who between them made around 600 cranes of varying colours and sizes.

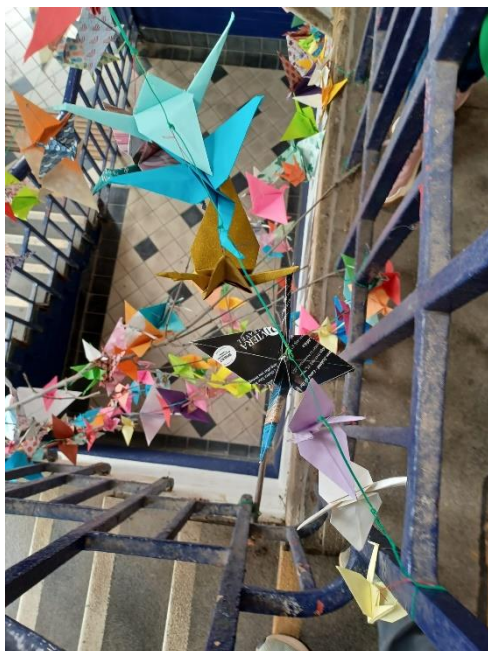
Gill who has visited Hiroshima and toured the Peace Park used origami paper that she brought back from Japan for some of her cranes. One of our members spent time threading them up individually, then wiring them into garlands to hang around the entrance area.



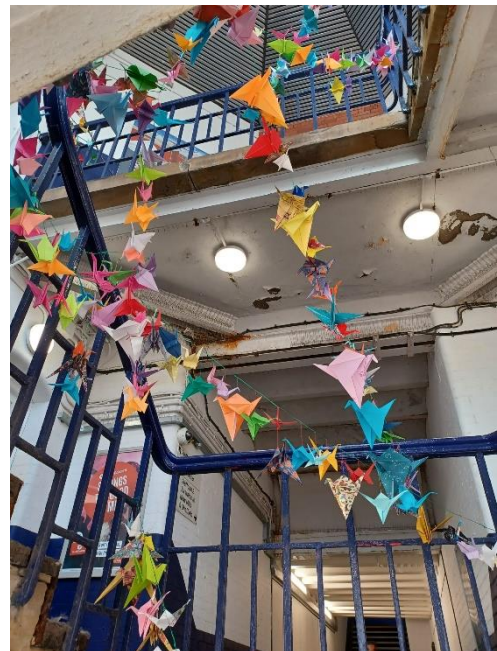
On Saturday 9th August Saturday we spent the afternoon putting the cranes on display, draping them across the stairwell right up to platform level, where they look magnificent. They are full of vibrant colour and almost alive when caught in the breezes that regularly blow through the entrance.

We have also included information explaining the significance and symbolism of the cranes, plus the story of Len Burton, Stockport's youngest Prisoner of War, who survived the terrible conditions endured at the hands of the Japanese army.

The cranes will grace the area until some time in September, depending on how well they fare in the conditions there. After that they are going on



display at Bredbury Library before being disassembled and re-stringed ready for them to be posted to Hiroshima along with thousands of others sent there from around the world.



We would really like to thank everyone who has helped to make this beautiful community display possible.

On the Sunday following VJ80 (17th August) the community in Romiley very much came together at Romiley Forum for a superb afternoon concert of commemoration performed by the magnificent KNDS Fairey Band under the musical direction of Captain Andrew Porter, the Director of Music for the Grenadier Guards.



NORTHERN – COMMUNITY RAIL REPORT 2025



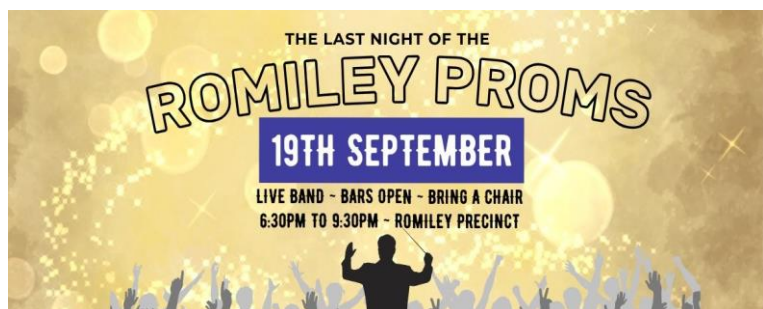
Each year Northern produces a comprehensive report that showcases the many Community based projects and initiatives that they have been involved in over the previous 12 months as well as help showcasing the breadth of community engagement throughout their network.

