



**Friends of Reddish South Station  
(inc. Friends of Denton Station)  
Newsletter  
December 2025**

Volume 17 issue 3

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Welcome to a short and a bit late Christmas edition of the newsletter.

Apologies, this was meant to hit your mail boxes in time for Christmas, but a family health problem and Microsoft Outlook going haywire has delayed us.

Even though it's the end of the year we have still some stories to bring you—and of course to wish you and yours

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Inside this issue:

RHS Manager of the Season 2

And finally.. 3

Happy Birthday and a big thank you to Friend Terry Rourke



Pictured L to R: Sarah, Mayoress Wendy, Birthday Boy Terry and Mayor Kerry

Friend Terry Rourke has always been a major fund raiser for our annual Macmillan Coffee Morning, but charity fund raising has been second nature to him for most of his life. He has supported cancer charities, amateur football, the Catholic Church and the Community Centre in Reddish.

This year he outdid previous years, making up two thirds of our Macmillan total by his own magnificent efforts, with the support of

his lovely wife Margaret who is there with him, rain or shine,

Next year is a milestone birthday for Terry, who is, would you believe 90 years young! His portrait in the attic is doing a sterling job!

We had the sneaky idea of having a surprise thank you and birthday party for his 89th!

He did tell us that he always swore he would never be caught out—but we were



delighted that just this once he did not suspect and we thank son Greg and daughter Laura for their help with the surprise.

Many thanks go to Sarah at Sykes for hosting, the Mayor & Mayoress, special thanks to Nav Mishra MP and everyone who came. To make it such a lovely event.

**Merry Christmas**

The Friends of Reddish South have entered the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' section of the RHS for the third time this year and once again have managed to secure an 'outstanding' rating by the judges.

We also managed to increase our overall score this year which has been particularly satisfying.

Marks are awarded for the station garden itself as well as community involvement and opportunities to involve local residents in events at the station, and given that we are a station with no regular passenger service, it means we have done rather well.

We also entered the raised beds on Rowsley Grove this year for the first time and scored Level 2 'improving' for a project very much a work in progress.

We shared our table with Sustainable Living in Romiley, who also received an 'Outstanding' rating. They collected an 'Outstanding' for the Friends of Romiley Station and congratulations go to them from us.

## **FoRSS keeps up the standard at the RHS Awards**



From L to R: Dot, Jason the Cloud gardener who presented the award, Dave and Alan. Below, the announcement



## **Congratulations to Pete's Plonkers – a hatrick of Fantasy Football wins**



FFL organiser Alan with Janet & Manager of the season, Pete

We were delighted to present the 2023-24 season (a bit late!) and 2024-25 season 'Manager of the Season' cups to Pete Holmes, recently for his team's excellent performances in the FoRSS Fantasy Football League (FFL).

A small but select division in the league, Pete has won the first three trophies we have awarded.

It comes after a difficult year for the Plonkers manager who is recov-

ering from back surgery but, despite spending this year recuperating, with the wonderful support from wife and trainer, Janet, his team have continued to beat all-comers.

Care to take him on next season? Look out for your invite in July 2026.



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FODS

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The Friends of Reddish South Station  
(inc. Friends of Denton Station)

Honorary President Andrew Gwynne MP  
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And finally .....

We were intrigued by the recent Bee Network and Transport for the North meetings, both chaired by Mayor Andy Burnham. In both of these meetings, Mr Burnham mentioned 'our' line.

We have heard that our line is coming into TfGM and the Norths consciousness at last, although related to Tram-train and going only to Ashton, not Manchester Victoria which has been our campaign- long objective.

However, as you will know, we were told by TfGM in January of 2025, that Tram -train is still a 'concept' and has a long way to go, so to hear Mr Burnham make a point of remembering the Stockport–Manchester line in 2 separate meetings made us wish to pursue this with him again.

Nav Mishra MP for Stockport, has campaigned for us in the House of Commons, since he became our MP in 2024, supported by Andrew Gwynne MP for Denton & Gorton. We are meeting with both Nav and Andy Burnham in February 2026 to reinforce our aims of heavy rail from Stockport to Manchester Victoria, and, unless as supplementary services, we do not feel that Stockport–Ashton Moss or Stockport –Stalybridge (another option which has been mentioned) would be anything like as viable.

It is also worth noting, that while the promotion of a Metrolink service, worthy as it is, has practically the same rationale as The Friends of Reddish South & Denton Stations campaign. To be able to justify one and not the other (especially one without the £1 billion + price tag) would seem bizarre. Lets hope— with everything crossed—as ever!

Cheers!

Thank you all for your great support in 2025  
Here's to a very happy & peaceful 2026

