



Station adopters newsletter

Summer 2025



E M R



Hello and welcome to the Summer Edition of the EMR station adopters newsletter

This week is National Volunteers Week, and I wanted to start with a thank you for your continued support and commitment to the station you adopt. We are so grateful for the difference you make to your local stations.

This year we celebrate 200 years of the Railway and this is going to be a transformational year for EMR. The first Auroras will be coming into service later this year, a significant timetable change is happening in December and the roll out of our multi million pound investment of our Regional and Connect fleet refurbishment. You can read more about these significant milestones with updates from our Fleet ([page 15](#)) as well as news from our Community Rail Partnerships.

I was delighted to join some of you at the 20th Anniversary of the Community Rail Awards in Newcastle in March. It is always such an inspiring evening and a huge well done to all the winners with a special mention to Jaymii Claxton from Bulwell who won Outstanding

Volunteer of the Year, a coveted award. You can read more about the awards on ([page 17](#)). I am delighted EMR will be the headline sponsor of this important celebration in 2026.

In May, to launch Community Rail Week, I joined children from Sawley Infant School, for a trip to Loughborough to visit the Great Central Railway and read our new Miles Story – An Adventure through Railway Past. We also got to meet the Station Adopters from SENSE who told us all about the work they do to improve the station and gain skills for their future.

Finally, I would like to thank you for all the efforts you continue to put into your stations, I look forward to seeing some of you again at the station adopters conference later this year.

Best wishes,

Will Rogers
Managing Director

Barton Cleethorpes CRP Update

Here at Barton Cleethorpes Community Rail Partnership our station adopters have been busier than ever. The Barton Lions have cleared the garden alongside the old goods platform at Barton-upon-Humber and planted wildflowers and spring bulbs. At Barrow Haven, New Holland, Goxhill, Thornton Abbey and Stallingborough the new planters, installed last year, were a riot of colour through the Summer and Autumn months. And our newest adopters who look after both Ulceby and Harbrough have added the same planters which were also stunning. To add to this, after less than a year working at Habrough the group of friends, who have worked tirelessly to tidy Habrough Station, were the overall winners of the bronze class in the "It's Your Station" category at the Community Rail Network (CRN) Awards in March! They are presently working on becoming a constituted group and member of CRN and planning a Railway 200 garden after work to the car park is completed by EMR.

In September we held a "Thank You" event for all of our station adopters at the Ropewalk in Barton with afternoon tea. Everyone received a "Thank You" certificate and gift to show our appreciation to all our volunteers, for everything they support us with – without them we would not be able to achieve half what we do! We will repeat this on 1st July and tie it in with our Annual General Meeting and the 150th anniversary of the opening of the New Clee station with a special lunch for the volunteers and adopters.





OTHER KEY EVENTS THROUGH THE YEAR HAVE BEEN

- The launch of our cycling and walking packs which encourages people to walk or cycle there and get the train back.
- Work to promote rail safety took place in three secondary and three primary schools, reaching more than 3,000 children, young people and school staff.
- Community Rail Network re-accredited the partnership in November 2024.
- Three new pages on our website – Rail Safety, Sustainable Travel and Activities & Events.
- Our busiest ever Santa Special took place in December, with over 200 people attending! We gave out 70 gifts, 100 selection boxes, 120 mince pies and 4 whole boxes of “Celebrations”! This year we are planning to hold two events in order to meet demand.
- In February we visited Yarborough Academy with EMR colleagues and held an art workshop to develop the next EMR Miles’ TV advert. You can watch it here: [EPIC days out by train](#)
- A lunch was held for station adopters on 8 April 2025 to commemorate the 175th Anniversary of the opening of Barrow Haven station.
- We ran a Railway 200 Art Competition throughout April which was judged during Community Rail Week. All winners are listed on our website here: [Art along the line | BCCRP](#)
- New notice boards have replaced our old tired boards at all EMR stations on the line.

