

Friends of Romiley Station



## NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2024

September has certainly been a month with some very mixed weather, but at least it included a lovely week in the middle when our late summer finally arrived.

One highlight of the month for us was the first of our two Hitachi Rail Volunteer Days (the second takes place on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October) but more about that below.

However, on the negative side we have been experiencing yet more vandalism.

### MANCHESTER TO NEW MILLS CENTRAL AND SHEFFIELD SERVICES

We are delighted to be able to report that Network Rail completed all the work necessary so that the line to New Mills and Sheffield could reopen as planned on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.



So we now have a full train service back in operation. The picture above shows the 11.06 to Sheffield on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September arriving to Platform 2.

Some work is still being carried out in the Hague Bar area of New Mills but it doesn't affect the use of the line.

So in addition to a full passenger service freight trains are again coming through Romiley. Below is a stone train pictured on Tuesday 24th September heading from Great Rocks Junction to sidings at Ashburys



## **TASK SESSIONS**

There will be our first task session this autumn at the station on Saturday 12th October commencing at 2pm.

If you are able to then please do pop along.

## **VANDALISM**

Last month we reported that our water storage container had yet again been vandalised but fortunately we had been able to repair the damage.

Sadly, it was attacked again during September but this time all our efforts to protect it had failed as the vandals had prised off the metal cover and let out all the water.

Given that we have now removed it from the area that faces the car park access road. In addition our two composting bins, water butt on Platform 1 and the wicker fence to the wild flower garden were also vandalised.

We fail to understand why we are being targeted in this way. The police are aware but there is little or no hope of finding those responsible.

## COUNTRY STATIONS QUIZ

This month's quiz is all about identifying the names of countries from the clues provided and then using up to four letters from the start of each name to come up with a station on the national network. The number of letters to be used from each country identified is in brackets after the clues.

### For example:

- Island nation that was the birth place of both singer Rihanna and cricketer Sir Garfield Sobers, who was born in its capital Bridgetown (3)
- Another island nation which straddles both the equator and the 180th meridian once known as the Gilbert islands (2)
- South Asian landlocked country that includes part of Mount Everest (1)
- Only country to have a land border with Denmark (1)

Answers are:

**BAR**bados, **KI**ribati, **Nepal** and **G**ermany – So the station is **BARKING**

### Station No. 1

- South American country that has a yellow, blue and red flag whose President is a former guerrilla group member, Gustavo Petro. (2)
- Another South American country that borders the country above which boasts the tallest waterfall in the world (3)
- A Caribbean country that at its closest point is only 11 kilometres from the country above. It hosts Test match cricket at the Queen's Park Oval (2)
- The country featured in the film where fishing expert Alfred Jones, played by Ewan McGregor, went to in the hope of introducing salmon fishing (1)

### Station No. 2

- An Asian country created on 16th December 1971 out of West Pakistan (2)
- The musical The King and I starring Yul Brynner was set in this country but at that time it was called Siam (2)
- Country that beat England 2 – 1 in this year's UEFA Euro Cup final (2)

### **Station No. 3**

- Joined the EU in 2004 this country borders the Mediterranean Sea. Its highest mountain is Triglav which before this country's independence in 1991 was the highest peak in what was then Yugoslavia (3)
- The only double landlocked country in Asia (1)
- Into Africa now for a country whose capital is Accra (2)

### **Station No. 4**

- Plays host to the claim of housing the only man made structure that can be seen clearly from space with the naked eye (2)
- The Baltic Sea and with it the Gulf of Finland lies to the north of this country and Latvia to the south (3)
- An east African country that has an extensive coastline along the Red Sea. In 1941 the British took over the administration of the country following the Battle of Keren (2)

### **Station No. 5**

- Officially this European country is a Grand Duchy that is landlocked and its capital city shares its name with that of the country (2)
- This country is yet another island nation being an archipelago in the Southern Pacific Ocean. It is a constitutional monarchy ruled over by King Tupou VI (3)

### **Station No. 6**

- Home to some of the most scenic rail journeys in Europe, such as the Ofoten, Røros and Rauma Lines, this country even has a railway line that's inside the Arctic Circle (4)
- Shares its name with a supermarket chain but better known as an island nation that has extensive geothermal activity. Indeed Surtsey, one of the youngest islands in the world was created by volcanic action between 1963 and 1968 (2)
- Yet another landlocked European country that is crossed by both the Tisza and Danube Rivers, the latter passing through its capital city (1)

