

Celebrating outstanding achievement
in community rail development

AC:RP
New life for local lines

**Community
Rail Awards
2018**

Winners

Awards presented at
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, Glasgow

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Congratulations

Congratulations from the Association of Community Rail Partnerships!



This report showcases the wonderful winners of our prestigious Community Rail Awards 2018. It demonstrates the array of positive work being delivered by community rail partnerships, station friends, and other groups around Britain – so we hope it offers ideas and inspiration for those working in community rail already, and those thinking of getting involved.

**Our congratulations
go to not only our
2018 award winners,
but everyone who
contributed to all
180 entries we received.**

The Community Rail Awards celebrate the passion and hard work of those involved in community rail. But they also play a critical function. They help us to share good practice, and spread the word about community rail. They help to build understanding of community rail's role and its vital contribution to

mobility, sustainable development, health and wellbeing.

If you are reading this report to find out more about community rail, we hope you enjoy learning about what can be achieved through positive, collaborative work to enable communities to get the most from their railways. We encourage you to get in touch with us, the umbrella body for community rail, to explore how we can work together.



Jools Townsend, chief executive, ACoRP



Involving Children and Young People

sponsored by Rail Media

First

Conwy Valley Railway Partnership for The Rail Safety Video

Concept and aims

The objective was to create and produce a rail safety film where the message would be understood by children in junior school. The video was designed to be informative, educational, and practical in raising awareness of the dangers of the railway, while, most importantly, resonating with its audience.

Many children will tell you that while they may not watch 'conventional' TV, they access YouTube and watch vloggers on smart phones and tablets. They may even be a YouTube user with their own channel! So, the project team created a storyboard centred on a YouTube vlogger presenting a video on rail safety.

The aim was to produce an interactive film in three sections covering the dos and don'ts of rail safety on the Conwy Valley Railway, focusing on getting on the train, behaviour on the platform, and how to use crossings.

What happened

Conwy Valley Railway Partnership teamed up with Arriva Trains Wales (ATW), Conwy Council, and TAPE, a community arts charity. They agreed the aim, a timescale of six months, a budget of £3,200, and identified an appropriate school to work with, Ysgol Maenofferen in Blaenau Ffestiniog.

ATW approached the school and asked teachers and pupils in years 4 and 6 whether they would like to take part in an exciting railway project that they could help plan and direct. The answer was a resounding yes! The train operator then arranged dates for four workshops with the classes and the film team at TAPE, covering;

- **session 1:** Introducing the project, meeting the team, and learning how to use the video equipment
- **session 2:** Exploring rail safety knowledge and understanding
- **session 3:** Planning the storyboard and script with the children, with the class split into three based around the themes of the video
- **session 4:** Choosing the cast and using the hand-held camera and GoPro

All children had the opportunity to talk on camera or act as director, with the bi-lingual film, in both English and Welsh, needing two presenters and a supporting cast. Teachers agreed that children who had demonstrated positive behaviour within the project would be rewarded with the opportunity of being part of the crew.



Conwy Valley Railway @LeinDooonwyVLine - Jun 22
Hwyl fawr yn @CeLLBlaenau Heddiw efor @maenofferen
Great fun at the premiere of Conwy Valley Railway Safety Video for @YouTube
@ACoRPOffice

After the cast and locations had been agreed, the children, guided by ATW, shot scenes on the platform, on the train, at the station, and next to a level crossing. Footage of the vlog presenter was also shot in the classroom, along with scenes in the playground.

Filming took place over three days, followed by many edits by the TAPE team, who felt it was important that they listened to the children on how to make the video fun and engaging by adding games, animation, and special effects, while still ensuring the necessary rail safety points were covered.

The Conwy Valley Railway officer arranged a red-carpet premiere complete with a VIP reception and the exclusive use of a large screen cinema.

David Crunkhorn, station manager for ATW, said: "This is a brilliant and engaging video that really gets the message across about railway safety in a creative way. The safety of everyone using the railway has to be top priority, and hopefully having young people involved will help get those points across to many more young people across Wales."

Results

- Video completed and uploaded to YouTube, with more than 300 views - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_LnN4DDa3Ts
- Film now available as a resource for ATW staff, Network Rail, and other Community Rail Partnerships
- Video also available at Dangerpoint, a children's safety centre in North Wales, forming part of its rail safety sessions

Involving Children and Young People

sponsored by Rail Media

Second

Sevenside Community Rail Partnership, Cotham School, and Great Western Railway for How to Stay on the Move over Easter 2018 and Beyond

Students from Cotham School turned communications experts by helping to script and take starring roles in a film about bus-rail replacement services in advance of the Bristol area signalling renewal and enhancement project.

The film received over 4,500 Facebook views, 9,000 Twitter impressions, and around 700 YouTube hits. Designed for a teenage audience but equally relevant for adults, it unexpectedly became a training tool for Great Western Railway, Network Rail, and agency staff.

Students had great fun, grew in confidence, developed new presentation skills, and their participation in the project opened up new ideas about career choices. Passengers were also well-informed about alternative travel arrangements over Easter 2018 and beyond.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WxZlcnQIEo&t=22s>



Third

Merseyrail with Everton in the Community and Everton Free School for The Blue Garden

Everton Football Club and the Everton Free School contacted Merseyrail to explore the opportunity of adopting Kirkdale station to help regenerate the site, similar to projects that had already been carried out at other stations on the network.

The first phase of the project was to install a blue garden at the station for the use of rail users. This included three planters made by the students at the school. The planters contain seasonal shrubs and flowers and are constructed in the style of the famous Archibald Leitch design of the stands at Everton's Goodison Park. The club also donated three seats from the stadium to allow passengers to sit within the garden area.

The scheme was introduced to enhance the feeling of community at the station by engaging with local young people, opening new communication channels with what is often a hard-to-reach group. The project was planned, designed, and carried out by the students, and they are also now responsible for maintaining the site.



Involving Diverse Groups

sponsored by **Great Western Railway**

First

Community Rail Lancashire for The Railway Confidence Programmes



Concept and aims

Young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) often struggle to access public transport for a range of reasons, from sensory or physical needs to a lack of confidence.

Most of the young people engaged in this programme had never travelled by train before, meaning that every stage that forms part of a confident and comfortable journey, from finding the station, to purchasing a ticket, to locating the platform, plus the travelling process itself, had to be learned.

With this in mind, Community Rail Lancashire (CRL) developed two programmes, the Railway Confidence Programme (RCP), and the Railway Confidence Employment Experience (RCEE). The RCP was designed to develop confident rail use among young people with SEND aged from four to 18, with the RCEE aimed at providing young people aged 15 and above with an employment experience to assist them in considering career options in rail and community rail.

CRL works closely with Northern, the British Transport Police (BTP), Merseyrail, Merseytravel, and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), across train-operating company (TOC) boundaries, ensuring young people with SEND have the resilience, skills, and confidence to use rail.

What happened

Since March, more than 300 people have accessed RCP and RCEE, with participants also playing a key role in other projects such as 'Together we are tRAILblazers!', and 'Make a Beeline for the Station!', which engage young people in responsible rail use. By giving young people the opportunity to access rail, the project team encouraged the idea of being passengers for life and building a more inclusive society.

Through addressing factors that may have prevented rail use and providing strategies for overcoming those – such as visualising disruptions or planning journeys – the projects enabled independent rail use. Activities ranged from comic strip illustrations of 'What to do when things go wrong', to a bag-packing activity where the key message was not only having a ticket to travel, but also items such as money, medicine, or other essentials.

The scheme can be entirely tailored to suit groups and build necessary skills, as was the case for one group from Broadfield Specialist School in Oswaldtwistle, which had several

students who were actively scared of train travel. This group required an eight-week programme of engagement to build up to a journey during which they could demonstrate their new-found abilities and confidence.

The RCEE gives young people with SEND the opportunity to experience rail employment. The project team felt that for the future equality, diversity, and inclusion of rail and community rail, it was vital that all young people be given the opportunity to enjoy positive experiences within the industry. Working in partnership with Northern and BTP, the young people travelled to a key station location and met rail staff where they were given the opportunity to understand the different roles and responsibilities and ask questions about rail employment.

Results

Following the RCP, one teacher commented; "The boys had an amazing time. For two of our pupils who had never been on a train before, it was fantastic to see their faces. I am sure other pupils will want to be a part of this experience in the future."

