High Peak and Hope Valley
COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

KEEPING YOU ON BOARD

Partnership newsletter



Issue 33

July 2025

WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER NEWSLETTER



Helen and Catherine on the Song Walk

Hello and welcome to our Summer newsletter. We hope you are all keeping well.

It's such a pleasure to share all the fantastic work going on across the High Peak and Hope Valley area with you- this edition of Keeping You on Board is packed with updates and colourful photos from many Friends of stations who have been busy planting, working with local communities and even visiting the Houses of Parliament! We reach far and wide.

Vicky Frost, our Marketing and Communications Co-ordinator has been out and about at stations and collaborating with local businesses and ventures to develop new content. Keep an eye on our socials as well as our website for some exciting stories, videos and posts.

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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COMMUNITY RAIL WEEK





At Sheffield and Manchester Piccadilly stations for Community Rail Week

From the 19-25 May we joined in celebrating Community Rail Week. On the Tuesday we were at Sheffield station which focused on the Railway 200 theme of education and skills. On the Wednesday Helen and Catherine were at Manchester Piccadilly. Community Rail engages with an estimated 65,000 young people each year through community-led education programmes and youth engagement activities which promote rail safety, increase travel confidence and open up new opportunities.

BUXTON FESTIVAL FRINGE



At Manchester Piccadilly station

We had a busy day with the volunteers at Buxton Festival Fringe on the 25th May at Manchester Piccadilly station. Complete with festival programmes, Buxton line guide leaflets and plenty of enthusiasm, we chatted to members of the public to promote the festival and how to travel to it on the train!

SONG WALK

Alongside Penistone Line Partnership and SYMCA we hosted a Song Walk in Edale with singer Tegwen Roberts. Guests travelled along the Hope Valley Line to Edale where we met Tegwen who took us on a Song Walk celebrating the history of the Clarion Ramblers and the songs they sang. You can also watch a snippet of the day over on the Penistone Line Partnership's Youtube channel.





Song Walk with Tegwen Roberts

DERBYSHIRE MAKES





Derbyshire Makes in Glossop

Derbyshire Makes held an event in Glossop, from live performances and lost stories, to film screenings and creative workshops, Glossop celebrated its creativity in style. Derbyshire Makes aims to achieve a wider awareness of Derbyshire's creative legacy through a programme of high-quality creative events – including community-produced projects and artist-led commissions.

HADFIELD LITTER PICK

At the end of March volunteers to part in Hadfield's latest Big Litter Pick! A huge thank you to everyone who helped out.



Volunteers litter picking at Hadfield

BUXTON STATION PLANTERS





Buxton station planters

If you remember back in April Buxton station had a wonderful day of planting-out as part of their GIS-informed biodiversity enhancement work with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Northern. We replaced and replanted 8 barrels, and planted three hazel trees in the car park. After some warm summer weather these photographs show some of those planters flourishing with new growth!

RAILWAY 200 PLANTING





Dore & Totley station planters

Red and white flowers have been popping up at many stations including these amazing blooms at Dore & Totley station! Planted in honour of Railway 200, they have been looking glorious in the summer sun.

The children from Disley Primary school did a fantastic job on a Friday afternoon planting red and white flowers for Railway 200. Pupils were split up into four groups, one per planter. Each group was given a planting plan each and they did us proud with minimal adult assistance!





Students of Disley Primary school planting at Disley station

LOWESTOFT EVACUEE REUNION

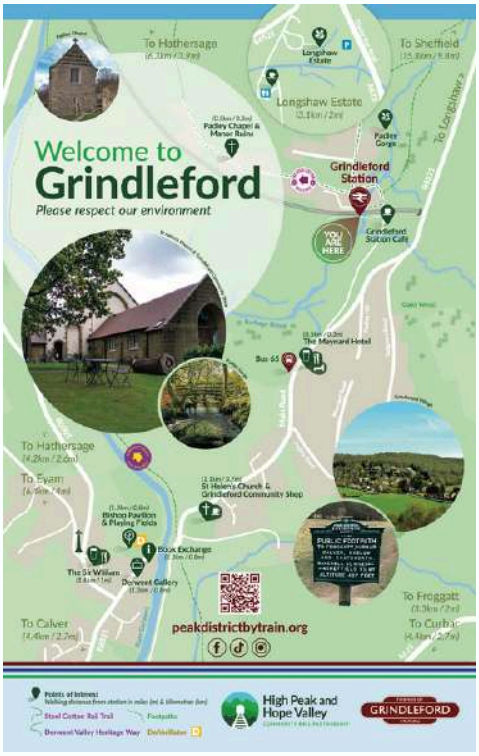




Lowestoft Evacuee Reunion

The 85th Lowestoft Evacuee Reunion was held at Glossop and Lowestoft stations. Five evacuees were given framed certificates presented by the Mayor and over 25 evacuees now in their late 80s/early 90s attended. One evacuee said “it is four years since I was well enough to attend. Coming here today is a tonic - the best medicine- being surrounded by people who show care and affection. And we can all talk with each other again.”

GRINDLEFORD INFORMATION POSTER



We are pleased to let you know that we have completed the design for the Grindleford information poster. After lots of hard work from the Grindleford community and the designer Hannah we now have a final design ready to print and install.

We are also looking into creating a smaller A5 version of this design to print as leaflets to distribute in local business premises and information points.

