



Making a difference

April 2023



Community Rail Report 2023



NORTHERN

Go do your thing

Contents

Welcome	3
Our communities have made us smile and made us proud	5
Stations are at the heart of our community	7
Community Rail Partnerships	29
Our community partnerships	70
Community Rail Lancashire (CRL) Education	70
Community Rail Network	72
Our community commitments	75
Community Rail Funding	75

Welcome

The north was one of the birthplaces of community rail, and as you'll see in the coming pages, it's alive and thriving across the Northern network.

From the southern point of our operations in Nottingham to the northern tip in Carlisle, and from Liverpool in the west to Hull in the east, it's our pleasure to work with 22 community rail partnerships, a plethora of station adopters and hundreds of volunteers.

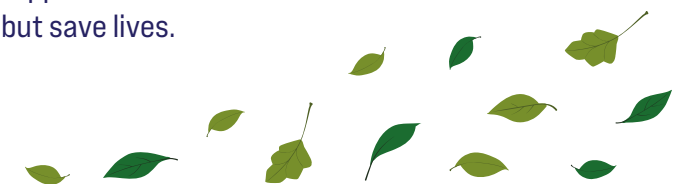
And what I see with the groups and individuals we work with is that when we talk about community rail it's talked about with a strong focus on impact and positive change. There's a real understanding of what local communities need and innovative and creative approaches to meeting those needs, breaking down barriers and supporting each other in an effective way.

Impact is critical and in the following pages you'll read and see a whole range of activities with design and purpose.

I'm always impressed by the variety of activities undertaken – the myth of community rail being just about planting flowers and gardens is no more – and every day we see great examples of projects that positively affect the environment, provide transport connectivity and mobility, support education and history, offer help and in some cases not only improve but save lives.



Nick Donovan,
Managing Director



Welcome

Northern has provided more than £1.1m in support of community rail in the last year and that has paid dividends as it has in part helped to deliver more than £1.3bn extra to the northern society.

Northern doesn't do things on a whim and we're using research, evidence and invaluable community insights to help shape our business planning process and decision-making to ensure we prioritise those things that will have the biggest impact.

For example, our vision for stations, which is shared with community and political leaders, is to put them at the heart of communities, making them destinations in their own right – places that are much more than just a boarding and alighting point.

Of course, there are wider challenges, not least around the cost of living and a drive towards net zero, and community work in these areas is more important than ever.

I and Northern are proud of everything our community volunteers do, and we're committed to helping everyone achieve our collective aim of having a positive, transformational impact for the people and communities of the north of England.

Nick Donovan,
Managing Director



Our communities have made us smile and made us proud



Welcome to our community review of the fantastic work that's taking place across the Northern network.

In the past year we've been able to fully get back on with delivering projects and initiatives across the network and we're delighted that Northern, our partners and critically our community volunteers have once again been out there making a difference.

We see and hear what's going on every day, and there is never a day when community rail doesn't make us smile or feel proud. This review is our opportunity to publicise all the amazing work taking place at our stations and within our regions to the wider world.

On the following pages you'll see some commentary about the wide-ranging activities that we've been delighted to support but you'll also see lots of great images and pics, and lots of smiling faces.

It really is lovely to see the snaps, which we think tell an amazing story. People are at the heart of everything we do, and people are making a difference.

You'll read and see how community rail brings people together, makes everyone a little bit happier and most importantly makes a difference in what is a difficult, challenging world right now.

The world is already paying attention and we were delighted that both the Community Rail Conference and the Community Rail Awards were back in person. We are biased, of course, but the teams in the north smashed it. Projects, groups and partnerships on our network either won or were highly commended 14 times on the night. A tremendous achievement and something everyone should be proud of.

It would be remiss, however, not to highlight the team at Goostrey station, who picked up the Outstanding Contribution to Community Rail – a

Our communities have made us smile and made us proud

well-deserved accolade for their work in 2021 and one which, as you will see in the coming pages, has clearly inspired them to keep doing more and keep pushing the community standard.

Three names were announced by the judges that we couldn't agree more with – three people we're so thankful to be working with, in and for Northern communities.

Julie Levy, Chair at South East Lancashire CRP, was deservedly named for the Outstanding Volunteer Contribution and we agree with Dr Paul Salveson that she is "a force of nature" and "a truly outstanding volunteer and friend".

But Julie had better watch out, as another truly inspiring volunteer, Tony Ford from South Fylde, was named third and may well be coming for her crown in 2023.

And finally, we were all on our feet with 430 other guests, as the judges gave special recognition to the one and only Richard Watts of Community Rail Lancashire. Richard is passionate, innovative and a difference maker – and truly deserves all the applause and that standing ovation. Legend!

We really recommend you grab yourself a brew and a biscuit (maybe a couple) and set aside a bit of time to read the [winners booklet from the Community Rail Awards](#).







We hope you enjoy our community rail review – and from your team here at Northern and from the very bottom of our northern hearts, we thank you for all those within our community who make us smile and always make us proud.

Carolyn, Becky, Lisa, Marie, Martin, Richard and Simon



Stations are at the heart of our community



	Making our stations sparkle	8
	Galleries for all	12
	Being a friend to nature	16
	Positively helping each other be together	19
	Trains aren't the be-all and end-all	23
	A right royal year	25

Stations are at the heart of our community

Making our stations sparkle



Everything always look better with a bit of love and attention and our station volunteers are always looking to clear up the mess, bring out the blossoms and improve the experience for our customers and communities.

'Friends of' groups and adopters at stations including Squires Gate, Urmston, St Annes, Goostrey, Dove Holes (and many more) sweep platforms, pick up litter, build and fill planters and transform station wastelands into bright, fresh, welcoming gardens – giving stations character and providing stunning floral displays.

And at stations like Leyland, the teams have created community orchards providing free seasonal fruit for passengers and visitors, as well as making the car park more attractive. At Todmorden, a miniature version of the team's RHS Tatton Flower Show garden has been installed on platform 1.

Volunteers across the network aren't averse to getting their paint brushes, screwdrivers and hammers out to bring new life to historic station elements. Grosmont have repainted walls and restored station benches, and contributors at Buxton and Edale have fixed fences and carried out general station maintenance.

The dedicated team at Moss Side even showed their mastery by creating a new station sign in the style of the 1960s, giving a very visible nod to the past. The team at Brighthouse have planted, cleaned and contributed more than 1,000 hours of volunteer time to making the station sparkle.

We're delighted to welcome a new group at Prestbury, who meet regularly now with 20+ volunteers to make sure the station is spick and span.



Stations are at the heart of our community

Making our stations sparkle

Friends of Pendle Stations consists of seven retired railway men who want to make Nelson and Brierfield stations look clean, attractive and nice for train passengers. They visit Nelson on Tuesday mornings and Brierfield on Thursday mornings and sweep the platforms, clean the waiting shelter windows and arrange displays of plants and flowers in large 'planters'. They've developed their own slogans for the two stations, which are: 'Neat and Tidy Nelson' and 'Beautiful Brierfield'.

At Romiley, volunteers have been busy making the waiting room garden flourish and are preparing the ground for the much-anticipated contemplation garden, which will take seed in 2023. Friends of Mirfield, a group of bereaved or care-giving women, have received enterprise recognition from Sir Patrick Stewart (aka Captain Jean-Luc Picard) for their work at the station.

Home to Work, a local charity in Cleator Moor, are very proud to be the station adopters of both Netherton and Braystones, and have crafted a woodwork train to welcome passengers at Braystones.

Two friends at Danby, Alan Hobson and Stephen Harrison, said:

"[I love spending] time at the station, it gets me outdoors and I feel a sense of immense pride when I see the station in all its glory."

"I love to trim back the trees and paint the woodwork. I love getting out and about and meeting new people, but most of all I am making a difference to my local station."

Lots of our stations sparkle due to the efforts of communities, groups and adopters, and we love the work you do.

Stations are at the heart of our community

Making our stations sparkle



Stations are at the heart of our community

Making our stations sparkle



Stations are at the heart of our community

Galleries for all



Art is all around and it's always great to see when our bricks and mortar are transformed into local versions of the Tate, the Hepworth and the Walker. Our station galleries are a must see for all.

Our lives and travels have been brightened up over the last year with artistic expression being evident across the north. From mural-based Christmas trees and stencil drawings on the platform fence at Patricroft through to creative use of recyclables at Dove Holes and flower-based colour added to Squires Gate surround, art really is everywhere.

Celebrating locality and station history is always popular and our friends at Urmston and Irlam have produced panel posters recognising nearly 200 years of railway operation between Liverpool and Manchester. Wigton station in Cumbria now has historic photos from the turn of 20th century adorning its platforms. At Edale, two platform panoramas point the main skyline features and have been warmly received by many of the station's visiting walkers.

Station entrances and walkways have been enhanced at Bradford, Batley, Halifax, Todmorden and Walsden, making Calder Valley welcoming and full of colour; and Crossgates, Darnhill and Mirfield community groups have taken similar approaches, adding vibrancy and local pride to their stations.

Stations are at the heart of our community *Galleries for all*

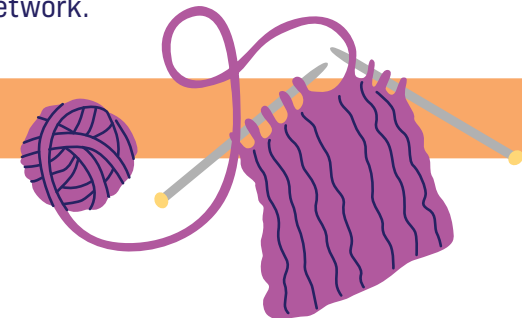


Crafting has been high on the agenda for the likes of Brinnington, Goostrey, Manors and Seaham in support of mental health, local attractions and long-lost traditions. The team at Buxton made a huge hand puppet for the town carnival and the garden panels at Manors represent biodiversity, ecology and the beauty of human and natural creations.

Station galleries are really special; and Goostrey, Glossop and Alnmouth have all held exhibitions, some by local artists and some by local schools and groups.

And of course, stations have reflected and installed remembrance artwork with some truly considerate tributes at Buxton, St Anne's, Netherton and Braystones, where woodwork sessions have been held to pass on skills to local unemployed people.

Art isn't always paintings and portraits, and we are delighted that we have so much creativity and inspiration across our network.



