

## Blooming 'n Brightening

### I asked for contributions for this Special Edition on the theme of Partnership.

I have been inundated with articles from our voluntary and professional partners. Many thanks to you all.

Why do we do it? A question sometimes asked when we are working on the station. It certainly is not for plaudits or accolades. Our forty members who have helped to make such an improvement to the station over the last eighteen months are solely interested in their community.

The most obvious sign of improvement is the gardening. We are now awaiting the go-ahead from Network Rail to extend the garden area to include a wildflower meadow which will be the province of our Junior Schools and their Key Stage 2 studies.

Throughout, you will see our emphasis is on the next generations. We are laying the foundation of a better station for them, and we hope they will appreciate this important amenity in future times of diminishing petrol supplies and growing road congestion.

We started by re-furbishing the Ironman Murals which had been created by all the schools some years ago. From this, the Year 8 students at Calder High produced the Northern Mosaic based on the Austrian artist Hunterwasser.

Then in December, at very short notice, Burnley Road school produced a super choir to greet homeward commuters with carols.

Now it is the turn of Scout Road School who have just finished their artwork which is going to make New Road and the station approach much more attractive. This has been made possible through funding from the Green Business Network, and the enthusiasm and expertise of Annie Lawson.



It is not only our volunteers we have to thank - but the local businesses who have sponsored the flower tubs - Valley Electronics, Lord Accountants, Beauty Clinic, Milly's Cafe, Shoulder of Mutton, Whitesands Travel, Firth Glass, Sabrosa Restaurant, Sue & Geoff Mitchell.

Then there is the support of Royd Regeneration, Hebden Royd and Calderdale Councils along with Churches Together.

Last but not least is the encouragement we have received from Metro, Network Rail and Northern Rail from the top management to our local station manager, Matt Gibson.

To everyone, thank you and let us all try to make Mytholmroyd and the station area an attractive place for residents and visitors.

Within a few miles there is the newly-created Open Spaces of the Pennines, with hundreds of waymarked footpaths and the national Route 66 Cycleway. So much to do and enjoy for local people and visitors.



Scout Road School artists finishing their Station Artwork with Annie Lawson

To answer my earlier question - why do we do it?

We are just so lucky living in such a vibrant community, willing to contribute to local improvements. My wife Sue and I have met many interesting people from the village since we started the Station partnership. The vitality of our local schools give us much encouragement.

The main thing is - it is enjoyable and whilst we might be volunteers - we are not amateurs!

Geoff Mitchell  
Chairman & Editor



# A Word from northern

Hello to all readers, Geoff 'Superman' Mitchell has asked me to write a few words on the Partnership for this special edition. In a way though it is the kind of partnership that does not need a lot of words because the actions and outcomes of it are so wonderfully visible to all. It is this time of year when delightful specks of colour and life start to emerge from hibernation and capture the optimism of spring after months of long dark nights and sub zero temperatures.

You may think this just happens, that Mother Nature has fired up once again and here are the fruits of her toil. Well much is owed to nature but much more at Mytholmroyd is testimony to the aching joints, calloused hands and grazed knees of the hard working and unsung local heroes that want to make a difference to their community.

The station at Mytholmroyd is enjoying a real renaissance in terms of its appearance, usage and train service. Much of this can be attributed to the benefits of Northern, Network Rail and Metro working together in partnership with the local team at Mytholmroyd to enhance the visible difference they have made to the station.



Northern Rail team (l to r) Mark Brun, Matt Gibson and Drew Haley

Previously we saw many more incidents of petty vandalism and graffiti at the station, this however is much more infrequent as the pride taken in the station by the community seems to have taken root, almost as much as the 5000 planted daffodils whose sunny faces we are now enjoying. The station is further enhanced by the artwork from local children and the newly refurbished Ironman Murals all down to the Partnership.

In terms of the train service we have more frequent trains calling at more stops. Additionally, direct trains via Dewsbury to Leeds started in December and bar a small hiccup with a landslide at Elland should be very popular. This has led to Mytholmroyd being a much busier station than it was a few years ago, we have seen an increase in passengers of around 20% on three years ago and 2500 passengers now using the station per week. We are currently working with Metro to bring extra resources to the Calder Valley to further enhance the service in line with recent government promises for extra trains, we will make sure Mytholmroyd gets its share and continues to prosper.

