The busiest station in the UK without a passenger service!





The Friends of Reddish South Station & The Friends of Denton Station Newsletter November 2026

November 2026

Volume 17 issue 3

Reddish South Station is RHS NW Station of the Year



Pictured above L to R:

Friend and architect of the station garden, Noel Henry, RHS judge, David Bielawski, and Friends Chairman, Tom Grundy.

We were surprised, not to say delighted, to be named as the RHS NW Railway Station of the Year for 2026. Judge David Bielawski kindly came onto the station for the presentation.

Full story on page 4

Art Project is unveiled at Reddish South Station



Pictured above,

Councillor David Wilson, Councillor Rachel Wise with children and staff from Broadstone Hall Primary School

On 31st October, the Friends unveiled the 'Postcard from Reddish' Project with Broadstone Hall Primary School.

The event was combined with a Trick or Treat event at the station and it was great to see so many families in attendance.

Many thanks to everybody who came, KS1 & KS2 Art Clubs and to Rachel & David who unveiled the posters.

Story & pictures on P.2

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Halloween & Unveiling at Reddish South Station

The Friends held a 'Welcome to Reddish' project , some members may remember in 2015 , which involved several local schools but the artworks were looking rather worse for wear due to weather and age, and we felt it was time to brighten the station once more with new works by a new generation. We approached Broadstone Hall Primary School (and a few others) but it was Broadstone Hall KS1 & KS2 Art clubs who produced 2 lovely pictures. When we were let down at the last moment by another school, they very kindly made us a third poster, a joint project with both groups.

Huge thanks to Nada, Lucy & Lis KS2 and Charlotte & Nicole KS1 Art Clubs and the students!



KS1 & KS2 art teachers with Friend Dot with one of the art-works at the school







Some of the young contributors to the artworks with families and, above, Friend Dot looking after the treats. (photo L courtesy of Andy Cowley)

Next page: the unveiling by Councillors Rachel Wise & David Wilson, with some of the children . Bottom right Friend Dot with Friend Andy who lives in Australia and is our farthest Friend!

No tricks—just treats!



















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RHS Britain In Bloom 'It's Your neighbourhood' Awards



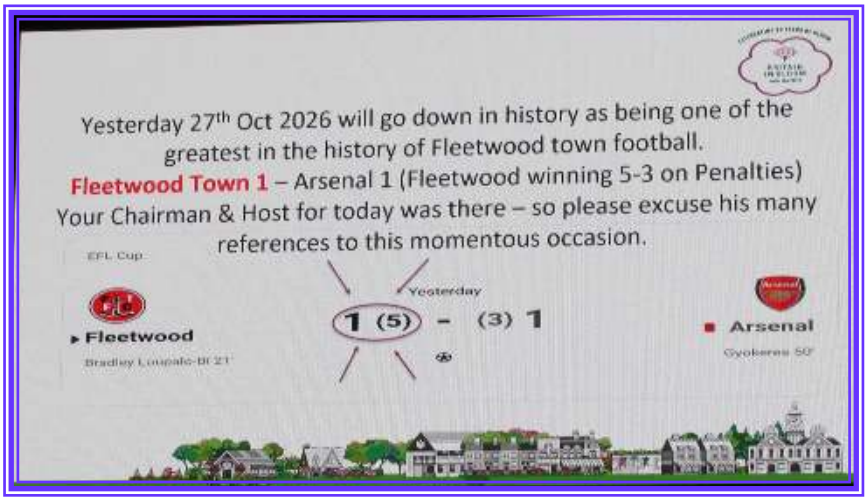
Pictured from L to R: Friends Alan, Dot, Dave and Sue with Dave from Salford/ Kersal Green & Grow, who also received an award.

The 'It's Your Neighbourhood' awards are part of the larger Britain In Bloom annual awards which celebrates smaller projects in each region of Britain. There are over 700 participant groups in the North West of England alone, presentations taking place over 3 days. The work done by volunteers in every corner of the country is astonishing and lights up the most unexpected areas of suburban Britain as well as enhancing Hospices, Railway Stations and Civic spaces.

This is the fourth time the Friends of Reddish South Station have entered and have been lucky to receive an 'Outstanding' level 5 award each time.

You can get an idea of the size of the venue from the picture right, it extended almost the same amount to the other side (the podium being in the middle), with about 50 tables.





We were enjoying a quiet lunch just before the awards presentation , when there was a sudden fanfare, which made us all jump, and the picture (above) suddenly appeared. There was much applause, and the chairman had a constant smile on his face all afternoon!



We did have an anxious moment or two as the order of the awards changed this year and we were presented very near the end, but were delighted to receive our fourth level 5 'Outstanding' award from Jason the Cloud Gardener.

As you can see, the Friends of Heaton Chapel Station also received an outstanding award, and congratulations to them. Chairman Tom reckons he taught them all they know!!

Romiley Station was also 'outstanding' and the area of Romiley as a whole was awarded 'most improved' so congratulations go there too.

Pictured L to R:

Vice Chair, Keith; Treasurer Dot; Jason; Membership sec. Alan; Media, Dave.

However, the story does not end there. Secretary Kim was totally surprised to receive a call from RHS Judge David Bielawski who told her that we had missed the biggest award (due to train times), and that we had won the last discretionary award of the day and had been awarded the RHS 'Best Railway Station' in the north west.

She kept the secret and David kindly agreed to present the award at the station the following week, which he did and we managed to surprise the rest of the committee with the award.

We celebrated at Sykes Café and David stayed for lunch.



