

Friends of Ansdell & Fairhaven Station – Update (Early September 2023)

We are trying to move forward with quarterly updates on our work at the station in order to show our partners what is happening in mid Fylde. We are covering a lengthy period in order to play catch-up with other teams along the South Fylde Community Railway Line.

So, let's start in **April**, Paul, Daphne and Karen (Rob was recovering from an operation) put up the crowns and roundels for the King's Coronation and invited children from a local school, who earlier in the year had planted tulip bulbs at the station, to come and view the results of their efforts. They were amazed at how well they had turned out. It had been a great year for tulips which had been given to us by Lytham St Anne's Garden Centre and we were so pleased to have their support. The new planters had been obtained earlier in the year through a Project involving Community Rail Lancashire, Northern and the team at the station. They have added some much-needed seating areas and additional planting positions, and the seats are well used by those waiting for trains.



In **May** it was a very busy time, everything had started to grow (even the weeds & wildflowers) as you can see below. We also have a display on the fence of the wildflowers which can be seen in various places on the station, it was a Project undertaken by Paul Rogers. In the new seating and planters, we inserted 25 geraniums we purchased from Kirkham Open Prison Farm Shop @hmp_kirkham as succession planting to replace the tulip bulbs.



In **June** amongst the routine work at the station such as mowing, weeding and trimming we did some fence painting and we managed to do a fair bit of it before the bad weather interfered and we have not had chance to get back to it due to other more important matters. We just had to get a picture of Paul Rogers in his painting outfit, he enjoyed it so much, with a little bit of help from a visiting Squires Gate volunteer. Volunteers try to help one another along the line when time allows, in order to make it look as good as it does, something that our SFLCRP Chairman likes to encourage.



A new key feature for the team was the introduction of an on-site tea break, though previously we had used a local Café until it closed. Some pictures of well-earned breaks during the recent months, with biscuits provided as well. The shelter was being used because there were no trains running on that Friday.



We already had a Shifting Sands poster at the station but another was added along with a BAFRUA history poster on the fence outside the station alongside the 2022 RHS awards. Paul Rogers is in golfing mood beside the board on the platform - it depicts Royal Lytham & St Anne's Golf Club. Rain doesn't stop the crew at the station from working, there is even a dragon's head created naturally out of ivy – can you see it?



In **July** we had some lovely Friday mornings at the station doing jobs that needed doing but most passengers probably wouldn't notice, a little trim here and a dead head there and it helps the plants thrive and look their best week after week.



In **August** the station started to see the gradual installation of some new “tactile paving” and a new yellow line. All that it needs now is the platform edge painting and it will look first class again. Well done to Northern and Network Rail. Lovely days at the station keeping it tidy and looking well cared for by the team.



Work continued into **September** and we were busy, Karen, Paul and Barrie were pruning back the dead gorse stems overhanging the platform, Rob was dealing with the perennial problem of weeding and of course we enjoyed the regular tea/coffee break as you will have seen earlier in the report. There was also a bee having a well-earned rest and preening itself on the platform. And of course, the last of the tactile paving had been finished.



Karen Cornforth
Friends of Ansdell and Fairhaven Station
(September 2023)