

Friends of Brighouse Station

Bringing new life to Brighouse Station

Website www.friendsofbrighousestation.org.uk

facebook friends of Brighouse Station

News from Brighouse Station Autumn 23

We Did IT!

Top award for Brighouse Station.



Congratulations and well done to everyone concerned for achieving a platinum award from Yorkshire in Bloom. It was an absolute thrill to go on stage at the Riley-Smith Hall in Tadcaster to receive this award for our work. The judging day went well in July with many volunteers there to show the judge round.

A final litter pick was carried out just before judging only to see one of our members scurrying out of a shrubbery clutching a handful of rubbish, this caused a smile from the judging group.



The plants in the car park and on the station were looking at their finest due to the early hot spell in June and wet July. We thought we may be awarded a gold which is good but according to Yorkshire in Bloom Platinum is

outstanding. Our thanks also go to the Commercial Railway Hotel for providing a room and refreshments for the group along with seasonal photographs which were inspected by the judge.



As the weather cools and the nights get longer and the trees begin to turn, our summer plants at the station begin to fade, our autumn plant changeover swings into action, the faded plants are composted, the compost re used on the station and our new plants grown in peat free compost are being planted which should give us a floral display throughout the darkest days of winter into early summer.

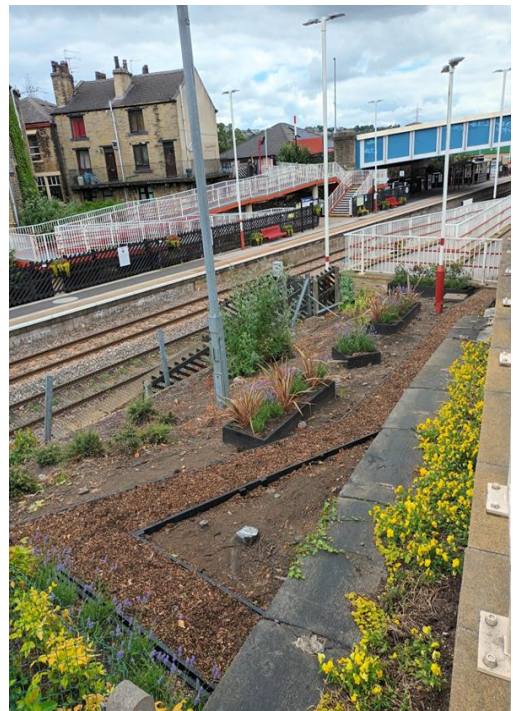
For anyone interested we are using Wallflower Sugar Rush in the barrels which when in flower give off a lovely scent. Everywhere else Pansy cool Wave Blueberry Swirl and Cool wave Fire. Our volunteers will be busy all winter removing faded flowers and checking for disease.

Freshly planted barrel 1st week of October.



Meanwhile work is nearing completion in our new climate Change Garden at the Halifax end of platform 2.

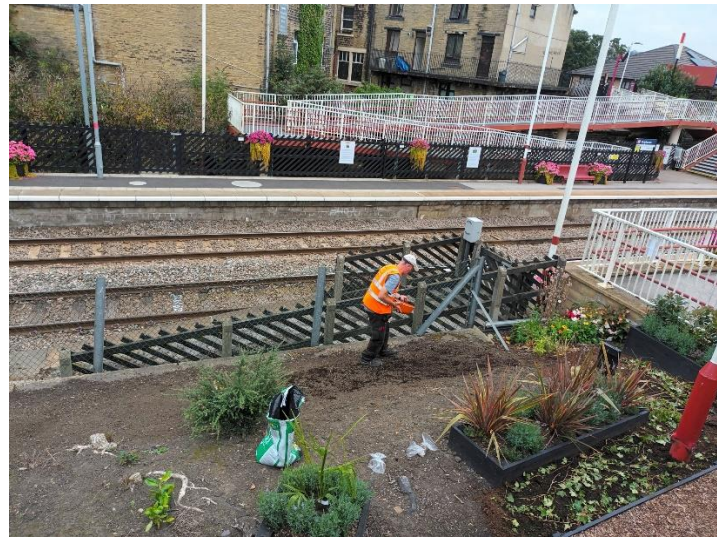
The overgrown trees and dead Shrubs which were causing a litter trap and blocking clear views for public safety were removed and chipped by a contractor. The chippings were used to make the path through the garden as shown in the summer edition. Bulbs were planted up the slope and under the tree and primulas from another area planted. All these should re appear next spring and can be seen by passing trains. Working in this area and reducing the undergrowth and toxic laurel leaves has resulted in much less litter being thrown over the fence.



The five raised beds were constructed from timber recently removed from a fence on platform 1 removed to make way for extra passengers at busy times.

Nearly all the plants have survived in the raised beds and are now thriving despite the very hot dry conditions at times throughout the summer.

The triangular bed was planted with ornamental red grasses, landscape ivy planted in between the raised beds as a groundcover experiment and a small wildflower meadow has been sown down the slope which should flower next spring and summer, this should be visible from the platforms and trains.



The last main task is to spread woodchip around the raised beds to prevent the excess weed growth.

This garden has taken just over a year to complete as there were a lot of tree roots near the soil surface making it unsafe to walk there but due to two very keen and skilled volunteers the roots have been removed.

FoBS and Northern have funded the work as a joint effort and two new signs have been provided featuring the name of the garden.

Sponsorship.

Many of the fence planters and barrels have been kindly sponsored by local businesses, the sponsorship helps fund our plant displays and other expenses. If anyone would like to sponsor a fence planter or barrel of plants please email

paulmfobschair@btinternet.com to discuss your needs.

Last but not least is a picture of some of the volunteers who keep the station to a high Standard.



We wish you all a happy Autumn and carry on gardening.

Paul Marshall.