Friends of Romiley Station

FORS

NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2026

Welcome to our November Newsletter. The dark nights are now very much with us following the putting back of the clocks and our return to Greenwich Meantime towards the end of last month at the height of Storm Boelo.

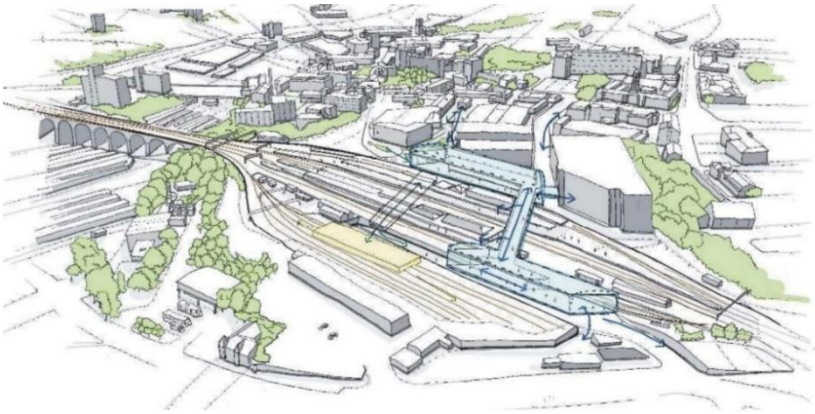
Thankfully though the station is extremely well lit with warm places to wait for your train (whilst enjoying a coffee perhaps).

We were busy in October planting loads of bulbs so that hopefully there will be a splendid floral display next spring. However, as you will read below our efforts during the past year have again been recognised by the Royal Horticultural Society.

We very much hope that all our readers have an enjoyable month.

STOCKPORT STATION MASTERPLAN

Not exactly Romiley News but everyone within the Borough of Stockport are being invited to take part in a consultation in connection with proposed major investment in Stockport Railway Station and the surrounding area.



The project's aim is to help create easier journeys, much improved access and better connections across the town.

The emerging plans aim to create a station that is easier to use, as well as being more welcoming while supporting wider regeneration and future growth across Stockport.

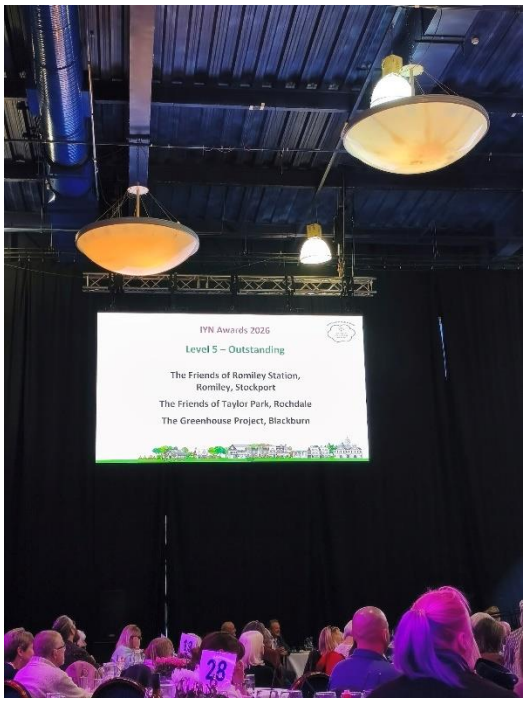
Full details and a link to the feedback form can be found on the Your Stockport Station website at. https://yourstockportstation.co.uk/index.php

The consultation closes on 19th November 2026.

‘RHS (ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY)
NORTH WEST IN BLOOM – IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

During the last week of October the Royal Horticultural Society held its Annual Awards Ceremonies at Bolton Wanderers Football Stadium.

This year in addition to a number of Groups from Romily, including ours, taking part in “It’s Your Neighbourhood” the village as a whole was being judged, but in the town category, as part of “Britain in Bloom – North West”



The results from both parts were truly magnificent.

As a station we were once again awarded Level 5 – Outstanding in “It’s Your Neighbourhood”.

However, Romiley as a whole was not only judged to have made the “Most Improved Entry” for 2026 but also received the accolade of a “Silver Gilt Award” which in RHS terms lies between Silver and Gold.





A crystal bowl also came with the “Most Improved Entry” Award.

Many other Romiley Groups were also recognised within “It’s Your Neighbourhood”.

