High Peak and Hope Valley
COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

KEEPING YOU ON BOARD

Partnership newsletter





Issue 34

October 2025

WELCOME TO OUR AUTUMN NEWSLETTER



Helen and Catherine launching the Steel Cotton Rail Trail at Sheffield station

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

It's such a pleasure to share all the fantastic work that's happened over the summer across the High Peak and Hope Valley area - this edition of Keeping You on Board is packed with some fabulous projects in celebration of Railway200 and lots of local community involvement.

Vicky Frost, our Marketing and Communications Co-ordinator has been extremely busy gathering updates and stories as well as doing a great job on the launch of the Steel Cotton Rail Trail. 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

Community Partnership Rail Officers
Helen.wright4@derbyshire.gov.uk
Catherine.croney@derbyshire.gov.uk

LAUNCHING THE STEEL COTTON RAIL TRAIL





Launching the Steel Cotton Rail Trail at Sheffield station

On Saturday 27th September we launched the Steel Cotton Rail Trail at Sheffield station.

We enjoyed songs from Sheffield Socialist Choir and Tegwen Roberts alongside speeches from Ken Smith, Chair of the Peak District National Park and Paul Webster, Regions Support Manager, Community Rail Network. We handed out lots of leaflets and special fabric patches which we hope to see sewn onto backpacks soon!

The Steel Cotton Rail trail is now ready for everyone to enjoy, head to our website to download all of the station to station sections of the walk





Certificate and cloth badges designed by Hannah at Design Everything

BUXTON WELL DRESSING



Friends of Buxton station shared this photograph of the Buxton well dressing subject from Buxton Community School in celebration of Railway 200.

Friend of Buxton station Sue with this year's well dressing

DISLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL BANNERS





Artwork created by Disley Primary school installed at Disley station

Disley station has had some new banners created by the children at Disley Primary school. The banners have been installed at the station and they really are looking wonderful! Celebrating 168 years of Disley station and happy 200th birthday to the modern railway.

HOPE VALLEY ART TRAIL BY RAIL



Friends of Grindleford station celebrating the Art Trail by Rail

On the 27 September the Hope Valley Art Trail by Rail celebrated creativity along the Hope Valley Line, using the railway to encourage people to hop on and off at specific villages to walk, cycle or catch a bus to explore and take part in art activities. Local artists, makers and creatives showcased their work as part of the trail.

The event was created by Emily Gait, Move More Community Engagement Officer of Hope Valley Climate Action, and over 150 people joined in. Read more about it in her blog here https://hopevalleyclimateaction.org.uk/celebrating-200-years-of-travel-by-rail/





Artwork by Becks Pytches and volunteer Shane Carrington

HADFIELD BUMBLEBEE SAFARI



Bumblebee Safari at Hadfield station

In August, Friends of Hadfield station hosted a Bumblebee Safari, led by Joy Hallsworth. Despite the very warm weather bumblebees were spotted and it was a successful day! Friend of Glossop station Neil Williams showed a knitted model of the Peak District's rarest bumblebee, the Bilberry Bumblebee, before the group went on a walk around the wilder edges of Bankswood Park to look for bumblebees. Everyone was given a copy of our Buzzing Stations booklet. Many thanks to Network Rail for joining the event.

BUXTON FINAL SUMMER GARDEN PARTY



Friends of Buxton station had their final summer Garden Party tidying up for the start of autumn.

As ever a huge thank you to all our station volunteers who keep the stations welcoming and pleasant places to be.

Friends of Buxton station gardening

GRINDLEFORD INFORMATION POSTER INSTALLED

After lots of hard work from the Grindleford community and Design Everything we now have a final design printed and installed at the station. An A5 flyer of the design has also been created which will be printed and distributed at local businesses and information points soon.



Welcome to Grindleford poster

BAMFORD SIGNAGE







New signage installed at Bamford station

Bamford station has recently installed some new signage. There are new running boards, a directional signpost at step free (vehicle) entrance to platform 2, a directional signpost to the step free access to platform 1 and a pictorial representation of a historic time line for Bamford village!

Work on the station approach road and car park have also started recently and we can’t wait to see the results.

SOUNDSCAPE IN SHEFFIELD

Almost 800 people visited Polyhymns 'Peak Tracks' installation at the Cadman Room, Millenium Galleries, Sheffield when it was exhibited as part of Sensoria Festival from 2-5th October.

This soundscape takes you on a journey from Sheffield to Chinley celebrating the Hope Valley train line. Each stop is represented by a combination of improvised music, field recordings and oral history clips from people who have lived and worked along the line.

Edale station Friends have been working with Sam Smith of Polyhymns on a number of projects, including his involvement at Edale Primary school working with the children there.