Following the RCEE, 93% of participants said they would consider applying for a job in rail or community rail, with a 99% score of full marks (10/10) for enjoyment, excitement, and usefulness. One student said the session was, "Actually brilliant, can't fault it. When I have left college, I would love to work for Northern."

The RCEE has had a 100% uptake rate with all schools contacted, with the RCP also experiencing a high level of engagement. Word of mouth and promotion by teachers across school cluster groups has enabled both programmes to spread rapidly.



Involving Diverse Groups

sponsored by **Great Western Railway**

Second

Rail 74 Community Rail Partnership for Hamilton West Totem Pole Project

The Rail 74 Community Rail Partnership in urban South Lanarkshire, working with a range of partners, supported, funded, and facilitated an innovative virtual project to raise community awareness and increase the skills and confidence of local residents.

The Totem Pole Project involved three diverse and vulnerable community groups within the area of Hamilton West station, who worked together to produce a hand-crafted virtual Totem Pole without ever actually meeting. The main aim of the project was to help people and break down barriers, with the scheme being a first of its kind in using technology and cohesive relationships to build a project, to create artwork, and to leave a legacy.



Third

Acorn Village and Essex & South Suffolk CRP for Manningtree Railway On Tracks and Art in the Tunnel



Acorn Village On Track and Arts in the Tunnel is 'an arts project with a difference', developed by Essex & South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership in conjunction with Acorn Village, a community for people with learning disabilities. Magical murals now lighten and enhance the subway and include a gallery of the artist's self-portraits.

All work was designed and painted by residents and depicts local sights and attractions viewed through train windows. There is also a 13-metre mural flowing across the opposite wall with words floating throughout leading to the Mayflower ship. Residents involved in the project said they felt they "owned" the work and were "incredibly proud" of it.

Community Art Schemes Permanent

sponsored by Grand Central

First

Sevenside Community Rail Partnership & Crimestoppers for The Fearless Four Seasons Mural

Concept and aims

Montpelier is a suburb of Bristol synonymous with street art, from genuine Banksy's to tiny tags. Until 2006, the Montpelier station building suffered from graffiti. The problem was eradicated by the commissioning of a piece of street art by local artist Silent Hobo. This mural covers the entire building, is highly regarded, and remains untouched by vandals and graffiti taggers.

More recently, graffiti tags began to appear on a wall spanning 50 metres at the far end of the platform. It became impossible to paint over, and the wall looked un-inviting to passengers. It was therefore decided to commission a second mural at the station, covering the whole wall.

The Sevenside Community Rail Partnership (CRP) is an ambassador organisation for Crimestoppers. The charity was seeking opportunities to promote its youth brand "Fearless", and with crime reduction at the core of the project, the team felt it was apt to include the brand logo and website in the new mural, providing young people with a channel for reporting crime with 100% anonymity.

What happened

The Sevenside CRP invited expressions of interest from local artists, with Silent Hobo selected. The project team felt it was important that his work was already familiar to, and respected by, the local community. However, it was decided that the new mural would differ from previous projects by involving the wider community in its design and creation.

The brief requested that in addition to promoting the Fearless campaign, the mural should have a theme. The concept of the four seasons – to compliment the flora and fauna surrounding the station – was agreed.

People were invited to engage with the project by answering questions capturing their thoughts on the different seasons with posters displayed on a community notice board at the station, circulated to local schools, and shared on social media. A total of 170 responses were received, with Silent Hobo asked to incorporate as many as possible.

The wall had to be completely whitewashed to create a blank canvas for the mural, and a team of volunteers from Network Rail, Great Western Railway, and Sevenside CRP joined a group working under the Community Payback scheme to complete the job.

Pupils from Dolphin Primary School and students from the City of Bristol College participated in two street art master classes during the week, where they learnt about

seeking the necessary permissions before using spray paints and had a go at developing their creative skills.

The mural took seven days and was documented by daily posts on Sevenside CRP's Twitter, drawing local media attention from Made in Bristol TV and the Bristol 24/7 magazine. There was also an expression of interest from the BBC for its Springwatch team to film at the station.

Results

The mural is so large that it is difficult to show via photos, and is best appreciated on:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LYSPBX-xxPY>.

A CRP spokesperson said: "The new mural clearly reflects the hopes and the themes that came across very strongly in the community consultation. It has been applauded by local and wider Bristol communities, with rail staff and passengers welcoming the replacement of the old graffiti with a bright, colourful creation that impresses with its integration of art and landscape."

Highlighting their achievements, the team said the mural project had created:

- a sense of pride in quality street art across the neighbourhood, allowing Montpelier to be distinct from other districts, with a message that mindless graffiti tagging is not welcome
- support for the protection of the wildlife habitat on the disused platform, especially the badgers, foxes, and deer that are frequently seen
- a successful project that had involved young people developing creative skills, with some giving their time voluntarily
- an increased awareness by station users of the Crimestoppers Fearless campaign
- a reduction in the number of new graffiti tags or anti-social behaviour at the station



Community Art Schemes **Permanent**

sponsored by **Grand Central**

Second

Penistone Line Partnership for Huddersfield It's Your Station



This award-winning project worked with local community groups to create an enhanced platform 2 area of Huddersfield station. The project engaged with groups new to the Penistone Line Partnership, enabled the promotion of rail travel, and boosted confidence in using the railway whilst promoting the connectivity between Northern and TransPennine services.

The overall project encouraged engagement with the station and the railway and provided a talking point to inspire people to explore the area by train.

Third

Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership/ Transport for Greater Manchester/ Blessed Thomas Holford College for Marvellous Community Art

Marvellous Community Art at Altrincham Interchange was a project that brought Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership, Transport for Greater Manchester, and Blessed Thomas Holford College together to deliver both amazing student-produced art work and a 'Marvellous Days Out' promotion across the Mid Cheshire Line.

The artwork was created to help foster a sense of belonging, pride, and ownership for young people within the Altrincham community.

The art spans the entire interchange and celebrates local history, transport, and the Manchester worker bee theme, which has become synonymous with the whole city.



Community Art Schemes Renewable & Smaller

sponsored by **Transport for Greater Manchester**

First

Kent Community Rail Partnership, Bradfields Academy & BTP Kent for British Transport Police Text Number Poster Campaign

Concept and aims

One of the Kent Community Rail Partnership's (CRP) key objectives was to work with its partners to make the railway safer by promoting the British Transport Police (BTP) text phone number.

The objective arose from a meeting with its travel champions, who are all volunteers, at its annual training day. Concerns were raised by the champions that, prior to a presentation by BTP, they had no knowledge of the text phone number scheme.

Susan Fernandez, a travel champion from Bradfields Academy, a Chatham-based specialist school which provides education for students who have mild, moderate, and more complex learning disabilities, suggested that the Kent CRP become involved in publicising the scheme more widely in a bid to raise awareness. She initiated a poster competition at her school, with a view to the posters being displayed at 20 stations along the Medway Valley Line and the Swale Line.

What happened

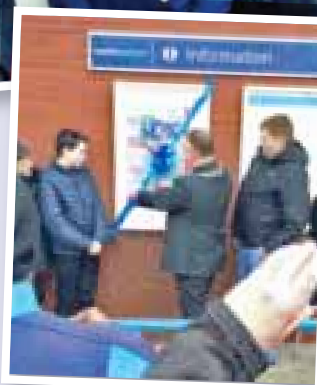
An assembly to launch the poster competition was held at Bradfields Academy lower and upper schools by Kent CRP and BTP, with some 300 pupils in attendance. Afterwards, pupils were given a credit-sized card containing some details of the campaign, including the text number, and asked to design a poster to raise awareness of the scheme. Representatives from Kent CRP, BTP, and Southeastern were involved in judging the competition, and four winning designs were chosen from 109 entries. Kent CRP successfully secured funding from the Association of Community Rail Partnership's (ACoRP) Small Grants Fund and the BTP Property Act Fund for the printing of the posters, which were then put on display at selected stations on the two lines.

Results

In March, the BTP text number campaign was launched at Strood station by the Mayor of Medway, the four winning students from Bradfields Academy, and members of the public. The Kent Messenger newspaper was invited to the launch, and KMTV produced an information video about the text number to promote it. Annabel Stevens, one of the winning students, Susan Fernandez, Chris Fribbins, the vice-chairman of Kent CRP, and Inspector Tim Ross of BTP were interviewed for the film.

