

Friends of Brighouse Station

Bringing new life to Brighouse Station

Newsletter No 3 (February 2016)

Welcome to our third newsletter and good wishes for the New Year to you all. We are pleased to announce some exciting news which will be literally bringing new life to the station together with many new 'Friends'.



On Saturday 23rd January representatives from the 'Friends' met with members of the local Scouting group to launch a competition to design an environmentally friendly 'Bug Hotel' and the winning design will be built by the Scouts to go behind the fence at the Huddersfield end of platform 2. After the area has been cleared by the scouts the 'Bug Hotel' will be installed and the area will become a wild flower garden which, it is hoped, will attract butterflies and insects to the area giving passengers something more to look at and enjoy as they depart and arrive.

It is hard to believe that it is just around one year since the 'Friends' group was officially launched after several months of planning at the end of 2014. The pictures show the platforms before and after the work was undertaken. The big opening day on 1st June was the first opportunity to see the complete floral displays for the first time.

Early 2015



Mid 2015



The planters and the barrels made a great impression on both the travelling public and the staff operating the trains passing through the station. Two water tanks, which have been donated by Avocet Dye & Chemical, will now make the regular watering much easier to undertake especially during the summer months. Work has continued on the areas surrounding the car park which has itself received a make-over.

An interesting area was discovered in between the long walk-way from the station to Railway Street which needed a good clean. The brickwork on the floor had the word "Brighthouse" embedded which was formed by a contrasting coloured bricks.

Summer 2015



Winter 2015/16



The group has a monthly work day and this takes place on the second Sunday of the month and everyone is welcome to come along and give a hand no matter how small the contribution. The Scout group will be joining us to undertake their 'Bug Hotel' projects which will enhance the station and also provide the scouts with opportunities to obtain various qualifications in scouting. The Scouts will be busy on Platform 2 but we have lots more to work on. 'In progress' at the moment are the area by the ramp on Platform 1 and that by the entrance from Huddersfield Road - but the more people we have the more we can do.

All this help will certainly contribute to our efforts to increase our rating in the annual "Yorkshire In Bloom" judges who were enthused by our first year's efforts in 2015.

A message from the chairman - David Bedding

As you will see from this newsletter we continue to make great progress with our aim of making the overall Station Environment better for all.

The imminent change to the Franchise for Northern might well also affect what happens to the station facilities but as yet we don't know what changes there might be. The 'good news' about the franchise change is that Alex Hynes will continue as MD, Alex is a great supporter of 'Friends' groups so I think we can look forward to some positive progress.

Regular travellers through the station will have noticed that the laurel bushes by the entrance to the platform from the car park have now largely disappeared ! This is the first part of the rejuvenation of that area and is sponsored by local company HW Architectural so special thanks to them. The weather hasn't been especially kind to us on our 'second Sunday in the month' working days recently but hopefully as we move forward into Spring it will improve and more members will feel able and inclined to come down and help - hint !!

Brighouse Station in oils



For the 1940's Festival in 2014 the Harrison Lord Gallery commissioned David Charlesworth, a celebrated railway artist, to paint a scene of Brighouse station in WWII. Comparing the painting with the photograph above it must have been his source of inspiration.

The locomotive in the painting is of a standard design used by the US Army Transportation Corps (USATC), and 400 were shipped to Britain during World War 2 ready for the Invasion of France in 1944. Prior to the invasion, they were used by all four of Britain's main railway companies, including the LNER.



Membership Information

We had our first AGM in November where we enjoyed a talk by Chris Helme on Brighouse Railway Connections. We were also pleased to enrol several new members. Existing members (individual and corporate) will have received a reminder about the renewal of their subscriptions and we look forward to your continued interest.

We would like to invite you to continue your valued support of the work of the 'Friends' group by renewing your membership for the coming year. Your contributions are gratefully received and help us to continue our work.

At the AGM it was decided that the subscriptions would remain the same :

Annual membership £5

Corporate annual membership £10

Annual membership (unwaged) £3

If you would like to become a member or renew please send a cheque to the Membership Secretary

Station Cafe
Gooder Lane
Rastrick
Brighouse
HD6 1HF

The Treasurer will send you a receipt.

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

WHITEGATES ESTATE AGENTS	ARROW COACH TRAVEL
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