At the start of the new year we began our Railway 200 'Art along the Line' project. We commissioned local artists to produce art installations at stations, either through the medium of art or photography. On World Art Day, 15 April, we unveiled our first mural, commissioned with funding from Community Rail Network, in the ticket office at Cleethorpes station. "Our Railway: 200 Years of the Modern Railway" by local artist, Nikita Spires, is an abundance of colour and reflects how the station has developed over time.

As we move into the Summer our work doesn't look like it will be slowing down! We received a grant of £10,000 from the Architectural Heritage Fund to carry out a feasibility study on the last Crossing Keeper's Cottage on the line which is Grade II listed. We want to determine if the building can be brought into community use to promote

railway heritage.

Also, we are continuing our Railway 200: Art along the Line project with works being commissioned at the stations at Great Coates, Stallingborough and Grimsby Docks. Many of our stations are small and rural, with no walls to paint murals on, at these we plan to attach waterproof artwork on Di-bond boarding to fences. After holding a mosaic workshop for volunteers, adopters at Goxhill station have decided they would like to add a welcoming mosaic to greet rail users and visitors to the station.

Dawn Branton

Community Rail Partnership Officer

*"Our Railway:
200 Years of the
Modern Railway"
by local artist,
Nikita Spires*



Poacher Line CRP Update

As always we delight in the work of our station adopters and volunteers at the stations along the line, from city through country to sea. With their colourful displays and care they bring much to the station environment, making them more welcoming and attractive. Many appreciative comments are heard from our passengers through the seasons of the year. Well done to all and heartfelt thanks for your achievements.

Included in the intent of Community Rail is revitalising the station environment for the benefit of communities and railways alike. Thus, to celebrate the work of our volunteers, our Poacher Line Awards were held in September in the grounds of the unique eight sailed windmill adjoining Heckington station. Bottesford adopters were the winners in the Best Creative section, Boston adopters won the Best Floral award and Radcliffe station volunteers were the winners with the Best Photo. In between the showers the music for the occasion was provided by Hey Dude.

We revived the traditional Poacher Line music train in November with a very well supported rail trip to Batemans brewery at Wainfleet. Participants joined the train at Sleaford, Heckington and Boston and cheering musical entertainment was provided by Mark Hickman from Identity Crisis. We used an earlier train than in previous years and as this proved successful we plan to run further such trains in the future. They not only bring pleasure to many but serve also to boost the railway through taking up otherwise unused seats on off-peak the trains.

Less visible but important work with numerous schools and colleges along the line continued through the year with our participation in the Rail Safe Friendly programme. Working with young people the objective is to instil them with safety consciousness in the rail environment. In parallel Rail Safety Week is an annual industry-wide initiative that aims to bring rail safety to the forefront of people's minds, taking place this year from 16 – 22 June.



Cheering musical entertainment was provided by Mark Hickman from Identity Crisis.

We look forward with anticipation to the completion of the building redevelopment work and related enhancement of the facilities at both Boston and Skegness stations. With the significant passenger flows, especially at the latter, these improvements will do much to facilitate a safe, efficient and welcoming ambience for our passengers.

Lastly the partnership offers thanks and appreciation for the work and enthusiasm of our officer Gin Fidin.

Peter Roberts
Chair of the Poacher Line



*The Poacher Line,
 Community Rail Network
 and East Midlands Railway
 attend the Poacher Line
 'Big Thank You' event at
 Heckington.*

Derwent Valley Line CRP Update



DERWENT VALLEY LINE CRP

After 20 years working for Sustrans and close to retirement age changing job and transport mode seemed an interesting decision to my colleagues and friends. A few months in to being the new Derwent Valley Community Rail Officer and I am loving it. I have a very tough act to follow as Alistair Morley did my role with distinction for 20 years. Everyone from the adopters, EMR and Cross Country staff to Community Rail Network and Derbyshire staff have been so welcoming and supportive.

It has been fascinating meeting people motivated to support their local train line and station for such a wide variety of reasons. Many people just love trains, others are driven by a love of their community and see the station as a key hub. Others enjoy the social aspect of gardening and making a place look beautiful and welcoming.

