

FRIENDS OF ANSDELL & FAIRHAVEN STATION - TEAM UPDATE (DECEMBER 2025 - MARCH 2026)

Here is a summary of the progress and key events:

- **Holiday Preparations & Artistic Touches (December):** The team installed Christmas decorations and trees, with volunteers performing necessary repairs. Artistic work was done on the faces of the raised beds, and gardening continued during favourable weather.
- **Station Security:** A temporary "lodger" was discovered behind the station fence and reported to the British Transport Police (BTP).
- **Winter Maintenance (January):** Holiday decorations were removed after New Year's Day, and beds were prepared for winter plants. Some team members also took the opportunity to experience the nostalgic train route change between Blackpool South and Blackpool North early in the month.
- **Special Projects & Enhancements (February - March):**
 - **Golf Event Preparation:** Golf figures are being repainted in anticipation of the Ladies Open Event at Royal Lytham in July.
 - **New Infrastructure:** Following a visit from Tony Ford, the group applied for a grant and successfully obtained new planters for the platform. The older beds were moved and are being repurposed for growing herbs.
 - **Sustainability & Wildlife:** A new bug hotel from the Community Workshop Lytham was received and is being prepared for "residents." The team also performed the first grass cut of the spring and is maintaining winter bedding daisies and daffodils.
- **Future Plans:** The team intends to sort the compost bins next and will provide a follow-up report in June.

TIMELINE

December

(Apologies for this late report which should have been done at the end of February).

We managed to get the Christmas decorations and trees out ready for the festive season, including some running repairs by Paul and Barrie.

Meanwhile Jill was using her artistic skills to fettle the faces on the raised beds whilst Daphne and Karen did some gardening during a rare dry but cool spell.

We also noticed we had a lodger discreetly hidden behind the fence. We reported it to BTP. (No one was actually seen but there were some basic items inside, though nothing to signify that it was used as a permanent residence).

The local Community Workshop in Lytham had advised us that they were making a bug hotel for the station, something new to look forward to in Spring.





January

Our Christmas trees and decorations were taken down just after New Years Day and some of the raised beds were prepared for winter bedding plants.

What a difference a year makes,

January 2025 saw us covered in a blanket of snow (as per the picture) - it was a little milder this year.

A rail user had left his bike attached to the handrails, a common occurrence.

As trains were only running from Blackpool South to Blackpool North from 1st to 4th January some of the team took the opportunity to enjoy a little bit of the nostalgia. Trains were not all that busy but it was a different experience.

February

Our golf figures were ready to be given a lick of paint for the July Ladies Open Event at Royal Lytham. We are hoping to get the handrails painted on the ramp this year with help from the Squires Gate team and ISS.

Following discussions with Tony Ford when he visited us, he suggested we might want to consider getting some new planters for the platform. As a result, we applied for a grant from Northern and moved to project forward. The older beds were moved out of the way for the time being.



March

We thought we might utilise the old raised beds until such time as they finally give up and we will probably put some herbs in them.

The bug hotel had been received and just needed filling with appropriate “bug” bedding and dormitories making for any homeless species. Picture of bug hotel in the workshop courtesy of Community Workshop Lytham.

We were keeping on top of watering some of the beds as the overlapping foliage does not always allow the rain to get to the roots. The winter bedding daisies amongst the daffodils were displaying some lovely flowers and there were even early ladybirds. The Spring weather allowed us to get our first cut of the grass completed.

We will be sorting out the compost bin contents and checking whether we have any rich compost, the results will be in our June update.

Karen Cornforth

Friends of Ansdell &
Fairhaven Station

14th April 2026