

# ANNUAL REPORT

## April 2020 – March 2021

High Peak and Hope Valley  
Community Rail Partnership



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**NEWS**  
Keeping You On Board  
Families enjoy a day on the Edale Sling Express  
Our Station Volunteers

**RAILWAY LINE GUIDES**  
Explore the railway lines of the Peak District with this useful information.



**Self-guided BUMBLEBEE SAFARI to the Light Wood area**

1. Leave the main station building and turn immediately right.

2. On to the right again, around the glorious, bright avenue and then take the footpath on the right. This area is covered by one of our partners, DB Group (a.k.a. The Green) who have allowed us to "visit" the area with help from local young people. Swallows, storks and flowers have been planted, nesting material, suitable hives and hedges have been provided.

3. At the end of the path, turn left onto Lighthouse Road. Follow it until the road becomes a grass track, growing all burrows on your left and right.

4. In spring/summer this is the right place to spot our special Biliberry as well as more common species like bees, butterflies, bees, flies and many other insects. Bees that fly through the area will help our bumblebees and themselves as well.

5. Before you leave, look at the map.

Species shown: Biliberry bumblebee, Red-tailed bumblebee, Bumblebee, White-tailed bumblebee.

**BUMBLEBEE SAFARI**

Illustration bybecca Thorne

**BUMBLEBEE SAFARI**

Species shown: Biliberry bumblebee, Red-tailed bumblebee, Bumblebee, White-tailed bumblebee.

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It has been quite an eventful year not only for the High Peak and Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership (HP&HVCRP) but with the challenges of a global pandemic. As a new Community Rail Officer, I came into post in February 2020 and in one month, we were in a national lockdown. This meant no physical meetings and so my introduction to many of you was through virtual meetings. 'Zoom' and 'Teams' are familiar words in everyone's vocabulary now. The challenges of a new job in unprecedented circumstances was made so much easier by my job share partner, Andrew Walker. I would like to thank Andrew for all his help and patience in supporting me in my new role. Despite the Covid 19 pandemic, we adapted to find new ways of working and have achieved much this year – all with the support of you, our funders, stakeholders and station groups. For me, highlights include developing our e-newsletter, 'Keeping You On Board'; being able to meet our partners and station groups (when lockdown restrictions allowed); being involved with the start of our 'Buzzing Stations' project and the national anti-trespassing campaign aimed at young people, 'Backtrack'.



Other key achievements include developing a new brand style for the Partnership; setting up a Facebook page and working on the new website, launched in February 2021.

[www.peakdistrictbytrain.org](http://www.peakdistrictbytrain.org)

With events such as the folk trains and Trans Peak walks postponed, we focused on planning sessions such as the Edale Slings Express and Hope Valley Xplore, aimed at bringing young people from Sheffield, who have never experienced a train journey, into the Peak District National Park. To be delivered in Summer/Autumn 2021.

I would like to thank our amazing 'Friends of Station' groups for all the wonderful work you did during the pandemic and continue to do so. We will be back in 2021/22 delivering some more exciting projects together.

In the year that I have been in post, I feel very welcome in the 'community rail' family.

I would like to thank George, as Chair, for guiding the Partnership through these tricky times and to our train operating companies for their continued support.

I am pleased to share our 2020/21 Annual Report with you and look forward to working with you all in 2021/22.

Catherine Croney

High Peak and Hope Valley Community  
Rail Partnership Officer



To all members of the  
High Peak & Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership  
and its supporters,



## Introduction from the Chair of the Rail Partnership

Welcome all to the Annual Report which covers April 2020 to March 2021.

It's been a year of challenges! The global pandemic caused the world to turn upside down and we have all had to change our ways of working. Despite this, much has been achieved during the pandemic as you will read in this report.

The involvement of all our train companies, Northern Trains Ltd, EMR, Cross Country and Avanti West Coast is much appreciated and will continue to raise the profile and impact of the Partnership's activities as well as improving our long-term financial stability.

We were delighted that the Dept. for Transport in February 2021 confirmed that our Partnership had gained reaccreditation and thanks go to Paul Webster from Community Rail Network for guiding us through the process.

Staffing the Partnership changed as Catherine joined Andrew. Lockdowns meant that they couldn't work together in the office at County Hall but they developed a collaborative working relationship introducing the new brand style for the Partnership, reflected here in the Annual Report. Key to communication with everyone was the new 'Keeping You On Board' newsletter, which we hope you found informative during those times when we all couldn't meet in person.

Andrew took the difficult decision to leave the CRP in January 2021 leaving the other half of the post vacant. I am sure you will all agree with me when I say Andrew will be missed and we all thank him for his dedication and hard work during his time as a Community Rail Officer with the CRP.

Lockdowns during the year meant that events such as the popular folk trains and TransPeak walks could not go ahead. Social distancing also prevented our station group volunteers from proceeding with their usual activities. Not deterred, many of our groups carried on developing projects virtually. The 'Buzzing Stations' project is testament to collaborative working and there is more about this in the report.

I would like to thank all our core funding partners for their continued support for the work of the Partnership and the opportunity to work with them in turn to help them achieve their aims. Working together we undoubtedly achieve more overall.

Finally, I would like to thank our wonderful station group volunteers, who lie at the very heart of the community rail partnership. Your work throughout the pandemic has shown your resilience and your creativity to carry on championing the community rail cause.

Please enjoy reading in this Annual Report about all the great things which we achieved together in 2020 through all the challenges of the pandemic and let us hope that 2021 brings new hope and more certainty as we move forward in the CRP together.

***Cllr. George Wharmby***

*Chair, High Peak & Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership (to May 2021)*



**Community Rail** is about integrating stations into their communities; striving to ensure the railways can best support their areas socially and economically.