### Station No. 7

- Central America now for this country which is known as the land of volcanos. It is the only Central American country that without a coastline on the Caribbean Sea. Its national bird is the Torogoz (3)
- The equator passes through this South American country that includes the Galapagos Islands (2)
- Another South American country, its second largest, whose name appeared in a well-known song in the Time Rice musical Evita (2)

### Station No. 8

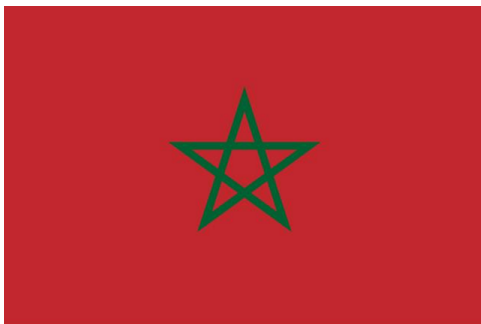
- Thought to be the site of the ancient Dilmun civilization this country on the Persian Gulf is linked to Saudi Arabia by the King Fahd Causeway (2)
- With an Atlantic Ocean coastline this African country gets its name from its coastal desert that is the oldest in the world. Having gained independence on 21st March 1990 it remains a commonwealth country (2)
- A communist country in Asia whose tallest building is a supertall skyscraper named Landmark 81 (after its 81 storeys) that overlooks the Saigon River (2)

### Station No. 9

- Just one country for this station and it's one of South America's two landlocked countries, but not the one beginning with "B". Its official languages are both Spanish and Guaraní (3)

### Station No. 10

Last one now so we hope you aren't flagging. In case you are the last two countries that you have to find can be identified from their actual national flags as set out below.



(3)



(2)

**The answers are at the end of the Newsletter**



## HITACHI VOLUNTEER DAY – 24TH SEPTEMBER



The first of our two Hitachi Volunteer Days took place on Tuesday 24th September and we were not only blessed with a dry day but were extremely delighted that some 15 volunteers turned up.



Those attending worked tirelessly from 10am right through until just before 4pm.

At least they were able to have a break halfway through the day for a well earned lunchbreak at the Romiley Life Centre just over the road from the station.

The Life Centre provided everyone with a lovely lunch served up in one of their conference rooms that was

washed down with everything from water and orange juice to a variety of coffees and Hot Chocolates.

A selection of cakes was also available through the day.

The main task was to clear a vast area behind platform 2, right up to the car park access road) over all the massive foliage that had been growing wild for a few years now.



This will allow us to extend our wild flower garden in the future.



It has also opened up things so that you can now see Kinder Scout and the other Peak District hills in the distance. Light can now also get through.

Everything cut away was all put into a massive green waste skip which Northern kindly provided for us.

In addition to the clearance work the station's planters were all repainted.

At the next Volunteer Day, which is on Thursday 3rd October, further painting will take place. This time Northern are providing the paint so that the newly repaired sections of



fencing can be painted.

Hopefully, by the end of the day Platform 2 will be looking really good.

Northern have also given us the yellow plastic rocksalt bins at the station which will be repainted green and converted into planters



We are extremely grateful to everyone involved in the Volunteer Day for everything that they provided and/or achieved through a fantastic team effort.

We are certainly looking forward to the second of our Volunteer Days.



## **COUNTRY STATIONS QUIZ - THE ANSWERS**

### **Station No. 1**

**CO**lombia, **VEN**ezuela, **TR**inidad & Tobago and **Y**emen. So the station is **COVENTRY**

### **Station No. 2**

**BA**ngladesh, **TH**ailand and **SPA**in. So the station is **BATH SPA**

### **Station No. 3**

**SLO**venia, **UZ**zbekistan and **GH**ana. So the station is **SLOUGH**

### **Station No. 4**

**C**hina, **E**stonia and **E**ritrea. So the station is **CHESTER**

### **Station No. 5**

**LU**xembourg and **TON**ga. So the station is **LUTON**

### **Station No. 6**

**NOR**Way, **IC**eland and **H**ungary. So the station is **NORWICH**



**Station No. 7**

**EL** Salvador, **EC**uador and **AR**gentina. So the station is **ELSECAR**

**Station No. 8**

**BA**hrain, **NA**mibia and **VI**etnam. So the station is **BANAVIE**

**Station No. 9**

**PAR**aguay. So the station is **PAR**

**Station No. 10**

**MOR**occo and **AR**menia. So the station is **MORAR**

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