Level 5 was achieved by the Friends of Chadkirk, Romiley Bloomers and the Friends of Tangshutt.

Romiley Bowling and Pétanque Club, Bredbury Library & Bookworms in addition to the Romiley Forum Theatre Garden reached Level 4 – Thriving. Romiley Primary School were recognised with a “School Category Award”.

ALL CHANGE AT THIS STATION QUIZ

In this month's quiz, we have put together a number of statements aimed at helping you identify some Northern stations, that would be well worth a visit.

In each statement there are some consecutive words that are in BOLD CAPITAL letters.

If you put those letter together and rearrange them they will give you the name of the station that is being hinted at in the statement.

For Example

Do you want to know the story of John Paul Jones and his landing here. You can **HAVE IT WHEN** you visit the museum down by the harbour that is just a short walk from the station.

Answer – WHITEHAVEN. In 1778 John Paul Jones led an American landing force to here in an effort to destroy many ships. The wonderful Beacon Museum is by the harbour and well worth a visit (open daily except Mondays)

It's now time for you to enjoy discovering ten more places to visit.

1. During 2003 the nuclear reactors here **FELL IDLE AS** they were no longer required to generate electricity.

2. When swimming in the open-air pool you can **HEAR THE GAS** fired boilers doing their best to keep the water warm for you.

3. A rather **THIN MAN GOT** stuck in a cell at the City's National Justice Museum having squeezed through the bars during his visit.

4. It took an **ESCORT AND** a massive horse box to take the winner of the St Leger back home to their stable.

5. Your **BACK PAIN SHOULD** not give you any trouble when you take a trip on the Weardale Railway from here to Stanhope.

6. You may get **BY WITH** a single copy of Bram Stoker's Dracula which was inspired by this town.

7. **THE WALL THIS** town relies on to boost its tourist trade was begun in AD 122 during the reign of the Emperor Hadrian.

8. When I set sail from here for the Isle of Man I really **HOPE MY TRASH** doesn't end up in the Irish Sea.

9. The shops in here had to pay **MORE RENT ETC** to fund repairs to this massive 1980's Tyneside shopping Mall with its own station.

10. This city's medieval castle was the **ANCESTRAL** stronghold of the Duchy created in 1265

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

TASK SESSIONS

At the moment there is only one Task Session this month, which is from 2pm until 4pm on Saturday 14th November (followed by our usual trip to the pub for a well-earned drink and a chat).

However, we will be arranging a date to set up everything for our annual Christmas display which we featured in last month's newsletter.

The response to our request for the Romiley community to make fairies, gnomes, elves and woodland creatures for the display has been fantastic.

Already we have received lots of superb creations.

At our Saturday Task Session in October we had people simply turning up to give us the lovely things that they had made.

We also have offers for even more items for the display, which is truly magnificent.

At the October Task Session itself we planted 150 Allium and Crocus bulbs in the Fairy and Waiting Room Gardens as well as undertaking a general tidy up and extensive litter pick.

Although not part of the station we always include the Council's car park in our activities as in all reality it's connected to it.

We also removed and then refurbished the "Direction" sign in the Fairy Garden as it was looking somewhat tired and following some graffiti one of the signs simply didn't look right.