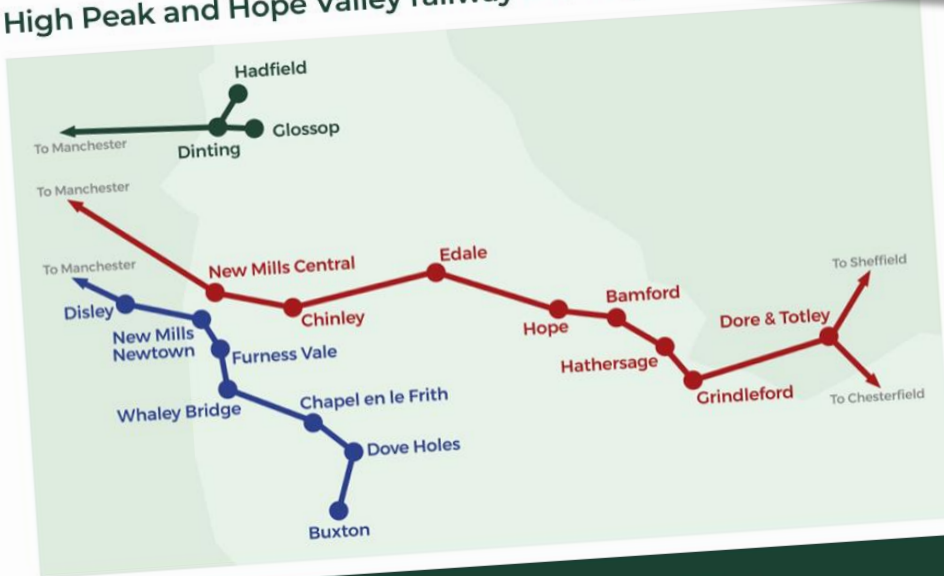
HP&HVCPR is proud to be part of Community Rail Network; working with station groups along our three railway lines to place stations and the railway at the heart of our communities.



**The HP&HVCPR**

- 3 lines – Buxton, Glossop, Hope Valley
- 17 stations adopted
- 3 Community Rail Network awards
- Over 100 station adopters

High Peak and Hope Valley railway line map






**GENERAL ENQUIRIES**  
Email: [info@peakdistrictbytrain.org](mailto:info@peakdistrictbytrain.org)

**ABOUT US**  
About the High Peak and Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership >

**FUNDING**  
This website is part funded by Northern Trains, East Midlands Railway, CrossCountry Trains and Avanti West Coast



**We are funded by:**

Northern Trains Ltd  
EMR  
Avanti West Coast  
Cross Country Trains  
Peak District National Park Authority  
Cheshire East Council  
High Peak Borough Council



We are hosted by Derbyshire County Council, based at County Hall, Matlock.

Network Rail and Community Rail Network provide valuable support for our work.

*Job share Officers in 2020/21: Catherine Croney and Andrew Walker (to January 2021)*

**HP&HV CRP Finance Report: April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021**

| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>  | <b>£</b>       |
|---|----------------|
| Salary and recruitment costs                              | 37,363         |
| Travel & Subsistence                                      | 384            |
| Website development                                       | 5,070          |
| CRN membership  | 150            |
| Partnership management costs *                            | 4,000          |
| Marketing and projects                                    | 12,941         |
| Miscellaneous expenses e.g stationery, postage, room hire | 475            |
| Gamesley station study                                    | 2,600          |
| Small projects fund – grants to station groups            | 2,110          |
| <b>Sub total for 2020/21</b>                              | <b>65,093</b>  |
| To be carried forward to 2021/22                          | 130,069        |
| <b>Total expenditure</b>                                  | <b>195,162</b> |



**HP&HV CRP Finance Report: April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021***– continued:*

| <b>INCOME</b>                         | <b>£</b>       |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| High Peak Borough Council             | 2,000          |
| Cheshire East Council                 | 1,000          |
| Peak District National Park Authority | 2,000          |
| Network Rail                          | 1,500          |
| Derbyshire County Council *           | 4,000          |
| Northern Trains Ltd                   | 28,362         |
| Cross Country                         | 12,736         |
| East Midlands Railway                 | 6,900          |
| Avanti West Coast                     | 7,203          |
| <b>Sub total for 2020/21</b>          | <b>65,701</b>  |
| HPHVCRP Reserves from 2019/20         | 129,461        |
| <b>Total income</b>                   | <b>195,162</b> |

\* Derbyshire CC funding for 2020/21 = £0 in cash 'In Kind Support' as the Hosting Body for the Partnership. This includes Management, Finance, Audit, Procurement, Information Technology, Human Relations, Payroll and Administrative Support, plus access to computer and telephone equipment.

## New brand style

We took the decision to develop a new brand style for the CRP to ensure our messaging and communication is consistent.

We commissioned designer, *pinkdotinc*, to work with us to develop the brand.

