High Peak and Hope Valley
COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

KEEPING YOU ON BOARD

Partnership newsletter



Issue 30

November 2024

WELCOME TO OUR AUTUMN 2024 NEWSLETTER

Hello and welcome to our third newsletter of 2024.

It's certainly turning autumnal and all our station groups have been busy tidying up the stations ready for winter. We've been busy attending rail conferences, out and about route testing sections of the Steel Cotton Rail Trail and installing way markers. The trail is certainly generating a lot of interest on our social media platforms.



Helen and Catherine at Castlefield

We welcomed Vicky Frost as our new Marketing and Communications Co-ordinator in mid September and already she is out and about creating video and blog content. Keep an eye on our socials as well as our website for some exciting stories.

Our focus has been on the 'Exploits of Ethel' project, which has been a joy to be involved in. The students at Newfield school in Sheffield have been outstanding and you can read more about this project further on.

Please keep your news coming in. We love sharing all the great work that our station groups do.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter.

Helen and Catherine

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HELLO FROM VICKY



Vicky in the Peak District

I've recently joined Helen and Catherine at the CRP as the new Marketing and Communications Co-ordinator.

I would firstly like to say a huge thank you to everyone I have met so far for being so welcoming. I really enjoyed meeting many of you at our recent friends of the line day in Edale. In due course I would love to be able to visit you all at the stations, and am excited to showcase some of the amazing projects you will all be working on over the coming months.

I am based on the outskirts of Sheffield, and spend lots of my spare time exploring the Peak District, running, walking, cycling and swimming. I am a firm believer in the power of nature to improve our wellbeing so celebrating this incredible area of the world and connecting people to this landscape in a sustainable and inclusive way is very close to my heart. Encouraging people to enjoy the many wonderful things the Peak District has to offer, from the landscape to the heritage, by sustainable transport is essential, and the projects each station group get involved in are invaluable to this cause.

I'm looking forward to visiting you all and getting involved!

See you soon,

Vicky

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FRIEND'S DAY OUT





Visiting the National Trust's Castlefield Viaduct

We organised a summertime Friend's Day Out in July to visit the National Trust's Castlefield Viaduct in Manchester. Eleven of us met at Piccadilly Station and caught the free city centre bus to Castlefield. Entry to the Viaduct was also free, so all in all it was a very cheap day out! The gardens along the viaduct were beautiful, although we did catch some of our Friends looking more at the railways below than the planting!

ACCREDITATION

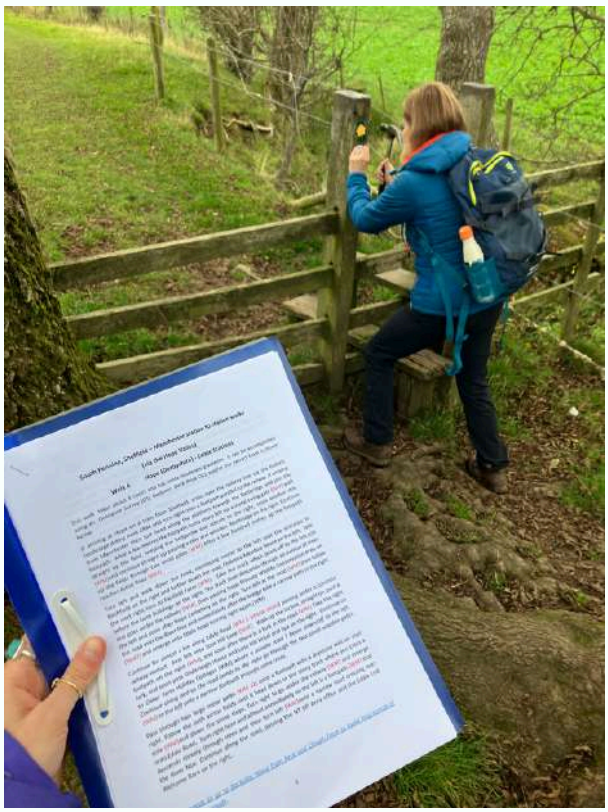
Thank you to Ian Davis at Community Rail Network for working through our review and awarding us Accreditation to continue to operate for another year. We are delighted to be accredited once again and would like to thank all our partners, friends and stakeholders for your support.

Community Rail
Accredited Partnership
2024-25

STEEL COTTON RAIL TRAIL

Waymarkers have been installed from Hathersage to Bamford and on to Hope. The leaflets for Hathersage to Bamford and Bamford to Hope are being given the final finishing touches and will soon be ready for print. We were thrilled to work with the National Trust, who have helped with creating a digital map of the route as well as organising some guided walk events over the summer on the station-to-station theme. Catherine joined the volunteer walk leaders from Edale to Chinley.

We have also worked with Silkstone Carers, who we were able to contact via our link at SYMCA. The group travelled out twice on the train to test out the route descriptions, mapping and waymarking from Hathersage to Bamford and then on to Hope. Other route testers from EMR and PDNP have also helped us check our information over the summer months. We appreciate the support from all of our checkers - thank you!





Helen, Catherine and Vicky testing the route from Hope to Edale, putting up waymarkers

CONFERENCES

We have been busy visiting a number of conferences including the East Midlands Railway Community Rail Conference and the Community Rail Network Conference. We have shared a full article about this over on our blog (https://peakdistrictbytrain.org/east-midlands-railway-community-rail-network-conference-and-community-rail-conference/), and some videos of our time at these conferences on our social media.

The EMR Community Rail Conference included three great workshops covering funding, educational activities and bio-diversity and best practice at stations.