Stations are at the heart of our community

Galleries for all



Stations are at the heart of our community

Galleries for all



Stations are at the heart of our community

Being a friend to nature



We all know the challenges ahead and being friendly to our world is the right thing to do. Every little thing does count, and our communities have collectively turned the dial down a bit and made the Northern network a bit cleaner and greener.

Bees and insects have been buzzing across the network with pollinator plants growing at Dove Holes, Cuddington, Edale and Buxton, and five-star bug hotel accommodation has popped up at Bramhall, Great Ayton, Goostrey (with the help of a local Beaver pack), Brighouse and Hadfield.

Sanctuary areas have been created by cutting back brambles and weeds at both Patricroft and Squires Gate, and long-term planting has been the order of the day at St Annes, where a nursery has been created and planters built from old pallets.

Biodiversity has been allowed to flourish at Squires Gate and Goostrey, where bird and bat boxes have been installed and are well populated. The Goostrey team have monitored and mapped the movements of local wildlife via a GIS programme, with records available on their website.

We share this world, but we are also responsible for it and it's great that our communities are doing their bit in a whole variety of ways.



Stations are at the heart of our community

Being a friend to nature



Stations are at the heart of our community

Being a friend to nature



Stations are at the heart of our community

Positively helping each other be together



If the recent years tell us anything, it's that when we do things together it all feels a bit better. Bringing our communities together is not only a nice thing to do, it's a must for everyone's wellbeing. We all want to be supported and included, and local heroes have been busy building a happier society.

Life is hard right now! It's tough for so many people in all our communities but we know there's always fantastic work going on to lighten the load. We're so proud and so thankful to have northern care and helping hands all around us.

As an example of the many school trips that have been able to take place, Year 1 pupils from Lanercost Primary School in Brampton enjoyed a wonderful day visiting Carlisle. They explored the city, visited the cathedral and even went to the library to read stories. After an eventful trip, a play in the local park near the station was in order.

The older generation also enjoyed themselves, and the 'St Annes Knit and Natter' group got busy yarn-bombing the stations with three large seascapes drawing attention to the town's seaside location and featuring sea creatures (including lobsters and seahorses), plant life and other things you might find on the seashore or seabed.



Stations are at the heart of our community

Positively helping each other be together

Working on the stations has proved very beneficial for volunteer mental health in itself, with endorsements coming from Squires Gate and Dove Holes from groups appreciating the opportunity to chat, socialise and work on community projects together.

Our groups have worked on and off the station footprints with Buxton volunteers cleaning local monuments and decorating the community Christmas Tree with Ukranian-themed decorations in support of the town's refugee intake. The Dove Holes group cleared waste land near the station and added to the village bonfire with discarded wood and branches.

Joining forces also has a powerful impact, and Patricroft adopters were delighted to receive a pair of large planters which volunteers from Siemens will plant up later in the year. Along the line at Eccles, primary-age children from Beech Street school in Winton received an entertaining history talk about nearly 200 years of the local railway, before transferring their knowledge to canvas and celebrating local heroes with an exhibition in the library.

Irlam has long been established as a community hub and again last year they used the station to bring in, educate and even entertain the community. School Christmas choirs, summer platform dances and educational visits for Hi-Viz-clad primary schoolers on local historic industry, including railway signal box tours, ticked all the boxes.

Community rail is often about helping the more vulnerable and Buxton has seen some important signage installed to support people with dementia, while the team at Manors have worked with a knit-and-natter group and men's mental health charity Pie and Poetry. Urban history walks are planned by the St Vincent de Paul Society as part of the Manors Community Day, and the team at Hunmanby organised a day trip to Hull for to help combat loneliness for a group of residents aged between 72 and 93. The team at Edale have held travel and community days for local schools and the group Women Asylum Seekers Together.

We also know that community ownership and involvement drives down crime and antisocial behaviour, and Dove Holes is just one example where working with community police officers has had a positive effect on station vandalism.

Humans love being together, and we excel at being part of something bigger and doing better as one.



Stations are at the heart of our community

Positively helping each other be together



Stations are at the heart of our community

Positively helping each other be together



Stations are at the heart of our community

Trains aren't the be-all and end-all



Did you expect us to say that?

Well, we have and they aren't!

They're a part of a jigsaw and connecting communities beyond the station is why we're all really here.

The new cycle shelter at Great Ayton station is the first piece in the jigsaw for the planned 'Endeavour Way' active travel route, linking the station with Great Ayton and the nearby town of Stokesley.

Our trains support tourism of all kinds across a huge network, and what better way to finish a busy day out and about than with a real ale. A concept recognised by Buxton volunteers who researched (ahem!) designed and printed a rail ale walking guide, covering a number of establishments and decent brews close to the station.

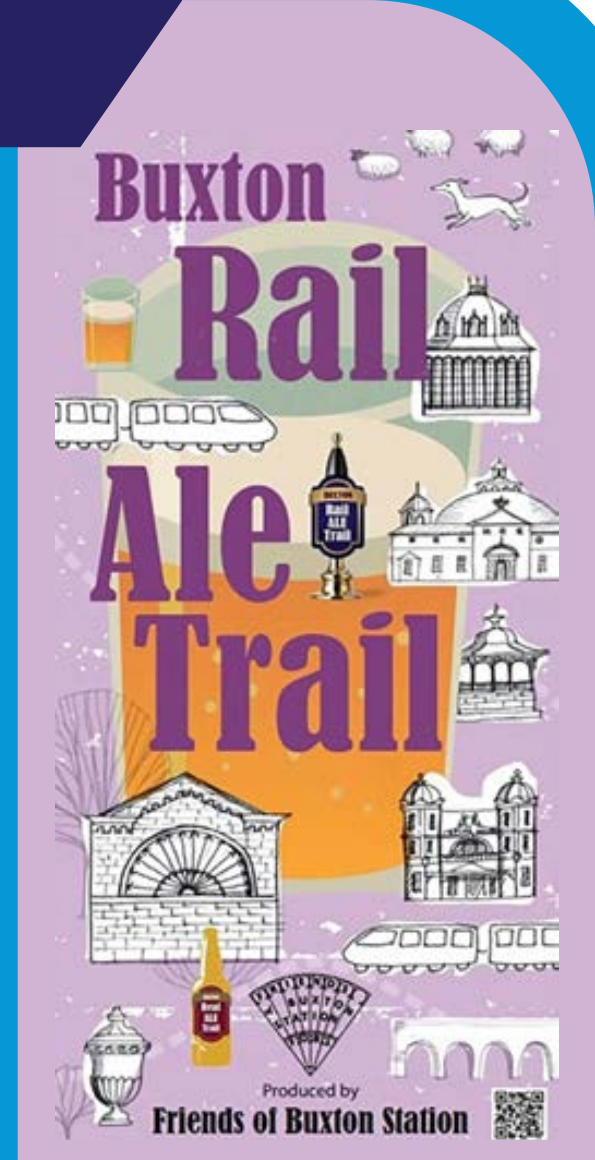
And of course, sometimes it's about bringing the station to the community. Goostrey adopters did exactly this by hosting a station stall at Goostrey Rose Day to remind the townspeople of their achievements and plans for their fantastic station.

Friends of Goostrey Station supported the annual village arts festival 'Goosfest'. Debbie Goldsmith, a professional artist, who has a studio in the restored station building, organised an exhibition of the work of 16 professional artists, including herself, in a barn on a local farm.

The team also attended local Parish Council meetings and thanked councillors for their continuing support. And a group member led an astronomy session for Goostrey Beavers at the village scout hut. The aim was to help every child there gain their Space Activity Badge.

The railway connects location A to location B; but community rail adds the real magic, making it about people and places rather than moving lumps of metal.

Stations are at the heart of our community
Trains aren't the be-all and end-all



Stations are at the heart of our community

A right royal year



Celebration, mourning and lots of ceremony. It's been a historic year of pageantry and our stations have been the jewel in the crown (sorry we couldn't help the pun).

St. Anne's worked with the Senior Moments Care Daytime Support Hub to create and decorate wooden crowns and their near neighbours at Squires Gate made their station feel part of the Platinum Jubilee with display boards and suitable flower arrangements, which lasted quite a long time after the event and even after Her Majesty's unfortunate passing.

The team at Goostrey are obviously an artistic bunch and their Platinum Plaque Project brought their community together. A-Level art student and professional artist Debbie Goldsmith organised workshops for children in Goostrey primary school and for adults in the art studio during which the participants made decorated clay coins. Some were personal mementoes, but others are being assembled into a composite plaque which will be

installed at the station as a permanent reminder of this special occasion.

Stations all across the network including Dove Holes, Irlam, Buxton, Glossop, Wigton and Rufford were dressed with bunting and Union Jacks by enthusiastic volunteers in an inclusive manner, a subtlety that we think the late Queen would have respected and approved of.



Stations are at the heart of our community

A right royal year



Famous station adopters from Buxton were invited to Buckingham Palace in recognition of their years of community work and were visited by TV's 'Railway King', Michael Portillo. Mr Portillo was impressed and admired the Jubilee artwork that had been created with 70 metal letters, each with a real stamp and the name of someone important to local history.

Our Romiley volunteers played a fundamental part in the town's Platinum Jubilee celebrations and street parties and plans are well under way to make King Charles III's coronation as big (if not bigger) an occasion.

Friends of Ilkley Station, Northern and the Halifax Station Partnership supported local schools to create a stunning floral display on the station to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee as part of a local competition between five primary schools. Gardening royalty Alan Titchmarsh was one of 300 attendees at the station open day and judged the winning displays. Not to be outdone, volunteers from Todmorden and Walsden planted beds in purple and gold to help celebrate the jubilee and created a photographic exhibition in the Platform 1 waiting room at Todmorden station. Brighthouse produced some beautiful royal-themed planters as part of the Platinum Jubilee.

A lot happened involving the monarchy in 2022, and while not everyone might be a royalist it was important for us to be part of and reflect history in the making.

Stations are at the heart of our community

A right royal year



Stations are at the heart of our community

A right royal year





Community Rail Partnerships

Making an impact and adding value

Bishop Line CRP

Vice Chair: **Charlie Walton**
Officer: **Felicity Machnicki**
www.bishopline.org



This year has been packed full of emotions for the Bishop Line CRP. We've experienced celebration and success with our projects and collaborations, but we've also experienced great sadness with the passing of our Chair Robert Whitehouse. We hope this summary of our year would have made Bob proud.