<http://www.kentonline.co.uk/kmtv/video/british-transport-police-appeal-for-passengers-to-get-in-touch-11791/>

In May, a group of seven students from Bradfields Academy took a train along the Medway Valley Line to Maidstone to



spot the posters and managed to find five of them, thereby raising awareness of the text number with the students. Since then, year 6 pupils from local primary schools have been asked to spot the posters on train rides, again raising awareness of the text number. They mentioned in thank you cards that they now know the number and have it stored on their mobile phones.

The project team state that having the text number allows young people to gain confidence to know what to do if there is anti-social behaviour on the train or at a station. This is said to promote a feeling of safety for when they travel independently to secondary school.

All the posters were still up at the stations a month on, with the team stating that they continued to be appreciated by passengers and had not been affected by any vandalism. A group spokesperson said: "This project has fulfilled its aims to make the railways safer, with most staff, students, and families of Bradfields Academy - along with members of the local community who have had the opportunity to see the posters at 20 stations in Kent - now aware of the text number 61016."

Second

Nunthorpe & Marton Knitters for Royal Wedding

The Royal Wedding project was displayed at Nunthorpe station for four weeks in May. Around 50 knitters of all ages attended various "knit & natter" sessions, bringing together a wide range of ideas and talents, as well as spreading the word through social media.

Participants enjoyed the health benefits the activity brought in terms of combatting loneliness, alongside developing skills, contributing to a variety of projects, and having fun. The group has secured substantial funding from local councils and businesses due to their "impressive" work.

A project spokesperson said the aim of the scheme had been to "bring enjoyment to everyone and a smile to their faces".



Third

Hindley High School for Artwork in Ticket Hall at Hindley Station

Each year students from Hindley High School replace the artwork in Hindley station's ticket hall, with the work said to be "much admired" by passengers.

In previous years GCSE students and primary school children had been involved in the project, but this year it was the turn of year 9 pupils, aged 13 to 14, to share their artistic skill with the community. The aim of the art project was to include young people from the community and give the travelling public the opportunity to see what goes on in the local high school.

Since this year was a celebration of the 100th anniversary of votes for women, the year 9 art class worked on a suitable piece of art and the project team were "delighted" with their interpretation. The work has already been praised by travellers, who have left messages on the project team's Facebook page thanking the girls for brightening their travelling day.



Most Enhanced Station Buildings and Surroundings

sponsored by Arriva Trains Wales

First

Friends of Buxton Station for Heritage-friendly life-saving improvements

Concept and aims

This project started when the Friends of Buxton Station (FoBS) saw a demolition notice attached to an old red phone box. It gave only a few weeks to mount a salvation plan, but, undaunted, the group planned to save the box, which was an iconic K6 kiosk designed by Gilbert and the last public one in Buxton. The idea was to relocate it at the station to house an automated external defibrillator (AED). The team said their dual aim was to save a classic piece of British street furniture as well as potentially saving lives.

What happened

FoBS discovered that it wasn't straight-forward to save the kiosk as only registered charities and parish councils had permission to formally adopt unwanted phone boxes from British Telecom for the nominal sum of £1.

Members made plans to move the project forward by forming a partnership with a local conservation charity, the Buxton Civic Association. After securing the kiosk, the next phase of the project involved detailed negotiations with the local planning authority, firstly to remove the box, and then to take it to a heritage location, with part of Buxton Station being grade II-listed.

With funding from the High Peak & Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership (CRP) and Arriva Northern, the team tackled the mechanics of digging up and shifting something weighing about 750kg, the same as a family car.

Rather than buy a defibrillator, FoBS successfully appealed for the release of one already owned by the station that had been locked away without any public notice to indicate its availability in case of an emergency.

Successful negotiations with Northern overcame any potential difficulties over the issue of landlord's consent in placing the kiosk in a public place on the station platform. FoBS said this ensured that the item could be put somewhere accessible, yet also under the cover of CCTV to dissuade any vandalism.

After many hours of paint stripping and rust-treatment, the kiosk was finally made ready for restoration and repair. The next phase of the project involved devising a marketing strategy for re-launching the kiosk, to make the local community fully aware of its new role. FoBS knew of the presence of Red Willow brewery in Buxton and were aware they had become new neighbours having just opened a bar across the road from the station.



The group knew about Red Willow's popular 'Heartless' ale and a strategy based on the link between 'heartless' and 'heart-starter' was agreed. The chairman of FoBS, David Carlisle, had the idea of licensing the kiosk as a pub - "the smallest in the North-West" - for the unveiling party, with 'Heartless' ale heralding the new defibrillator's availability.

He also had the idea of asking Councillor Simon Spencer, the deputy leader of Derbyshire County Council, to do the honours with an official unveiling. Cllr Spencer owed his survival from a recent heart attack to a nearby AED that he himself had helped to install!

Results

FoBS produced a press release and invited the local newspaper and TV network to cover the event as a special interest transport and health story.

A FoBS spokesperson said; "Linking the beer and defibrillator was innovative, engaging, and interactive, presenting potentially life-saving information in an interesting and creative way that was relevant to the audience."

Citing their achievements, the team said:

- an AED was now readily available at the station, providing clear life-saving benefits
- an iconic K6 kiosk, seemingly doomed for destruction, had been saved
- the project had been sympathetic to station heritage, with K6's themselves listed
- positive community links had been engendered, with the project creating strong partnerships with shared goals
- the positive message of the project had been widely communicated to the local community

Most Enhanced Station Buildings and Surroundings

sponsored by Arriva Trains Wales

Second

Largs Community Garden for Largs Railway Station - Community Garden

Largs railway station, situated in North Ayrshire, is a seaside town. It is the location of the last Viking defeat in 1263, 'The Battle of Largs'.

The group's aim was to create a Viking-themed garden and raise awareness of plants that were once used as food and medicine. The result has been to transform a contaminated rail track into an educational community garden, which improves the appearance of the station.

Starting in 2017 with just three members, this successful project now has over 40 participants of all ages and abilities, and the station is now hailed as a popular landmark in the town.



Third

Friends of the Settle-Carlisle Line for Settle Station Shelter

One of the main aims of the Friends of the Settle-Carlisle Line is to seek improvements for the passenger. The group were concerned that when the booking office at Settle station was closed, the building was locked up, meaning there was no shelter for waiting passengers.

To rectify the situation, the team decided to embark on a project to build a new waiting shelter, in-keeping with the heritage style of the station. This has now been achieved with "stunning" results, and the group state that the passenger benefits are obvious.

Settle station now has a waiting room that is open 24 hours a day, in a building that blends in with the existing station environment. It is said to be much appreciated by passengers, particularly in view of the rather damp conditions which can be experienced on the Settle to Carlisle Line! The group describe the finished shelter as a "very welcome addition to the structures of this iconic line, but one which serves a real purpose in providing a real passenger benefit."



Small Projects Award – Under £500

sponsored by **Community Rail Lancashire**

First

Friends of Ally Pally station for Hop On a Train

Concept and aims

There is a well-established collective in the borough that Alexandra Palace station is in with the unusual name of Wood Green Hopping. They grow, and encourage neighbours to grow, hops. In the Autumn these are harvested and pooled, taken to a local microbrewery, and turned into a unique small batch beer, which is sold in local pubs. Friends of Ally Pally Station have a container garden spread across the four platforms of the station and asked Wood Green Hopping if they could take part.

Having established what root depth was needed, the team set to work, building two slim trough planters to house the hops plants. Hops were deemed ideal for the station as they grow upwards but not outwards, meaning they don't impinge on passenger space on the platforms.

What happened

One of the members of Wood Green Hopping gave the group four hop plants, two mature and two young ones.

The planting event happened on Sunday, April 1, which coincided with one of the regular gardening sessions - called gardening parties - and Easter Sunday. The team noted that a good mix of people came along to help, some to assemble the containers, some to help with the spring planting and general maintenance of the garden, and a couple of experts from Wood Green Hopping to make sure the hops didn't get planted upside down! Some unexpected help also arrived from a passer-by who just thought it looked interesting and wanted to get involved straightaway.

