

Friends of Brighouse Station

Bringing new life to Brighouse Station

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News From Brighouse Station Summer 23



Welcome to News from Brighouse Station Summer 2023. As you can see our summer bedding plants have surpassed themselves and thanks to our diligent watering teams have grown through the worst of the hot weather. If you visit the station regularly you can see the plants growing almost before your eyes.

We anticipated the warmer weather this summer and chose geraniums for the barrels as due to their hairy leaves use much less water than the Begonias did last year whilst producing a lovely display of blooms and foliage for the platforms.

The Impatiens and Lysimachia in the fence planters are magnificent, using less water than the Bacopa last year which we had to cut back to save water.

The long perennial bed on platform 2 is full of flowers and insects, the tall teasels half way down are colourful. We decided not to bed out the Lavender bed in the car park as it was taking up too much

water each week, instead we planted fragrant Thyme plants round the edge which will flower but wont need replacing or watering. Earlier in the month we removed the grotty old grass in the opposite bed and replaced it with 25 new Lavender plants which will tolerate drier conditions.



Talking of dry conditions, we are developing a climate change garden at the Halifax end of platform 2. It is just one year since our contractors removed the fifteen feet high Laurel trees and derelict wood piles. Instead, we have made and planted some raised beds as described in the last newsletter. I am pleased to say every plant is doing well despite the very dry conditions.

Norman and I put the finishing touches to the recycled woodchip path which now allows safe access to the area.

The lavender and thyme are attracting bees and are in full flower.



The recently installed water collection containers are using rain from a nearby roof to water the fence planters and barrels and the self-watering nursery beds are keeping our backup plants alive for possible emergency use.



The second phase of our new artwork was installed on platform 2 on Saturday 15th July.

As many of you will know this project was started over two years ago with art students and staff from Calderdale College

coming to Brighouse to take photographs of the buildings in the town to make two displays on the station.

Due to unforeseen widening of platform 1 in July 2022 and proposed widening of platform 2 sometime in the future the art installations had to be repositioned and new fixings designed and made to order.

The fitting is now complete thanks to the help of Northern who have done superb job on both platforms.

Station users can now look round Brighouse to see how many buildings they can identify from the pictures.

Our thanks go to the staff and students past and present from Calderdale college who can admire their work.

These installations add extra colour to both platforms in all seasons. There have been many favourable comments in the papers and by train crews and station users.

It was worth the wait for platform 1 to be widened as this gives more room to shelter from the rain and helps with the extra passengers using the station due to levelling up works further down the line which will continue for several more years.

Our artwork even made the railway press which caused much excitement.



Yorkshire in Bloom Judging 20th July.

The RHS Yorkshire in Bloom Judge arrived at 10am and met Anne Cass and myself in the car park ready to be shown round the station. After inspecting the entrance beds and finding out about the wild flower section near the Lavender and running her eye over the opposite bed she commented how well maintained it was and that it was nice that the dogrose had been left to flower and the few herbs gave off a lovely aroma in the morning sun.

After inspecting the car park and cycle shed for litter and cleanliness, she commented how nice the flowerbed was with different variations in flowers.

Next overlooking the natural habitat and woodland behind p2, then a chat with David James on p1 who described our plant sponsorship arrangements and income, then down under p1 to inspect our recently installed rainwater harvesting system which we use to save mains water when watering the barrels and planters.

Up the steps to Huddersfield Rd only to find one of our volunteers scurrying around among the plants litter picking, He was spotted but it brought a smile to our faces.

Down the steps to p2 to inspect the long garden via the slate path which has taken us nearly five years to establish but is now in full flower.

Back past the Royal Planter at bottom of the ramp full of flowering Cosmos underplanted with Cornus Midwinter Fire for good winter Colour.

Then to BRIGHOUSE. Not the town but the block paving Half way up the ramp with Brighouse picked out in pink pavers. If ever the station comes to be listed the this part should be grade1.

Finally to the new Climate change garden half way up the ramp the group were the first people to walk along the newly made recycled chipped bark path into the garden with its newly planted raised beds.

After, there were light refreshments at the Commercial Railway Hotel (thank You) and an inspection of our paperwork etc.

We all enjoyed our morning and our Judge seemed to enjoy the experience.

Results will be announced on 28th September at the special awards ceremony in Tadcaster.

Again Many volunteer hours have been worked at the station. Our active volunteers have worked tirelessly to improve the station putting many hours in to the cleanup near the Railway Street Ramp which is now a welcoming entrance.

Northern have also spent time and money on our station since last year including help with the art installation.

A Huge thank you to all volunteers, Members, Corporate members and Sponsors who help enormously with our income so we can re-invest it in the plants etc.

Thanks also to our facebook admin people and readers who leave some lovely comments, and our new volunteers for volunteering.

New Sponsors this year so far include.

Masterclass Kitchens 4 Bradford Road Brighouse

Woodhouse Store and Post Office. 176 Woodhouse Lane Brighouse.

Paul Marshall

Chairman Friends of Brighouse Station.