Spring saw the delivery of our fantastic 'Our Line Connections' project, where three artists worked with over 200 people from schools and community groups along the Bishop Line to discover what 'connection' meant to them. They then connected schools and groups to co-produce some truly emotive artwork and songs, which they performed at a celebration event at Locomotion. All the artwork and songs can be found on the project website: <http://www.our-line.net/>



We've proudly been part of the Backtrack competition working group once again this year. Our rail safety sessions helped attract entries from local schools, community groups and colleges, and we celebrated their amazing entries at an awards event in early 2023.

We recruited UTC South Durham (a local college) as new station adopters for Heighington station. With many students travelling to college by train, the college saw a perfect opportunity to put their stamp on the station. Students have been working on proposals for improvements through their project work and we're looking forward to seeing some of these installed in the future.

We also visited the college to deliver rail safety assemblies and judge student project work.

In autumn, we collaborated with New Writing North to help connect Durham Book Festival to the communities along the Bishop Line.

Bishop Line CRP

On behalf of the partnership, New Writing North delivered a series of interactive creative reading and writing experiences to schools and community groups, inspired by the themes of community, connection and travel.

Three projects were delivered, each to a specific age group.

1. 'Turn Up For The Books' aimed to give young people from the North of England, aged 16 to 25, an insight into careers in literature – a traditionally London-centric industry.
2. 'Balance The Books' engaged with five state secondary schools along the line to discover brilliant new books by authors from underrepresented backgrounds and involve them in projects inspired by the project's themes of inclusion and diversity.
3. 'The Little Read' provided a set of 30 copies of this year's chosen book, *Polonius the Pit Pony* by Richard O'Neill, to all 24 primary schools along the line, along with resources for teachers. The partnership will continue to engage with all the schools involved in this collaboration to deliver rail education in 2023 and 2024.

The coming year will see even more activity in schools as we recruit a dedicated Rail Education Officer for our partnership. We'll be working on creative projects in the community to celebrate the imminent celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Stockton and Darlington Railway in 2025. And we'll continue to grow and diversify our partnership to best reflect the needs and aspirations of the community we serve.



Calder Valley CRP

Chair: Cllr John Blundell

Officer: Karen Hornby

www.rochdale.gov.uk/improving-borough/calder-valley-line-community-rail-partnership



It's been an exciting twelve months for the Calder Valley Line CRP. We're a relatively new CRP, and our Partnership Officer started the role in March 2022.

We have an established prospectus which details our aims, objectives and ambition. <https://www.rochdale.gov.uk/downloads/download/388/calder-valley-line-community-rail-partnership-prospectus>

We received confirmation in February 2023 that we're now a fully accredited CRP. We've developed a community area at Rochdale station, and thanks to TfGM and Northern we now have an undercover area where we can promote school artwork and community events.

Along with industry partners Northern and CRN, we're working on a leaflet which details places to visit, great walks and where to go exploring along the Calder Valley Line. We're also developing our website and social media pages and we've created drone and video footage of the line which shows the great attractions we have along the Calder Valley line and how close our railway stations are to them.

We're working in partnership with Calderdale and Hopwood Hall Colleges on art projects and career opportunities.

We have a number of fabulous station adopters on our line who do an amazing job. Nearly all of our stations have been adopted and we meet regularly to discuss what volunteers are doing and share best practice. Working with Northern, we held a technology workshop for our adopters and Northern's Year in Industry Student Ben Tring wrote us a guide to using social media, QR codes, etc.

Calder Valley CRP

Next year promises to be just as exciting, with new community poster cases on each of our stations to publicise events and attractions. We'll also be working with Rochdale Hornets Rugby Club and Network Rail on a programme of health, wellbeing and rail safety.

If you want to know more about our community work and other fantastic projects we've been involved in, please head to our website.



Crewe to Manchester and South East Manchester CRPs

Chairs: Mark Barker
Simon Temple

Officers: Sarah Morgan
John Kenny

www.crewe2manchesterrail.org.uk

www.semcorp.org.uk



We're official! One of our key achievements was full DfT Accreditation for both partnerships in July 2022. This accreditation opens doors for us and will enable the partnerships to deliver more and bigger community projects.

But while we've been waiting for the 'Ts and Cs' to be agreed, we've been getting on with it and making a difference in and around Crewe and South Manchester.

In Stockport we've worked with the Stockport ARC Centre, a local arts and mental health charity, to commission locally inspired (big) artworks. We hosted dedicated workshops to help budding artists hone their skills and we're delighted that 40 magnificent pictures will soon be installed on the Edgeley approach to bring a little bit of light and charm to the area. A big thanks to Avanti Trains for the grant funding.

Brinnington now has two station adopters, including the newly appointed Marple Youth Group, and we have worked with them and Network Rail throughout the year to celebrate the community's local history with art installations and exhibitions.

Alongside this, Northern ticket office staff have taken their own initiative to open a swap shop, inviting people to bring and take away toys, clothing and books. It's reported that this has increased ticket sales as well as providing a valuable service for the community.

Our officers have supported a local project to map the nearby area and we've printed and displayed maps at the station to encourage visitors (and even locals) to go and explore.

Crewe to Manchester and South East Manchester CRPs

Many stations across our patch have amazing adopters and we've been able to get additional funding to support their projects, including printing walking leaflets, multiple art projects, new planters, a memorial plaque and a coal wagon restoration.

We're also really chuffed that a new adoption group has been formed at Ryder Brow and we can't wait to carry on the great work with Old Hall Drive Academy Primary School, where we started educating pupils about behaving safely in and around the station. The Lord Mayor of Greater Manchester presented certificates to children who have worked at the station and participated in a rail safety poster competition.

We've partnered with Crewe Heritage Centre to exhibit the 'Station Connections' artwork and worked with Goostrey Station artist, Debbie Goldsmith, to provide travel and community art workshops.

In the October half term, we worked with Debbie on the 'Big Draw' event, with giant dot-to-dot and colour-by-numbers activities for visitors to Crewe Heritage Centre. <https://thebigdraw.org/event/10060>

In the coming year, we have some exciting plans to work with the Canal and River Trust and our friends at High Peak and Hope Valley CRP to promote local walking routes. We'll be unveiling murals at Hyde Central and Stockport, promoting leisure and local tourism activities and continuing our important work engaging with schoolchildren on the importance of being safe on the railway.



Cumbrian Coast CRP

Chair: Eddie Pollock

Officer: Warren Birch

[www.communityrailcumbria.co.uk/
lines/cumbrian-coast-line/](http://www.communityrailcumbria.co.uk/lines/cumbrian-coast-line/)



Our CRP covers 86 miles of beautiful landscape and coastline between Carlisle and Barrow in Furness.

The CRP and Northern continue to support our fantastic station adopters, with 100% of our 24 railway stations adopted and maintained by a variety of groups, something we're very proud of.

Cumbria has been awarded additional funds to help develop some of its key towns. This comes in the form of Future High Street Funding, Town Deals and the Borderland Place Programme. The CRP sits on a number of focus groups, contributing input to ideas and enhancements for the railway stations at Millom, Maryport, Workington, Wigton and Carlisle.

As part of the Borderlands Place Programme, three key areas have been identified for enhancing Wigton railway station – car parking, wayfinding signage and accessibility.

Our partnership with West House, Cumbria's leading care and support provider for adults and children with disabilities prompted us to enable two of their service users to assist the CRP by looking at accessibility issues in and around the railway station and we're keen to work with Northern, Network Rail and the local authority to implement the findings, delivering improvements where necessary.

The Cumbria in Bloom 2022 awards highlighted some of the fantastic work that the station adopters have been doing, with a number of stations, including Bootle, Ravenglass and Workington, achieving success in several categories. We're keen to promote the scheme to more of our stations.

Cumbrian Coast CRP

The CRP continues to support Network Rail, Northern and key partners to enhance the stations for passengers travelling on the Cumbrian Coast Line, and we were pleased that after a major logistical operation the historic bridge at Harrington was removed, restored and replaced, and a brand-new waiting shelter installed at Braystones.

At Sellafield, the car park has been resurfaced and a new access gate, fence and bollards have been installed, providing improved parking around the railway station for the energy plant workforce.



We continue to promote educational offerings along the Cumbrian Coast Line, with Maryport, Flimby, Workington, Ravenglass and Millom stations all providing an 'outdoor classroom' concept, which encourages young and old alike to learn about Cumbria's rich history while waiting for a train.

And our great work is being recognised from further afield. We were delighted to host Dr Joseph Hall and students from the University of Hertfordshire at Workington railway station, keen to explore the human geography theme of heritage by discovering how Workington's rich industrial past is represented and preserved in the contemporary urban landscape.

While 2023 carries a number of challenges with local government reforms, the CRP is focussed on delivering a wide range of projects. We've secured funding from the Northern Accessibility Innovation Scheme and will work with Beyond the Home to engage local care homes and create bespoke information panels at selected stations along the line.

We'll also be promoting the Georgian town of Whitehaven and are excited about twinning Workington with Blaydon, sharing best practice between these two industrial towns linking the North East and North West.

East Lancashire CRP and Clitheroe Line CRP

Chair: Melanie Taylor

Officers: Caroline Holden
Shahiesta Raja

[www.communityraillancashire.co.uk/
lines/east-lancashire/](http://www.communityraillancashire.co.uk/lines/east-lancashire/)

[www.communityraillancashire.co.uk/
lines/clitheroe-line/](http://www.communityraillancashire.co.uk/lines/clitheroe-line/)

The Community Rail Lancashire team have excelled and been exceptionally busy in the delivery of several projects that have supported stations along both the Clitheroe and East Lancashire lines.

As part of Community Rail Week, one of the first events was the premier of a short animated film about the life of Rachel Kay-Shuttleworth, an English embroiderer, lace-maker, textile collector, teacher and philanthropist. Working with Padiham Green CE Primary School and Gawthorpe Hall, the event told Rachel's story and encouraged people to travel by train to Rose Grove Station and then walk to Gawthorpe Hall to visit the textile collection.

In August, at Deepdale, Preston North End's stadium, we showcased the 'Dick, Kerr Ladies' project'. This event was part of 'Lancashire Connects Football', funded by Community Rail Lancashire (CRL) and Avanti West Coast. The event kicked off with a moving dance by About Time Dance Performance to tell the story of the Dick & Kerr Ladies, the ban on women's football and how they fought to carry on playing. After a speech by one of the grandsons of an original Dick & Kerr Ladies player, a video was launched showcasing the life of Dick & Kerr Ladies player, Lizzy Ashcroft. The event was very well attended and successfully expanded the reach of this football narrative to other areas of Lancashire.