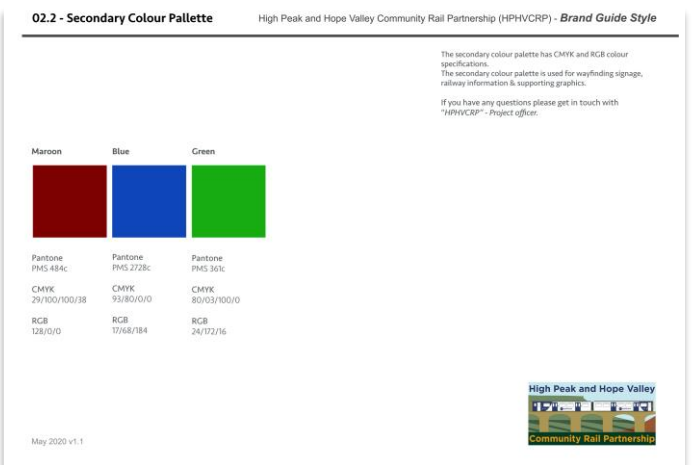
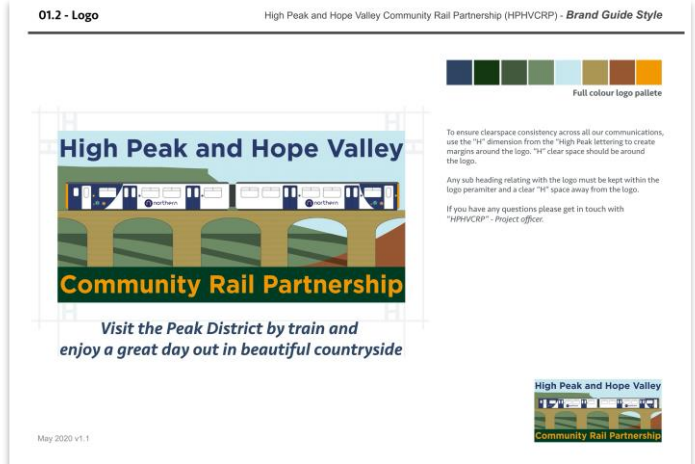
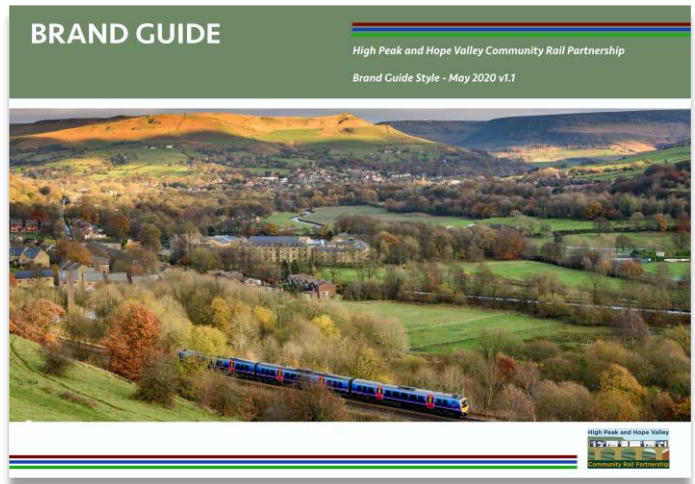
We wanted to take the existing logo and work around the colour palettes but also introduce a fresh style using a secondary colour palette.

The vibrant colours of our 'stripes' (top right of the newsletter) have been used in our issues.

We wanted to use these to represent the three lines.

The maroon reflects the Midland mainline colour for the Hope Valley; the blue represents the Buxton line and the association with water; the green is for the Glossop line and the hills that surround our three stations on that line.

*We hope you like the new style.*



## Keeping You On Board newsletters

We decided that during the pandemic we needed to maintain our communication with everyone as much as possible. Our 'Keeping You On Board' newsletter started in March 2020 as the pandemic started and lockdown restrictions came into force. We started with weekly bulletins, which led to monthly newsletters. We asked for contributions from everyone and duly groups sent us their news stories so that we could share with everyone.

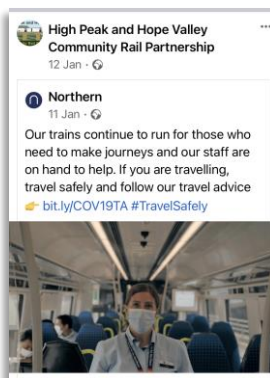
Our newsletter then became embedded in our 'News' section of the website and will now become a quarterly feature there as well as an email circular.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed – true collaborative working.



## Our on line presence

We launched our Facebook page in August 2020. We felt we wanted a social media presence so we could share our news and information to a wider audience. We have linked up with many of our station groups' Facebook pages as well as our partners' pages. Getting our stories 'out there' is key to our wider communication.



### Website

Lockdowns during the pandemic gave us the time to develop our new website. This was a labour of love but we are pleased with the outcome. Thank you to everyone who contributed material and photographs.

The website launched in February 2021 and we are monitoring usage to review during early 2022. [www.peakdistrictbytrain.org](http://www.peakdistrictbytrain.org)



## New trains along the Hope Valley Line

Since mid-September 2020 some of the new Class 195 diesel trains have been allocated by Northern to run services on the Hope Valley Line and they are now a regular sight.

Passengers benefit from air conditioning, more luggage space, a mix of airline style seating and seats in bays of four around a table.

Each carriage features CCTV for passenger security, colour LCD screens which carry a range of travel information including advance notice of the next station stop, and WiFi and plug sockets are available to passengers at each seat.

The trains accelerate more quickly and have a higher top speed (100mph) than the old Pacer trains which they have replaced. They present a modern, spacious and comfortable image which is a very welcome boost to passengers travelling on the Hope Valley Line.



*A Class 195 service arrives at New Mills Central*



## Hiking in the High Peak

Since April 2020, we have been working with High Peak Borough Council on their tourism project to support local businesses in Whaley Bridge, Chapel-en-le-Frith and New Mills. The funding was available through a recovery fund from Government after the Toddbrook Reservoir incident in 2019.

As a result, there is a series of walks leaflets for the three towns, many of which start from our stations.

We have also produced a series of welcome and orientation panels for the towns and our thanks go to High Peak Borough Council for funding the panels at Whaley Bridge, Chapel-en-le-Frith, New Mills Newtown and Central stations.

These are currently being manufactured and due to be installed.

The new walks leaflets are available in printed and PDF versions.



## CRP Accreditation

Accreditation means we can proudly use the logo as we have met all the requirements asked of us by the DfT.

Accreditation provides assurance to potential funders and partners, that the CRP operates to high standards of governance and financial propriety; adopts a collaborative approach; is worthy of trust by others; and is a suitable entity for receiving public funds.

Government considers it a good representative of the local community. We're delighted to have passed again for the second year.



Community Rail

Accredited Partnership

2021-22

## Community Rail Network Awards Event 9<sup>th</sup> December 2020

The 2020 Awards presentation took a different format in that it was an online event due to the pandemic.

Hosted by Community Rail Network, the presentation of awards celebrates the great work undertaken by Community Rail Partnerships and



Friends of Buxton station won the LEAD PLATINUM award in the “It’s Your Station” award category.

FoBS also scooped up second place in the INVOLVING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AWARD with their innovative railway-based ‘Mini Saga’ story writing competition.

Friends of Glossop station also won a PLATINUM award in the “It’s Your Station” category.

Congratulations to everyone involved.