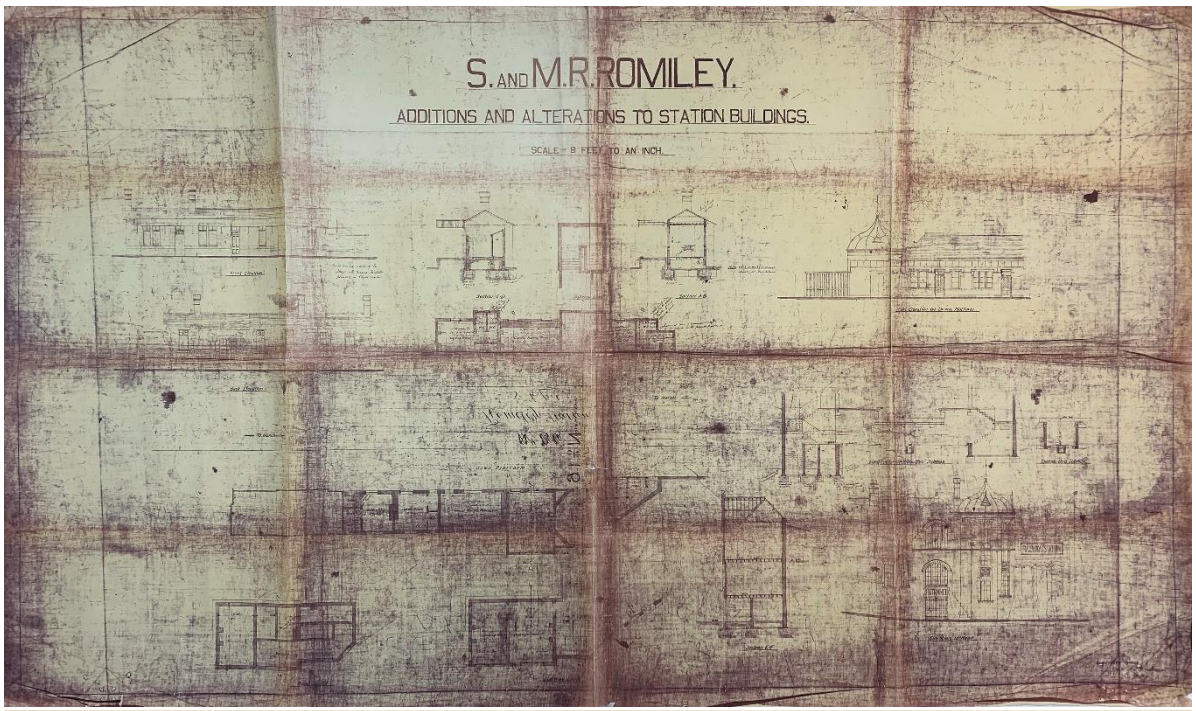
The picture shows the revamped sign back in place.

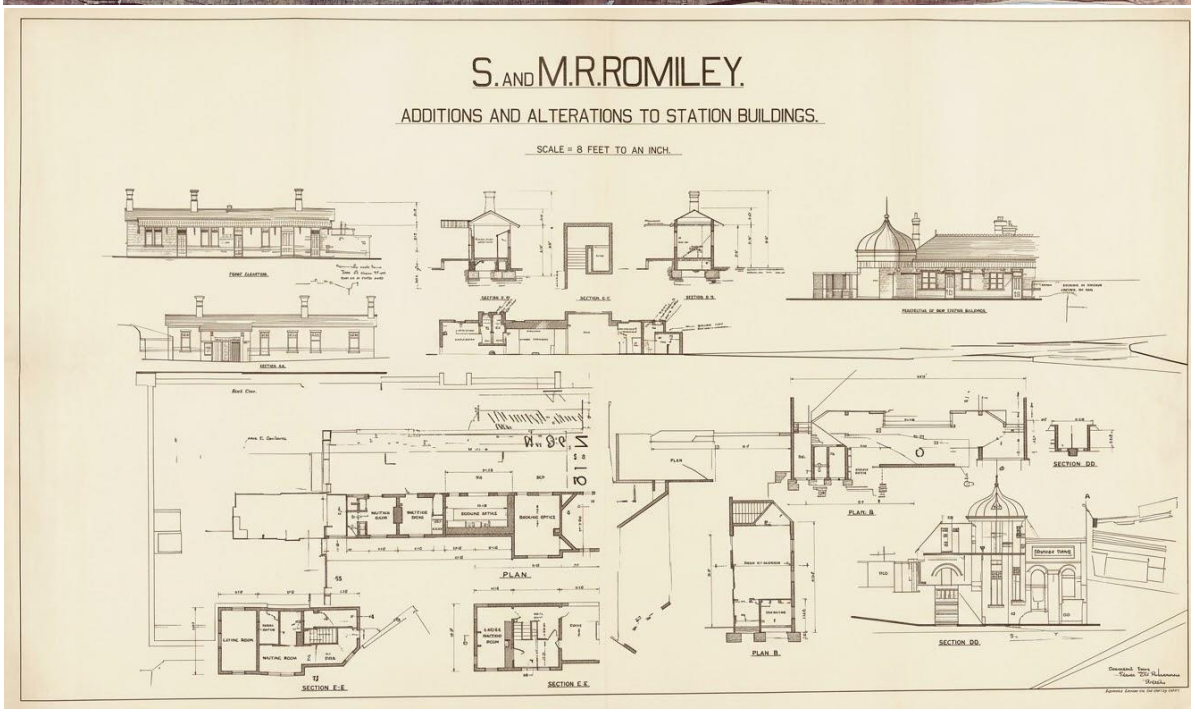
ROMILEY STATION BUILDINGS – ORIGINAL PLANS

A few weeks ago we were contacted by one of the Friends of Hyde Loop members who was about to move home. He had come across a set of old plans that he had purchased a few years ago in an antique shop and wanted a good home for them and very kindly thought of us.