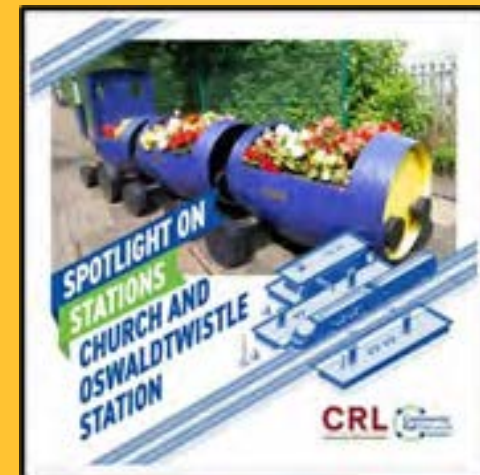
East Lancashire CRP and Clitheroe Line CRP

'Making Connections' is an innovative, empowering project designed to tackle loneliness among young people by engaging them with local railway and wider transport links. After a successful application to the DfT, CRL colleagues are currently delivering one of three pilot schemes. The project involves young people from diverse backgrounds, including those commonly facing mobility barriers, seeking to open up independent mobility and create a sense of connectedness. The project draws on relationships built with the local authority, colleges and local creative practitioners to work with students and other groups.

The 'Spotlight on Stations' programme took place in the summer, and we used our marketing platforms to take an opportunity to shine the spotlight on some of our amazing stations and the wonderful work of our adopters.

Working in partnership with the Connecting East Lancashire project, colleagues set up a one-off funding stream to support local community projects. Five groups were awarded funding, including Arts to Heal, Rose Grove Neighbourhood Watch, Burnley Football Club in the Community, Brave Church and Community Solutions Northwest. Projects delivered included organising rail trips for those who had never travelled on a train, with the aim of building and instilling confidence in rail travel.

We would like to offer a big 'thank you' to the team at Community Rail Lancashire and all our partners and stakeholders, who always help to ensure our projects are delivered to such a successfully high standard.



Esk Valley Line CRP

Chair: Alan Williams

General Manager: Lisa Williams

Project Support Manager:
Sally Michulitis

www.eskvalleyrailway.co.uk



The Esk Valley is not called the ‘pretty line’ for no reason, and this year we’ve been making the most of our natural asset and focusing on showing the world what we have to offer.

We produced an Esk Valley Calendar, packed with amazing scenery shots, which was kindly sponsored by the Community Rail Network. This calendar sold out and we invested the profits in various engagement activities with local primary schools, teaching the children about the history of the railway and delivering important safety awareness messages.

It’s good to keep in touch, and our regular newsletter, which goes out to more than 2,000 recipients, tells the story of everything going on along the line and in our community. We always feature a local business and their associated station, to support community-based spending.

A novel highlight for us has been supporting a competition organised by volunteers at Glaisdale Station to encourage budding playwrights to write and produce 3-minute performances. The premier of this fast-paced theatre will take place on the platform in the summer and planning is well under way for a 3-minute story competition with the winning entry set to be read out live on trains.

Our timetable and route guides have once again been well received and are packed with tourist information, local activities and events, and of course, printed train times. We have so many beautiful walking routes and we’re encouraging strollers and hikers alike to bring their four-legged friends along on the journey and embrace the gorgeous Esk Valley.

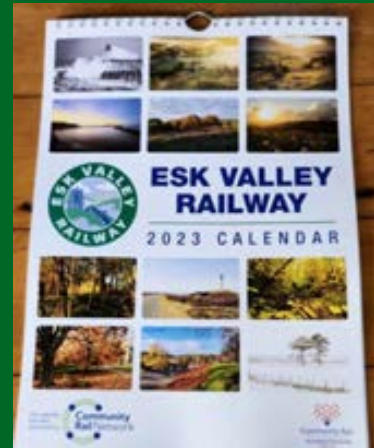
Esk Valley Line CRP

We have launched our new website, and this too is proving popular, with close to 1,000 visitors a month surfing across to us to read about our latest projects, find out about local activities and events, find support for train travel and view our ever-growing picture gallery.

And in a more analogue fashion, Esk Valley Railway is in talks to build a 'Little Library' for each station along the line, with books that people can swap and exchange.

Our natural beauty continues to attract lights, cameras and action and we've been delighted to work with the likes of The Yorkshire Wanderer, showing his 20,000 YouTube subscribers some of the history, culture and scenery in our area. The famed Yorkshire Vet has also used our line (and trains) for location filming and previous Bake-Off winners have visited stations and local tearooms to see how our community feed matches up.

We know that our beauty is loved by many, and we've worked so hard to offer visitor opportunities to more people. We have successfully lobbied for year-round Sunday services and have secured £7 million Section 106 funding from Sirius Mineral, to support infrastructure improvements and service developments.



We're also actively engaging with operators and local authorities to find solutions to increase the number of daily trains available.

We continue to press for this as we know what a huge difference it would make to communities along our very 'pretty line'!

Furness Line CRP

Chair: Tim Owen

Officers: Kerstin Esbjornsson
Dawn McGough

[www.communityrailcumbria.co.uk/
lines/furness-line/](http://www.communityrailcumbria.co.uk/lines/furness-line/)



Embracing the shores of Morecambe Bay, from Barrow-in-Furness to Carnforth, with services north to Carlisle and east to Manchester, the busy Furness railway offers stunning views of coast and fell while connecting communities and visitors across South Cumbria and beyond.

After a year of 175th anniversary celebrations, the finale event on 27 April 2022 welcomed over 50 guests representing Furness Railway and the Lakes Line to Windermere station to enjoy the Burnside Brass Band, a commemorative plaque unveiling and speeches from several dignitaries. Guests were thrilled to see the arrival of the 'Pride of Cumbria' Northern Class 195 unit, hailing the celebratory 175th headboard.



Northern funded our 'MINDful Days Out' project, designed to introduce vulnerable people to new travel experiences and increase their confidence to travel by train. The key aims were to promote rail safety, social engagement and a greater pride in and familiarity with the local area.

Station entries to the 'Cumbria in Bloom Awards - It's Your Neighbourhood' category included Friends of Cark Station (who received a 'Thriving' award) and Grange in Bloom Station Group (who were delighted with an 'Outstanding' award and were put forward for Royal Horticultural Society Certificates of Distinction).

Connecting communities and putting sustainable travel initiatives at the heart of transport strategies and policies is vital to the future of an effective travel network across Cumbria. The CRP works in close collaboration with local authorities to ensure rail features within transport schemes, such as the Cumbria Transport Investment Plan, Local Walking & Cycling Investment Plans, Town Deals, Place Deals and Local Plans.

Furness Line CRP



We have worked for and welcomed platform extensions at Kents Bank, Ulverston and Dalton; and stations are now served by six-carriage units. This increase in capacity is proving particularly effective at peak times and we expect it to come into its own during the popular summer tourist season.

The year ahead holds much promise as we wait to hear the outcome of various funding nominations including an 'Access for All' bid for Ulverston station.

Carnforth station is in focus, as the overall appearance and various structural concerns require significant remedial works. We look forward to station investment in CP7 with Network Rail plans for canopy refurbishments. We're delighted to be working with our Bentham Buddies to develop community initiatives to brighten the station environment and create a more welcoming space.

Following the success of 'Mindful Days Out', we have secured funding to develop 'Soulful Days Out' which will encourage our older communities to re-engage with train travel, build new social relationships and generally revitalise their souls and spirits by regaining confidence in travelling by train.

Strengthening our relationship with long-time partners Morecambe Bay Partnership (MBP) will be a priority as they look forward to agreeing a new lease arrangement with Northern for a property on the Barrow platform at Grange-over-Sands. We will work together to promote the area and sustainable travel. The CRP has also liaised with the MBP regarding its ambitious scheme to create a multi-user trail between Arnside and Grange, using the rail viaduct over the River Kent.



High Peak and Hope Valley CRP

Chair: Cllr Jean Wharmby

Officers: Helen Wright
Catherine Croney

www.peakdistrictbytrain.org



Everyone knows how beautiful the Peak District is, but nevertheless, we've been on a marketing drive to encourage even more people to come and visit us by train.

We produced 3,000 leaflets covering our three lines and distributed them across our local communities, in Tourist Information Centres and at Manchester Piccadilly.

Our brochures were backed up with station posters and during Community Rail Week we were delighted to host stands at Manchester Piccadilly, Stockport and Sheffield, where we handed out leaflets, chatted to passers-by and showed off some of the reasons to visit the Peak District.

With a little bit of help, we've also started being more social on various media platforms and are regularly posting updates, news, pictures and even videos to a growing audience.

We teamed up with the Peak District National Park (PDNP) to promote integrated travel into the national park with the Hope Valley Explorer bus, which takes passengers from stations to places the train can't reach.

Travel along the Buxton line and you will spot a series of artworks, all by Stockport-based artist Eamonn Murphy. Eamonn has created graphics of local highlights for each station. They can currently be seen in Stockport and along the line as far as Chapel-en-le-Frith, with Dove Holes and Buxton soon to come onboard. The art installations have been kindly supported by Northern and Chapel Parish Council.

We have been delighted to work with rangers from the Peak District National Park to support their 'Green Social Prescribing' project, a practice of supporting people to engage in nature-based activities to improve their mental health.

High Peak and Hope Valley CRP

As part of this, we welcomed a group from SOAR in Sheffield out to Edale. SOAR is a charity that provides services to improve people's health, wellbeing and employability. With support from Northern for travel, they walked and spent some time practising mindfulness in nature.

In October, we led a guided walk for a group from Walthew House in Stockport. The visually impaired group were keen to explore the Peak District, and with support from Northern for their travel, we met them at New Mills Newtown station and enjoyed a stroll together along the Peak Forest Canal to Whaley Bridge.

In November, we welcomed The Sheffield Open Kitchen Social Club for a day out in Edale. The charity was founded in 2014 and continues to provide food, peer support and a place to meet for destitute asylum seekers, refugees, migrants and anyone in food or social poverty.

Working with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) we had a wonderful, peaceful day with around 50 people travelling by train, joining guided walks, enjoying the warmth of the village hall and tucking into delicious food brought by the organisers.