As it was Easter, a couple of the team handed out chocolate eggs to commuters and other visitors, which gave them the chance to engage and explain both about the friends group and the hop-planting.

Two weeks later, the team met to hammer together a wooden frame for each planter, to train the hops up. By June, only the tallest of the group could see the top of the plants.

Results

The group said that in one sense, the results of the project would only be known in September once it was time to harvest the crop and re-connect with other neighbours and community groups also growing their hops alongside the station.

But, a group spokesperson said: "In the true sense, the result is that it has attracted huge interest, fascination, and speculation. On the whole, people feel quite proud of what is happening on their station and they are certainly seeing it



in a different light. Admittedly, with all the other activity, it is some time since they have thought of it as just a utility, but this project has brought about genuine excitement. Happily, hops are a perennial and can be re-grown year after year and produce a markedly different beer each time."

The group is confident there will be a "long queue" to try the finished product, which will be sold in the pub across the road from Alexandra Palace station.

The whole project cost just £161, with the compost provided from someone's garden and the hops donated by the collective. The team estimate that the return on the investment is potentially "very significant".

Much talk is now centred on what the finished product is going to be called. Suggestions abound such as "Ally Pally Rale" and "Aley Paley". The group say that the final name will doubtless be even more "silly", but say the fact that people are talking about it with genuine interest and enthusiasm is an end in itself.

Small Projects Award – Under £500

sponsored by **Community Rail Lancashire**

Second

Helmsdale Station CIC for Helmsdale Station 'Jellicoe Plaque Unveiling' community event

Helmsdale Station Community Interest Company (CIC) organised a community event in September 2017 to unveil a plaque and mount an exhibition to commemorate all those who travelled on the Jellicoe Express, and those who assisted them with refreshments and support. The Jellicoe ran the 717 miles from London to Thurso - to reach the British naval fleet base in Scapa Flow, Orkney - in both World Wars.

The group said the event involved a significant number of local people and served:

- to bring together the community
- to celebrate the railway-linked history of Helmsdale
- to raise funds for the restoration of the Helmsdale War memorial
- to reflect on the human tragedy always associated with war



Third

Great Western Coffee Shop Forum (Community Group) for Informing responses to the GW franchise consultation

The Coffee Shop is an online meeting forum for rail passengers. For the Great Western franchise consultation, they arranged member liaison to help members submit practical and aligned inputs.

Discussions were held online and at a special meeting attended by members and guests from the rail industry and local government. General inputs were submitted by the group as a whole, with individuals also submitting ideas for their local lines.



The total expenditure was £115.60, plus significant volunteer time. The group stated that the project delivered a good general submission with 40 knowledgeable signatories, reflected in uncounted other area-specific submissions.

Best Community Engagement Project

sponsored by **Great Western Railway**

First

Community Rail Lancashire for Women Who Wander

Concept and aims

Community Rail Lancashire (CRL) felt that transport and community rail in the north and across the country was heavily male-dominated, and wanted to change that by engaging, inspiring, and influencing the next generation of strong young women.

Women Who Wander (WWW) raised awareness of the gender imbalance in rail, and in partnership with International Women's Day, gave the women and girls who participated an opportunity to enhance their writing and life skills. The project was also important in influencing transport groups to create change, as well as demonstrating to other young women that their views were valid, and that they had a place both comfortably using transport and being employed within the sector.

By using the medium of writing, the team ensured that all women and girls were able to participate, including those with special educational needs and disabilities. This was done to make the project as representative and balanced as possible in communicating all views from a range of communities across the North West.

CRL worked particularly closely with Northern, Transport for Greater Manchester, and Women in Community Rail to ensure that the project was widely promoted and had a high level of engagement with several participating groups.

What happened

Working with a number of education centres and groups - including Girlguiding North West England, Kirkby High School, The University of Manchester, Broadfield Specialist School, The University of the Third Age, and Whalley Range High School - CRL took approximately 150 participants of different ages and backgrounds on various rail journeys, including to Liverpool, Manchester, Blackburn, and Preston. Whilst on the journeys, the participants discussed their views of rail use and debated the gender imbalance within the industry. Some participants were also able to speak to female staff members within rail and community rail to hear their views.

Following the journeys, the participants were led through a writing session to produce a piece in their chosen style, using their own views. The final selection for pieces to be published was made based on creativity, clarity of writing, and content that illustrated a range of opinions regarding women using and working within rail. The pieces were either critical or positive regarding rail, and presented in various formats including short stories, poems, and non-fiction.



Results

A reading event took place on International Women's Day on March 8, with the winners reading their work in Manchester Victoria station, thus raising awareness of the project and the aims behind it within the community.

Participants also took hundreds of copies of the finished booklet of work back to their local communities, to distribute within schools, other groups, and within networks of families and friends.

The booklets were also sent to educational facilities, train operators, groups within rail and community rail, and other transport providers in the North West, to give an authentic view of female transport use to those who influence it.

Booklets were made available in relevant train stations for the public to view and provided upon request to any interested person or group. They were also well-promoted by Women in Community Rail, who distributed them at the WIN Manchester Women's conference and several station events.

The project will be repeated for 2019, with Merseyrail and TransPennine Express interested in participating to ensure that the programme has an even wider reach and a greater number of participants.



Best Community Engagement Project

sponsored by **Great Western Railway**

Second

Sevenside Community Rail Partnership for On The Move Events

On the Move events along the Severn Beach Line started by chance with a request to host a 'Fun Palace' workshop, and has since developed into community groups using space on Class 166 Turbo trains serving the line to promote their cause. Events have supported issues from mental health awareness to suffrage celebrations, with activities including a 'Community Tea' and 'Singing for the Brain' taking place during Dementia Action Week.

The group said that conversation while on the move was central to these events. 'Chatty Trains', in various guises, are set to become a regular feature, with a team of Sevenside Community Rail Partnership staff and volunteers undergoing mental health first-aid training to develop listening and signposting skills.



Third

West Highland Community Rail Partnership for Brief Encounters on the West Highland Line - a community drama project celebrating life along the West Highland Line

A local theatre company was commissioned to write and perform a play specifically for different station tearooms and restaurants along the line. All performances were made easily accessible by rail and were preceded by a meal and a brief talk about the role of the West Highland Community Rail Partnership (WHCRP).

Every performance was completely sold out, with waiting lists for tickets at every venue. The feedback from audiences was said to be "jubilant and unequivocal", leaving guests "crying out" for more events of a similar nature.

Now the production has been created, the WHCRP is able to offer it to community rail partnerships elsewhere in the UK, with script alterations to suit specific areas. The team say this will make it easier for other groups to reap the benefits witnessed on the West Highland Line, such as:

- a raised profile
- an increased awareness of train travel for pleasure
- a positive engagement with station leaseholders
- a positive community buzz surrounding local stations
- a receptive audience-base for further railway-centred community arts projects

A clip from 'Brief Encounters on the West Highland Line' can be viewed here <https://youtu.be/gheG7RK3COs>



Best Marketing or Communications Campaign

sponsored by Govia

First

Poacher Line CRP for 100 years of aviation along the Poacher Line



Concept and aims

The team at the Poacher Line Community Rail Partnership (CRP) decided that its marketing campaign for this year would, quite literally, reach for the skies. The group felt that despite Lincolnshire being a relatively unknown county, it had a wealth of aviation history with the Royal Air Force (RAF) and as such, saw a “golden opportunity” to mark its centenary year with its own campaign.

As many aviation visitor centres were accessible along the line, the group’s aim was to encourage as many people as possible to visit the sites by rail and CallConnect bus.

Partnering with the RAF100 Appeal team, who sent a range of promotional items, it was the CRP’s intention to raise funds during the campaign. The team decided that the best way to raise the profile of both Lincolnshire and the special RAF100 events was to produce a range of marketing materials with interactive activities to entice and engage the public. This included the commissioning of an eye-catching exhibition stand, useful and well-designed information leaflets – which highlighted both Poacher Line activities and wider RAF100 events across Lincolnshire - social media activity, and press releases.

East Midland Trains (EMT) supplied vintage sweets to give out during the campaign featuring Poacher Line, EMT, and RAF100 branding, and the promotional leaflets were distributed along the EMT network. Local aviation museums and businesses were approached, resulting in a voucher being produced offering various discounts if guests were arriving by train. The CRP again partnered with Visit Lincoln, which allowed the campaign to achieve a greater reach due to the group’s wider network of media contacts.