We have attached the full report to this month's email that let you have a copy of

our Newsletter. Our apologies if you already have a copy and have read it, but if you haven't then do spend a little time reading through it.

ROMILEY PROMS IN THE SQUARE - FRIDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2025

This year there have been a number of extremely successful free musical events in Romiley Precinct organised by the Romiley Traders Association.



So why not come along to a Last Night of the Proms evening on Friday 19th September from 6.45pm until 9.30pm when Stockport Silver Band will be providing the music.

As usual there will be a number of street food stalls and all the local bars and pubs will be there to provide liquid refreshments.

Don't forget to bring your own chair if you fancy sitting down to enjoy the evening's entertainment.

TASK SESSIONS

Now that we are heading into the autumn last month saw our final evening task session until next spring. However, we will still be undertaking our usual Saturday afternoon sessions throughout the autumn and winter with this month's being from 2pm on Saturday 6th September.

This is a week earlier than usual due to a number of our members being on holiday.

So do please try and pop along if you can. If you aren't up to taking part in the actual Task Session then you could always join us shortly after 4pm for a drink and a chat in The Voltigeur micro pub just up from the station on Compstall Road.

MID CHESHIRE LINE STATION TO STATION BATON RELAY

As you will already know from the theme of this month's quiz the Stockton & Darlington Railway opened on 27th September 1825, connecting places, people, communities and ideas and ultimately transforming the world.

The Mid Cheshire Line, as part of their celebrations for Railway 200, have organised a 'baton relay' between Manchester and Chester.

It takes place from Monday 22nd September, starting at Manchester Piccadilly station and ending at Chester station on Saturday 27th September, the actual 200th Anniversary Day.

Full details of the Relay can be found on the Mid Cheshire Line's website (www.midcheshirerail.org.uk). On the home page click on Railway 200.

If you are interested in taking part at any stage then register your interest by emailing the MCCRP Rail Officer on contact@midcheshirerail.org.uk.

A CELEBRATION OF HYDE - HYDE CENTRAL STATION SATURDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Everyone is invited along to Hyde Central station on Saturday 20th September to join the Friends of Hyde Loop as along with the people of Hyde they mark three exciting milestones in the history of the town.

At 3.30pm there will be a civic welcome and opening address by the Mayor of Tameside, Councillor Shibley Alam, who will formally open the event and share reflections on Hyde's community spirit and forward-looking regeneration.

This will be followed by an introduction to the 20 Heritage Interpretation Panels exploring Hyde's rich legacy of social, industrial and railway heritage.



Later in the afternoon there will be the switching on of the LED Wayfinding Lighting System which is a new modern lighting feature designed to enhance safety, accessibility and ambience to and from Hyde Town Centre to Hyde Central Station.

Finally, the Sheffield to Manchester Steel and Cotton Trail will be introduced by Councillor Peter Robinson, Chair of the South East Manchester Community Rail Partnership. Leaflets will be available for the Romiley to Hyde section of the new innovative leisure cycling and walking route.

The formal ceremony will take place on the station forecourt followed by controlled access to Platforms 1 and 2 to view the Heritage Interpretation Panels.

Re-enactors will be showcasing Period Railway Uniforms and there will be free light refreshments served by the Hyde Young Peoples Enterprise.

If you want to go along please let the organisers know by Friday, 13th September 2025 by email harveybeeley0101@gmail.com or by phoning 07841 614646.