**It's Your Station**  
sponsored by **Avanti West Coast**

**LEAD Platinum** Friends of Buxton Station

Having achieved platinum level in this category in 2019, the Friends of Buxton Station (FoBS) enjoyed another stellar year, extending their already expansive range of community development and environmental work. They continued their varied biodiversity projects, including the conversion of a tree-stem area of land into a new Japanese Garden, and the creation of a wildflower garden with bat boxes and bee hotels, built with pupils from a local secondary school. The group also developed their diverse range of artwork, working with students from the University of Derby and residents from a nearby care home to produce murals, mosaics, and statues to make the station more welcoming.

The group have cemented their place at the heart of their community, leading on local events, installing an information point at the station, acting as consultants over the local council's Future High Street Funding bid, and during the first Covid-19 lockdown, initiating a campaign to encourage rail users to support local retailers. They continue to share their enthusiasm and expertise, and over the past year, have helped establish a new adoption group at Dove Holes and presented at a Northern conference. FoBS go above and beyond the work of a station adoption group, and were recognised this year by Buxton Civic Association, who awarded them 'heritage hero' status.

**Involving Children and Young People**  
sponsored by **Grand Central Railway**

**Second** Friends of Buxton Station for Mini-Saga Challenges

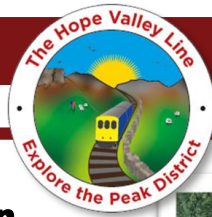
The Friends of Buxton Station (FoBS) became concerned about the mental health and wellbeing of young people in their local communities during the government's first Covid-19 lockdown.

With the aim of keeping positive thoughts alive, the group issued an innovative and creative writing challenge, asking young people to use the mini-saga concept to write imaginative and happy stories in exactly 50 words, taking their minds off any thoughts of negativity or confinement. Using the title 'It happened at Buxton Station', they contacted Buxton Junior School and encouraged pupils who were being home-schooled to enter. The three winning entries received family rail passes courtesy of Northern, and were featured in local media.

FoBS then decided to use National Volunteers Week in June to expand the project to encompass volunteers across the wider community rail movement, asking people to create stories using the titles, "This is what community rail is all about", or "Heart of the community". The challenge received an enthusiastic response, with many station adopters sharing inspiring and uplifting experiences that allowed people to reconnect and interact in a positive way.



FoBS member and master musician, Will Blake, helped to turn the eight selected mini-sagas into audio-visual presentations for the online national Community Rail Awards night (on 9 December).



**Dore and Totley station**

2020/21 saw continued low level Covid safe activity at Dore & Totley. Planters were carefully tended and more bulbs planted. The station was kept litter free.

In 2020 a bench and planter were kindly donated by the Abbeydale Rotary Club.

The bench is very well used by passengers waiting to be picked up, and walkers pausing for a rest. A second bench has just been added. Sadly the car park is not as busy as it used to be with commuters but leisure users have been out in force.



**Grindleford, Hathersage and Bamford stations**

**Grindleford**

Friends of Grindleford station planted a new bed on their new extended Platform 2. They tried to keep to a vintage Midland Red colour spectrum. The group was most grateful to the National Garden Scheme for a grant, Northern Trains Ltd and Tom Lewis from the Peak District National Park for supplying additional compost and walling.

The bug house (designed by local school children and constructed with the help of the Peak District National Park) has been placed in the herb garden behind the fence.

The group also decorated parts of the station in December 2020 to brighten the dark winter evenings and bring some cheer to passengers.



*Bug house at Grindleford station*

Four inspirational images of the National Trust Longshaw Estate have been fixed to the platform fencing to encourage visitors to come and explore the Estate from the station.

The group worked hard to control the amount of litter that accumulated around the station after the first easing of restrictions in 2021 when take-aways were commonplace.

When Grindleford's carnival committee proposed an 'International Grindleford' theme the group displayed posters of great railway routes in the world including the Orient Express, Ghan, Trans Siberian and the Jacobite.



*#peakdistrictproud banner at Grindleford station*



## Hathersage station

The pandemic meant that the group at Hathersage station could not meet and undertake as much gardening work as they would normally have done.

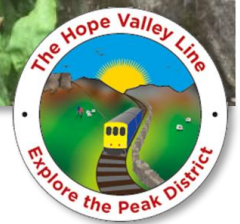
The group did however, get involved with the Buzzing Stations project and met Rhodri Green from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, who gave them advice on which types of plants would attract bees and other pollinators.

## Bamford station

Following Network Rail's permission in 2020 to develop land at the step free (vehicle) entrance to the station, the area has been greatly improved by growing plants and small shrubs in the previously bare patch of ground.



*Bamford station vehicle entrance: before and after improvement*



### **Bamford station** – *continued:*

A further enhancement to the station entrance has been the installation of a signboard for Bamford station, in traditional railway style, pointing passengers to the station platforms.



*New signboard at entrance to Bamford station* ▲

In February, FoBS submitted a report to the joint DfT, Network Rail and Transport for the North, Manchester Recovery Task Force. The FoBS report contributed to the plans for the recovery in rail passenger traffic with the easing of the Covid lockdown restrictions. In anticipation of the construction of the freight passing loop at Bamford as part of the Hope Valley Line Rail Capacity enhancement scheme, frequent meetings were held with Network Rail and, more latterly, with their primary subcontractor Volker Rail. The aim of these meetings was to ascertain progress in the implementation of the scheme and consequent upon these meetings to post progress reports on the FoBS Facebook page and in the *Bamford News*.

While the pandemic curtailed many of the social activities in the village, which FoBS used to advertise in its community noticeboards, the vacant space was filled for much of the time by the Bamford Folk Art panels, which depict the historical development of the village. The historical timeline, established by the Bamford and District History Group, was displayed at an open weekend when over 100 local residents came together to share personal stories and recollections.

**Bamford station** – *continued:*

These panels provided passengers with a particular source of interest and knowledge of the history of the village. Posters were printed by the Community Rail Partnership for display in the noticeboards at the station and leaflets were designed and printed so that the local community and visitors could read more about the whole project.



Since its inception in November 2015, FoBS has hosted biannual visits to Bamford by overseas students at Sheffield Hallam University (SHU). These were suspended during the Covid lockdown restrictions.

