

Friends of Brighouse Station

Bringing new life to Brighouse Station

www.friendsofbrighousestation.org.uk

Better Blooms at Brighouse Station!

Station Newsletter January 2026

A Happy New Year to everyone and welcome to our four new sponsors of planters, barrels and the Royal planter on P2. Sponsor plaques will be fitted shortly and the names will soon appear on our website under the sponsorship heading.

As I write this edition the car park is still open and rail replacement buses are still in operation. Who could have imagined all the work which is being done to bring the infrastructure bang up to date. 2025 has been a momentous Year, for the Station's 25th anniversary.

Last year FoBS printed specially commissioned postcards, Christmas cards, banners, and pens which were distributed to members, public and sponsors. The 25th anniversary posters are still displayed around the station and will be removed by the end of March. Thank you to members for the designs and photographs which make everything unique to Brighouse station.

We also had a visit from the Northern Mascot Whistle.



Dates for Your Diary

Our A G M is on Thursday 26th March at 7pm

Doors open 6.45 At St John's Community Hall St Johns Street Rastrick in the conference suite at the end of the building. All paid up members and sponsors are welcome to attend.

2026 Annual membership fee is now due and remains the same as it was when the group began, £5. Please pay by bank transfer or cheque in a marked envelope handed in at the Station Café in Gooder Lane, an electronic receipt will be issued. More details and membership forms are on our website.

Please Note by being a paid member of fobs you will receive regular Newsletters. Facebook members are welcome on our FoBS Facebook page but are not paid members of the group. Thank you for your support.

Shortlisted

We were notified in December that our group has been shortlisted in the final of the Community Rail Awards in the Photography Category. This is the second time in three years. Twelve photographs are submitted nationally and the winner is chosen by a public vote through the Community Rail website. Closing date is January 30th, so please vote for us by logging on to Community Rail Awards 2026 website or alternatively you can vote by clicking on the link on Friends of Brighouse Station Facebook. (Probably the easiest method). **Our entry is entitled Brighouse Busy Lizzies**; it shows Four Volunteers working in the Climate Change Garden on platform 2. Overlooking the station.



Final piece of Jigsaw now in place.

During the Station upgrade the contractors were asked to create a path for passengers to safely access Birds Royd pavement from the car park to cope with the increased volume of pedestrians. The path was duly made through the existing shrubs. As they were builders not gardeners they asked if we could help out to tidy up the area and gave a generous grant towards the work required. After discussions we said that we would sort it out but would need to work with professional landscapers to complete the work as the job was too large for us to handle ourselves and it needed professional equipment for some of the work and the removal of large amounts of prunings. The work took three people with professional equipment two days to complete. New shrubs planted include fragrant herbs and colourful plants such as Cornus, Thyme and Lavender. As an extra ,the boundary hedges were trimmed for public safety and to enable people to see clearly over the boundary walls. All the prunings were removed from site and the contractors grant exactly covered the cost of the landscaping.



Five planters were provided for the opposite side of the entrance but these have been targeted by vandals several times. Not to be disheartened FoBS Members have re planted the tubs and made the CCTV operators aware of the damage so if any further problems occur there should be a record of the vandalism.

I think you will agree that the station now looks better than ever, transformed from an uncared-for post 1960 run down perimeter into a well landscaped and maintained Modern station ready to cope with another 25 years.

This work could not have happened without the hard work of our volunteers, Northern staff, Network Rail TransPennine Route upgrade, Grand Central and ISS Cleaning and maintenance services, and of course our sponsors who faithfully sponsor the planters and flowerbeds.

For more information, please visit www.friendsofbrighthousestation.org.uk where you can now find new History Boards with suitable QR codes and on the Facebook Friends of Brighthouse Station page on which there are many seasonal pictures for you to see.

Finally

The winter flowering and berrying shrubs have established well giving their best display yet which should be perfect for winter feeding birds and insects during the bad weather.

We wish you all a successful and happy 2026 and hope that you will continue to enjoy our Plant displays around the station.

Paul Marshall

Chairman

Friends of Brighthouse Station.

Bank details for Bank transfers: Friends of Brighthouse Station 05-04-24 Acc 34110639