Welcome to Grindleford poster design

THE STEEL COTTON RAIL TRAIL

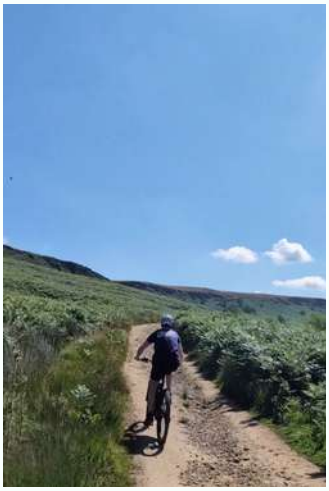




Groups testing sections of The Steel Cotton Rail Trail

We have now completed writing six sections of The Steel Cotton Rail Trail with a huge thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers who have tested routes for us. The Greenhill Beavers walked the Grindleford to Hathersage section “Beautiful sunshine, bluebells and frolicking lambs! The kids loved it. We even bumped into an army of Morris dancers at Hathersage station who danced especially for us!” Catherine, SYMCA.

BIKE GARAGE





Hiring bikes from Bike Garage in Bamford

On a very sunny day in July we worked collaboratively with Bike Garage in Bamford and Fox House to create social media content and a blog post. Just a short walk from Bamford station, Bike Garage is an independent family owned bike shop which enables you to get out and experience the beautiful local countryside. This collaborative piece of social media content has gained over 1.4K views in 7 days.

A VISIT TO PEAK RAIL



Pupils from Edale Primary School visiting Peak Rail

Edale school children visited Peak Rail as part of Railway 200 celebrations. We funded a coach to take the pupils there. The children wrote poems and we selected two winners who were awarded prizes.

Smoke puffer
Coal user
Fire holder
Ticket puncher
Loud whistler
Dusty mover

The train is steel and very smoky.
Railway ride with my sister here we come!
Angry engine burning fire
I am enjoying the journey
Noisy engine Choo! Choo! Choo!

SIGHTSEER BUS



Peak Sightseer Bus

We also promoted the return of the Peak Sightseer Bus, a fantastic opportunity to tour the Peak District on an open-top bus, enjoying amazing views of the landscape and hopping on and off at some of the best locations all day with your ticket. Visit some of the Peak District's most popular destinations with stops including Castleton and the Caverns, Chatsworth, Bakewell, Padley Gorge, Longshaw Estate, the Monsal Trail and Mam Tor.

BAMFORD STATION FENCING



Bamford station now has beautiful brand new heritage style fencing. Alongside new benches, new planters and some additional totems on the platform the station is looking great.

Funding for the fencing at Bamford station was granted by the Community Rail Development Fund, and the work was contracted by J Pugh-Lewis Ltd.

` New fencing at Bamford station

BUXTON BEE SAFARI





Bee Safari leader, Steve Orridge, with his 'sweep net to gently catch pollinators' and Neil examining the bilberry bumblebee spotted by Steve during the safari.

In July Friends of Buxton station hosted a bumblebee safari with local wildlife expert, Steve. The free event involved a wheelchair-friendly walk to Lightwood and back whilst learning all about wildlife, in particular the amazing variety of bees you can see!

TEDDY BEARS' PICNIC





Teddy Bears' Picnic on the Glossop Line

The 14th June saw the return of the annual Teddy Bears Picnic on the Glossop Line. Families travelled for free between the stations provided they had a teddy/ soft toy with them. The stations involved were Glossop, Hadfield and Guide Bridge.There were also free activities at the stations for families to join in if they wished and the Hunt the Teddy Bears Competition ran again.

PARLIAMENTARY RECEPTION



Dave, Sue, Derek & Neil at the Parliamentary reception

Friends of station groups visited UK Parliament for the Community Rail Network Reception event in July. Held at the Palace of Westminster, nearly 200 members, MPs, rail industry partners and third-sector supporters from across England, Scotland and Wales (and the Netherlands!) joined for a celebration of all things community rail, showcasing the valuable work delivered all year round by community rail.

INSTALLATION OF ARTWORK AT HOPE STATION





Artwork installed at Hope station

Artwork created by pupils from Hope Valley College was installed at Hope station. Huge thanks to the students for producing such high quality artwork to showcase your stunning local area and to Si Homfray at Park Designs UK for creating and installing the panels. Thanks to Gill Wood from Friends of Hope station for initiating the project and to art teacher Annette Nicklin for grasping the opportunity and helping us to make this happen in spite of the demands of a very busy curriculum. Thanks to Jess at Northern Trains Ltd for providing prizes for the winning artists. Hope station is looking splendid!

NEW FENCING AT EDALE





New fencing being installed for the Loading Dock at Edale station

Friends of Edale Station were awarded funding from the Community Rail Network, Northern and the CRP to work on restoration of this railway heritage feature as part of their Railway 200 celebrations. Richard Eley completed the work in July. The group now have the task of clearing the enclosed site in order for the next phase of the project to begin.

COMING UP

- Steel Cotton Rail Trail testing the final section, completing booklets in time for the September launch
- Railway 200 project development: ‘Creative Journeys’
- Railway 200 project development: ‘I’m George Stephenson’ with Whitworks Adventures in
- Theatre and Graves Youth Theatre
- Grindleford map panel print and install, and produce flyers.
- Dore & Totley fencing and running in board
- Hadfield to Glossop walk leaflet
- CRP Accreditation

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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