From all at Northern a big thank you for the help, cajoling and difference you have made to your station, as Citizen Smith said 'Power to the People'.

**Drew Haley** Stakeholder Manager



Burnley Road School singing carols for homeward commuters.

## Bringing it all together

That's what the last years planting did. It took many people working together to achieve the flower displays around the station that lifts spirits as you walk to catch your train.

Support from individuals provided the man power but it was our partners at Northern Rail and Hebden Royd Town Council who provided the plants, and a little bit of guidance from myself.

The planting complements the station and brings it to life, it's now a cleaner place but those tubs on the platform, with a splash of colour in them brighten the station users day, flowers make you smile.

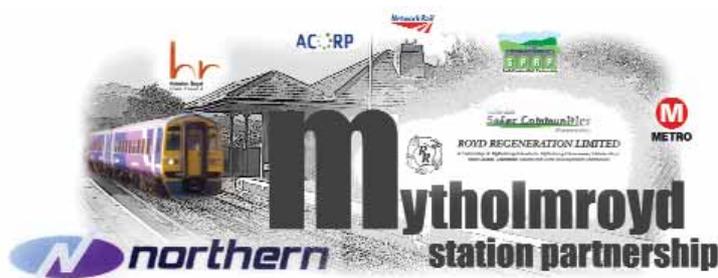
A cleaner and greener station make us all feel safer. Our partners realise this and 2008 should see the station in even better shape.

**Jason Boom**

*Environmental Community Warden, Hebden Royd Town Council*



Jason Boom and Jane Hall planning the next gardening improvements.



## Volunteering at Mytholmroyd Station – so easy to make a difference!

It started as a thought, 'What a mess, why doesn't somebody do something.....'

Then it follows 'Well, why not do something myself?'

Next a local group has been established or you notice a local advert asking for help.

Go along, if only for a couple of hours, that's not too much to ask, a bit of digging, brushing up, planting, and what a difference - simple, job done!

That wasn't too painful or time consuming and amongst a friendly bunch of people with similar ideas to improve their village - better than shopping!

Volunteering doesn't have to take a major part of a weekend or evenings, all it asks is what you can afford, some can give a lot, some only a little... but every bit helps, encourages others and makes a huge difference - just look at those daffodils...

Judith Schofield



Another 4,900 bulbs to Plant! From l to r, Stuart Greenwood, Sue Mitchell, Judith Schofield and Jane Hall pause from daffodil planting.



Half the Spring Clean team have a coffee break.

## Underneath the Arches

Plans are under way to make a derelict arch underneath the Stephenson Viaduct into a community space which will be at once stimulating and restful!

If this seems a contradiction in terms let me explain. We plan to create a community space in the derelict arch, where people can sit, meet and have a picnic, whilst at the same time be challenged by a sculpture stimulated by raised flower beds and be addressed, cajoled, and even harangued in a "Speaker's Corner"!

Design work by our Architect John Kershaw who has worked with Civic Trust projects will ensure a sympathetic respect for the architecture of the viaduct. Dale Gravenor Manager of the

Calder College Construction Academy is looking forward to involving his young students in working on some of the seating and flower beds, and designing the interior floodlighting the scheme will need.

We have offers of funding and with sponsorship possibilities, we look forward to making a start, on what we hope will lead to a rejuvenation not only of this space, but encourage the regeneration of the station building itself and the local area.

Fr John Gott



Viaduct Arch that could be become Speakers' Corner!

## Everyone has helped

The key factor to the success of the improvements to our station has been the partnership working.

This has been between the Mytholmroyd Station Partnership Committee, Hebden Royd Town Council, Northern and Network Rail, Calderdale Council, Royd Regeneration, the local schools and churches and the Police.

All have given of their time and support and those with funding available have enabled the Station Partnership to purchase goods and services.

The importance of the project is that a shared and focused scheme has demonstrated the power and effectiveness of local partnership working and has resulted in reduced vandalism and a much more pleasant station, which in the Springtime will again be a blaze of golden daffodils!

Let us hope that our success is an encouragement for others to take up the challenge!

Christine Bampton-Smith



Local councillors, Christine Bampton-Smith and John Beacroft-Mitchell help prepare for the Yorkshire in Bloom.