### Hope and Edale stations

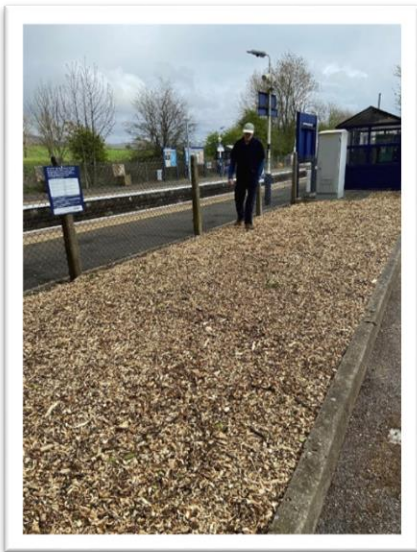
#### Hope

The Friends of Hope station worked hard to install a new picnic bench. Located safely at the top of the car park, the bench provides a useful seating area for passengers to sit whilst waiting for the train. Not only useful, but you also have a great view of the hills of the Hope Valley.

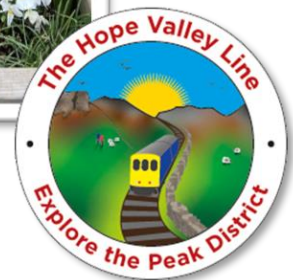
*A well-deserved break to admire the view from the picnic bench*



Friends of Hope station were delighted that some tree clearance work that Northern Trains Ltd had arranged was carried out in spring 2020. Even better, the branches which were removed have been chipped and laid as a mulch in the area immediately behind Platform 1 at the top of the car park.



*Recycled branches laid as chippings at Hope station*



## Edale

Like all groups, the friends group at Edale could not undertake much activity due to the lockdowns. However, when restrictions allowed, the group made sure the planters were fully stocked.

New projects such as the installation of a new car parking meter to help generate income for the CRP and new wooden fencing were being planned.

Several members of the station group undertook the online 'bee ID course' delivered by the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.

## Chinley and New Mills Central stations

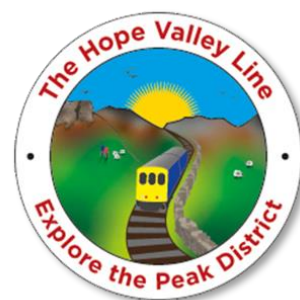
Section 106 funding was made available from Derbyshire County Council for a study to be undertaken by Network Rail. The study will look into the viability of improved access via a footbridge at Chinley station. Friends of Chinley Station, like other groups, were unable to meet due to the global pandemic.

At New Mills Central, plans working with High Peak Borough Council to provide a welcome and orientation from the station into the town started. Walks leaflets were produced in conjunction with Visit New Mills, Walkers are Welcome and New Mills Festival.

In February 2021 **#Showthelove at New Mills Central** was a display at New Mills Central. Artist Deborah Pitman and New Mills Festival worked together to get a community event up and running over Valentine's weekend.

The town had run an arts project on the fence at New Mills Central nine years ago, called the 'JunkStop' project so the idea popped into the team's heads to try and make a display on the fence again.

This time woven wicker hearts were displayed made by home educated/flexischooled children in the local forest school sessions with Rachel Monteath from BeingOutdoorsCIC.



## Disley station

Friends of Disley station formed in May 2019 and has grown in number from ten original members to sixteen. The group has worked hard to make the station attractive and welcoming to commuters, visitors, local residents, walkers and wildlife too.

The group's main achievement has been creating a garden from what was previously an unloved and ugly eyesore. The slope is a difficult area to plant, although the soil quality is very good, it is very steep and is covered in dock and ground elder.



*The slope on the Buxton platform at Disley station in transformation*

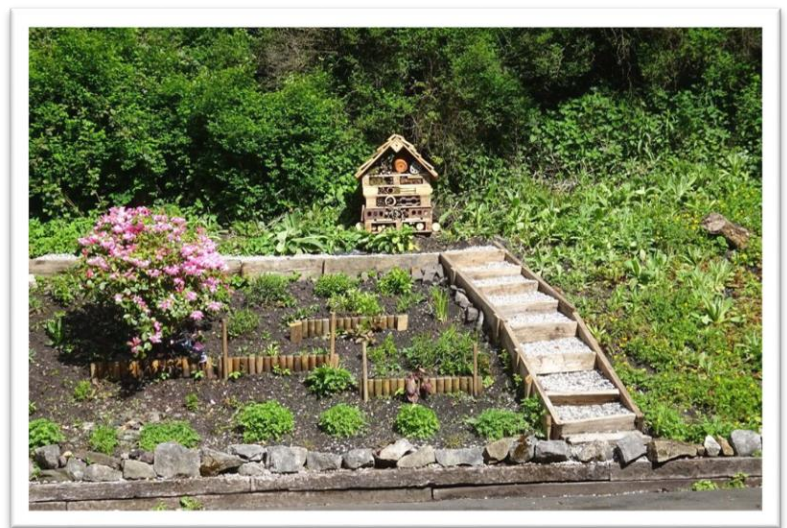
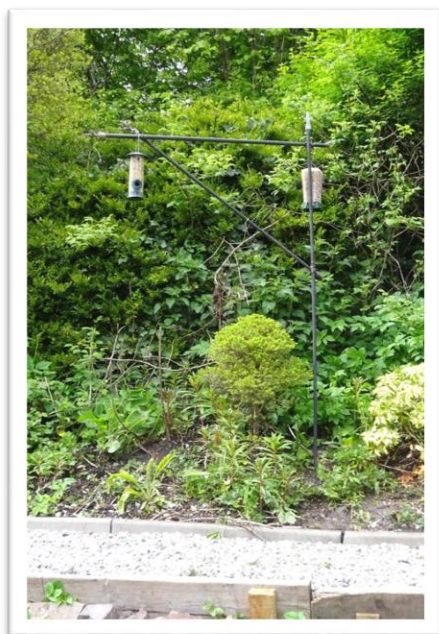
**Disley station – continued:**

Following an appeal on Facebook, the group was given a donation of scaffolding planks which they used to edge the path.

