

- Despite the previously poor waiting environment in the last 5 years there has been a 56% increase in passenger numbers at Cherry Tree station highlighting the importance of our local railways.
- However from today over 45,000 people can now enjoy a safer, more vibrant, fun and comfortable waiting environment thanks to all your hard work.
- From the development of vivid art panels and a spot the difference poster, the planting of thousands of bulbs and plants, the creation of bird boxes and recording of a station song trapped in an imaginary song mine capped by a bespoke ceramic design to the investment in cctv, new shelters and signage I think you will agree this project has showcased a plethora of local skills and talents and has transformed the gateway to the community.
- The All change at Cherry Tree project has been a rousing success and thanks must go to the tireless work of our Community Rail Lancashire team notably Brian Howarth and local artist Alastair Nicholson for coordinating the various community activities.

Special thanks must also go to the following:

- Emma Fielding our resident Park Warden
- Northern Rail for supporting our work
- Children and staff of St Francis Primary school
- Youth Groups at Mill Hill and Greenfield Community Centres
- Local Beavers, Cubs and Scouts groups (and parents)
- Blackburn College staff and students
- Community Payback teams
- Young musicians at Strawberry bank and Kaleidoscope Centres
- Amanda Healy and members of her ceramics group at Witton Park
- Jane Coulthard and Horticultural team at Stanley Grange

I would also like to thank Cllr Bateson for her continued support of Community Rail Lancashire and sustainable transport in general. In times of financial austerity Cllr Bateson has remained committed to ensuring the public are provided with a much improved transport system with Pennine Reach, the creation of a strategic cycle network and major rail investment projects all helping to shape the future prosperity of the borough and its people. Without this political support much of our efforts would be in vain.