

The Friends have had a really successful and award winning year. Having won the Cheshire Best Kept Cheshire Station award in 2017, we won it again in 2018. This is solely down to the efforts of our hardworking volunteers so a big 'THANKS' to them all.



Three years ago, every tree along the 160 yard long platform 1 cutting was axed in error by Northern. A new copse of 5 specimen *Betula Utilis Jacquemontii* Silver Birch trees has now been planted as a focal point for platform 1 cutting. They have an attractive white bark.



The existing planters looked superb :



A new self-watering planter was bought for platform 2 and it has been planted up with red *Impatiens Walleriana*.



Ferns have been planted adjacent to the ramp going to platform 2



Four water butts have been purchased and are connected to downspouts. They were fitted with locking taps to stop vandals draining them, but they have still been mindlessly smashed off. BTP are now involved.



## Public defibrillator

Funds via grants were raised by FofHCS for a defibrillator and a secure stainless steel cabinet, which is now mounted on the front of the station with 24-hour public access.

A power supply was fitted by Northern Rail for a small heater inside the cabinet. Instructions for access are displayed above on the station wall. Basically, ring 999 initially to be given



the access code to open the cabinet; when open remove the

unit, open it and then straightforward instructions for its use are given for heart attacks and cardiac arrests.

**TIME IS THE KEY**

**EVERY MINUTE'S DELAY CAN BE CRITICAL**

The pads are single use only and the rechargeable battery requires annual replacement. A local company *WAU Design* kindly offered to fund these consumables, so big thanks to them. Neil Waude *WAU* director and our FofHCS chairman Phil are in this photo.



## Four Heaton's Easter Egg Trail



Some FofHCS members took part in a 4HTA Easter Egg Trail and created this display for our booking hall.

These two cute 'Easter Bunnies' visited Heaton Chapel Station to see our 'Megghan Trainor\*' entry.

[\* Meeghan Trainor is an American singer-songwriter].



## Station House

In *Station House* [above the station], there are five large empty rooms, plus a kitchen and bathroom with toilet. We have asked Northern to agree to the rooms being used for community use, including one for FofHCS. We propose that a separate Trust company with directors responsible for all the insurances, finances and legalities of day to day running be formed.

A fire assessment and an H&S assessment for the public to be allowed to use *Station House* were agreed in June 2018 with Northern Rail management.

FofHCS have asked Northern Rail to :

1. Install an electricity meter asap [promised a year ago]
2. To clear the pigeons from the roof-space and temporarily repair the hole from inside the roof
3. To decorate the interior of the building

Network Rail has decided that the roof needs replacing. It has a large hole in it with many missing slates and ridge tiles; it is rotten. Funding will be required which is likely to take quite a long time to be arranged.

## Cheshire Best Kept Station awards 2017 and 2018

For the second year running, FofHCS have won an award. It is for three local skylines painted under the bridge on the ramp to P2 which was a dark gloomy area. The Friends prepared the walls and the artwork was created by Eamonn Murphy and our charman Phil.



## Scarecrows

Some unusual countryside visitors called into our station earlier this year.



The Queen and Linnet



[not a scarecrow]

These visitors came from a Scarecrow event which was organised by the Heaton Mersey Collective and Lamplighters Rotary Club.

# FofHCS members drive the new Azuma 125mph trains

Northern Rail kindly invited five members to drive their new Azuma simulator at Leeds. These new LNER Class 800 Super Express Azuma [which means 'east' in Japanese] electro-diesel trains are now in service from Leeds to Kings Cross. These trains use Japanese bullet train technology, and are built by Hitachi's UK team in Durham.



we reached its top speed of 125 mph



## New Heritage station sign

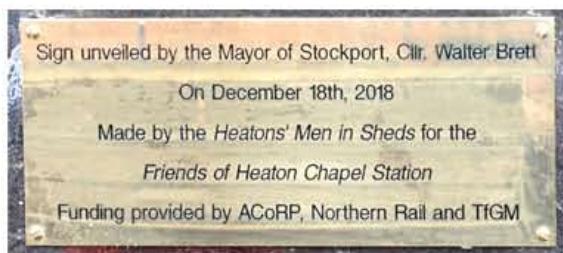
We recently bought our old BR Heaton Chapel & Heaton Moor Station sign and decided to ask Heaton's Men in Sheds to make a 'Victorian' running-in sign for platform 2; they did a fantastic job and many thanks to all MIS



HMIS team deliver the heritage sign in sections



Our Mayor of Stockport Cllr. Walter Brett unveiled it with an accompanying brass plaque in December 2018.



Anthony Williams is the chair of Heaton's Men in Sheds



A second sign for platform 1 is planned.

Finally, why not join us at one of our monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month in the Moor Club, starting at 19.00?

Our next one is on Monday 5th August, 2019