Another appeal, this time in the Disley Parish Council e-bulletin resulted in some local residents donating a huge variety of hardy perennial plants and shrubs.



A real feature and attraction, particularly to younger visitors, is 'Bugingham Palace', an insect hotel built from donated wood, which has been installed at the top of the slope. The group has also installed two compost bins and two water butts as their only source of water was the tap on the outside of the ticket office. The birds have not been forgotten as a home-made bird feeding station was created from some curtain poles.



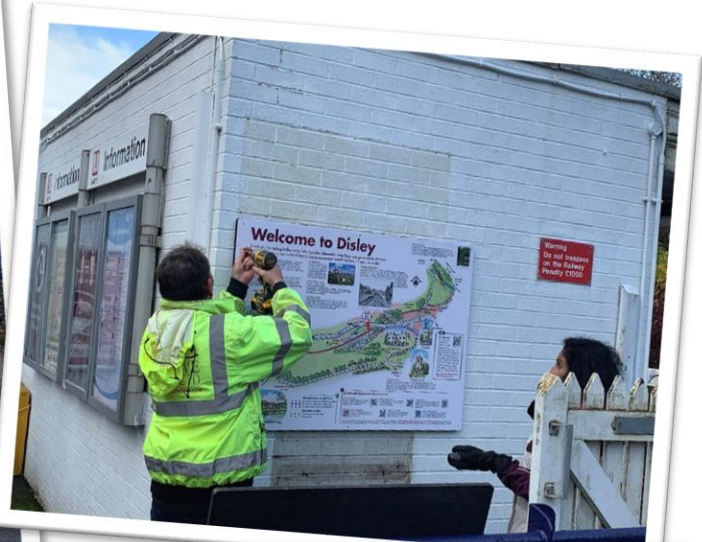
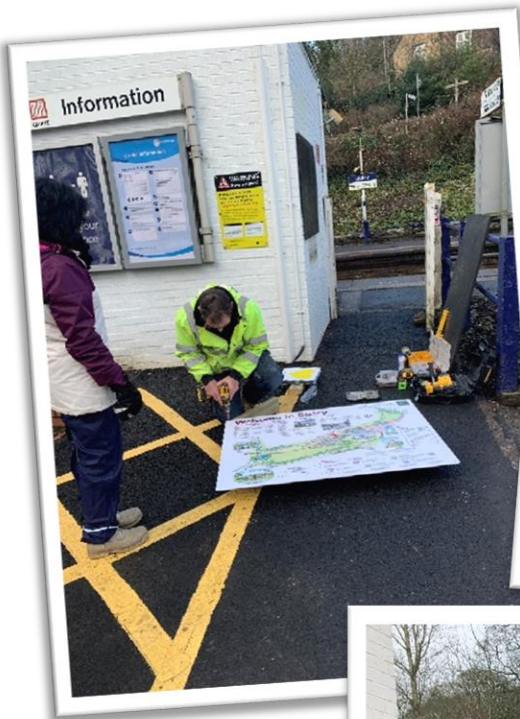
*Disley's wildlife haven*

**Disley station – continued:**

The group is planning to plant some more wildlife-friendly plants soon, including teasels, foxgloves and poppies.

In December 2020 three welcome and orientation panels were installed at Disley Station. One is on the station building and one on each platform. Their purpose is to show people what there is to see and do in Disley.

*Installation in progress.....*



*.....installation completed*



### New Mills Newtown station

In summer 2020, New Mills Newtown’s ticket office had new cladding to smarten up the building. A new welcome panel will be installed at the station to link the station with the town and also with Central station.



Panel in New Mills town centre



### Furness Vale

With a year like no other Friends of Furness Vale station had to be inventive in the work they did to maintain the station garden. In the times that they were unable to get on the station, the group was busy in other ways. They set up a Facebook page for FOFVS, got creative to make their noticeboards stand out, sourced equipment and grew plants ready to plant out. Northern refurbished the fantastic footbridge, which is now looking very smart. Once able to return to the garden at the station, the friends have been pruning, weeding and planting, including the wildflower meadow patch to attract even more insects to the garden and have built bug hotels.

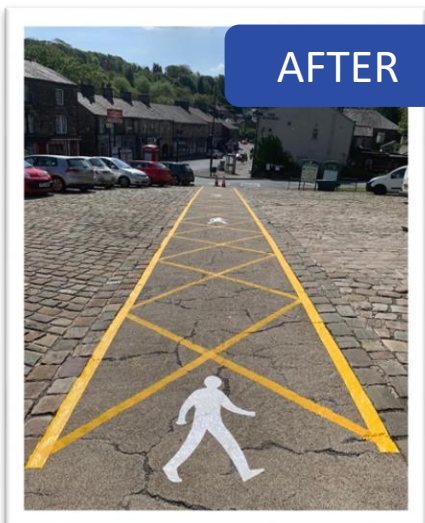
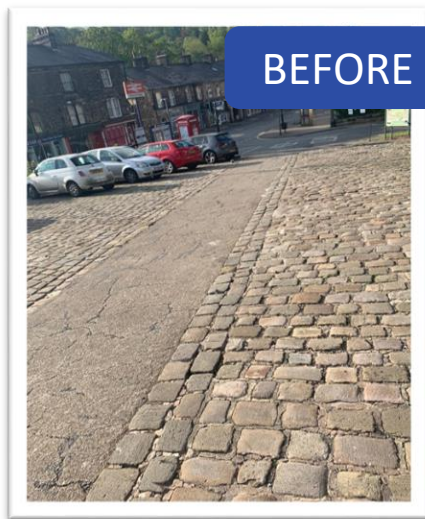


Furness Vale’s bug hotel

### Whaley Bridge

For the past 'decade or so' the local residents, councillors and elected members combined with the support of the Friends of Whaley Bridge station and the High Peak and Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership have consistently lobbied for a safer pathway at the station. In May 2020, this was achieved and the work was carried out by Northern's team from ISS.

The car parking space at Whaley Bridge is jointly owned/managed by four separate groups (Northern, Network Rail, High Peak Borough Council and the Jodrell Arms) and this had obviously caused the dilemma which is now resolved.