Edale Station Friends are hosting a Railway 200 Celebration weekend open to the public on the 8th and 9th November 10am - 4pm in Edale Village Hall which will showcase the work that has been done, with the showing of two films. There will also be an opportunity to enjoy the children's prose and poetry and visual art. Derek Phillips will be displaying some of his superb railway photos with contributions from other photographers as well.



Polyhymns soundscape exhibition. Image credit:
Vox Multimedia

JOHN AXON BRIDGE



(L to R) John Axon's Grand daughter Melanie, 5 from Friends of Chapel station (John, Richard, Derek, Sue, Iain) and John Axon's grandson Andrew.

The Friends of Chapel station have, for many years, annually commemorated the tragic deaths of Driver John Axon G.C. and Guard John Creamer, whose lives were lost on 9th February 1957 in the accident at Chapel Station.

We had understood that we were the only formal markers of the occasion, but a few months ago we were contacted by Stockport tourism, as proposals for re naming a pedestrian railway bridge close to the site of the Engine Shed, Stockport Edgeley at which John was based, after him, were taking shape.

The re naming, from its existing name of Thomson St Bridge, took place on 30th September, at a well attended ceremony, with representatives of Stockport Council, Community Rail Partnership, and others, including 5 from Friends of Chapel station. Lord Peter Hendy was the chief guest. It now has a blue plaque, and name boards stating it's new name, The Friends group also made some useful new contacts including John Axon's Grand daughter and Grandson.

Words from Friend of Chapel station John.

GLOSSOP STATION ART EXHIBITION



Wendy Turner's work currently on display in the Waiting Room at Glossop station.

Wendy is a local photographer and her pictures are a quirky take on many local scenes in and around Glossop. They are sure to raise a smile!

Words from Friend of Glossop station Neil.

Wendy Turner exhibition in the Waiting Room

MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

We have had a very busy and successful few months celebrating all of your amazing work at the stations and launching the Steel Cotton Rail Trail. We have had articles printed in the press, including The Guardian and shared to Ramblers Walk Magazine which is distributed to over 85,000 people. We have collaborated with a variety of influencers, local businesses and organisations on social media.

25.5K website views in the last 30 days

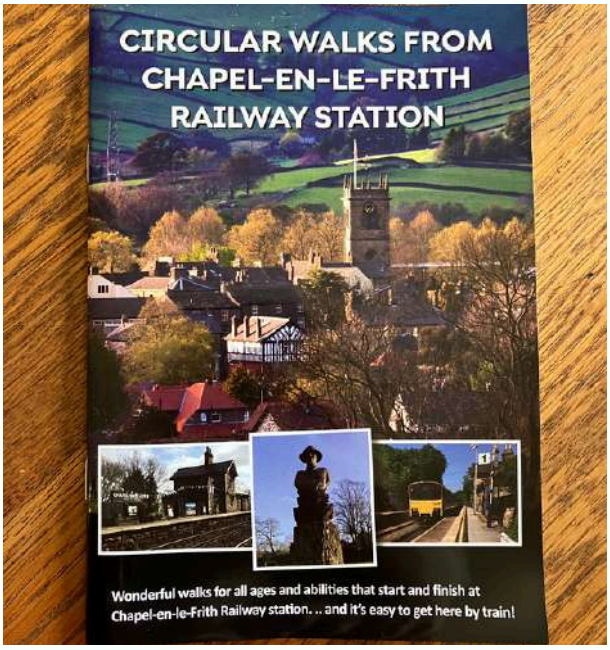
A total of **24.6K** views on the Steel Cotton Rail Trail webpage

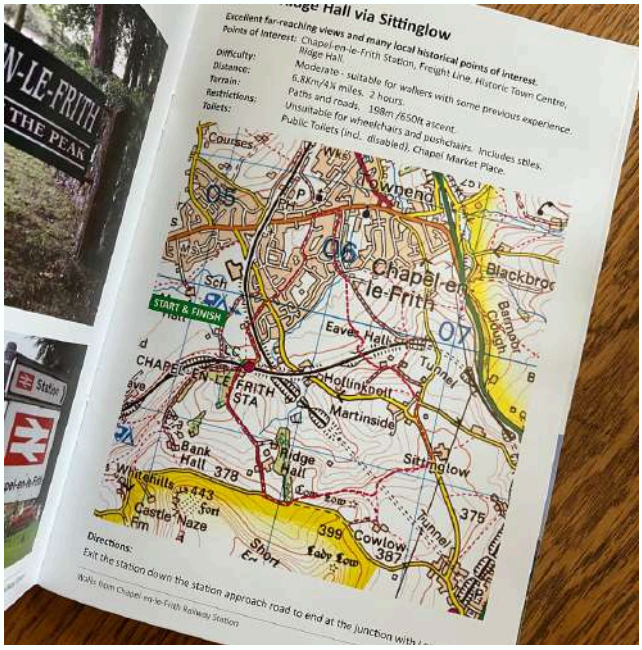
10.4K views on our Instagram content this month