Plans are in place to create a long-distance walking route from Manchester Piccadilly to Sheffield station and we're working with local councils, the Canal and River Trust and our friends in the SE Manchester CRP to create the best route and make this happen.

We're also building on the enthusiasm for the 'Buzzing Stations' project to produce a 'Bumblebee Walks from Stations' leaflet.



Lakes Line CRP

Chair: Tim Owen

Officers: Kerstin Esbjornsson
Dawn McGough

[www.communityrailcumbria.co.uk/
lines/lakes-line/](http://www.communityrailcumbria.co.uk/lines/lakes-line/)



The Lakes Line provides an important sustainable local and regional transport link to and from the World Heritage Lake District. A 10-mile scenic route connects the communities of Windermere, Staveley, Burneside and Kendal to the West Coast Main Line at Oxenholme, and the regional capital of Manchester, with direct services to and from the international airport.

In partnership with the Furness Line CRP, Lakes Line CRP officers, stakeholders and special guests were proud to celebrate a year of 175 anniversary celebrations of the opening of both the Lakes Line and the Furness Railway with a special finale on 27 April 2022. Over 50 guests enjoyed events and speeches at Windermere station, including the arrival of the 'Pride of Cumbria' Northern Class 195 unit, a fantastic legacy of such a special occasion. A special thank you to colleagues

from the Friends of the Lakes Line and Furness Line station volunteers, who were instrumental in co-ordinating such an amazing programme of events, marking the historic importance of Cumbria's railways.

The CRP has been working for several years with a Kendal-based special needs school, to promote rail safety and independent train travel with sixth formers as they prepare to move on to further education or employment.

Thanks to accessibility funding awarded by Northern in 2022, we were able to extend our work to enable students to participate in more trips along the Lakes Line, West Coast Main Line and Furness Line, widening their experiences of changing trains, and how to manage at busier stations and understand the different train operators. The role of British Transport Police and how to engage with station staff was also emphasised.

Lakes Line CRP

Our fantastic group of station volunteers, Friends of the Lakes Line, welcomed new members from The Well Communities, a charity in Kendal that supports people recovering from drug and alcohol addiction. The new recruits have participated in gardening activities at stations and their efforts were well rewarded by the Lakes Line Rail User Group, who contributed £100 to the charity in acknowledgement of their voluntary efforts.

Sustainable transport networks are essential to delivering the UK's green agenda, particularly for access to the Lake District, recognised as the second busiest tourist destination in the UK outside London. Following platform extension works at Staveley, the introduction of several six-carriage services was a welcome step towards easing capacity issues.

CRP officers have also been delighted to collaborate with Cumbria County Council to develop a business case for investment to introduce two trains per hour, a submission that is currently with DfT for review.

The CRP plays an active role in supporting transport forums such as Cumbria Better Connected, which seek positive change for our rail network, and we collaborate with relevant authorities to ensure rail features within strategic transport schemes such as



the Cumbria Transport Investment Plan and Local Cycling & Walking Investment Plans.

We look forward to the year ahead, developing the Soulful Days Out initiative with Furness Line CRP to encourage our older communities to re-engage with train travel.

Leeds-Morecambe (CRP) – Bentham Line

Chair: Gerald Townson

Officers: Catherine Huddleston
Brian Haworth

www.thebenthamline.co.uk

[www.communityraillancashire.co.uk/
lines/bentham-line/](http://www.communityraillancashire.co.uk/lines/bentham-line/)



In April 2022, we published our ‘Bentham Line Strategy to 2042’.

Funded by Northern’s Seed-Corn Fund and the Community Rail Development Fund the strategy has examined in detail all 21 stations on the line to outline future possible ‘Access for all’ enhancements.

This follows on from our 2021-22 award nominated accessibility campaign featuring 360-degree videos of our stations and dedicated trains.

The partnership was delighted to resume its dementia adventures for groups during summer 2022. Morecambe remained a popular destination and the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Saltaire was added to the list of venues following careful research.

For the first time, we welcomed groups of refugees from 15 different nations to the line, with groups enjoying the seaside at Morecambe and the Bentham Heritage Trail and experiencing England away from city bases.

The Bradford based ‘Fifty-Things-to-do-Before-You-are-Five’ group were also supported on a journey to the seaside which included a puppet show, a picnic and plenty of traditional activities on the sands.

Along with the Settle-Carlisle CRP we have continued to develop the Ingleborough Triangle tourism project which encourages travel by rail to an area bounded by Settle, Ribbleshead and Bentham. The project looks at low-cost visits to the area and draws on the natural landscape, local attractions and community activities.

Leeds-Morecambe (CRP) – Bentham Line

The partnership has been pleased to continue to work with the Forest of Bowland AONB on a new 'EcoEscapes' project which includes itineraries making use of the Bentham, Furness and Clitheroe Lines.

We worked with the Year 5 pupils from St. Peter's Primary School in Heysham, on rail safety and history themes and on the creation of 3 major artworks for Heysham Port station and the Isle of Man Steam Packet Companies ferry terminal. The colourful panels were created by a local artist from the children's work and reflect the rail and maritime services at the harbour, including the new 'Manxman' ferry



to be introduced this year. Three youngsters also created a new 'Suzy' for our Sheep on the Line safety campaign.

As part of The Friends of Bentham Station 11th anniversary we helped to formally unveil a defibrillator purchased through fund raising within the Bentham community. A good example of turning a coffee morning, a pie-and-peas supper and a quiz into a life saver for the community and passengers. It has already been called into action.

There was also the unveiling of a memorial bench for David Alder, the Treasurer of both the partnership and FOBS, who passed away in April. David undertook the groundwork to ensure the line strategy was successful.

In support of 'Levelling-Up' funding for Eden North at Morecambe we will use of expertise to contribute to future service planning and advocating for rail as part of regional regeneration.

We are excited to be working with other neighbouring CRPs to improve passenger and visitor experiences across our locality and will use our strategy to support work in engaging with communities on possible local integrated transport initiatives, tourism, sustainability and 'green' projects.

Mid Cheshire CRP

Chair: Cllr Andrew Malloy

Officer: Stephen Forde

www.midcheshirerail.org.uk



Earlier in the year, two stalwarts and founders of the CRP announced their intention to step down from their roles. John Oates (Chair) and John Hulme (Finance Officer) have been involved since 2003 and their knowledge and experience will be missed by all.

We've appointed a new chair and recruited new board members, bringing new talent, experience and fresh ideas, and we'd like to give a big welcome to Mark Wright, Julie Chrimes and Harry Allen to the team.

The CRP has been busy re-establishing activities and projects that were delayed due to the Covid pandemic. This has included several school-based art projects and station work on the line to make our gateways sparkle once again.

One of our standout art projects was a wildlife art project to help support our long-established 'Marvellous Days Out' promotion and we also worked with Knutsford Academy to encourage students to express their views on living in and around Knutsford.

We were delighted to install 'Tommy Silhouettes' at Altrincham station as a mark of respect for those who do and have served in the armed forces. The installations create areas for peaceful reflection.

We've used our Twitter and Instagram pages, which have around 700 followers, to share passenger photos 'along the line' and 'through the window', and our summer competition attracted lots of interest and was supported by different operators providing prizes.

Mid Cheshire CRP



The 'friends' groups across the route have made a fantastic job of creating outstanding floral displays and enhancing the appearance of their stations. Subsequently, 'North West in Bloom' judges visited stations along the line and surrounding areas. Friends of Altrincham, Hale and Knutsford were invited to attend the 2022 awards ceremony, and all received awards for their outstanding floral presentations.

The very successful 'Marvellous Days Out' art display at Chester Cathedral returned during the 'Making Tracks' exhibition and was very well attended, as was the long-awaited return of the Mid Cheshire Line Music Train.

The CRP was happy to work with Altrincham Bid, local art cooperative 'Art With A Heart' and two local schools; Blessed Thomas Halford and Wellington School in producing several pieces of art, which were displayed at Altrincham, Hale, Knutsford and Stockport. The students produced some striking artwork expressing the struggle that many young men face with mental health.

In January 2023, the CRP took delivery of the first four of six Mosaics which will be installed at Altrincham Interchange. The Mosaics are created using a mixture of recycled and new ceramics made by students at Blessed Thomas Halford School.

Looking to the future, the CRP has just recruited a new permanent rail officer to support our ongoing activities, including the publication of an illustrated poetry book by local artist Pam Bradshaw. It's intended that the book will be used as a foundation for onboard reading workshops, to encourage children and parents to read together.



North Cheshire CRP

Chair: Garfield Southall

Officer: Marina Farey

www.northcheshirecrp.org



Every year, North Cheshire CRP helps to organise and run the Cheshire Best Kept Station (CBKS) Awards, which take place in April.

Last year was the first live awards presentation after the pandemic. The CBKS awards night recognises the dedication of volunteers who make their local stations a welcoming place to visit.

The event was well attended and enjoyed by all. What made it special for our own partnership was Ellesmere Port station winning the Cheshire West and Chester award, adding another CBKS award to their collection.

No online meeting or conference can compete with face-to-face communication, and we were delighted to represent our line at Manchester Piccadilly during Community Rail Week. It was a pleasure to meet with colleagues, talk to passengers, promote community rail and give away lots of gifts related to North Cheshire.



As a follow-up to the previous year's success, the CRP, in collaboration with Mid Cheshire CRP, organised another artwork exhibition at Chester Cathedral in the summer and autumn of 2022. The artwork exhibition was part of the 'Making Tracks' model railway display by Peter Waterman. Posters were also available for visitors to buy in the cathedral shop, and most of them were very popular and quickly sold out.

The autumn and winter months were also eventful. Together with Transport for Wales, Mid Cheshire, Crew to Manchester, South East Manchester and 3 Counties Connected CRPs, we held a planting event at Chester station. It will be lovely to see the result of our work, blossoming flowers in the spring this year.

In October, the CRP took part in the climate change conference held at the Storyhouse in Chester. The conference was well attended and jam-packed with presentations and activities. The CRO presented on the role of community rail in sustainable travel, which was well received.

North Cheshire CRP

In the run-up to Christmas, we held a few collaborative events at Chester station. The first step was to assemble and decorate the Christmas tree. It was such a nice day bringing colleagues and train station staff together. Lots of fun and laughter was had. The second event involved engaging with the passengers and asking them to write Christmas wishes and their train destinations, which were then added to our Christmas tree decorations.

