

Friends of Handforth Station: “A Platform for Art”

The Friends of Handforth Station, formed in 1996, were awarded National Lottery money to create a "Platform for Art". This has developed over the years and the station is now well recognised in the area for its range of varied and changing art installations and other enhancements inspired by the local community.

This guide details the current artwork and other enhancements that are visible at the station (in Summer 2022). They can generally be seen in the sequence given below.

Ticket office

- Station Connections pictures by Eamonn Murphy - part of Art Trail through Handforth village (2022)
- Latest Cheshire Best Kept Station award, for Promoting Rail Travel (2021)
- Plaque commemorating the visit of HRH Prince Charles (2010)
- Plaque commemorating the opening of new ticket office by Martin Bell MP (2001)
- Display commemorating 180th anniversary of Manchester-Sandbach Railway (2022)

Station forecourt

- Historic BRITISH RAILWAYS HANDFORTH STATION maroon running in board, 1950s
- Millennium screen - Handforth Youth Club and artist Chris Waygood (2000)
- 3 Community Information Boards, currently displaying artwork by Benedict's RC Primary School, the Wilmslow Academy and Handforth Grange School (2022)
- Flagpoles used to display community-designed flags, two awaiting repairs as part of lift installation, one flying Ukrainian national flag
- Plaque commemorating visit of descendants of WW1 prisoners in Handforth camp (2014)
- Three boards commemorating 180th anniversary of Manchester-Sandbach Railway (2022)
- Artistic weather vane by Macemain
- Banner commemorating 180th anniversary of Manchester-Sandbach Railway (2022)
- Totem marking twinning of Handforth Station with Malahide Station, Ireland (2018)
- 25th anniversary screen - artist Paul Pickford, schools and local community (2021)
- Lectern introducing Handforth Station and the FoHS (2016)
- 3 planters maintained by FoHS
- 7 roadside planters maintained by Handforth Town Council

Art in a Box (top of steps to Wilmslow-bound platform)

- Coming soon: “Handforth Rocks” exhibition by Wilmslow Grange School

Stockport-bound Platform

- Welcome archway “From the Past to the Future” - artist Christine Wilcox-Baker and SK9 Youth Club (2019)
- Totem commemorating visit by HRH Prince Charles (2010)
- “Light At the End of the Tunnel” screens over both ends of shelter - by artist Tracy Cartledge and local schools, to mark the station's re-opening following line closure for West Coast line Modernisation works (2004)
- Rotary Sculpture Garden - see below for details (2002)
- Commemorative seat for Steve Nash, Treasurer FoHS (2019)

- Two Hedgehog Hotels, a Bug Train and various bird boxes (2020)
- Carved sleepers by Paul Noon - animals spelling HANDFORTH (1995)
- Totem marking twinning of Handforth Station with Malahide Station, Ireland (2018)
- Bird boxes by Girl Guides (2007)
- Ceramic tree names by artist Elizabeth Maddock (1998)
- Chinese Handforth calligraphy totem by Jack Chai (2014)
- Greek calligraphy totem by Hellas Taverna (2020)
- Banner commemorating 180th anniversary of Manchester-Sandbach Railway (2022)
- 4 Planters by FoHS and 1st Handforth Scouts (2021)
- Handforth sign in British Sign Language by DSN Macclesfield (2020)
- Historic HANDFORTH maroon running in board from the 1950s, generously loaned by the Connolly family (2019)

Rotary Sculpture Garden (on Stockport-bound platform)

- Garden design by *Handforth in Bloom* and artist Samantha Heap (2002)
- Carved Victorian "passengers" by South Trafford College (2002)
- Contemporary "passengers" by Paul Noon (2003)
- Mushrooms by wood turner John Moreton (2009)
- Design of ceramic animals by Dean Oaks School (2014)
- Carved railway sleeper "Woodpecker" by Paul Noon (1999)
- Time capsule commemorating centenary of Handforth Girl Guiding (2010)
- Collection of Cheshire Best Kept Station signs (various years)

Wilmslow-bound Platform

- Welcome archway "Railway Line DNA" - artist Christine Wilcox-Baker and SK9 Youth Club (2019)
- "Light At the End of the Tunnel" screens over both ends of shelter - by artist Tracy Cartledge and local schools, to mark the station's re-opening following line closure for West Coast line Modernisation works (2004)
- Carved railway sleeper "Lacewing" by Paul Noon (1997)
- 15 "Handforth totems" by various foreign railway companies, ranging from SNCF (French Railways) to LUAS (Dublin trams) via London Underground, Hong Kong and more (1995-2018)
- Totem marking twinning of Handforth Station with Malahide Station, Ireland (2018)
- Historic BRITISH RAILWAYS HANDFORTH STATION maroon running in board of the 1950s, designated by the Science Museum Group (2015)
- Herb planting area, maintained by Girl Guides
- Replica black & white LNWR running in boards, by FoHS and MIND member John Lowe (2016)