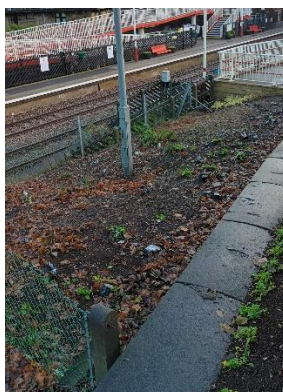


Friends of Brighthouse Station

Bringing new life to Brighthouse Station

Climate Change Garden Brighthouse Station

The idea of the new garden began in July 2022 as the ramp entrance to platform 2 was overgrown with huge Laurels and Sycamore trees. The area was dark and no other plants could grow under the heavy shade. A pile of dead wood and plant remains could have posed a fire risk during hot dry spells. The area was becoming a litter trap and would be a danger to the public as there were no clear sightlines across the station.



Friends of Brighthouse station decided to do something. After obtaining the relevant permission a local contractor was appointed to remove the laurels and prune the sycamores. The contractors chipped the plant material and returned the chippings to site for future use.

The question was asked what are we going to do with the site as there was a no digging rule due to the possibility of underground cables.

It was decided to construct raised beds from redundant timber from an old fence on platform 1. One of our skilled volunteers measured the area and made five raised beds which were carried to site and filled with good quality peat free soil based compost from a local supplier.



There was enough timber left over to make the path edges which we filled with woodchip from the site.

Dwarf bulbs were planted in autumn 2022 which started off the spring flower displays in 2023.

Drought resistant & fragrant plants such as Phormium, Thyme, Lavender, Photinia and Trachycarpus were bought from a local wholesale nursery and duly planted by the volunteers. They were watered in once and left to grow all summer 23 without any more water.

The rest of the site still needed tidying and weeding.

In October 2023 low growing wild flower seed was sown to make a wildflower meadow which will flower in summer 24 along with the existing plants.

A triangular bed of ornamental red and blue grasses was planted further up the garden in our own recycled compost.

In February 2024 We then laid 15 square metres of specialist species- rich low growing wild wildflower turf which only needs cutting once a year to

let the seed re sow into the grass. This will encourage insects and bees to populate the area.



The former goods yard and railway siding has been transformed into this beautiful drought resistant wildlife garden for the benefit of station users and train passengers at the same time benefiting insects and butterflies.

Our volunteers have worked through the summer sun, the winter frost and the very wet periods to complete this worthy project.

Thanks to our volunteers, Northern and local businesses for their support.

Paul Marshall

Chairman Friends of Brighouse Station