What happened

To get its marketing message out in the most effective way possible, the CRP organised several events on the Poacher Line, the first being a vintage afternoon at Sleaford station in March, with entertainment featuring vintage stalls and a 1940’s dance and music display.

The next event was the highly anticipated Community Rail in the City at Birmingham New Street station, to which the CRP decided to take a replica Red Arrow which passengers could actually sit in and have their photo taken. The plane was flanked by a large TV screen with a promotional video about Lincolnshire running on a loop.

The event was hailed as a huge success, with the team meeting visitors who had specifically come to the station after seeing pictures on social media and watching Good Morning

Britain, which had featured the stand on its news slot.

Local media were also in attendance and regular posts were uploaded to social media. People also created their own GIFs on social media, and by tagging in @poacherline and @CrossCountyUK, stood a chance of winning return first-class train tickets.

The team also held a data capture competition, which ran across the entire campaign to allow maximum uptake, with prizes including a signed Red Arrow print and overnight accommodation in Lincoln, all of which were donated to the CRP.

Finally, an RAF family day was held at Heckington Mill, with entertainment including a raffle with prizes donated from the Newark Air Museum, the Skegness Silver Band, and a music train.

Results

The team said they received “incredible” feedback for their overall campaign, with follow-up stories still being covered by local media. Those that attended the events were also said to have provided “amazing” feedback, with one Twitter user commenting that they travelled on the Poacher Line as a direct result of visiting the stand at the Community Rail in the City event. As well as this, the team forged relationships with key stakeholders and local attractions on the line, which in turn has led to further partnership working. The total raised to date for the RAF100 Appeal is more than £560, which the group say is “fantastic”.



Best Marketing or Communications Campaign

sponsored by Govia

Second

Community Rail Officers of Wales & The Borders and The Great Little Trains of Wales for Bringing the Beach to Birmingham New Street Station

The team from the Great Little Trains of Wales group designed, delivered, and built a stand at Birmingham New Street station for the Community Rail in the City event. Opening on a Sunday morning, the group staffed the stand from 8am to 8pm for the next seven days, with 55 staff slots rostered. The eye-catching display came complete with a Welsh beach situated beside a small seaside narrow gauge railway station. In the background, an Arriva Trains Wales service crossed the iconic Barmouth Bridge with views up the Mawddach estuary towards Cader Idris.

A group spokesperson said; "Never let it be said that in the community rail world you think small. Add to the mix the Great Little Trains of Wales and you've a recipe for some very big ideas, none that Network Rail at Birmingham New Street wouldn't consider though!"



During the campaign, the group:

- distributed over 1,200 Scenic Wales brochures and handed out 15 boxes of Big Train Little Train booklets, totalling around 720 copies
- received 1,109 entrants into their prize draw
- spoke to more than 1,800 people
- enjoyed high Twitter engagement, with 532 profile visits, a top tweet receiving 1866 impressions and a top mention creating 219 engagements



"Think beach, think the iconic Barmouth Bridge, direct trains from Birmingham to the Welsh coasts, all the great little trains, big train meets the little trains. Walking the coastal path, deckchairs, sand, buckets and spades, and all the foodie delights of Wales. Bringing the beach to Birmingham New Street station. Why not? The reception from the public was amazing."

Third

Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership for Branch Line Foodie Guides

The team compiled a series of foodie guides to complement four different branch lines in Devon and Cornwall. The booklets were aimed at highlighting food businesses, both big and small, that championed local produce and sustainability, as well as inspiring people to visit the area. They also promoted local food markets and foodie events throughout the year, with the intention of enticing visitors out-of-season, as well as during the summer.

The campaign featured a multi-media approach of distributing hard-copy leaflets at stations and tourist information centres, alongside online material and social media blogs. The campaign also benefitted from advertising in a national food magazine, newspaper articles, and competitions with Great Western, which resulted in over 13,000 entries.



Influencing Positive Change

sponsored by TransPennine Express

First

Women in Community Rail for Women in Community Rail 'Achieving Change Together'

Concept and aims

Women in Community Rail (WiCR) was established to help support colleagues in the community rail family work towards a more inclusive, tolerant, and diverse membership, giving a true reflection of its customers and the wider make-up of society. The aim for WiCR is to have a voice from grass-roots up to board level, while bringing everyone collectively on a journey to 'Achieve Change Together'.

What happened

A steering group made up of twelve like-minded individuals came together from community rail partnerships, station adoption groups, local authorities, and train operating companies, with a shared ambition to bring about positive change. WiCR was subsequently established primarily to address diversity and inclusivity imbalances within community rail.

Funding was secured via a Seedcorn application with the group continually working towards several objectives:

- becoming recognised as a strategic player across the rail industry and a recognised consultee
- sharing knowledge and expertise on how to encourage gender balance
- creating a mentoring and support network for all colleagues throughout the industry
- increasing inclusivity within community rail
- encouraging younger people to consider a career in community rail
- sharing best practice across the wider industry and business sector

In the space of two years, the group has grown to over sixty members, including both men and women, with a 28% male to 72% female split. WiCR states that it fulfils a vital function in providing support, encouragement, and assistance in the advancement of women in what has typically been perceived as a male-dominated industry. WiCR participates in many events and seminars across the country, helping to build support networks for women already working in community rail and the rail industry, as well as helping women find and forge a new career.

Results

To date, the group has representation on the Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP) board, the Community Rail Executive Group (ComREG), and holds the position of chair of the West Lancashire, East Lancashire, and the Clitheroe Line Community Rail Partnerships.

WiCR has organised and delivered two successful training events for members across the country, dealing with topics of "unconscious bias/breaking down barriers" and "challenging



inappropriate behaviour." Attendance at the training events showed an average of 40% male and 60% female. The group said that learning outcomes helped members to build their confidence and ability to recognise and identify different types of behaviour. Real-life case studies were used alongside shared assertiveness techniques to again increase confidence and skills. A range of strategies were also shared in relation to challenging difficult behaviour.

Using feedback from the training events, WiCR is in the process of developing a code of conduct that can be adopted by all members of the community rail family and used as a tool to challenge inappropriate behaviour. The draft version currently states:

I/We will at all times:

- promote positive relationships and discussions
- ensure that no member acts in such a manner that brings community rail into disrepute
- ensure that each person in community rail actively encourages diversity and inclusion and welcomes all
- challenge bullying, harassment, intimidation, and all negative behaviour at all times
- value others by listening and not making assumptions

The group sends out regular e-blasts to members, attends promotional events, visits rail user groups and community rail partnerships, and supports initiatives such as 'Women Who Wander' and 'Amazing Women by Rail.' The team has also been contacted by a group in Australia asking for advice and guidance on how to share their expertise and best practice across the globe.

A WiCR spokesperson said: "The collaborative approach from representatives and partners across the community rail movement via WiCR shows an appetite and eagerness to support and change, where appropriate, how and why we do things. The social and economic benefits associated with diversity and inclusiveness are well-evidenced, and the strong desire to influence positive change is clear."

Influencing Positive Change

sponsored by TransPennine Express

Second

Purbeck CRP, South Western Railway & Swanage Railway for South Western Railway service to Corfe Castle

South Western Railways (SWR) and Purbeck Community Rail Partnership (CRP) worked in partnership with the Swanage Railway (SR) to run a Saturday's only service from Salisbury to Corfe Castle during the summer months. This service links into the SR service to Swanage, allowing for day trips from stations in Wiltshire, Somerset, and Dorset.

The CRP report that the service has proved very successful, with both SWR and SR trains well-loaded with passengers, and businesses in Corfe Castle seeing a boost in visitor numbers. The SWR service has maintained regional interest in the SR and influenced positive change to restore regular timetabled services between Wareham and Swanage.

After a positive first service with over 100 passengers on board leaving Wareham, passenger numbers then more than doubled, with the train full and standing when leaving Wareham for its first trip to Corfe Castle. SR also saw their own on-board sales more than treble over the weeks that followed.

The CRP described media interest as hitting "fever pitch", with over 30,000 Facebook impressions and 7,000 website visits over the first weekend alone.



They stated that this activity demonstrated the level of interest in the service, which was also featured in local press, regional television, and The Times newspaper.