The plans were dropped off at the station and were in an old cardboard tube which bore on it the name of Greg Fox. Greg lived not far from the station and was the publisher of numerous railway books through his Foxline Publishing Company. Sadly he passed away in September 2010 but for over 25 years he published books, many of which featured local lines and stations, so it is lovely that something he once owned has returned to Romiley.

The plans themselves are very faded and fragile but the son of one of our members has had then professionally scanned and enhanced.





We intend to have a print made of the enhanced version, hopefully for display at the station.

You can see from the two pictures on the previous page the vast difference between the original and the enhanced versions.

It's really good to be able to see the plans of the station from when it was built and to compare them to what we have today.

Thankfully most of it (regretfully not the dome above the stairs to platform 1) has survived to this day.

All some of it needs is a dose of tender loving care.

BAMFORD STATION

We are not ashamed to admit that over the years we have "borrowed" ideas from other stations throughout England (and in some cases Scotland).





One of our members sent us the pictures above of a new Planter Train that has arrived at Bamford station.

It's not that long ago that we used the running in boards design from Bamford to create our own running in boards using the same manufacturer, with the assistance of the Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership.

It would be lovely to recreate something similar as the Planter Train for Romiley.

JOSHUA – AGED 10 –VISITED OVER 50 CHESHIRE STATIONS IN A DAY

Last month we featured a young man by the name of Joshua who by visiting over 50 Cheshire stations on Saturday 3rd October was hoping to raise money for the Crewe Heritage Centre.

It is great to report that through his efforts well over £1,000 has been raised.

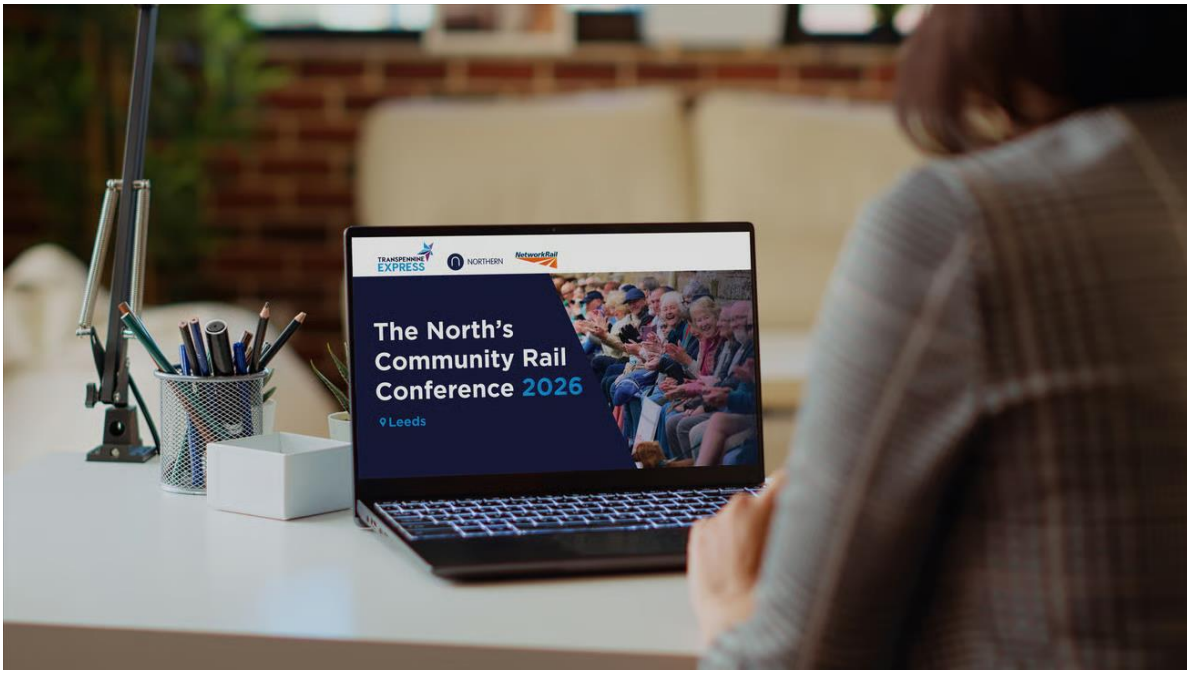
So well done Joshua.

