



The Friends of Reddish South Station Newsletter Autumn 2024

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September 2024

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Retro rail Tour to Edinburgh another success!

It was announced in August that the 'Restoring Your Railways' scheme had been dropped, as it was an unfunded scheme.

Despite the initial funding for building a business case, it was one of Boris Johnson's ideas that was set up without any thought or consideration for the impact of deceitfully building up hopes in neighbourhoods and Community groups such as ours.

The amount of hard work and time put in by The Friends to publicise and encourage public participation for the scheme, plus the 2 years we waited for an outcome of our application, which, we now know, was never likely to be positive when there was no investment or motivation to make it happen, is inexcusable.

However, given the record of the previous government, was probably only to be expected. We carry on!



The train arriving at Platform 1!

The high speed 125 at Reddish South station (picture Noel Henry)

We were delighted to welcome the Retro High Speed Scot 125, 43159 'Rio Warrior' (43089 at the rear) on Retro Railtours to Reddish South Station for the trip to Edinburgh on 24th August.

Owned by 125 Group based at Midland Railway, Butterley, it is operated by Hanson and Hall.

The carriages were very comfortable with plenty of leg room and the journey problem -free . We were

entertained by Phil & Penny on the way there and back, and there was the usual good time had by all!

Dot & Dave had prepared a quiz for the journey, which was won by Friends Sue & Keith. Tom won best team name which was rewarded by a stick of Irn Bru rock.

Dot, Kim, Dave and Alan served up prosecco and shortbread on the way back. We returned just after 9pm. Many of our enthusi-

ast passengers were calculating when the train speed got up to 125 mph which it didn't quite manage, but did achieve 100mph on a stretch of rail between Doncaster and York.

Ales were served at the bar or by trolley - a lovely decadent way to travel and those aboard towards the end of the journey embraced the cut price ales and food!

Destination: Edinburgh

We arrived in Edinburgh at lunchtime and allowed 4 hours to explore and visit favourite haunts.

There was plenty to see, as the Edinburgh Festival was still in full swing, but my, it was packed!

We all commented on how difficult it was to move around due to the sheer volume of people, which is a testament to the success of the Festival and the Edinburgh Tattoo. We were all quite thankful though, that that we only there 4 hours as it was so busy.

There were many street entertainers all down the Royal Mile and many quirky 'exhibitions'; our old friend the invisible man was there again as well



as gold and silver painted 'statues' who were very popular with photographers.

The 125 provoked much interest with train spotters along the journey and at Edinburgh Station.

Unfortunately this year there was no mention of Reddish South on the departures board at Waverley, as there was to our surprise, on our last visit.

The 125 is privately owned and hired out for excursions such as these, so we may be travelling in the same style again on future outings!

Massive thanks as ever to James, Mum and the Retro crew for another wonderful day out!



From top right, clockwise: Departure at Reddish South, (photo Noel Henry) Edinburgh Cathedral, the 125 at Waverley Station, Friend Dot at the front of Edinburgh Castle (photo Dave Ashworth) 2 delightful young music entertainers, fire juggler on the Royal Mile (photo Dave Ashworth) and the back view of Edinburgh Castle

Macmillan pre-raffle raffle!

Terry has already been working hard on this year's Macmillan raffle, asking people to buy a date of the year. For the purposes of selling as many tickets as possible, in Terry's year, each month has 31 days!

When a month was sold out, a pre-raffle took place with the winner getting 5 more dates.

So that the everything was 'above board' so to speak, Terry asked Sarah of Sykes' café on Gorton Road to choose the winners.

The draw will be made on FORSS's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan

cancer support on Saturday 28th September.

Terry is delighted to report that all tickets have been sold.

Top prize £100. The raffle will be drawn on Macmillan Day.



Terry with Sarah of Sykes café for the pre-raffle raffle, with Terry's wife, Margaret, looking on.



Judging for the RHS 'It's Your Neighbourhood

The RHS North West In Bloom has come around again, and this year we were delighted to welcome Judge John Shepley who visited on 14th August to see the platform garden and see how we have progressed since last year.

He is another train enthusiast, too who enjoyed talking to everyone while he was looking around.

He could see we had made the slight changes advised in 2023, and we were able to tell

him about up-coming projects and future planting.

Credit should go to Committee member Noel Henry for his work on the planting scheme and maintenance. The Committee have regular Task Days when we work under his guidance. The platform is designed to look it's best in Autumn- it has been looking better year on year and now looks stunning.