Like other un-staffed stations, Mytholmroyd has its share of problems.

**Do not get involved personally, contact the BT Police on 0800 40 50 40 (or 999 in an emergency) As soon as possible.**

Do not think you will be bothering anyone, you may well save a young life. Foolish people have been seen down on the track, Not only do they risk wasting their lives, they do not consider the distress they cause the train drivers who cannot stop or swerve, and who may well have youngsters of their own at home.

## The Lady and the Ironman

The station had been rather shabby, but not anymore. Under the guidance of Geoff Mitchell, and his band of hard working volunteers it has been transformed into a floral delight both for the Community, visitors and train users. Everyone worked together - with Northern Rail who had painted and installed the flower tubs amongst many other things, so it's a great big thank you to them along with Hebden Royd Town Council, Calderdale Regeneration.

Last March I had the honour of unveiling the re-furbished Ironman Murals on the station.

The sun was shining to greet the schools who had produced the Murals as well as our guest from Northern Rail management and the sponsors of the artwork.

During my opening speech a train rolled in at the station and the driver blew his whistle much to the delight of the school children on the platform, it all added to the event.

Since then, my husband and I have enjoyed many hours helping with the improvement work being undertaken by the Station Partnership.

**Betty Ward** (former Mayor Hebden Royd Town Council).

### Co-ordinating the Partnerships

The South Pennines Rail Partnership provides a link between the rail routes in the region and to support station adoption groups at places such as Mytholmroyd, Todmorden, Hebden Bridge and Littleborough.

The success of the South Pennines Rail Partnership is dependent upon my working with station partnerships, such as Mytholmroyd Station Partnership to enable local Railway Stations to be seen as integral within the local community.

If you would like any further information on the South Pennines Rail Partnership, please do not hesitate to contact me on 07912 753817.

**Rowena Chantler**



*Mayor Ward at the Ironman unveiling with (l to r) Matt Gibson and Chris Leech of Northern Rail and Geoff Mitchell.*



*Students from Cragg Vale School with Julie Lord of Sweet & Maxwell, one of the sponsors of the Ironman Murals.*

## Station History

Built seven years after the line from Manchester to Leeds was built in 1830.

Rebuilt in 1870.

De-staffed in 1980's.

Staircase and Viaduct are listed (Grade II) buildings.

Contact Michael Allen (Tel 882821) if you have anything interesting to say on the history or working of the station.

Michael has sent this snippet from the Workhouse records of 100 years ago - the number of paupers was decreasing in Mytholmroyd - a hard Workhouse perhaps?



*Station view c1890 (Courtesy Jack Uttley collection).*



## Calderdale Community Safety and Mytholmroyd Station Partnership

Community Safety's involvement with Mytholmroyd Station Partnership has been a practical one of enabling people to get together on issues that affected them and their community, providing information, sharing and supporting ideas and providing small bits of funding to get things started.



*Chris Leech MBE, Northern Rail Schools and Youth Liaison Manager with Mags Bryson and Mary Clear.*



*BT Police Officer Mark Stokes and West Yorks Officer Amanda Hurd visit the Northern Mosaic.*

The Station Partnership is a very positive active group of local people who work with other organisations to improve the environment and have taken on various tasks and engaged young people in creating a mosaic for the station platform.

All the work carried out so far has contributed to a reduction in anti-social behaviour, challenged perceptions of crime and hopefully reduced level of fear for people using the rail station.

Partnership working is the key to successful outcome for organisations and communities, long may it continue.

**Mags Bryson**

*Principal Community Development Officer – Safer Communities*



## Mytholmroyd Walkers' Action

Rail travellers arriving at the westbound platform and walking down the passenger slope cannot miss the 'Walkers are Welcome' information board which has suggested local walks (clearly waymarked with roundels).

Interested? Then you'll want to buy a Mytholmroyd Walkers' Action illustrated guide (50p) from the outlets in the village.

Mytholmroyd Walkers' Action is delighted to work in partnership with the Station group: all our walks start and end at the station. Look out for further information about our Ted Hughes walk on Sunday 26 October.

**Jill Liddington**



### Did You Know?

In the dark old BR days we used to have 3-car Calder Valley Diesels and the exhaust fumes used to come inside. 40 years later - we are getting 3-car trains back - this time, shiny and air-conditioned from Northern Rail.