THE NORTH'S COMMUNITY RAIL CONFERENCE 2026

On Monday 5th October Northern, TransPennine Express and Network Rail very kindly hosted the North's Community Rail Conference 2026, which took place in Leeds.

The conference was aimed at celebrating successes, sharing insights on future plans as well as providing an opportunity to discuss the transition towards Great British Railways.

It wasn't practical or possible for everyone to attend in person but through the wonders of modern technology a very high quality live video stream was in place so that some of us were able to follow the action from the comfort of our own homes.



As well as listening to some of the splendid presentations (or should we say double act) from Tricia Williams (MD of Northern) and Chris Jackson (MD of Transpennine Express) we could submit questions and observations online.

Having it online as well as live in Leeds was really useful.



It's almost impossible to know where everything will end up with the creation of Great British Railways, but whatever it takes place we hope that similar conferences will in the be held in the future along the same format as the one held broadcast from Leeds.

HINDLEY STATION

Over the years a number of our members have had the privilege to meet Sheila and Sandy Davidson who are the driving force behind the Friends of Hindley Station.

We were, therefore, delighted to read an article on the BBC News Website all about Sheila and Sandy and what wonders they have achieved during the past 20 years in transforming the station to what it is today.

You can read the article at https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c6n9r10prprjo









THE DESTINATION IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF YOU QUIZ – THE ANSWERS

1. SELLAFIELD. Sellafield (formerly known as Windscale) is a large multi-function nuclear site close to Seascale on the Cumbrian coast, England. Today its primary activities are nuclear waste processing and storage and nuclear decommissioning. However, from 1956 to 2003 it undertook nuclear power generation. There is a large display on the history of Sellafield at the Beacon Museum in Whitehaven.

2. HATHERSAGE. A short walk from the station you will find the outdoor swimming pool which is open all year round. They try and keep the water temperature in the mid 20's centigrade but if you do find it too chilly there is a café on site selling hot food and drinks.

3. NOTTINGHAM. Located near the famous Lace Market you will find the National Justice Museum. Set over five floors it houses a Victorian courtroom, Georgian gaol, and cells that date back hundreds of years. There is so much to see and learn from a visit.

4. DONCASTER. The St Leger is a very famous flat race established in 1776, making it the oldest of Britain's five Classic races. It is run at Doncaster racecourse during September each year.

5. BISHOP AUCKLAND. The Weardale Railway is an 18 mile heritage line running from a connection with the main rail network at Bishop Auckland to Eastgate in Weardale, County Durham which is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Currently a 16 mile section of line between Bishop Auckland and Stanhope has been restored for passenger use.

6. WHITBY. This seaside town is famous for Dracula because author Bram Stoker stayed in here in 1890 and used its dramatic landscapes, local folklore, and gothic atmosphere as the primary setting for Count Dracula's arrival in England. Of course there is much more to Whitby than Dracula. Fish and chips and the North Yorkshire Moors Railway for instance.

7. HALTWHISTLE. Hadrian's Wall is one of Britain's major ancient tourist attractions and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Haltwhistle station is just two miles from the wall.

8. HEYSHAM PORT. The Isle of Man Steam Packet Company operate a regular ferry service to Douglas from Heysham Port which is served by trains from Lancaster. However, the village of Heysham is itself well worth a visit.

9. METROCENTRE. For shopaholics the Metrocentre is a shopping centre and entertainment complex in the Dunston area of Gateshead built on the site of the former Dunston Power Station by the River Tyne. It has 210 shops, 63 restaurants, an Odeon cinema, a Clip n' Climb, a bowling alley, a Namco Funscape which together occupy over 2,000,000 sq. ft of retail floor space, making it one of the largest shopping centres in the UK.

10. LANCASTER. Lancaster Castle, often known as John O' Gaunt's Castle, is one of the most historically fascinating surviving buildings in the country. It dates back to Roman times when, from its commanding position on the hill overlooking Lancaster and the River Lune, it stood as a bastion against the marauding forces of the ancient Picts and Scots tribes. The castle is owned by the Duchy of Lancaster (His Majesty King Charles III being the Duke of Lancaster)

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