It is an exciting time in the East Midlands and Great British Railways coming to Derby. Then Aug 1st to 3rd we have Alstom's The Greatest

Gathering of trains and coaches at Derby's Litchurch Lane works.

I live 3 mins walk from Belper train station on my line. So it is hyper local and meaningful for me being able to influence access to train travel for my communities. Climate change is what has driven my working and personal life for decades. We need to make it as easy as possible for people to access their train station or bus stop by walking, wheeling and riding a bike. We are working on improved signage and lighting and accessibility. We need a smooth, affordable, reliable, regular and integrated public and sustainable transport network. We are working to create a sustainable transport hub at Matlock station. We need to deliver on full electrification of the rail network. Rail travel is the future for distance travel. I am thrilled to be playing a small part in delivering on that promise.

David Clasby
Community Rail Partnership Officer

North Staffs CRP Update

PROJECT PROGRESS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND PACKED ACTION DAYS!

Over the past year, we've been busy across our line, thanks to the dedication of our partners and station adopters.



STATION PROJECTS: GREENER, BUGGIER AND BRIGHTER!

At Peartree, we've been rolling up our sleeves with students from St Martin's 6th Form and local Scouts. Together, we've refurbished bird boxes and upgraded the bug hotel – giving our flying friends a fresh home for spring!

Looking ahead, keep an eye out for new planters at Derby Station. We've chosen to work with Engineered Learning, a supplier who works with young people not in education, employment or training, and works with them to learn through engineering. Derby also benefited from the new "Tommies on Guard" silhouettes in the remembrance area.



ACTION DAYS: TEAMWORK IN ACTION

- Alsager got a fresh lick of paint with CrossCountry Trains volunteers and our Station Adopters transforming the platform rock walls.
- Longport Station Adopters teamed up with Network Rail to tackle fly tipping, they filled a skip in just two hours – no wonder Network Rail manage to maintain 20,000 miles of railway.
- Derby Station Adopters worked their green-fingered magic, turning tired planters into a vibrant pocket of nature in the heart of the city.



We've also been busy behind the scenes, engaging in consultations around train service frequency, station-area redevelopment in Derby, and the Bus Improvement Plan in Stoke.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS!

We're delighted that Kidsgrove, Uttoxeter and Peartree all scooped Silver in the "It's Your Station" category – and Alsager wowed judges to take home the Best Kept Gardens Award at Cheshire's Best Kept Stations, and 'Our railway themed poems are in these booklets!' came second in Community Rail Networks Photo Competition.

THANK YOU AND WHAT'S NEXT

We were thrilled to welcome so many of our amazing 75 station adopters to our recent thank-you lunch. Your enthusiasm keeps our stations thriving.

Looking ahead, we've got more plans than you can shake a trowel at – including new window and door boards at Longport, compost heaps at Kidsgrove, and our new Community Rail Officer Charlotte joining Emma. Let's keep the momentum going!

With affection,

Sam Smith

Former CRP Officer, North Staffs CRP.



North Notts & Lincs CRP Update

This past year marked the first full year of the existing officer team, and we've enjoyed success over the last year with various projects, including introducing groups to travel by train.

Our biggest project over the past year has been the work at the Market Rasen Station Café, opening in the refurbished station building and run by the service users of the Market Rasen day care centre. As a thank you to the staff and service users, we also organised a day trip to Cleethorpes by train, to enjoy a day out and to build rail confidence. A great day by the seaside was enjoyed by all, with over half of the group enjoying their first train trip. We'd like to say a special thank you to Dane who also welcomed us into the driver's cabin to have a look round.

A second trip for North Hykeham and Wragby Youth Clubs, along with participants from the Lincoln Based multi-faith group; the Centre for Reconciliation, was held in Leicester in November. The aim of this trip was to build rail confidence and to thank the group for their input in the Lincoln Central art project.



We have put a lot of focus on education over the last year, working with EMR on a project at Pilgrim School, promoting careers within the rail industry, rail safety, and artwork projects, finishing with a rail trip. The partnership also worked on a project at Lincoln University, promoting career opportunities and hearing ideas from students on how to attract more women to rail, and how services could be improved. Aspirational assemblies have also been held at schools in Gainsborough, and we now turn to working with a local primary school on promoting rail travel.



