

Friends party as station marks 175 years on line

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TRAIN buffs and community members came together to mark a milestone anniversary at Littleborough railway station.

Friday saw the station's 175th anniversary commemorated by local residents and dignitaries at a celebration that was organised by the Friends

of Littleborough Stations (FOLS).

Youngsters from Holy Trinity CE Primary and Littleborough Community Primary Schools set the festive mood by playing music to entertain the crowd.

Rochdale MP Simon Danczuk, then unveiled a commemorative plaque outside the station's booking office, which has been sponsored by Fothergill Engineering.

FOLS chairman Rae Street welcomed guests to the event.

She then gave a brief address about the proud history of the station, as well as the group's ongoing campaign for better waiting facilities and the electrification of the Calder Valley line.

She also thanked Littleborough Historical and Archaeological Society, whose history centre occupies station buildings

on the Yorkshire-bound platform.

Mr Danczuk gave a speech on how the railways democratised transport for working people, enabling them to travel by train for work and recreation.

After the unveiling, light refreshments were served in the history centre, where copies of a booklet on the history of the station, written by Sheila Wild, the group's acting

secretary, were on sale.

The station was unveiled at a gala ceremony on July 3, 1839 and opened to the public the following day.

The first train set off at 12.22pm, with 11 carriages, for first, second and third class passengers, drawn by two engines; The Stephenson and The Kenyon.

The Summit Tunnel opened in 1841, allowing the completion of the line to Leeds.



● MP Simon Danczuk unveils the commemorative plaque at the station.