In 2023, we look forward to more interesting projects to promote community rail, enhance passenger experiences and benefit local communities.

Some of these projects include the installation of an outdoor gym at Ince and Elton station, improved signage at Frodsham, a local history talk at Elton and a new art project at Ellesmere Port.

Chester station will be celebrating 175 years and we look forward to being part of this anniversary as well as supporting the modern-day improvements being delivered.



Penistone Line CRP

Chair: Neil Bentley

Deputy Chair: Glyn Scothern

Officer: Sarah Wells

www.penline.co.uk



Throughout 2022 we have used national events and campaigns to support tourism, rail safety and community engagement.

We held an event at Sheffield station in Community Rail Week to launch our Family Days Out by Train guide. We had our friends at Uplift choir come along to sing to travellers and we met local nursery children from Busy Bees Penistone, where we read Stay Safe with Thomas - every pupil received a free copy of the book.

We have supported national safety campaigns and visited schools along the Line to talk about rail safety, anti-trespass, and promote the Backtrack competition.

The teams at Penistone Line Partnership (PLP) are all trained as Dementia Friends, and in the summer we took a group of people living with dementia, and their carers on the train to Barnsley as part of our Memory Train event.

We partnered with Kirklees Council, Northern and local support groups on plans for Dementia Action Week. On the journey from Huddersfield, We Can Survive Singers a Barnsley group set up for people affected by cancer, sang on the train. Lunch was provided in St Mary's Barnsley, followed by another Uplift Choir performance. Fidget toys, originally crafted as a project during lockdown were handed to guests along with useful information on local dementia services.

Our Community Rail Officer has continued to support SEND students from Kirklees College and local community groups with rail confidence sessions and travel training, so that they could use the train as a green option on their own. The groups were shown how to use help points and how to ask for assistance from staff.

Penistone Line CRP

For the Queen's jubilee we worked with Kirklees College Adult skills students to create Jubilee decorations for the waiting room at Huddersfield, and station adopters on the Penistone Line were encouraged to decorate local station platforms to mark the occasion.

Artwork has been a constant theme and we commissioned panels to celebrate the heritage and 175th anniversary of Huddersfield station and a series of mosaics were produced at Barnsley with the help of local artist Zoe Stainton. Zoe led workshops with local Brownies and Girl Guides groups, developing their ideas of how to bring the stirring landscapes and scenes of the Penistone area to life through art.

Our guided walks, accessible by train from the Penistone Line continue to be very popular with on average 20 ramblers joining us every Saturday for walks as far afield as Lincolnshire and North Notts.

We were delighted to bring back our famed music trains. Acoustic folk in carriages to brass bands at community events, fiddles, flutes, an accordion, even a double bass! Then seasonal music in December with carol trains and music sessions hosted by the Station Inn at Silkstone Common.

We have re-written the Penistone Line Trail. First published as a guidebook in 2003. It has been updated by volunteers with walking guides and images from across the line. The trail guides have points of interest and historical information and there are 16 to choose from! www.penline.co.uk/the-penistone-line-trail/

It is our 30th Anniversary in 2023 and we look forward to continuing our education, SEN and STEM engagement programmes and will once again prioritise rail safety and route marketing with our community.

We will be actively supporting opportunities and campaigns for Access for All funding to improve station accessibility at Honley and Shepley and we will continue to work with SOPPA Supporting Older people in the Penistone Area, making rail travel more viable.



North Notts and Lincolnshire CRP

Chair: Barry Coward

Officer: Kate Myers

www.nnlcrp.org.uk/



Through 2022 we have remained focused on improving and restoring connectivity on our local network and continue to lobby the DfT for service improvements with the support of local authorities and Members of Parliament.

Along with five other Community Rail Partnerships, eight community groups and Community Rail Network we have been proud to support the Routes to Remembrance project, an artwork installation at Nottingham station by Mel Langton. The individual pieces of artwork had travelled across the East Midlands by rail and were on display at war memorials on Armistice Day.

Our station adopter teams continue to do a marvellous job and are committed to improving the appearance of stations through stunning floral displays, transforming disused station rooms and commissioning community artwork.



Lea Road station boasts the only station subway in Lincolnshire. Its whitewash walls have now been transformed with graffiti art carried out by members of Connexions under the supervision of Imageskool.

For the annual Worksop Pride event NNLCRP decorated the station with appropriate decorations and Bassetlaw Museum has released for display in the station, three mosaics made by school children. The former dining room at Bassetlaw was used for a display by the Bassetlaw Railway Society to coincide with a town history event.

We have also been working with a local artist to design two digital artwork displays for Worksop Station. The work is centred around promoting Worksop as a destination station by promoting local attractions in the area as well as neighbouring stations.

North Notts and Lincolnshire CRP

The Saxilby Girl Guides have agreed to adopt their station. An area of land between the footbridge and boundary fence will be turned into a well-being space and garden. Meanwhile a volunteer has painted the station's metal fencing in Brunswick Green.

We have given rail safety talks, on behalf of Network Rail, at schools in the Lincoln area and have also promoted suicide awareness, and sustainability at events in Lincoln.

A trip organised by Travel South Yorkshire and Journeys Together brought people by train to Lincoln where they took a bus to the Cathedral. The object of the exercise was to boost confidence in travel.

We held a "How Green Is Your Travel" day in Lincoln's Cornhill Quarter, engaging with the public with greener alternatives to jumping into their cars. And in Retford we promoted the benefits of Railcards.

As part of an action day and with support from Network Rail colleagues and Station Adopters we transformed the garden area at Lincoln Station and everyone is delighted with the results.



The Friends of Market Rasen continue their excellent work at the station. A cafe has opened in the former station building and we have discussed with the cafe operator its use by community organisations.

During March, we took a group from the UK's first City of Sanctuary for asylum-seekers and refugees on a 'Try the Train' trip from Sheffield to Lincoln to deliver rail confidence and explore the city. There were 50 people altogether and the feedback was excellent – they loved it!

Service reliability from all operators remains a concern and we are actively engaged with representatives to initiate improvements and restore train confidence within our communities.

Settle-Carlisle Railway Development Company

Chair: John Moorhouse

General Manager: Chris Leech

Officer: Katie Chesworth

www.settle-carlisle.co.uk



The Settle –Carlisle Development Company (DevCo), believe that the prosperity of business and society are intrinsically linked, one cannot succeed without the other.

We are proud to be a not-for-profit with a record of encouraging a customer-centric culture, which actively inspires social value benefits impacting far beyond our operational route.

However, we recognise that we operate in a complex, fast changing landscape with shifting social and environmental pressures and changing consumer values and choices. As a Community Rail Partner this is both our urgent and long-term business challenge.

During Community Rail Week we collaborated with Community Rail Cumbria and Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnerships for an event in The Lanes in Carlisle. More than 150 people took away timetables and information about our routes,

rail safety booklets and Backtrack information for children as well as some of the promotional give aways, cotton bags, pencils made from old newspaper and wildflower seeds, reinforcing the message of the sustainability of rail travel.

We held a similar event with The Bentham Line, Yorkshire Coast Community Rail and North Notts and Lincs CRP in Leeds Station, which was a great way to connect with passengers at the Yorkshire end of our line.

For the Youth Day of Community Rail Week, we worked with Community Rail Lancashire and The Community Rail Education Network to bring a Yr 6 class from Keighley to meet the Yr 6 class at Settle Primary School. This was a great opportunity to give the train a go, bring two schools together, and to have a morning of STEM (science, technology, engineering & maths) activities.

Settle-Carlisle Railway Development Company

We were delighted to act as an enabler to Settle Primary School and have helped them open a brand new STEM based classroom in support of their award winning STEM curriculum. We were at the forefront of this project, sourcing funding from Northern Trains, Avanti West Coast, Cross Country Trains, Yorkshire Dales National Park, Community Rail Network, Settle Rotary, and Settle Middle School Legacy Fund.

In October we celebrated the 30th anniversary of our line with a unique steam train experience – picking up passengers from Appleby and Carlisle. The Royal Scot Guardsman steamer pulled into Appleby on Saturday complete with Pullman first-class dining carriages, to the waiting passengers for a special journey to York. Over 350 people took the steam train to York and on route, a raffle raised £833 for the Railway Children charity.

After the appointment of a new General Manager, we have commenced a strategic business review which will recalibrate our purpose to ensure social value is measured and that shared value creation underpins every decision going forward.

As our sector goes from rescue to renewal, we intend to extend our commercial services to underpin our own financial stability whilst reducing the dependency on TOC subsidy. As we register to become a Community Interest Company (CIC) we will provide new and innovative funding streams across our operation to enable a sustainable resilient future, creating long-term shared value.



South East Lancashire CRP

Chair: Julie Levy

Officers: Dr Steph Dermott

www.southeastlancscrp.org.uk



From walking trails to poetry and art, from stress relief to connected travel and a vision of station sanctuary – it's been a packed but positive year for South East Lancashire (SELCRP).

Funded by Avanti West Coast, the Wigan to Bolton Community Rail Trail is a self-guided walk linking several different stations along the route. SELCRP worked with a range of partners including Bolton and Wigan Councils, Friends of Hindley and Friends of Westhoughton to plan and deliver a fully waymarked walking trail covering 13 miles and six stations.

Following the 2020 'Poetry from the Platforms' competition led by Bolton Station Community Partnership (BSCP), another project was subsequently developed to create films of featured winning poems. BSCP worked with filmmaker Kitty Handley to run a number of workshops on themes including storyboarding, filming, sound production and editing.

Participants helped to create a final series of films in which poems were read aloud. All the films were shot at Bolton Station, proudly shown at the Community Rail Network Awards and screened in the P5 Gallery.

Run by Bolton Station Community Partnership, the P5 Gallery has seen a variety of exhibitions and events over the past year. These have included fine art and graffiti artists, photography, school and college exhibitions, poetry and open mic events, and screenings in conjunction with Bolton Film Festival.

South East Lancashire CRP



We know it can be a hectic world and so we hosted a series of '60-Second Stress Relief' sessions at Manchester Piccadilly and Wigan North Western. SELCRP worked in partnership with local theatre company 'Ordinary Glory' to develop and deliver simple stress-relief techniques and bespoke handmade self-care kits to passengers and staff at stations. The project, funded by Avanti, aimed to provide a positive experience that promoted health and wellbeing and a total of 500 self-care kits were handed out.

