

2 July 2008

Walkden station celebrates 120 years



FOWS' Angela Critchley, Peter Aust, and Northern Rail's Bill Robison pose with the birthday cake.

Picture by kind permission of the Salford Advertiser.

Stakeholder Manager Mark Barker cut the station's birthday cake with the ever-popular Marion Bainbridge from the Booking Office. In a short speech he thanked FOWS for their efforts in improving the station and playfully wished the crowd "Many Happy Returns ... Singles ... Day Rangers ..." !

The event was supported by well-wishers from Northern Rail, British Transport Police (BTP), local councillors and a representative of local MP Barbara Keeley (who was unable to attend due to Westminster commitments).

FOWS Chair Peter Aust, in his striking red Toast Master's costume, offered a champagne toast to celebrate the anniversary and thanked Northern Rail and BTP for their continued support of FOWS' efforts to improve the station and its services.

British Transport Police shared the booking office stall with FOWS and gave away crime prevention leaflets and gifts.

FOWS wish to thank the following organisations for their help in staging this event:

- **Northern Rail** for their support and donation of the raffle prize
- **Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP)** for making a grant from their Small Projects fund towards the costs
- **British Transport Police** for their support and gifts to passengers
- **Salford Advertiser** for allowing FOWS to use their photographs.

More details about the opening of the railway line through Walkden and its history can be found on the FOWS website at www.walkdenstation.org.uk/history.shtml

Friends of Walkden Station held a celebration to mark the 120th Anniversary of the first ever passenger train from the station: the 5.15am departure to Manchester Victoria on July 2nd 1888.

Volunteers decorated the station with balloons and historic photographs of the station dating back over 100 years, and manned a stall in the Booking Office with leaflets and gifts for morning rush hour travellers. 120 goodie bags, each containing a leaflet, snack and Northern Rail gift, were given free to passengers, while a raffle for rail tickets donated by Northern Rail raised £50 for group funds.

Northern Rail's Station Manager Bill Robison was on hand to meet station users, and Client



Celebrations continue on the platform.

Picture by kind permission of the Salford Advertiser.

About the Friends of Walkden Station (FOWS)

FOWS is a community volunteer group that campaigns for improved services and facilities at Walkden station in Greater Manchester. The group perform voluntary activities such as gardening, litter collections, and cleaning to improve the station environment.

FOWS works in partnership with Salford City Council, Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive and, in particular, Northern Rail.

Website: www.walkdenstation.org.uk
Weblog: <http://walkdenstation.wordpress.com>
Email: neil.stapleton@luminary.co.uk