*New welcome panel in Whaley Bridge station's car park. Part of the HPBC project resulting from funding for the Toddbrook incident in 2019.*

## Chapel-en-le-Frith station

Although formal working parties were restricted in numbers and three were cancelled entirely due to Covid, during the summer and autumn 2020 the Friends of Chapel station were able to maintain the borders, keep the grass mowed, and other routine work, along with a start on levelling the three triangles site.

The group managed to successfully hold their own bi monthly business meeting by telephone conference, which worked well for the small numbers involved. They maintained contact with Northern Trains Ltd and Network Rail on appropriate matters.

Unfortunately, in December 2020, one of the two 'welcome boards' displayed in the waiting shelters, was severely damaged. A new board has been provided and Northern Trains Ltd kindly agreed to foot the bill for this.

## Dove Holes station

A new group formed during lockdown with the help of Dave Carlisle from the Friends of Buxton station. Planters were built at the station as the first project during lockdown. The group received a £250 start-up grant from the CRP.



### Buxton station

Covid 19 was the trigger for FOBS to re-consider their objectives, many of which necessarily required group participation. They held virtual meetings and came up with innovative projects to undertake during the pandemic and lockdowns.

As a tribute to the NHS heroes, the group decided to dedicate the LED lighting on the fan window to those key workers.



*The blue lighting behind the fan window at Buxton station. A tribute to NHS heroes during the pandemic*

The group entered seven categories of the Community Rail Network’s annual awards. They won Lead Platinum for the “It’s Your Station” category and achieved second place in the “Involving Young People” category with the Mini Saga project.

With the announcement at the end of April that there would be at least another three weeks of “lockdown,” FOBS decided to stimulate the bored home-schoolers into entering a mini-saga competition. A complete story in 50 words, the mini-saga would need to be a happy story written under the given title of “It Happened at Buxton Station.”



*Short story winners - all brothers*

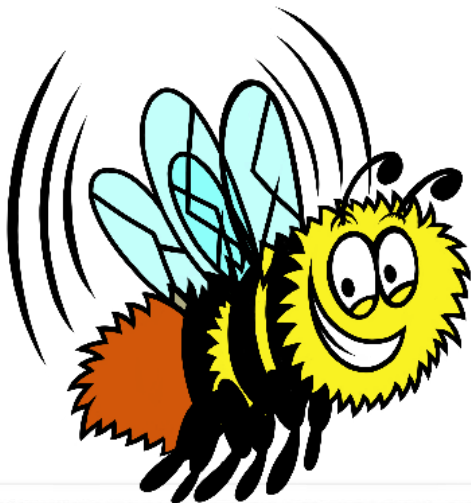


**Buxton station – continued:**

The project, **Buzzing Stations**, spans the whole High Peak because of its focus on the rare and endangered bilberry bumblebee, native to Buxton and the moorland areas.

It also addresses another objective, to provide a new planter unit in the public car park.

*The Bumblebee Express planter in progress at Buxton station*



The group designed the bilberry bumblebee logo through Matt Cooper, community artist, who has helped FOBS previously.

When Covid-19 controls allowed in June 2020, a bee safari went from Buxton station to Lightwood, led by Rhodri Green from the Bumblebee Conservation Trust.

FOBS were asked to join in with Vision Buxton’s efforts towards the national campaign: Heritage Open Days (HOD).

Events during the week 5 - 11 September were based upon the theme “Hidden Nature”.

It was a perfect fit with the proposed bumblebee safaris that Covid-19 prevented.

Rob Wilson helped design this self-guided leaflet.



**Buxton station – continued:****Two Left Hands (community group) request.**

FOBS received a request from this artistic group to become involved in an innovative community art project designed to address the gap left by the cancellation of Buxton's famed and traditional "Wells Dressing" festival. Their idea: they wanted people to create their own 'well-dressing' style panel, any shape or size, celebrating Buxton, and the communities. These would be displayed during the well-dressing period from the 4 July until 11 July 2020. Their theme: "Heart of the Community."

The group created a panel on fabric, in the more weather-resistant medium of coloured permanent marker pens. It was sewn into a larger panel, which was displayed around Buxton.



Towards the end of June 2020, FOBS produced and printed 5,000 copies of the "Rail Retail Trail". It promotes twelve small local independent trading places: selling in unusual buildings or vending extraordinary items in interesting ways.



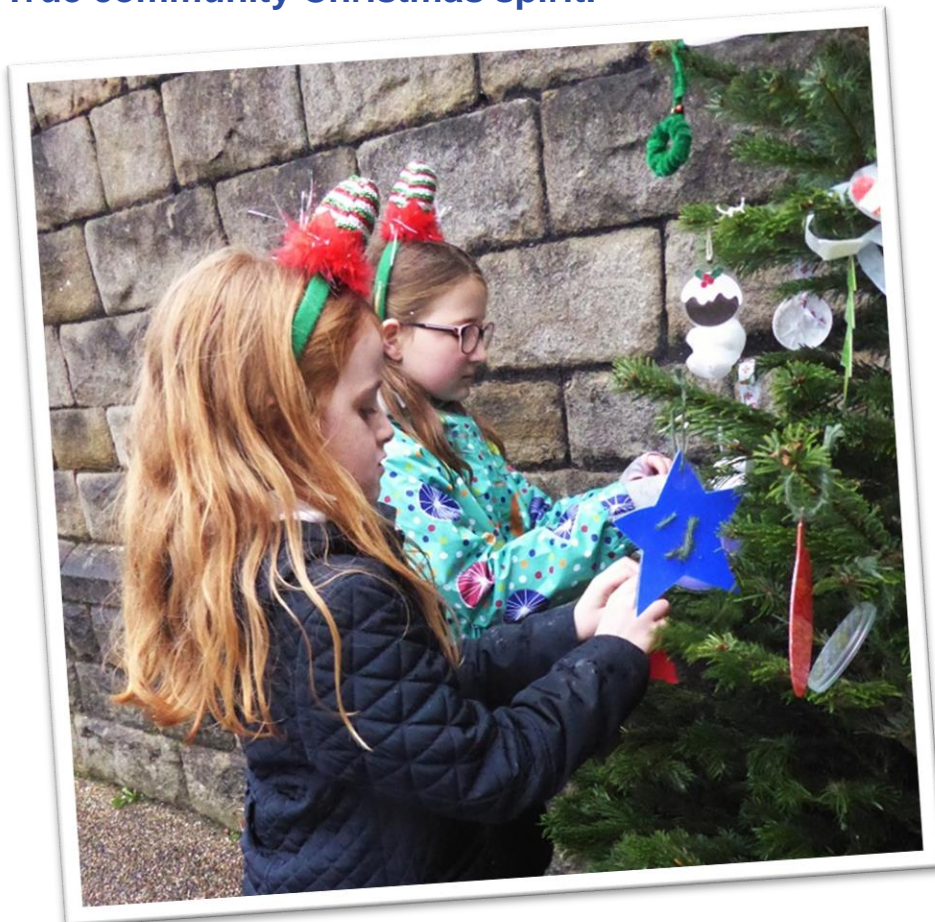
The new trail leaflet on display at Buxton station