In 2022, SELCRP co-ordinated two community bus services, funded collectively by Northern, Avanti West Coast, CrossCountry, Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) and the Community Rail Network (CRN). Both were operated by Diamond Bus – one linking Horwich Parkway with Rivington Country Park and another linking Walkden Station with RHS Bridgewater. The marketing campaign was aimed at raising awareness of these services and as a result we saw a good increase in passenger numbers for the second year running of the Rivington Bus and a proven pilot for Walkden to Bridgewater, which will now be run by RHS as a regular service in 2023.

With funding from CRN, TfGM and Northern, we worked alongside Bolton City of Sanctuary. The Stations of Sanctuary project aims to develop an accredited scheme through which stations can become more welcoming places for asylum seekers and refugees.

There are several aspects to the project in making Bolton the first 'Station of Sanctuary' including developing resources and offering training for staff, improving the provision of signposting and information, creating a variety of artworks involving the local community, reinstating a programme of station walks, involving asylum seekers and refugees in maintenance of the platform planters to create a 'Garden of Sanctuary' and producing a final report with further recommendations for rail companies.



South Fylde CRP

Chair: **Tony Ford**

Officers: **Caroline Holden**
Richard Watts

www.communityraillancashire.co.uk/lines/south-fylde-line/



It's been a busy year for all of us on the South Fylde Line, which runs from Blackpool South to Preston, approximately 20 miles. Hundreds of thousands of passengers use the train service every year and we're recovering well from the impact of the pandemic.

Due in part to our lobbying, Northern has increased service provision on the line by tweaking the timetable and service diagrams so that train times are the same from Monday to Saturday and we're slowly starting to see the benefits of improved reliability and connectivity.

Our focus during the year has been to build on what we have and make greater links with the communities the line serves.

We've improved our Facebook postings, linked posts to activities and events taking place and highlighted businesses, while encouraging and promoting rail travel.

We've supported major events in towns along the line, notably the St Anne's International Kite Festival and Lytham Proms. Thanks to Community Rail Lancashire we've also produced pocket-sized timetables and distributed these to local hotels and information outlets.

We've improved our media profile with regular articles about what we do and plan to do, and been rewarded with greater online and print coverage, getting our community rail message across to many more people.

We've made many of our stations more relevant to the communities they serve, using history posters which reflect each station's history and development, in each case using local knowledge and sources of information. Several stations have gained **OUTSTANDING** awards from Britain in Bloom for their horticultural activities on platforms and Network Rail licenced areas.

South Fylde CRP

Additionally, we support royal events and seasonal celebrations. Our 'Silent Soldiers' with their floral arrangements are on display every year at several stations along the route. In spring we worked with Senior Moments Care with Moments Daytime Support Hub to produce colourful designs on Easter eggs and followed this up by providing templates and materials for wooden crowns to celebrate the late Queen's jubilee.

We approached a knitting group who did some yarn bombing, creating seascapes ideally suited to our seaside location.

The Community Rail Partnership has continued to interact with local bus and tram companies to improve links between the two modes of transport through improved signage and way-posting and we now have examples of through ticketing.

The coming year promises to be even more exciting as St Anne's station celebrates its 150th anniversary. The station buildings are being painted, areas of the car park are receiving attention and there are plans for a station-related event to take place every month.



Tyne Valley CRP

Chair: **Malcolm Chainey**

Officer: **Fiona Forsythe**

www.tvcrp.org.uk



“It started with a train ride....”

Community Rail is all about bringing people and railways together! Here in the Tyne Valley, we like to think big.

Back in 2019, we were planning to bring children and octogenarians together in 2020 to mark the 80th anniversary of the wartime evacuation from Tyneside to rural communities such as Haltwhistle. Due the pandemic we had to pause our plans, but we restarted the project this year.

Our friends at Wallsend Local History Society have spent many hours recording wonderful tales of train travel to the countryside, of seeing a cow for the first time and other stories which brought communities together.

Then we had an idea! Might it be possible to create a film? Could we share skills as well as stories, and give people the opportunity to develop filmmaking skills?

Local charity Haltwhistle Film Project were happy to be involved, and we were all systems go.

Funding was achieved through crowd-funding platform Spacehive, and financial support was received from the North of Tyne Combined Authority as well as private donors. This funding method helped promote the project on social media, reaching families and friends of those evacuated and those whose families had hosted evacuees. CrossCountry and Northern also supported us and we were pleased to partner with local charity Haltwhistle Film project and Film Able, a production company run by and for adults with learning disabilities.

This provided an opportunity to meet George from Wallsend Local History Society, who explained the need for evacuation, and members of Film Able were able to experience the journey for themselves.

Tyne Valley CRP

Film Able also made a substantial contribution and created a great animated backdrop and train image to go with travelling voiceovers. They grouped the stories, already selected from about 12 hours of interviews, into categories and developed an engaging storyboard.

The statistics of this project are staggering. Nearly 30 former evacuees were interviewed and those interviews transcribed and printed into a book. 12 hours of interviews were recorded, from which 74 stories were extracted. Over 50 Scouts, Brownies, Rainbows and young people from Haltwhistle's Young and Sweet Youth Club played the role of evacuated children at Haltwhistle station and learnt about the role the railway played in bringing 1940s children to safety.

We premiered the mini-film 'It started with a Train Ride...' in Wallsend and Haltwhistle, to very appreciative audiences. The railway plays centre stage, showing how it has always brought communities together! <https://tvcrp.org.uk/news/515-it-started-with-a-train-ride>



West of Lancashire CRP

Chair: **Stephen Bengé**

Officer: **Caroline Holden**

www.communityraillancashire.co.uk/lines/west-of-lancashire



The West of Lancashire CRP covers three lines: Preston to Ormskirk, Southport to Wigan Wallgate and Kirkby to Wigan Wallgate.

Our primary focus in the last year has been to deliver initiatives and projects aimed at restoring confidence in rail travel following the pandemic and we've aimed to work with young people, local schools, station adopters and community payback organisations.

The Preston to Ormskirk line has a charm all of its own, linking several attractive villages and towns with fascinating histories. So, under the banner of 'Make A Beeline for the West Lancashire Line' the CRP has continued to promote the many attractions along it. To find out more, go to: <https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/make-a-beeline-for-the-west-lancashire-line/>

During Community Rail Week, staff from Network Rail joined school children from St. John's Catholic Primary School on the disused platform at Burscough Junction station for a tidy up. The school has now adopted the disused platform, tends the planters and generally keeps it looking spick and span.

The school has also been assisted by the West Lancashire Prison and Probation Service Payback Team, who have done a fantastic job helping the children clean up the platform of all the autumn leaves, trimming back overhanging vegetation and getting the planters ready for spring flowers.

At Burscough Bridge, we're proud to have supported the exhibition of some of the fabulous artwork produced by Amanda Anderson.

We've also focused some of our efforts on promoting attractions around Rufford station, including Rufford Old Hall and the less well-known Mere Sands Wood Nature Reserve.

West of Lancashire CRP

The nature reserve is only a short walk from the station and is looked after by the Lancashire Wildlife Trust. To promote it, the CRP has worked with the station partnership, Rufford Primary School, Rufford Village Society, the Lancashire Wildlife Trust, artist Karen Allerton and Northern to put up artwork on the cycle shelter, create an attractive poster, leaflet and map to show the way to Mere Sands Wood.

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/rufford-to-mere-sands-wood-walks-leaflet-launched/>

At Croston, we've been working with pupils from Trinity St Michael C of E and Methodist Voluntary Aided primary school. The pupils have created a special Croston Geocache Trail with the help of artist Karen Allerton. The locations of the caches are set out in an attractive leaflet which can be downloaded from the CRL website or by using a QR code on the now beautifully colourful cycle shelter at Croston station. The project started early in 2022 and you can find out more here: <https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/croston-geocache-trail-launched/>

In the coming year, we intend to dedicate most of our efforts to the Southport to Wigan line with plans for a new 'Explore Lancashire By Rail' film.

Working with Friends of Hoscote, an attractive history poster is in the pipeline, and we'll continue to print our helpful wallet-sized mini-timetables.



Yorkshire Coast CRP

Chair: Roger Gaitley (Acting)

Officer: Gill Simpson

www.yccrp.co.uk



A significant change for our organisation has been our transition from Community Rail Humber to Humber and Wolds Rural Action (HWRA).

Whilst we have been busy sorting regulator matters and working towards a new chair after Tony Cooper's retirement (and what a legacy to follow) we have been as busy as ever supporting our local communities.

As ever the floral display at Bridlington was breathtaking and we have had a super successful multi-partnership project with Driffield station adopters, Kingsmill Additional Needs School, Hymers College NCS students, Network Rail and funded by Northern to develop and expand the community garden.



During April the Easter Bunny joined our volunteers on Scarborough station for the morning to give out chocolate eggs to all the children travelling on the trains. We also had an egg hunt along the line where passengers had to spot the egg posters and make a word from the letters on them.

The YCCRP joined together with the Bridlington branch of the Samaritans to put on a Brew Monday coffee morning on Bridlington station. The event was well attended by rail passengers and town councillors and provided a great networking opportunity for YCCRP members with the community.

We ran a week of posts on our Facebook and Twitter channels supporting Community Rail Week, on the theme 'Give the train a try'. We used it as an opportunity to promote all the places to visit along the Yorkshire Coast line and explain a bit more about what we do.

Yorkshire Coast CRP



The YCCRP were invited to take part in Driffield in Bloom's flower festival as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, producing beautiful flower arrangements in Northern's colours and some marketing material was added to the display to help promote rail travel.

In August we facilitated and funded a day out by train for a group of children and staff from the Hinge centre in Bridlington who work with vulnerable and disadvantaged families. Three of our volunteers welcomed them at Bridlington station then waved them off as they took the train to Scarborough. It was the first time on a train for some of these children and they were all very excited about their day out.

Again, in August some of our volunteers spent the morning at Hull station promoting the Backtrack rail safety campaign and competition aimed at decreasing youth rail trespass incidents.

The YCCRP purchased a picture style NER tiled map which will be loaned out to different places along the route of the line to promote the NER maps and the history of the line.

Young people from Hymers college and the Tigers trust in Hull have supported with lots of voluntary work as part of their National Citizens Service Awards. Teams of students helped our station adoption groups to look after their stations at Driffield and Hutton Cranswick.