RAILWAY 200 QUIZ – THE ANSWERS

1. **(C) 26** The Stockton & Darlington's 26-mile-long mainline was located in the north east of England in the historic County of Durham. It ran from the coal mines near Witton Park to the River Tees at Stockton, via Darlington and Yarm where there were two branch lines. Within the next five years it had an additional three branch lines at Croft, Haggerleases and Middlesbrough. It was amalgamated with the North Eastern Railway in 1863.
2. **(B) Locomotion No.1** The locomotive itself was actually driven by George Stephenson himself for the first trip.
3. **(A) 1829** The Rainhill trials were a competition run from 6 to 14 October 1829, to test George Stephenson's argument that locomotives would have the best motive power for the nearly-completed Liverpool and Manchester Railway (L&MR). Some 10 locomotives were entered, of which 5 were able to compete, running along a 1 mile (1.6 km) length of level track at Rainhill, in Lancashire (now Merseyside). Stephenson's Rocket was the only locomotive to complete the trials and was declared the winner.
4. **(D) Museum** The former station, that actually closed in 1844 and is a Grade I listed building, is now part of the Science and Industry Museum. It lost its connection to the rail network in 2017 with the construction of the Ordsall Chord
5. **(A) Pre-printed tickets** The Edmondson railway ticket was a ticket system that also recorded the payment of railway fares and accounted for the revenue raised. It was named after its inventor.



Pictured here is an Edmondson ticket issued by the Midland Railway for travel from Peak Forest to Romiley.

6. **(D) 7 ft ¼ inch** Brunel originally built the Great Western Railway to his unique broad gauge as he thought this would give extra speed and comfort.

However, as the railway network expanded the Great Western had increasing problems with transshipping goods onto the standard gauge of 4 ft 8 ½ inch that prevails to this day. The broad gauge was finally abandoned in 1892.

7. **(A) Cantilever** The Forth Bridge is considered a symbol of Scotland (having been voted Scotland's greatest man-made wonder in 2016). It was designed by English engineers Sir John Fowler and Sir Benjamin Baker.



Construction of the bridge began in 1882 and it was opened on 4 March 1890 by the Duke of Rothesay, the future Edward VII. The bridge carries the railway across the Forth between the villages of South and North Queensferry and has a total length of 2,467 metres (8,094 ft). When it opened it had the longest single cantilever bridge span in the world. It continues to be the world's second-longest single cantilever span (only the Quebec Bridge in Canada is longer) with two spans of 1,709 feet (521 m).

8. **(B) MS&LR** Romiley station was built by the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway as part of its extension to New Mills. It opened in 1862 with trains coming from Manchester London Road.



In 1869 the Macclesfield, Bollington and Marple Railway was opened running from Marple Wharf Junction to Macclesfield. Other than for the service to Rose Hill this line closed in January 1970.



9. **(C) World War I** During World War I, the government took control of the railways under the Regulation of the Forces Act 1871. This action was taken on 5th August 1914, the day after war was declared, to ensure efficient transportation for military and civilian needs.

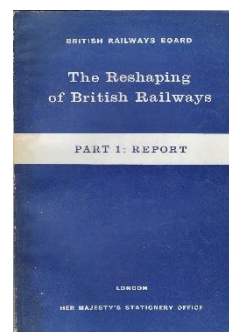
10. **(C) London & South Eastern Railway (LSER)** The London & South Eastern Railway Limited, trading as Southeastern, was a Train Operating Company owned by Govia that operated passenger rail services in South East England from 2006 until 2021. The missing Big Four company in our list was the London, Midland and Scottish Railway (LMS).

11. **(C) Sir Nigel Gresley**
A LNER Class A4 steam locomotive, the same class as Mallard, that bears his name was preserved and still operates today



12. **(C) Clement Atlee** He was Prime Minister from 1945 until 1951. His Labour government also established the National Health Service.
13. **(C) 1960** Evening Star was completed during March 1960 and was the 999th steam locomotive built by British Rail.

14. **(C) The Reshaping of British Railways** The report identified 2,363 stations and 5,000 miles of railway line for closure which represented 55% of all stations and 30% of route miles.



15. **(C) Chapel-en-le-Frith** A plaque commemorating the events of that day is mounted on the station buildings at Chapel-en-le-Frith facing onto the southbound platform.
16. **(A) The Channel Tunnel was opened** The Channel Tunnel opened on 6th May 1994. As for the other options WiFi was first introduced onto trains during 2003, the same year in which a Eurostar train reached 208mph to break the UK's train speed record, As for Railtrack it was wound up and replaced by Network Rail during 2002.
17. **(D) 2007** Eurostar's London terminus moved from Waterloo International to St Pancras International in November 2007 to coincide with the opening of High Speed 1 (HS1), the dedicated rail line that connects London to the Channel Tunnel.

Published by

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