**Buxton station – continued:****Christmas tree decorations from recycled materials project.**

FOBS worked with Buxton Junior School at Christmas 2020 to help raise PTFA funds.

Under Covid-19 restrictions FOBS' innovative solution ran like this:

- ❖ FOBS would obtain a suitable tree;
- ❖ It would be placed in a public area near the railway station;
- ❖ Pupils would construct two sets of Christmas tree decorations at school from recycled materials otherwise destined for disposal; and
- ❖ One set would be “sold” to raise PTFA funds, the other would be placed upon the community tree by pupils under supervision.

**True community Christmas spirit.**

## Glossop station

After several periods of station work being suspended due to lockdowns the Friends of Glossop station were delighted to resume all activities from April 2020 adhering to Northern's restrictions.

Regular cleaning and gardening sessions on Sunday mornings resumed and continued to be a mainstay of the group's work.

In January 2021 a new Risk Assessment was submitted to Network Rail for a new safety licence to work on the Embankment Garden for seven successive monthly supervised sessions on Sundays.

### Summary of other activities:

- A new Poetry Platform display celebrating the English Coastline.
- Four new Community Art displays in the Waiting Room Art Gallery – now booked until March 2022.
- Liaison and visits to support Buzzing Stations Bumblebee CRP Project - Safaris Buxton, Whaley Bridge and Hadfield. Huge thanks to Rhodri Green at Bumblebee Conservation Trust.
- Monthly FOGS' news bulletins online and in station display cases. Photos of all stories. Stories to local press, HP&HVCRP and CRN.
- Seasonal flower displays Glossop indoors and platform tubs.
- Working with South East Manchester CRP to install the five remaining historic information boards at Broadbottom, Godley, Newton for Hyde, Flowery Field and Guide Bridge.
- Support of Glossop Line Friends Groups: Broadbottom, Hattersley, Hadfield and Guide Bridge. Visits and shared projects. New "Visit the Glossop Line" tourist leaflet in preparation with HP&HVCRP.
- Visits to station by Robert Lorgan High Peak MP, Theo McLauchlan, Northern and Becky Styles Community and Sustainability Manager.
- Attendance at 81<sup>st</sup> Commemorative Evacuee Event Lowestoft with new wall panels showing Glossop links.

The group has attended Zoom meetings for Network Rail, Northern and Bumblebee Conservation Trust. Penny Greenwood is a committee member for Women in Community Rail and she regularly attends both online and station meetings.



**Glossop's gallery back on track again**

FoGS continued planning their new artwork for the Waiting Room Gallery at Glossop station. Since opening in 2015 for local community art, over thirty artists have displayed their works. This display is by FoGS member, John Kimpton, who is a keen photographer.

*John Kimpton's photographic exhibition*



## Travel back in time on the Glossop line

Friends of Glossop Station worked alongside stations on their line to develop a suite of historical information panels.

**WE ARE PLEASED to announce that the latest historical information boards for more stations on the Glossop Line are now in place. The boards for Hattersley and Fairfield are in situ providing an interesting and, hopefully, welcoming introduction to the stations. The**



**displays are part of an ongoing project to equip every station on the Glossop Line with a generically designed information board.**

The Hattersley board (above) was created by **Babs Allen** of Friends of Hattersley Station and the Fairfield board (below) by **Jeroen Blom** of Friends of Fairfield Station. Both Babs and Jeroen spent a great deal of time in research and their chosen pictures from the past should arouse memories and interest!

Both boards have been designed and created by **Anne Michaelides** of *naturesigndesign*.



## Hadfield and Dinting

As with other station groups, the pandemic forced people to socially distance and made meeting up challenging.

Hadfield station did resume some gardening activities when restrictions allowed.

The Friends of Glossop station (Neil Williams) continued with maintaining the display case and manger baskets at Dinting station. Northern closed the car park and approach road in spring 2020 for repairs and resurfacing work.

Additionally, two small CCTV cameras were installed on the small canopy on Platform One.

Many thanks to our colleagues at Northern for arranging these very welcome improvements for the station.



# ANNUAL REPORT

April 2020 – March 2021

## Coming up in 2021 / 22

We are looking forward to a productive 2021/22 with some major projects in the pipeline. Here is what we will be involved in:

- Buzzing Stations – bigger and better
- Hope Valley Capacity Scheme
- Edale Slings Express
- Hope Valley Xplore with the charity Endeavour supporting young people accessing the countryside by train
- New line guides for each of the three lines
- New fence at Edale station
- New car park meter at Edale station with income generated coming back into the CRP
- Water butts at stations along each of the lines to help our volunteers with watering planters
- Improvements on station approach roads

## Get in Touch

Want to get involved with the High Peak and Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership or learn more?

We'd love to hear from you...

E: [info@peakdistrictbytrain.org](mailto:info@peakdistrictbytrain.org)

W: [www.peakdistrictbytrain.org](http://www.peakdistrictbytrain.org)

F: @peakdistrictbytrain



*Thank you to all our partners for your continued support*