North Notts & Lincs CRP Update



We were delighted earlier this year to take part in EMR's World Book Day project, visiting Benjamin Adlard School for story time and to distribute copies of Miles' Magical Journey: An Adventure Through Railway Past to their Early Years children, complete with a Q&A about trains and train travel. We look forward to future projects with Benjamin Adlard, including some potential train trips!

Finally, our former chair, Barry Coward, is a former archivist for the BFI and is currently taking bookings for his presentation about British Transport Films. Please email contact@nnlcrp.org.uk if you are interested in booking a talk for part of your Railway 200 Celebrations!

Rick Craig
Community Rail Partnership Officer



We are proud to announce that we were awarded two accolades at the Community Rail Awards this year. The annual awards honour the dedication of community rail staff and volunteers, showcasing the transformative impact of grassroots initiatives that promote social inclusion, heritage, and sustainability within the rail industry.

Among the accolades on the night were a project that helped young people develop engineering skills and transition back into education, and a volunteer who made significant improvements to her local station. Robin Hood Line CRP's Fusion Learning project won first place in the Involving Children & Young People category. It involved twelve young people, previously not in education, collaborating with Engineered Learning to create a Woolly Mammoth sculpture for Creswell Station. Several participants in the scheme went on to secure engineering apprenticeships. Have you seen the Woolly Mammoth if not, now is a perfect time to take a train to Creswell and see a big 2-meter-high metal sculpture.

Another person whose achievement shone brightly at the ceremony was Jaymii Claxton, who won the Outstanding Volunteer Contribution Award for her work improving the environment around Bulwell Station as a station adopter.

Station adopters play a vital role in enhancing the surroundings of their stations. From keeping an eye out for unusual activity and reporting faults and issues to maintaining gardens and ensuring the station is presentable, they make a huge difference to every single passenger.

Jaymii credits becoming an adopter with boosting her confidence, building new skills, and fostering a sense of community pride. She said: "I feel privileged to be taking home the trophy for Outstanding Volunteer Contribution.

"When I started my station adoption journey, I never imagined standing on stage accepting an award – it truly is an honour."

Robin Hood Line CRP Update

Another exceptional project is the completion of the Whitwell Sensory Community Garden such a remarkable example of community collaboration and dedication. Once an overgrown, unused plot by the car park and railway line, it has been transformed into a vibrant sensory garden. Spearheaded by the Station Adopter group, Just Good Friends Club, local school, and residents, the space now serves as a haven for relaxation, education, and community engagement.

RHL CRP is also proud to support the Rail Safe Friendly program, improving rail safety awareness in schools. Since September last year, we have reached 2,742 young people across seven schools, equipping them with practical skills, boosting their confidence, and promoting sustainable travel along the Robin Hood Line. Activities included visiting attractions like Willow Tree Farm, the National Justice Museum, and Creswell Crags, with many participants experiencing train travel for the first time.

Justyna Mayer
Community Rail Partnership Officer



Stay update with our activity please follow us on social media.



robinhoodlinecrp



@RobinHoodLine1



robin-hood-line

See you
there!



BIG REGIONAL REFURB: EMR WELCOMES FIRST REVAMPED CLASS 170 TRAIN INTO SERVICE

EMR unveils newly refurbished Class 170 train.

First train in £23 million programme to modernise the 170 fleet Refurbishment will improve customer experience with brand-new seats and tables and modern charging facilities.

Other improvements include refurbished toilets, upgraded flooring, and a newly installed passenger information system

East Midlands Railway (EMR) has today unveiled its first fully refurbished Class 170 train, marking the beginning of a transformative year for the company and a significant upgrade in comfort and convenience for regional customers.

The revamped train is the first in a £23 million programme to modernise EMR's Class 170 regional fleet, enhancing the customer experience with brand-new seats and tables, modern power and charging facilities (including 230V, Type-C and dual USB sockets), refurbished toilets, upgraded flooring, and a newly installed passenger information system.

