

Another year comes to an end...

As we pause to consider the many improvements and achievements that we've influenced and delivered over the last 12 months, our highlight of the year has to be the **GOLD ROSE AWARD** at this year's Yorkshire-in-Bloom competition.

This was a fantastic result and is wholly down to the dedication and efforts of our volunteers. They worked tirelessly to ensure the station looked its best and the award recognised this commitment.

I hope you find our news interesting and would like to take this opportunity to thank all our supporters and wish you a Merry Christmas on behalf of the Group. Thank you.

Christopher J Wright, Convenor (FofSBRS)

News Updates

Northern Rail Presentation Evening

A celebration for the **Yorkshire-in-Bloom** achievement was organised by Northern Rail on 30 October. A short thank you speech was given by Matthew Gibson (Station Manager, West Yorkshire, Northern Rail) and Dawn Wolrich from ACoRPs. The award and totem sign can be viewed at the Jubilee Refreshment Rooms at the station.



A buffet was provided by Northern Rail as a thank you to the Group and a special beer was commissioned for the award, aptly named 'Gold Rose' from local Micro Brewer Owenshaw Mills of Sowerby Bridge.

Winter Changeover of station planters

On Saturday 17 November, around 20 members carried out the replanting of all the locally sponsored planters and flower tubs ahead of the coming winter months. The new plants included primula, heucheras, pansies, bellis and viola as well as ivy and winter heather. We hope these will continue to give the station surroundings a pleasant experience until the next changeover in the spring of 2013.

Annual General Meeting

Our second AGM was held on 13 November, when annual reports and accounts were presented and adopted by the Group. The Management Committee were re-elected en-bloc and unopposed and in recognition of outstanding contribution to the success of the Group, life membership was conferred on Honorary President John King, George Francis, Dave Freer, Mick Pilling, Laurie Plumbe and former Station Master, Harold Wainwright.

Funding update

The grant funding received earlier this year from ACoRP (Association of Community Rail Partnerships) has been used to complete the purchase of a third replica station totem sign (to mark the 2012 Gold Award from YIB) and this will be displayed in the station subway alongside the existing totems marking our 2010 and 2011 awards.

Leaflet display in Sowerby Bridge library

A leaflet display has recently been provided at Sowerby Bridge library, Hollins Mill Lane. This will hold copies of the Group's current newsletter, recent minutes from our meetings, membership application forms and details about planned events and activities. We hope this will raise more awareness of our efforts in our local community.

Station improvement update...

The **Car Park extension** began in October and work is well underway. The project is scheduled to complete early 2013 and will provide an additional 40 car spaces as well as increased security through the installation of CCTV.

We are hopeful that the long awaited **new platform seating** is now back on track and may be in place in the not too distant future. A huge thank you to W.P.Eglin Ltd for this major improvement.

The Group has also secured further funding from ACoRP for the installation of **security mirrors** which will be fixed in the station subway in the near future. This is intended to give added security for the many station users.

Did you know?....

.... When the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway Company built the railway up the Ryburn Valley (first to Ripponden in 1878 and then on to Rishworth in 1881) their intention was to carry on into Lancashire by tunnelling beneath Blackstone Edge and joining up with the existing line near Hovingworth Lake..... Unfortunately, the money ran out and the scheme was never completed.

Had this come to fruition, the journey to Manchester would have been reduced by about 5 miles and Sowerby Bridge station would have become a major main-line station.

A look back on the Group's achievements to date

It's now two years since the Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station was formed and we've come a long way since our inception. We'd like to share with you a few of our highlights which hopefully demonstrate how we've improved the station for the benefit of our local community.

2011

- Station Users survey conducted to find out what improvements station users wanted the Group to focus on.
- The Group launches its first newsletter to inform the local community of our activities and to attract supporters and volunteers.
- Self service ticket machine installed on the Leeds platform
- Yorkshire in Bloom – Silver Gilt Rose Award



2012

- Live departure/arrival boards installed on both platforms
- Welcome Stone installed to the car park entrance
- Introduction of planter sponsorship initiative, engaging local businesses for their support.
- Sponsored hair cut event raised £360 for the Group and the Forget-me-Not Trust.
- Waiting room roof on platform 2 repaired
- Station platforms repainted
- Fully functioning self-filling watering system installed to harvest rainwater for the planters and flower beds
- Yorkshire in Bloom– Gold Rose Award
- Friends of Sowerby Bridge Railway Station Notice Boards installed on the station platforms to raise awareness of the Group's activities.
- Work started on the car park extension



Calendar of Upcoming Events

Date	Event
Weds 5 Dec	Carol singing 5pm – 6pm at the station. Mince pies and festive singing by local children from Mytholmroyd.
Tue 11 Dec	Open 'Committee ' Meeting. 7.30-8.30pm at the Jubilee.
Sat 15 Dec	Work Together session. 9am-12noon. Meet at the Jubilee
Tues 8 Jan	Open 'Committee ' Meeting. 7.30-8.30pm at the Jubilee.
Sat 19 Jan	Work Together session. 9am-12noon. Meet at the Jubilee.
Tue 12 Feb	Open 'Committee ' Meeting. 7.30-8.30pm at the Jubilee.
Sat 16 Feb	Work Together session. 9am-12noon. Meet at the Jubilee.
Tue 12 Mar	Open 'Committee ' Meeting. 7.30-8.30pm at the Jubilee.
Sat 16 Mar	Work Together session. 9am-12noon. Meet at the Jubilee.

Work Together Days vary and may involve weeding, tidying up the station, planting or watering the flower boxes etc. If you enjoy abit of cultivating and have a few hours to spare, please join us. Just ask for Chris at the Jubilee on the station.

Open 'Committee' Meetings are held once per month and the agenda includes general updates on the Group's activities and progress. Why not come and see what we're all about. You'll receive a warm welcome . Just ask for Chris.

Acknowledgements

THANKS..... for recent generous cash donations, the JRR customer who wished to remain anonymous, and the Reach Out Knit & Natter Over 50s Group. Also special thanks to Phil Hazeltine (HE&A Ltd, Norland Road) for a steel box , Simprint for the discounted print of our newsletters and to ACoRP and Northern Rail for their continued support.



**Finally – Merry Christmas from all at Friends of
Sowerby Bridge Railway Station**



Contact us: Tel: 07850 822590 or email: fofsbrs@gmail.com