The annual Community Rail Conference started with talks from Jools Townsend, James McGowan and Emma Robertson covering the following topics: putting community rail at the forefront of change, a supply chain perspective and Railway200. After coffee there were then a number of inspiring discussion groups on a wide variety of topics in which everyone present could share ideas and come up with solutions.

Helen and Catherine also attended the Northern conference in Leeds on 2nd October.



Images from the Community Rail Network conference, image credits CRN

THE VALUE OF COMMUNITY RAIL



Value of Comminity Rail information

Community Rail Network have recently published a report on the value of community rail, supported by Rail Delivery Group. The report offers insights into how community rail delivers social, environmental and economic value for and with communities. You can download and read the report on their website.

https://communityrail.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/VoCR-report-24-FINAL-FOR-WEB.pdf

HATHERSAGE STATION PLANTERS

Volunteers at Hathersage station have created some wonderful new planters using pallets installed by Volker Rail.

The four pallets were painted and planted with beautiful plants and flowers.



Planters at Hathersage station

BUZZING STATIONS

We have distributed lots of our newly published bumblebee booklets to a range of pick-up points, including visitor information centres in Manchester, Buxton, Castleton, New Mills and Edale and events at Sheffield and Manchester Piccadilly stations. We are grateful to all of the Friends of station groups who shared their local bumblebee walks for the booklet. In July, Friends of Buxton station organised a bumblebee town trail for the Fringe, as well as a safari event and some woolly bumblebee crafting sessions. Friends of Hadfield and Glossop stations organised their August Bumblebee Safari for the local community which was well attended. Many Friends of station groups have worked hard on the gardens and planters at the stations to increase planting for the benefit of pollinators as well as for passengers! This summer, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust have installed barrel planters and converted grit bins for biodiversity planting at Buxton station as part of their collaborative biodiversity pilot project with Northern Trains.







Annual bumblebee safari returns to Hadfield Station

NEW MILLS NEWTOWN STATION GARDEN WORK



The station volunteers at New Mills Newtown have been busy attending to a range of jobs such as litter picking and planting, adding a large bag of daffodils for the spring. They cleaned the signage and completed the preparation of the herb border, removing brambles and weeds and applying a layer of weed suppressant material before adding a lot of fresh topsoil.

New plants were added with a key focus on their fragrance to benefit both visitors to the station and the pollinators who frequent the garden plants.

FRIENDS OF GLOSSOP STATION

The volunteers at Glossop station had a final session on the Embankment Garden which involved much weeding and planting of primulas and bulbs in readiness for Spring. They are also in the process of renewing and refreshing the hanging baskets under the canopy on the platform.

The final Poetry Platform display of this year has just been launched with some difficult clues for travellers journeying through the station to sort out alongside a selection of poems.
Celebrating 100 years of the first published crossword in a UK daily newspaper there is an actual crossword on the display with links to the poetry alongside.

THE EXPLOITS OF ETHEL

2024 marks the centenary of the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), founded by Sheffield resident and campaigner, Ethel Haythornthwaite. Our CRP got involved in this project in 2023 at a meeting in Sheffield station, where we met Gertie Whitfield who, with partner Paul, runs the Whitworks Adventures in Theatre company (WAT).

Vicky has written a report on this which you can read on our blog here: https://peakdistrictbytrain.org/the-exploits-of-ethel/









The cast and crew of The Exploits of Ethel travelling on the train to the Edale performance

SMALL GRANTS FUNDING

Over the summer the CRP has awarded grants to Friends of Chapel station, Friends of New Mills station and the Penny Pot café next to Edale station to enable each to devise or reprint walks from station leaflets for their area. These leaflets prove extremely popular with local residents as well as visitors, encouraging train travel and ways to explore local areas.

FRIENDS NETWORKING DAY

We had a wonderful Friends Networking Day in Edale on 16th October, where we shared a short presentation about Railway200 and the upcoming celebrations around the country starting in 2025.

Thank you to everyone who came along and shared updates. We brainstormed ideas for Railway200 celebrations that we could develop at our stations and along our lines. It was a chance for everyone to come together and chat about their work at stations and enjoy sandwiches and cake from the Penny Pot café at lunchtime.



Friends networking day in Edale

TOURISM NETWORK MEMBERS
Enjoying Exploring Edale Station and Hope Valley Line

Members of the Community Rail Tourism Network spent a delightful day out exploring the scenic Hope Valley Line with us in August 2024. The visit was the second in a series, the first being held in Lowestoft earlier in the year, aimed at sharing best practice on how Community Rail Network members can develop and promote their tourism offer through diverse and inspiring initiatives. The visit included a trip along the Manchester to Sheffield route with local train operator Northern providing complimentary travel for the group.

Helen and Catherine talked about projects within the CRP, including working in partnership with the Peak District National Park and developing the fascinating Bumblebee Safari Trails along the line. Friends of Edale station joined us to show off their work around the station and we all enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Penny Pot café. Tourism Network members joined the trip from as far as Norfolk and Cambridge and everyone shared how much they valued and appreciated having an informal setting to exchange ideas and best practice, while being able to meet people face-to-face and explore a different area of community rail.





Tourism Network members exploring Edale Station and Hope Valley Line

COMING UP

- CRP meeting on 26th OR 27th November – (date to be confirmed)
- Steel Cotton Rail Trail route development, testing and leaflet print
- New approach fences at Edale station
- Appoint a fencing contractor for Bamford station
- Developing Phase three of the ‘Exploits of Ethel’ with Whitworks Adventure in Theatre
- Planning for Railway200
- Avanti Community Rail conference in December
- Start on refreshing our brand guide lines
- Grindleford map panel

As always, a huge thank you to all our funders, partners and Station Friends for making a huge difference to communities in High Peak and Hope Valley.



High Peak and Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership

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