It also includes a dedicated bike storage area and redesigned interiors that echo the sleek aesthetic of EMR's new Aurora trains, which are set to enter service later this year.

This comprehensive overhaul ensures a more comfortable, reliable, and connected journey for customers across the region.

The train is the first of the 44-strong Class 170 fleet to be refurbished. The next train in the programme is scheduled to enter service next month. Following that, a newly refurbished unit is expected to join the fleet each month.

EMR's Class 170 fleet operates regional services across the East Midlands and South

Yorkshire, including: Matlock to Derby and Nottingham; Nottingham to Worksop via Mansfield; Newark Castle to Crewe via Nottingham, Derby and Stoke-on-Trent; Peterborough to Doncaster via Lincoln; Nottingham to Skegness via Grantham; Cleethorpes to Leicester via Lincoln and Nottingham; and Cleethorpes to Barton-on-Humber. It is also frequently used on the Liverpool to Norwich route.

The upgrade of the Class 170 fleet is part of a wider £60 million programme, which will also include the refurbishment of EMR's Class 360 and Class 158 trains.



AWARDS

EMR Station Adopters and partner Community Rail Partnerships had a bumper year at the Community Rail Awards in Newcastle upon Tyne, with a couple of first places and lots of 2nd and 3rd places.

Involving Children and Young People

Robin Hood Line CRP

1st Place

Empowered 12 at-risk students with engineering skills, confidence, and qualifications – culminating in a woolly mammoth sculpture at Creswell Station and inspiring futures in apprenticeships and education.



Outstanding Volunteer Contribution

Robin Hood Line CRP

1st Place

Jaymii Claxton, East Midlands Railway's youngest volunteer, has transformed Bulwell Station through community projects, youth engagement, and tireless dedication – making the station safer, greener, and more welcoming for all.



'IT'S YOUR STATION' AWARDS

Lead Bronze 'It's Your Station'

Habrough Station Adopters

(with support from Barton Cleethorpes CRP)

When volunteer numbers dropped at Habrough Station towards the end of 2023, locals, including Southerton's Store owner, stepped up, transforming it with vibrant planting, art plans, and wildlife features – boosting community pride and wellbeing.



Lead Platinum 'Its Your Station'

Friends of Buxton Station

(with support from High Peak & Hope Valley CRP)

Other 'It's Your Station's

SILVER

Friends of Uttoxeter Station

(with support from North Staffs CRP)

SILVER

Friends of Kidsgrove Station

(with support from North Staffs CRP)

SILVER

Friends of Peartree Station

(with support from North Staffs CRP)

OTHER AWARDS

North Staffs CRP

Our railway themed poems are in these booklets!

Photo competition – 2nd Place

Marston Vale CRP

Youth Inspired / Friends of Bedford St Johns
Mosaic Artwork (Under £500)

Small Projects Award – 2nd Place

Youth Inspired empowered people with learning difficulties to create a mosaic for Bedford St. Johns Station, boosting confidence through rail travel. The success led to commissions for artwork at nine more stations.



High Peak & Hope Valley CRP – Buxton Line

Most Effective Communications Campaign

2nd Place

To boost post-Covid travel, High Peak & Hope Valley CRP launched a creative campaign promoting Buxton Line destinations, increasing Facebook reach by 57% and passenger numbers by up to 27%.

North Notts & Lincolnshire CRP and Friends of Worksop Station

Worksop 175 History Storyboard (Under £500)

Small Projects Award – 3rd Place

To mark Worksop Station's 175th anniversary, volunteers created a historical storyboard, attracting media attention, local partnerships, and community interest, all for just £92, enhancing the station's visitor experience.



We can also announce that EMR will be the headline sponsors of next years Community Rail Awards, and will be working closely with Community Rail Network to host the awards in Derby, we hope to see many of you there!



*To all our wonderful
adopters.
Thank you for
everything you do!*

FROM KAYE, SAM & NANCY





EMR