Third

Avocet Line Rail Users Group for Solar powered illuminated poster cases for timetables

The Avocet Line Rail User Group found that at night, light was not falling on timetables, leaving passengers in the dark at some stations between Exmouth and Exeter. The group then discovered that innovative solar-powered illuminated poster cases were manufactured close to the line.

With funding from the Great Western Railway Customer and Communities Improvement Fund, and from the Designated Community Rail Development Fund through the Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership, poster cases were installed at three stations. The group say the new equipment has improved the ambience of the stations and made them easier and more attractive to use at night.



Photo Competition | "The Essence of Community Rail"

sponsored by Porterbrook

First

Carefully does it! – face painting on the Santa Special
Marston Vale CRP



Photo Competition | "The Essence of Community Rail"

sponsored by Porterbrook

Second

Goths on the Line! Anthony Barker, Battersby Station Adopter



Third

**Now, where is this
planter going?**

Marston Vale CRP



Outstanding Volunteer Contribution

sponsored by Northern

First

Neil Williams – Friends of Glossop Station

About Neil

Neil Williams is described as a “truly outstanding” volunteer. He is the founder member of Friends of Glossop Station (FOGS) and has been elected as chair for the past seven years. He actively participates in practical activities such as gardening and cleaning, but also works tirelessly promoting community rail in the local and wider community. He not only represents the group at meetings, seminars, conferences, and other community rail events, he is also said to be a fantastic ambassador for the movement as a whole.

Neil fosters and maintains links with neighbouring friends groups – including Broadbottom, Hadfield, Hattersley, and Guide Bridge – and uses his expertise to coordinate shared events.

He also has strong connections with friends groups in other areas of the North, notably Whaley Bridge, Chapel-en-le-Frith, Buxton, Marple, Rose Hill, Romiley, Walkden, Hindley, and Mytholmroyd.

Examples of his work

Talks and guided tour

Neil often welcomes a range of groups and individuals to Glossop. His informative guided tour of the station, including its gardens, heritage lighting, Poetry Platform, and display of local artists' work, frequently ends with refreshments in its café, Twig. Time permitting, a short walk to the town square demonstrates the links between station architecture and local history and heritage, not forgetting a photo opportunity to honour the Howard Lion, who proudly guards the station entrance!

Praised as an engaging speaker, Neil is invited to speak to groups as diverse as the health group at Glossop Cricket Club, and the Methodist Church Women's Fellowship.

Publicity and tourism

Neil's colleagues describe him as a stickler for information being accurate and up-to-date, so he personally checks and refreshes publicity material in and around Glossop station. This work includes:

- updating notice boards on the station and in the community
- producing and refreshing the content of the FOGS website, blog, and newsletter
- displaying bus information and transport connections from Glossop
- delivering posters to five stations promoting guided walks and folk trains
- issuing press releases and giving interviews on High Peak Radio
- sharing community rail literature at rail-related meetings



Gardening and cleaning

Neil is said to be keen to lead by example in terms of ensuring that the station appears attractive and well-cared for. He and the gardening team work on the embankment every month between April and October, and Neil also tends to three tubs on the platform, two seasonally-changed hanging baskets above the station entrance, and manger baskets at Dinting. Neil is also an active member of the cleaning team, who are said to be justifiably proud of their record of cleaning, tidying, and litter-picking every Sunday across the past year.

Events and projects

One FOGS team member said: “At all FOGS events Neil is the first to arrive and last to leave when all is cleared away. He will turn his hand to any task.”

Examples of recent projects Neil has been involved with include the Lowestoft evacuees commemoration event, when former child evacuees from Lowestoft, billeted in Glossop in June 1940, came to Derbyshire to celebrate enduring links between the two towns. Local children with suitcases and gas masks were dressed in 1940s style and a commemorative plaque was unveiled. As a mark of appreciation Neil was invited to this year's annual reunion of surviving evacuees in Lowestoft, where he presented their group with a similar plaque, which he had carried all the way on the train. He has also been instrumental in organising events at the station including the teddy bears' picnic, art in the window, and the Santa Christmas event.

The recent launch of historical information boards at Glossop, Dinting, and Hadfield stations was the culmination of three years of work by Neil and Joy Hallsworth, the chair of Friends of Hadfield Station, on a project supported by High Peak and Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership and Northern. Work is now underway to produce boards for all the other stations on the Glossop line.

Outstanding Volunteer Contribution

sponsored by Northern

Second

Rachel Osborne – Volunteer with Community Rail Humber

Rachel is voluntary membership officer with the Yorkshire Coast Community Rail Partnership (YCCRP), dealing directly with its 43 members. She ensures that subscriptions are paid on time and that members are kept up-to-date with changes to the partnership. Alongside this administration role, she also manages the CRP website and Facebook pages, providing the same service to the Barton to Cleethorpes Community Rail Partnership (BCCRP). Describing Rachel's role, a YCCRP colleague said: "Rachel can be seen regularly working at the numerous marketing events held by the partnership, including Driffield Show, Yorkshire Day, and many more. When the YCCRP holds themed events Rachel really turns them into a family affair. Her sons design the posters and help her and the other volunteers on the train, and her husband plays Father Christmas on the Santa Special."

Rachel can regularly be found working on station gardening projects with station adopters, planting, painting, and generally maintaining the gardens. When the community rail officer puts out a call for ideas for the

business plan and events diary, it is said to be "guaranteed" that Rachel will come up with some great ideas and suggestions that will show the "true meaning of community rail."

An example of what Rachel has achieved in the last 12 months is demonstrated by a dramatic increase in traffic on the YCCRP and BCCRP websites and Facebook pages, which now have almost 700 likes/follows. Their daily posts vary between showing photos of stations and flower displays on the line, giving out useful information about industrial action or engineering works, and promoting local events at the towns and villages along the route, complete with information on bus connections to enable people to reach them by public transport.



Third

Steve Lloyd – The Friends of Penmere Station

Twenty-five years ago, Steve lived in Falmouth, close to the small station of Penmere, which serves a residential area of the town. Penmere station opened in July 1925, and until the late 1960s was staffed with a booking office, a waiting room, and toilets. By 1993, the station had become neglected and overgrown. The buildings had long since been demolished and there weren't even benches on the platform for passengers to sit on.

Steve thought that a small group of local people could turn around the fortunes of the station and turn it into both an attractive and welcoming facility for passengers and something that the local community could be proud of. He recruited some of his friends and neighbours, who included a retired Falmouth Parks' gardener, Brian Philpotts, and the group set to work.

Steve and his wife, Phyllis, moved to Camborne, ten miles away, in 2003 but despite this, he continued to work hard at Penmere and this year, twenty-five years on, he and the group celebrated their quarter century at the station.

Describing Steve's impact, a colleague said: "There aren't many people nationwide who have been working in community rail for as long as Steve Lloyd."



It's Your Station

sponsored by ScotRail

LEAD

Gold
Category Winner

Friends of Glossop Station

After being placed in the gold category in 2017, Friends of Glossop Station are said to have excelled further this year. As well as several new achievements with their gardens and a wide range of community engagement events, they've also succeeded in incorporating the challenge of new ticket barriers into the way they work.

Gardening achievements

The group's gardening work primarily centres around its two gardens, the Howard Street garden adjoining the station building and the embankment garden opposite the platform. Last year's plan for the Howard Street site saw the careful addition of astilbes, hostas, and primula denticulate, with bedding success with brown leaved begonia semperflorens repeated this year.

Following the renewal of their Network Rail safety licence, the group were able to have seven monthly Sunday sessions to work on their embankment garden. Extra spring bulbs planted last autumn were a success, with several varieties of tulips planted to increase the colour range. The existing plants, which included azaleas, rhododendrons, and cotinus, continued to mature, along with a row of lavender to bring in the bees!

Inside the station concourse the group maintains nine flower boxes and five hanging baskets, although due to low light levels they use silk flowers with the contents changing four times a year to match the seasons. Three tubs are also maintained on the open section of the platform. New recruits from Glossop Gardeners Club have also helped the team this year.

Community participation and engagement

Several events have been held over the last year that the group say has allowed for strong bonds to be created with the local community.

A teddy bears' picnic, attended by many families new to train travel, was held in June 2017, shared with fellow friends' groups at Hadfield, Hattersley, and Guide Bridge.

