

Friends of Brighouse Station

Bringing new life to Brighouse Station

Newsletter No 2 (October 2015)



Members of the Committee at the Yorkshire In Bloom Awards

Welcome to our second newsletter in which we describe the many activities which have taken place over the summer to change the face of the station.

After the launch in January several planning meetings took place to design the floral displays and decide their positions on and around the platforms. At the same time members spent time visiting local businesses inviting them to become sponsors for the displays. Each sponsor has a plaque

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placed next to their display which shows passengers how the whole town has become involved in the project.

In April the planters and barrels, in which the plants would be placed, were ordered. The plants had been chosen and nurtured over several weeks by our 'resident professional gardener', Paul Marshall. The planting took place off site in early May and the displays were brought to the station after the planters and barrels had been installed. A great deal of work had to be undertaken on the station (fences, platforms) to ensure that they would be secure and cause no danger to passengers and trains.

The big opening day was 1st June when local dignitaries and sponsors were invited to see the complete displays for the first time in their designated positions. There were immediate positive comments from the two train operating companies, Northern Rail and Grand Central and similar reports have come from passengers, visitors and even the staff of the trains calling at the station.

During the summer work has continued all around the station and car park to tidy up the shrubs and vegetation. Northern Rail has also worked on the car park including new markings and a pedestrian walkway which should make the area much safer.

We also found that we were eligible to enter the "Yorkshire In Bloom" competition. Judging took place in July and in September, at the awards ceremony, we were awarded Level 3 (equivalent to a silver award) in the Environment section which for a first year entry was a very good result especially in such a short period since setting up the group.

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A message from the chairman - David Bedding

Anyone who has travelled through Brighouse Station in the last 6 months can hardly fail to have noticed the tremendous improvement in the overall 'atmosphere' of the station, as already noted earlier in this newsletter, the most obvious sign of this are the floral displays; one regular traveller returning in the evening of 1st June to a station he had left early that morning said that his first thought was that he'd got off at the wrong station !

We thank our sponsors for making these possible. The not so immediately obvious changes - less litter, cleaner hand-rails, flower-bed by the car park entry etc etc - are a direct result of the many hours put in by 'The Friends' and with the active support of Northern Rail. I recently totted up and since January in excess of 400 hours have been worked. Looking back to the October evening almost 12 months ago now when the decision was taken to 'let's see if we can form a group and improve the station,' I think it would be fair to say that we little dreamt how far we would progress in such a short time. What will the station look like 12 months from now ? Even better !!

Yorkshire in Bloom together with the numerous comments from railway professionals and the travelling public of Brighouse has made all our hard work worthwhile. We have set up a good foundation on which to make our station a place to visit and enjoy. We look forward to welcoming more "Friends" to help with the organisation and also to join us to work around the station (this usually takes place on the second Sunday of the month).

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A Date for your Diary

Open Meeting for anyone - Chris Helme, Brighthouse's own historian, will present a talk on **Brighthouse Railway Connections'** on Friday, November 20th at Brighthouse Rest Centre, Park Row, at 7 pm. The AGM will take place prior to his talk. Refreshments will be available.

The Friends of Brighthouse Station would like to thank all the businesses in Brighthouse who have sponsored a tub or planter at the station.

TAYLORS & CO	ARROW COACH TRAVEL
BRIGHOUSE DRY CLEANERS	THE FLOWER GARDEN
BLAKELEY'S OF BRIGHOUSE	DIRECT CARPET CO,
WEBSTERS INSURANCE BROKERS	RYECORN WHOLEFOODS
CZERWIK -FINE WINE AND CHEESES	
No. 43 COFFEE HOUSE	COMMERCIAL/RAILWAY
TREBLE CLEF MUSIC SHOP	THE CO-OPERATIVE
ROKT CLIMBING GYM	TRAVEL
HARRISON LORD GALLERY	PREGO ITALIAN CAFE BAR
KERSHAW'S GARDEN CENTRE	AND RESTAURANT
WHITEGATES ESTATE AGENTS	THE MILLERS BAR
CO-OPERATIVE FUNERALCARE	STATION CAFE

Corporate Members

Fawcett Cards and Gifts Ltd	Meze Restaurant
Websters Insurance Brokers	Station Cafe
A & S Domestics	Simply Flowers
Avocet Dye and Chemicals	Ras Sport

We are pleased to announce that 58 sponsors, corporate members and members have joined the group in the last year. We hope this continues to grow next year.

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