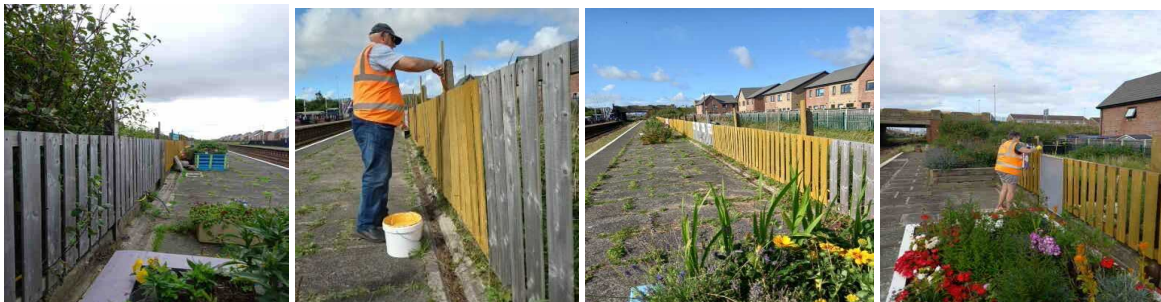


### Squires Gate – Station Update October 2023

In August we were given a seat by Northern to replace the one on Platform 1 that is slowly rotting away due to the salt corrosion we experience on the coast. We arranged to transport the seat from Kirkham “under-croft” to a secure location where we could prep it and make return it back to Northern blue colours once again. Sadly, ill health, too much rain and not enough “dry time” has played havoc with its refurbishment, but it is hoped to have it on site during early November 2023. We enjoy refurbishing station furniture because we can prep it, undercoat it a few times and then spend the extra bit of time giving it a couple of top coats so it gleams.



We also started painting the fencing on Platform 2 because the sun had dried the wood to the point of splitting. Little did we know how long it would take us, albeit we rejigged some of the boards on the platform so we could get behind them to paint. We purchased the paint from REPAINT in Blackburn, its repurposed paint from all over the area that is amalgamated from industry and business sources and sold to charitable and voluntary groups for half the price. Painting is not yet completed due to the weather and availability of the team due to holidays and other pressing matters.



During August we also added some extra fencing to deter and make it awkward for would be trespassers from making their way from Platform 1 to the housing behind Platform 2. We also took the opportunity to have a tea break, something that has been missing during the summer months. We more recently added a photograph of a locomotive similar to those that used to use the line in the 60s, which Paul would remember well! The fence even had a walk through at the bottom for the fox or maybe the local cats.



Unfortunately, because of the weather we had let Platform 1 become a little overgrown with weeds and terrible brambles that gain a strangle hold on anything in their way. However, during September/October we decided to have a concerted effort and with the aid of our newest recruit Tina (sat with her back to the camera) we definitely made an impression on the full length of the platform including cutting a swathe of greenery that was a persistent nightmare behind the fence. We get lots of encouraging comments from rail users (including one person from Poulton le Fylde who was in the area) and Northern crews, on our standard of work and what a difference we make to the surrounding area.



There are times when we can get too much water (on the Platform 2 side) as you can see here but there is not a lot we can do about it, unless we build a duck pond.



We have been doing some preparatory work for the new station sign now that we have decided how to go about installing the posts. Both Barry and Barrie conveyed the contents of three jumbo bags of materials to the work area. But the rain has since had a severe impact on our progress. It's also amazing how much ash and ballast is in the undergrowth. We even made a raised area near the IBCs so we did not have to stand in water.



In early September we installed the remainder of the boards that Shirley had created out of repurposed boards and they look splendid, we also repositioned other boards. We have harvested a few pears, some tomatoes we never planted and some apples still to be removed, though the apple tree we pruned back has not produced a large amount this year.



### Additional Update Info from Moss Side

Foliage has been cut back and a new shelter is being installed at Moss Side station along with the tactile paving etc – looking good as the work progresses.



We are as always, extremely indebted to Network Rail, Community Rail Lancashire, Northern, St Anne's Town Council, Fylde Borough Council and ISS for their support, inspiration, encouragement and the local community without which we could be able continue with our ongoing achievements and wider impact on the community.

Barrie Russell/Paul Nettleton  
Friends of Squires Gate Railway Station  
October 2023