We once again printed simplified and popular timetables and designed our own line guide leaflets helping to promote the line and we supported English Tourism week by running a social media campaign promoting many of the tourist attractions and destinations along the Hull to Scarborough line.

As we look to the future East Riding College, Hymers College NCS and Hull Tigers NCS are working with us to provide artwork for the stations in the coming year.



Our community partnerships

Community Rail Lancashire (CRL) Education

2022 was another busy year for the education team at Community Rail Lancashire (CRL). In total, 5,866 young people were taught about rail safety, careers, sustainability and rail confidence via a wide range of exciting, engaging projects.

Schools and colleges across parts of Lancashire and Yorkshire were visited by members of the team, delivering safety workshops and giving many young people the opportunity to go on a rail journey free of charge – courtesy of Northern.

Careers talks have continued throughout the year with students able to find out about the wide range of career options in the railway industry. We attended a careers fair in Bury, worked with Northern at Blackburn College and linked up with 'Own Futures' to deliver sessions across West Yorkshire.

Apprentices from Northern once again supported CRL to make improvements to Burnley Central Station. The most notable was the removal of the cycling shelter in a derelict part of the station, which was attracting anti-social behaviour. The apprentices got the opportunity to see community rail projects in action along the South Fylde line and were taught how to write funding bids and develop Gaant charts.

We've ensured that young people and adults with SEND needs had the opportunity to engage in rail confidence sessions and we've taken pupils out on trips on the railway; even putting our British Sign Language skills into action when we accompanied members of the deaf community on some journeys.

Community Rail Lancashire has been delighted to work with Northern and others to help develop award-winning virtual reality technology to assist passengers by simulating every step of their journey.



Our community partnerships

Community Rail Lancashire (CRL) Education

Art projects across Lancashire and Yorkshire have once again given pupils the opportunity to display their work at the stations. In Blackburn, for example, our 'Fantastic Plastic' project saw further education pupils at Newfield School work with local artist Alastair Nicholson on an artwork promoting a clean environment. On the other side of the Pennines, seven schools on the Bradford-to-Leeds line produced a collaborative mural celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Supported by artist Han Made, 'Trains of the Reign' saw 240 year 5 pupils draw trains from the past eight decades.

Various community groups, including South Asian and refugee communities in Lancashire, worked with CRL to promote the local rail network and travelling with confidence. Carers Link in Accrington once again saw members take part in trips to Bradford and Halifax. A special trip was created for the spouses of those who attend Dementia Day Care to Hebden Bridge for a well-deserved day of respite.

Community Rail Lancashire's strong history of working with women's groups to address gender imbalance in the railway workforce continued in 2022 with an East meets West project that saw a group of South Asian women take rail confidence trips and opportunities to

make friends with each other. Women from Accrington and Bradford were joined by then Rail Minister Wendy Morton on a trip to Five Rise Locks Cafe, Bingley. Mums from the Gateway Centre in Bradford took part in 'This Girl Can', which saw them visit various railway workplaces and chat to women working in rail. After a final trip to a Freightliner depot, some were inspired to apply for roles in rail.

Members of the education team have again been invited to talk at various conferences and we have provided community insights on refugees, engaging young people, and linking technology and SEND initiatives.

Backtrack was back for a third year and entries increased tenfold after the team worked with Network Rail and Learn Live to spread news of the competition further. Our network also worked with CrossCountry on the UK's first sustainability education toolkit, 'Travel with the Green Team'. The most widely discussed project of the year was working with freight driver and author Bessie Matthews on 'Arlo's Adventures: There and Back', which saw 20,000 copies of a rail safety book distributed across the country at schools and stations.

Our community partnerships

Community Rail Network

Community Rail Network is one of Northern's key partners in supporting community rail partnerships and station groups across the region, and we provide much-valued core funding to allow its team to provide guidance to community rail groups in the North.

Campaigns and events

Community Rail Week returned in May 2022, encouraging the public to 'Give the Train a Try' and make the occasional switch to greener, healthier forms of travel. The launch event took place at Bradford and Bingley stations, and a host of other Northern activities took place across the week, including handing out self-care kits at Manchester Piccadilly, a special art exhibition celebrating station connections in Crewe, and community engagement in Carlisle. Posts and retweets with the #CommunityRailWeek reached more than 16 million users on social media.



Many Northern CRPs and station groups took advantage of a digital toolkit to promote their tourism and heritage offer during Community Rail Network's 'Days Out by Rail' campaign in autumn 2022. The campaign's social media posts, delivered through Scenic Rail Britain, promoted sustainable family days out on lesser-known community rail lines and were seen by 3.2 million users.



Our community partnerships

Community Rail Network

The 2022 [Community Rail Awards](#), held in Manchester, were jointly sponsored by Northern and Transport for Greater Manchester. Northern winners included Bishop Line CRP, South East Lancashire CRP, Friends of Goostrey Station and Leeds-Morecambe CRP, with their projects promoted as best practice across the movement. A total of 15 regional news and national industry media outlets covered the awards, including Manchester News Today, Rail Advent, Rail Director and Modern Railways. In other events, 24 Northern delegates attended the Community Rail Conference, and more than 50 community rail staff and volunteers attended training courses and webinars in areas including leisure travel, permissions to work at stations, and connecting and empowering our diverse communities.

Reports and consultations

Community Rail Network's Northern-sponsored guidance resources for 2022 included ['Community rail artistic projects: advice on creative rights'](#), which featured input from the Friends of Buxton Station, and ['Considerations for community re-use of redundant railways stations and buildings'](#), which highlighted the success of Tyne Valley CRP's renovation project at Haltwhistle Station.

Throughout 2022-23, Community Rail Network continued to advocate for community rail with rail and government partners, and kept its members informed on relevant strategic and policy areas. They provided advice to Transport for the North on how community rail can play a key role in tackling transport-related social exclusion and continued to liaise with the Department for Transport and the Great British Railways Transition Team on rail transformation, advocating on behalf of community rail partnerships and groups in the North and across Britain.



Our community partnerships

Community Rail Network

Support and development

Community Rail Network's support and development team provided more than 275 instances of direct support to Northern community rail partnerships and groups in 2022, in areas including accessing funding, drawing up development plans, accreditation, progressing youth engagement activities, and promoting sustainable and integrated travel. The team also offered specialist assistance related to station building projects, community engagement, marketing and PR, governance, and insurance.

Major projects in 2022 included: working with Community Rail Lancashire on our '[Engaging young people through community rail](#)' initiative, supported by the Department for Transport's new Tackling Loneliness with Transport Fund; assisting with ongoing and new station buildings projects at Mytholmroyd and Alderley Edge; funding and advising on a sustainable travel feasibility study at Buxton, and supporting new and emerging CRPs, including those in the Calder Valley and South Yorkshire.

Funding support

In 2022, Community Rail Network supported 10 Northern projects via its Community Rail Development Fund, including the Penistone Line Partnership's revision of its station-to-station walking guides.

During the same period, 23 Northern projects received support from the Community Rail Network Small Grants Fund, and 47 Northern projects also benefitted from funding from Transport for Greater Manchester.



Our community commitments

Community Rail Funding

The distribution of funds to the Community Rail Partnerships takes account of the Secretary of State's Community Rail Development Strategy.



To inform this funding cycle, Northern undertook a consultation process, taking into account the views of Community Rail Network (CRN) and Community Rail Partnerships (CRPs). This enabled Northern to understand their aims and needs and the funding required to achieve these.

The consultation was undertaken in the summer of 2021 and key themes of feedback were:

- 'Core' funding should be available to accredited CRPs only or those actively working towards accreditation (in the case of new CRPs). Therefore, values included in the accompanying table assume that all CRPs will be accredited or retain accreditation.
- The value of a three-year funding cycle to help with long term planning and stability. Northern has sought to maintain this through the industry Annual Business Planning process, therefore future years funding are marked subject to DfT approval.
- Maintain a broadly equal split of core funding to CRPs wholly within the Northern network (noting accreditation above).
- Acknowledgement that a number of new CRPs that may require future funding are in development across the Northern network, and that this would need to be from within existing funding parameters.

Northern has been pleased to offer station adoption and seed corn funding again this year, which have benefitted a wide range of projects. At the time of writing this report, around £125,000 has been awarded from the seed corn fund and £138,000 from the station adoption fund.

We are currently undertaking a review of our project fund criteria and application processes to ensure they can deliver maximum value for the communities we serve.

	23/24	24/25*	25/26*
Settle Carlisle Development Company	£31,003	£31,003	£31,003
Esk Valley CRP	£31,003	£31,003	£31,003
Penistone Line Partnership	£31,003	£31,003	£31,003
Yorkshire Coast CRP	£31,003	£31,003	£31,003
High Peak/Hope Valley CRP	£31,003	£31,003	£31,003
Mid Cheshire CRP	£31,003	£31,003	£31,003
North Cheshire CRP	£31,003	£31,003	£31,003
Tyne Valley CRP	£31,003	£31,003	£31,003
Community Rail Cumbria Cumbrian Coast line	£31,003	£31,003	£31,003
Community Rail Cumbria Furness line	£31,003	£31,003	£31,003
Community Rail Cumbria Lakes line	£31,003	£31,003	£31,003
Community Rail Lancs South Fylde	£31,003	£31,003	£31,003
Community Rail Lancs East Lancs	£31,003	£31,003	£31,003
Community Rail Lancs Clitheroe	£31,003	£31,003	£31,003
Community Rail Lancs West Lancs	£31,003	£31,003	£31,003
Leeds – Morecambe CRP (Bentham line)	£31,003	£31,003	£31,003
South East Manchester CRP	£31,003	£31,003	£31,003
Crewe –to Manchester CRP	£31,003	£31,003	£31,003
Bishop Line CRP	£31,003	£31,003	£31,003
South East Lancashire CRP	£31,003	£31,003	£31,003
Calder Valley CRP	£31,003	£31,003	£31,003
North Notts and Lincs CRP	£9,205	£9,205	£9,205
SUB-TOTAL	£660,268	£660,268	£660,268
Community Rail Lancs Schools Liaison programme	£120,820	£120,820	£120,820
CRN Support	£212,874	£212,874	£212,874
TOTAL	£993,962	£993,962	£993,962



*subject to DfT approval
CRPs must achieve and maintain DfT accreditation
to be eligible for Northern funding