In December the group held a Santa event, which because of the new ticket barriers, required a major rethink due to less space on the concourse. Father Christmas moved to the waiting room to meet and greet children from over 60 families, with live music and festive craft-making sessions also on offer.



Glossop continues to have a waiting room art gallery as a place to showcase local artists, and the station also maintains its poetry platform. New in the waiting room since April is a display commemorating the evacuation of 600 children from Lowestoft to Glossop on June 2, 1940. This poignant journey was celebrated with an event at Glossop station in June 2017, and such was the interest in the story that a permanent display was required to sit alongside the plaque unveiled at that event. A replica copy of the display was recently presented at the Lowestoft Evacuation Reunion event, thus strengthening the already close bonds between the two towns.

An A1-size historical information board, one of three, was launched in March, marking the culmination of a shared project with Friends of Hadfield Station, with support from the High Peak and Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership and Northern. Glossop, Hadfield and Dinting stations now have generic line-branded boards with carefully selected historic pictures and information relevant to each station. They are said to be becoming popular features at the stations, and phase two of the project to encompass other stations on the line is now underway.

Environmental responsibility

Friends of Glossop Station take pride in maintaining the station and its environment to a high standard. Every Sunday morning, a small group of volunteers meet to carry out various cleaning tasks, with over 500 volunteer hours amassed every year. Since August, genuine efforts have been made to get to know and work with a new team of gating staff. As a result, the group say that it is with "great delight" that they now share their ethos of presenting the station in a clean and welcoming manner on a daily basis.

It's Your Station

sponsored by ScotRail

LEAD

Silver

South West Railway Adopters Gardening group for Dumfries Station

South West Railway Adopters Gardening Group are volunteers that bring life to 19 stations across South West Scotland. All the plants are grown from seed by the group's founder, Louis Wall. The plants are then transported to the various stations by train, reflecting the environmentally friendly ethos of the group.

In the past year, the group's highlights have included the creation of a bio-diversity garden for wildlife at Dumfries station, and partnership working which led to the town of Dumfries being awarded a Gold standard by Beautiful Scotland. The group also celebrated their volunteering through a tree-planting ceremony in aid of National Volunteers Week.



LEAD

Bronze

Radcliffe on Trent Station Adoption Group

Radcliffe on Trent Station Adoption Group is said to have grown due to the hard work and perseverance of long-term adopter Phil Thomas.

Plans were put in place to regenerate the station, and due to effective commitment and partnership working, major clearing and development has happened over the course of the past year.

The group has been actively engaging with the community and has some events planned, and although transforming the station is still at a relatively early stage, members say they have made impressive progress with some "fantastic ideas" still to come.



ACoRP Award for Outstanding Contribution to Community Rail

Awarded to

Sevenside Community Rail Partnership

Every community rail partnership (CRP) is a credit to the community rail movement, but Sevenside CRP are worthy winners this year for their outstanding overall contribution.

Looking through the many achievements of Sevenside CRP over the last 12 months it would be easy to assume this is a large organisation with an unlimited budget. However, the CRP have delivered all their activities with a core staff team of just one, ably supported by a team of committed volunteers and a hugely supportive board and chair.

Sevenside CRP is a model partnership in so many ways, working with local communities to identify and implement measures to encourage use of local trains, and to ensure that rail travel is accessible, appealing and welcoming to all.

The partnership is a Community Interest Company with the running costs and staff funded by way of grants from Great Western Railway, CrossCountry trains, and a range of local authorities. The financial support and encouragement of its partners, combined with bids for specific grants from local authorities, Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP), the Railway Heritage Trust and other sources, has enabled Sevenside CRP to deliver considerable benefits for local communities and passengers on a network of routes radiating from Bristol.

A selection of the many community rail activities Sevenside CRP have been involved with this year are:

- an innovative, award-winning, ticket scheme for pupils travelling by train to Cotham School, where the season ticket is printed directly on the student's ID lanyard and purchased at a discount by parents via the school electronic payment system
- rail familiarisation and safety visits for year 6 students attending local schools
- an increased number of local stations achieving "outstanding" in the Royal Horticultural Society 'It's Your Neighbourhood' scheme, with many also having 'Incredible Edible' herb gardens
- a 50-metre-long wall at Montpellier station being transformed with a stunning street art mural depicting the changing four seasons and the message 'You are Golden', in partnership with the artist Silent Hobo, Dolphin School, and City of Bristol College students
- sponsoring and arranging a funding package for the complete rebuild of platform 1 at Avonmouth station, with improvements including a new shelter, lighting, seats, cycle storage, planters, and screen fencing
- a new families and young people's website and resource pack for 'Discovering the Severn Beach Line', funded by ACoRP and the Heritage Lottery 'A Forgotten Landscape' project, launched in summer 2017



- the hosting of two 'Fun Palace' events along the Severn Beach line, alongside other events linked to raising awareness of mental health issues, loneliness, and dementia



As generous ambassadors, the team at Sevenside CRP give their time and knowledge to support the growth of the wider community rail movement in the UK through speaking at national events, delivering training workshops, and being very welcoming in hosting visits to share 'their line' with other emerging CRPs and station adoption groups from across the county.

Over the last ten years, stations in the Bristol area have been transformed considerably, assisted on a regular, but voluntary basis by young people and local communities who really care for them. Passenger numbers on the local lines into Bristol have also increased dramatically over this period, particularly on the Severn Beach Line, which has seen a 350% increase in travellers.

This award is well deserved for the unwavering efforts and dedication of Keith Walton, Heather Cullimore, and all the team and volunteers at Sevenside CRP, as these lines now present a much safer, more pleasant, and welcoming environment, and are true 'community friendly' railway lines for their passengers.

ACoRP Lifetime Achievement Award

Awarded to

Chris Austin OBE

This year's Lifetime Achievement Award goes to someone who has dedicated their career to the railways, is a political advocate, and also a great friend and colleague to all who know him, Chris Austin OBE.

Chris joined British Rail (BR) in 1967, initially working on project planning including the re-signalling of the South West mainline. As was the way with old BR, he worked his way up to the position of its parliamentary affairs manager by the time of rail privatisation in 1994.

As a key player within the privatisation process, he became aware of the new idea of 'community rail' being promoted by activists in the North, led by last year's winner of this award, Paul Salveson. As he said later with regards to community rail, 'what's not to like', and took up the challenge of getting BR and political support to push the concept forward.

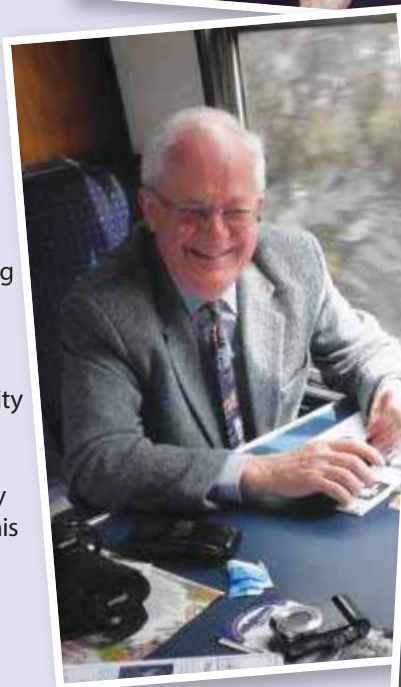
This led directly to him leading the first consultation on the Community Rail Development strategy, which at the time was the biggest response the then Strategic Rail Authority had received to a consultation!

This subsequently led to the launch, on a freezing cold November day, of the first strategy, which has served the movement well for the last 16 years.

On his retirement in 2009, Chris joined the Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP) board, always giving his knowledge and wisdom freely within community rail circles.

He has done much to bridge the gap between community rail and heritage rail by being actively involved in both sectors, being a past chair of the West Somerset Steam Railway Trust and secretary of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Heritage Railways. He also continues to write his column in Railwatch and is the author of several well-respected and well-researched railway books.

Without a shadow of a doubt, we simply wouldn't have community rail as we know it without him. It was his introduction of a first strategy that gave the sector a status which led to cross party-political recognition and support for community rail, and for ACoRP as its representative body.