Pictured L to R: Friends Luke, Alan Keith, Judge John Shepley, Friends Noel & Dave

Our new MP visits the Friends



Pictured L to R: Nav Mishra, MP. Friend Dave, Sarah, Friends Alan, Tom, Dot & Noel

Just before the General Election, Nav was invited, and attended, our weekly Committee 'meeting'.

He was hoping then to become our new MP in Reddish as a result of the boundary changes.

It was a pleasure to meet him; he has a real railway history as his grandfather was a train driver in India (no mean

feat!) and he has a strong interest in rail and public transport.

He supports our campaign fully and wants to see our passenger service reinstated.

Now that he has been elected, he is meeting with us again at the beginning of next month.

His first speech in the Commons, mentioned our station and the need for much improved public transport.

Andrew Gwynne MP

Andrew Gwynne has been our MP and a prime instigator (with then-councillors Tom Grundy & Walter Brett) of our campaign since it began in 2007.

Due to the boundary changes which came into force at this year's General Election, Andrew has moved on and now represents Gorton and Denton.

We would like to take this opportunity, as we did in July on our website, to pay tribute and say an enormous thank you to him for his work in starting our campaign and his huge support since then.

It is highly possible that the station would have been closed in 2008, that we would have had the TfGM door

closed firmly in our faces at our first meeting in 2010, and we would not have been able to grow into an informed campaign group had he not supported us strongly from the beginning.

He has unveiled projects, attended all our Macmillan Days, attended AGMs, enabled us to meet with Metro-Mayor Andy Burnham, rail representatives and spoken frequently on our behalf.

Although he became Honorary President of the Friends in 2022, he is obviously not able to spend very much time with us at all with his new responsibilities. We congratulate him on becoming a Minister for Public Health in the new Government .

We would like to pay tribute and say an enormous thank you to him for his work in starting our campaign and his huge support since then.

However, with our new MP Nav Mishra, who is also very supportive of the campaign, we now have 2 voices in Parliament to support us to reinstate services from Stockport to Manchester via Reddish South & Denton Stations

We wish Andrew well in his new posts and we will continue to support both our 'train' MPs in all that they do in the future.

Pictured clockwise from top: the WW1 commemoration in 2018, FORSS's 1st Folk train, 2008, the last Friday Folk Train, 2018, unveiling at the Welcome to Reddish Project 2015, The Queen's 90th Birthday 2016, with wife Allison at Macmillan 2019, FORSS 10th Anniversary 2017, and 15th Anniversary 2022, 1st meeting with Andy Burnham, 2018,



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Denton Station news

As we welcome some new members from Denton, (Friends of Denton Station (FODS) is suspending operations for the moment) we get the opportunity to bring you train news from Denton Station:

On Saturday 21st September 2024 The Railway Touring Company's Coast to Coast Express, travelling from Liverpool Lime Street to Scarborough, stopped at Denton to take on water.

This excursion was hauled by Black 5 no. 44871, owned by Ian Riley & Sons (Bury), but spends much of the year working for West Coast Railways on the 'Jacobite' and



other main line excursions.

Once the Tender is topped up, the excursion continued to Scarborough via Stockport, Sheffield and York.

The support crew get water by running a hose up to a Fire Hydrant just outside the station on Manchester Road corner of Cow Lane.

Report & pictures by Noel Henry



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The Friends of Reddish South Station Committee are:

President of FORSS & The Friends of Reddish South & Denton
Campaign Group: -

Andrew Gwynne MP

Chair—Tom Grundy

Vice-Chair—Keith Chapman

Treasurer/Fund raiser— Dot Ashworth

Secretary/Website/Newsletter : Kim Burrows

Technical Chair/Landscape artiste : Noel Henry

Membership Secretary/website: Alan Burrows

Twitter/Media: Dave Ashworth

Contact: email :forss1@ntlworld.com

website: friendsofreddishsouthstation.co.uk

✂ : @davdotFo

Forthcoming Attractions:

The unveiling of the project celebrating the
Reddish South & Denton line's 175th Anniver-
sary—date TBC

Rail 200 national celebrations for the 200th
Anniversary of rail— events will be run all
of 2025 and we will be confirming our con-
tributions soon.

**Stop Press: The Macmillan Day (full story next
issue) was a tremendous success.**

Grateful thanks to all who came!

Finally.....



Spotted in Heaviley earlier this
week...

There's one manager who can be
accused of working his employees to
the bone!!