

## Squires Gate Update 28/10/2022

On Platform 2 the team have filled (we used 6 bulk bags of soil and individual bags of manure) and planted up the new sleeper bed with various perennials which should look good next year once they have rooted well and settled down.

The ramp area still needs to have raised beds made and installed but they will have to wait because we don't have the funding due to the high cost of materials, we will however lay some concrete bases in the meantime between November 2022 and May 2023. We are intending to move the first raised beds we installed in the centre of Platform 2 to reduce the overall cost.



We have added another raised bed seat further down the platform which is now planted up, but needs the compost topping up as its settled. One of our last structural events is the new LMS style Station sign which is taking shape. Its 11 ft long and will be on support legs deep in the ground. We won't show the completed look because that would spoil the unveiling which we hope to do eventually. We are going to install an IBC on the greenspace at the back of Platform 2 pending Network Rail confirmation, so that we can use water sourced from the "out-house" roof of one of our neighbours' homes. We already have a full wheelie bin from this source which we are using but it frequently overflows due to its capacity. Once Network Rail confirm that we can retain the IBC we will be regularly testing it using a **Water Quality Test Meter** and using granules if necessary to keep it fresh, all details of our action will be recorded for safety purposes and reported to our Network Rail contacts. We are also planning to lay out a wildlife pond in the greenspace in the fullness of time.



On Platform 1 we are trying a new idea, instead of planting bulbs directly into our raised beds we are going to put them in pots, like the one below. We will then plunge the pots into the raised beds, with either some polyanthus, primulas or pansies on top and let them flower next year, then just remove the pots without having to wait for the stems to die off and go yellow and replace with summer perennials.



Our **Station Manager** gave us permission earlier this year to utilise the space behind the fence on Platform 1 for storing water and/or cultivation of plants. We are hoping to locate an IBC tank away from the fences at the point in the foreground of the picture, with two nursery beds on either side of the tank all secured into place so that they cannot be moved. We have also cut a gate into the fence which you can see open and closed on the pictures. It has a 16 lock on it so that only railway staff and volunteers can access it. Fylde Council have said that they will top-up the tank using their mobile IBC tank from May 2023 and on a cyclic basis during each growing season. This means we will not need to collect rainwater. The tank will be emptied at the end of the season and cleaned out. During the growing season it will be regularly monitored using a **Water Quality Test Meter** (yellow pancellent below) and details recorded for safety purposes and reported to our Network Rail and Northern contacts on a regular basis, we always try to be as safety minded as possible at Squires Gate.



Finally, we have prepared our Silent Soldiers for Remembrance 2022 by giving them a lick of paint and changed the plaques at the base. We also added another “partnership” board – “Lancashire County Council” to the fence.



Barrie Russell  
Co-ordinator Friends of Squires Gate Station  
October 2022