8.6K views on our Facebook content this month

5.6K views on our TikTok content this month

CIRCULAR WALKS FROM CHAPEL STATION





Newly printed booklet of circular walks from Chapel station

Friends of Chapel station have created a new booklet of circular walks for all ages and abilities that start and finish at Chapel station. The booklet features 7 walks ranging from 3.2km to 8.5km and each walk is illustrated with photography and an overview OS map.

Thank you to Northern Rail, Community Rail Network, Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish Council, Don Coffey and all of the Friends of Chapel station.

FRIEND OF CHAPEL STATION DON COFFEY CELEBRATED IN THE NEWS



Don Coffey

Don Coffey, Friend of Chapel station has retired from his job as a train driver. His departure was marked on a display screen at the station, reading ‘wishing the legendary Don Coffey a very happy and well deserved retirement’. Despite retiring as a driver he plans to continue his successful YouTube channel, the proceeds of which are donated to causes close to Don’s heart, in particular to the Samaritans charity.

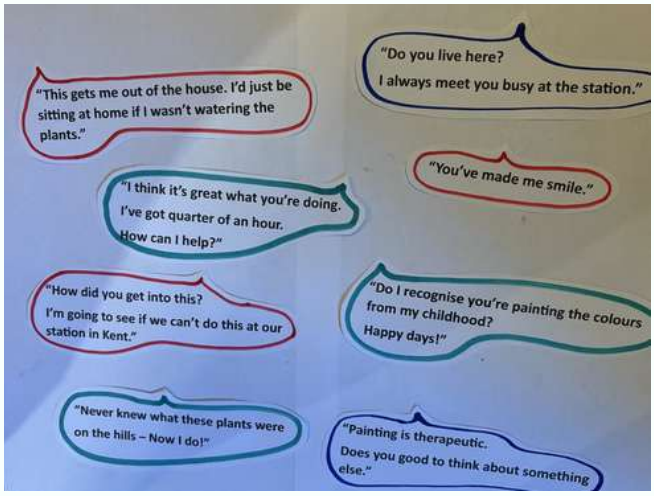
EDALE PAINTING





Edale Station Friends have given over 250 hours in painting the station shelters, benches, lampposts and notice boards in Midland Red and Cream, as a nod to the original colours.

The comments (right) are a few of what has been said to them as they have been working on the station.



Edale station painting work

CREATIVE JOURNEYS OPEN CALL

Alongside No Jobs in the Arts CIC, Avanti West Coast and Northern Rail, we are seeking expressions of interest from disabled and neurodivergent creatives for a creative residency along the railway line between Buxton and Stockport.

Two creatives will be commissioned to take part in a self-led creative rail residency. Inspired by their journey, the creatives will design four creative activities, which will be transformed into a Creative Journeys Leaflet. The aim of the Creative Journeys Leaflets is to invite members of the public to share in the creative's experience and find inspiration as they travel by rail in Spring 2026.

FRIENDS OF STATIONS NETWORKING DAY



Friends of stations arriving at Disley station

On the 15th October we gathered for a networking day. Arriving at Disley station we enjoyed a tour of the station before walking to National Trust's Lyme estate. After our autumnal wander we enjoyed tea/coffee and some yummy bakes whilst discussing all of your exciting projects!

I AM GEORGE STEPHENSON



I am George Stephenson cast

Graves Youth Theatre had a successful weekend of performances at Barrow Hill, receiving some wonderful feedback, "we really enjoyed the young performers who must have worked so hard to learn the script and actions. They put so much feeling and expression into the performance.".

We are looking forward to the performances scheduled to take part in Hathersage and Edale in November!

Graves Youth Theatre have also been shortlisted for an award at the Sheffield Youth Awards 2025 in the categories of Culture and Heritage and Creative Arts group Award.

COMING UP

- Railway200 project: ‘Creative Journeys’ artist selection and creative activity development.
- Railway200 performances of ‘I am George Stephenson’ at Hathersage and Edale
- Dore & Totley fencing and running in board
- Hadfield to Glossop walk leaflet
- CRP Accreditation
- CRP meeting on 25th November
- Attending Greater Manchester Community Rail, Northern and Avanti conferences

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

@hphvcrp

@highpeak_hopevalley_crp

info@peakdistrictbytrain.org

High Peak and Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership

www.peakdistrictbytrain.org