Messages FROM SPONSORS

ACoRP
New life for local lines
Community
Rail Awards
2018

Abellio ScotRail

abellio



As a long-standing supporter of community rail, we are delighted to be sponsoring the 2018 awards and to see them coming to Scotland for the first time. We are very grateful to all those volunteers who give up their time to enhance the customer experience on our growing community rail network, and this is an opportunity to convey that gratitude and our thanks to them. We are equally as thrilled to be sponsoring the "It's Your Station" award; our stations are at the heart of many of our communities, and through working with local people we can ensure the benefits they bring are there for everyone to enjoy – connecting people with jobs, businesses with customers, tourists with destinations and communities with opportunities for growth and prosperity. We wish all nominees the best of luck for the evening, and also for the future success of their projects.

Department for Transport

As the core funder of local and rural services in England, the Department for Transport is a keen supporter of community rail.

We recognise that one of the most positive ways of sharing best practice and celebrating success is through the annual ACoRP Community Rail Awards. We are therefore delighted to be associated with these awards.



Department
for Transport

Great Western Railway

GWR

Great Western Railway

GWR has always been a huge supporter of community rail, it connects us closely to what our customers and supporters really want from their local railway and the resultant record breaking growth in passenger numbers underlines all the hard work that goes on. We are delighted to sponsor the Community Rail Awards again this year and we wish everyone the best of luck.

Angel Trains

Angel Trains is pleased to support the 2018 ACoRP Awards. Angel Trains has a strong commitment to building the future of rail and recognises the importance of local people and communities in doing this. community rail partnerships are a vital element of the success of the overall rail industry in Britain and Angel Trains is proud to support them.



Porterbrook Leasing

Porterbrook is proud to sponsor the 2018

Community Rail Awards. Scotland's railway is growing: with new stations, reopened lines and record passenger numbers. community rail groups and supporters are key to ensuring that local communities are best served by their local railway. Similarly, Porterbrook works with our customers and stakeholders to ensure our trains meet the needs of today's passengers and the markets of tomorrow.



Rail Delivery Group

The Rail Delivery Group continues to work with ACoRP

to further the case for community rail activity and support for it as well as improving train operators' knowledge of how community rail can help them and the communities they serve. The railway does not just provide a vital transport service. It also acts as a key part of our social and economic future, both locally and nationally. We are proud to support ACoRP's work.

Rail Delivery Group



Stagecoach Group

Stagecoach is very proud to be supporting this year's Community Rail Awards once again and we're excited to be visiting Scotland for the awards this year. We have long been staunch supporters of community rail and the improvements that it delivers to customers and communities. These awards are a well-deserved endorsement of all the fantastic work that goes on across our community rail lines every day to help us improve our railway and to attract more people onto our train services. It's a great achievement to be nominated and well done to everybody who has been recognised in this year's awards.



Northern

Through our ambitious modernisation plan we are committed to making the North a better place to live and work for everyone. Our work with community rail partnerships, station adoption groups and other community partners is vital to making this happen, and that is why we're proud to sponsor the Outstanding Volunteer Contribution category at this year's awards. The awards provide a great opportunity to celebrate and showcase the best of community rail and to recognise the hard work and dedication of all involved.



Transport for Greater Manchester



TfGM believes that community rail is an important and valued part of a successful Greater Manchester transport network. It increases rail usage, improves stations and interconnectivity, supports economic growth and regeneration, encourages local tourism and helps bring all our communities together. We are delighted to sponsor these awards in recognition of the fantastic and indispensable contribution made by volunteers and organisations.

Community Rail Lancashire



Community Rail Lancashire is once again delighted to sponsor the Small Projects Award. It is true to say that a lot can often be done with a little and CRPs are generally very good at coming up with low value high impact schemes often with some help from the small grants fund looked after by ACoRP. This award has attracted some very exciting projects in the past and with an ever-tightening financial position facing many CRPs doing a lot with a little will become ever more important.

Arriva Trains Wales



Arriva Trains Wales is pleased to sponsor the most enhanced station buildings and surroundings category. Stations are often gateways to our communities for visitors and regular rail users, and well-presented stations are key to maintaining positive first impressions. There are some wonderful examples of building and environmental enhancements across the UK rail network.

Rail Media



Rail Media is backing this dynamic category which aims to encourage more young people to get involved with railways. At this year's Community Rail Awards, 'Involving Children and Young People' shines a light on the hard work being done by so many in the community rail movement to bring youth to rail. The need for young people to take up a career on the railway has never been greater. Community rail partnerships see children, students and young adults getting out there and experiencing life on the railway first hand. It's of incomparable value and Rail Media is right behind the burgeoning community rail movement.

Grand Central



Grand Central is delighted to continue its support in the 2018 Community Rail Awards. We congratulate all nominees for the tremendous work they do in bringing rail to the very heart of the community.

TransPennine Express



TransPennine Express is delighted to support the Influencing Positive Change category of the Community Rail Awards. TransPennine Express are focussed on Taking the North further with a fleet of new trains, additional services and an enhanced customer experience. This positive change will have a transformational impact on the North and the communities served. Likewise, positive change on community rail matters and the influence made to deliver it has a similar transformational impact. Good luck to all the entrants!

CrossCountry and Arriva UK Trains



Arriva and CrossCountry are proud to jointly sponsor the ACoRP Community Rail Awards 2018. Our rail businesses work closely with many community rail partnerships across Britain, collaborating on creative and innovative projects that support their work in bringing Britain's partnership railway and the communities it serves closer together.

Govia



Govia believes that to succeed, we need our communities to thrive, and we pursue that through building creative partnerships. We are proud to support the development and expansion of community rail across our network, and are delighted once again to support the Community Rail Awards. Values require practical delivery, and these awards provide recognition to people whose actions have made a real difference in their communities.

South Western Railway



We are proud to be supporting this year's Community Rail Awards. SWR works closely with our community rail partnerships and Station Adoption groups to undertake many exciting new projects each year. We look forward to seeing the fantastic work from like minded groups all across the UK at these awards. We are pleased to sponsor the Community Rail Awards and wish everyone the best of luck.

Virgin Trains

Virgin Trains is proud to sponsor the 2018 Community Rail Awards. Our high-speed trains along the West coast, serve several mainline stations that act as gateways to community railways. We enjoy working with supporters of these vital economic lifelines; to grow inbound traffic and enhance the range of journey opportunities available to the people of the communities they serve.



Greater Anglia

Greater Anglia is proud to be a sponsor of the Community Rail Awards. We're passionate about the benefits community rail and station adoption can bring for both the railway and the communities we serve, so we have increased the investment and resources we put into community rail as part of our new franchise - including the appointment of a Community Partnerships Manager. We are also committed to working locally and nationally to help maintain and build on the success of the community rail approach more widely.



Merseyrail

Merseyrail is among the highest performing rail operators in the UK and is committed to serving the communities in which we operate. We are delighted to be associated with these awards that celebrate the value of individuals in society who otherwise may not be recognised. We are extremely grateful to the many volunteers that give their own free time to help make our stations the wonderful welcoming places that they are.



Rock Rail

We are delighted to sponsor the Community Rail Awards and join all those involved in celebrating and congratulating the tremendous achievements of the many individuals, groups and organisations in benefiting their communities and local railways. Rock Rail is focussed on the delivery of trains and other rail infrastructure to provide better passenger travelling experiences and enhanced value across the UK. We are committed to helping build a better rail industry and so are particularly pleased to be able to acknowledge the vital role of the community rail groups in stimulating growth and shaping the UK rail industry to better serve communities across the country.



Eversholt Rail

Eversholt Rail is delighted once again to be a sponsor of the ACoRP Community Rail Awards. We recognise and applaud both the phenomenal growth in passenger demand and the wider-ranging benefits to local economies and quality of life that community rail schemes and initiatives continue to deliver. Eversholt Rail greatly values its excellent working relationship with the ACoRP team, which is fundamental to ensuring that we understand stakeholders' needs and provide cost-effective rolling stock solutions optimised to meet them.



Fission Rail

Fission Rail are delighted to be sponsoring and supporting this year's awards, we have a huge respect for all the community rail partnerships up and down the country. Our local station in Ellesmere Port has been transformed getting the local community and schools involved in their station. We have also dealt with, and supported other CRPs through our involvement with Rail Safety Week. Keep up the great work guys and good luck to all the nominees.



We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all the sponsors of the
Community Rail Awards 2018
Without them this project and event could not exist

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