L to R:

Alan, Dot, David Bielawski, Tom, Dave & Noel

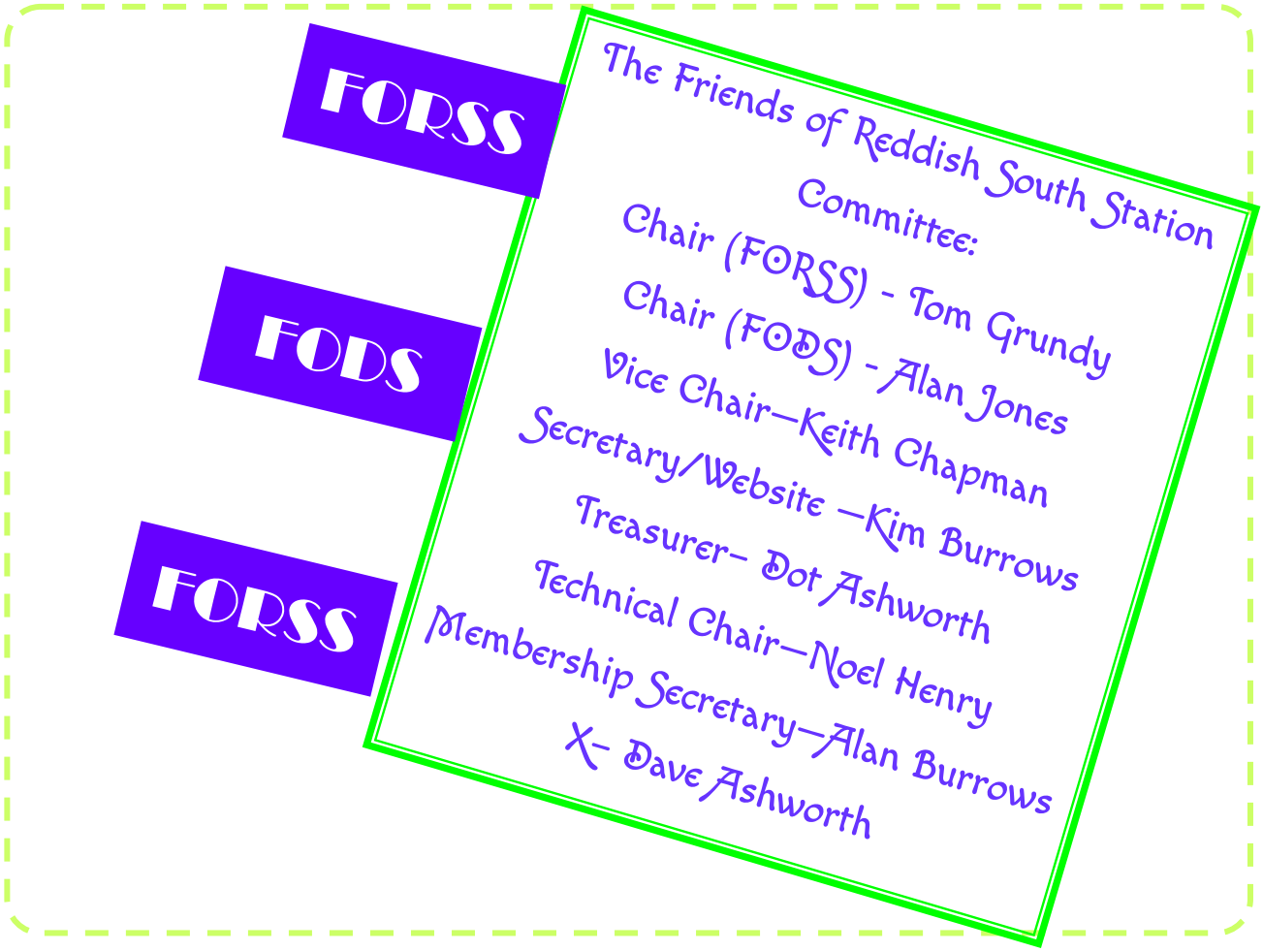


Celebrating at Sykes:

Keith, Noel, Sue, David, Dot, Tom and Alan

In Memorium

We were saddened to hear of the passing of Friend Brenda Brookes. She had been a member and supporter for some years, and our condolences go to her daughter and family at this sad time



Railfuture North-West Conference

Friends Noel Henry, Alan Burrows and Kim Burrows attended the conference on Saturday 7th November, where the topic was Congestion around Manchester. Daniel Robinson from Network Rail told the meeting about the large investment being made into Oxford Road Station (a long-established 'pinch-point') and the Castlefield corridor. There are plans for 2 new through platforms at Piccadilly and the new platform at Salford Crescent is due to be officially opened very soon.



Pictured: Railfuture Trevor Bishop, Friends Noel and John Taylor, Daniel Robinson of network Rail & Friend Alan

We asked, of course, about using the infrastructure already under the noses of Network Rail and TfGM, but it seems that the problems at Stockport continue to hinder plans. Daniel Robinson said that the new station at Cheadle was also proving very difficult, but because the funding was coming from a different source, hoops are being jumped through!

Very frustrating for us of course, and really no-one can give us a decent answer why the relatively minor problems that come with a passenger service on our line cannot be given more attention, especially since another part of the Manchester investment has built two turn-back facilities at Victoria Station at the cost of £68+ million, which would answer problems about a service terminating at Victoria Station.

And finally.....

Next year is 20th Anniversary of the inauguration of the Friends Of Reddish South Station. We are hoping to hold an early AGM so that we can exchange some ideas on how to celebrate & raise awareness of the group. The campaign does go on and we are attending meetings before the end of this year, including, we hope, a face-to-face meeting with the new Metro-Mayor, as our last meeting with was cancelled for obvious reasons. We haven't ruled out a visit to No.10 either (we don't care which one!!).