



# Station Adopters Newsletter

Summer 2026



**E M R**



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

As we celebrate both National Volunteers' Week and Community Rail Week, I wanted to begin by saying a heartfelt thank you for your continued support and commitment to the stations you care for. Community Rail and the incredible volunteers who make it possible continues to have a hugely positive impact across our network, and we are extremely grateful for everything you do.

A year long celebration of Railway 200 culminated this May with the Inspiration Train visiting Skegness. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped support and deliver such a memorable event.

It has also been a landmark year for EMR. The first Aurora trains entered service in November, a significant timetable change was introduced in December, and we continued the roll out of our multi-million-pound investment in the refurbishment of our Regional and Connect fleets.

Another major highlight was being headline partner and co-hosting the 21st Community Rail Awards in Derby. It was fantastic to welcome more than 600 guests to the city and showcase the very best of Community Rail. The evening is always inspiring, and I would like

to congratulate all the winners – especially the Friends of Lowdham and Burton Joyce Station, who won the Small Projects Award for their Newark Brake Trails project. You can read more about the awards on [page 17](#).

To help launch Community Rail Week, I joined pupils from Fosse Way Primary School on a visit to the Air & Space Museum in Newark to see the Newark Brake Trials project at first hand. The initiative encourages young people to explore careers in rail and engineering by designing their own train carriages and braking systems – a fantastic example of how Community Rail can inspire the next generation.

Finally, I would once again like to thank you for the passion, care and dedication you continue to bring to your stations and local communities. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Station Adopters' Conference later this year.

Best wishes,

**Will Rogers**  
**Managing Director**

## Barton Cleethorpes Community Rail Partnership (CRP)



Over the past few months, significant progress has been made in enhancing local railway stations along the Barton Line through community engagement, environmental initiatives, and creative projects. Working closely with station adopters, new planting systems have been successfully installed at Barton-on-Humber, Goxhill, Habrough, Healing, and Ulceby stations. These improvements have not only enhanced the visual appeal of the stations but have also contributed to creating more welcoming and sustainable environments for passengers and local residents alike.

Creativity plays an important role in connecting communities with their local stations through the ongoing Art Along the Line project with the installation of a stunning mosaic at Goxhill Station created by local residents during a series of workshops. The artwork offers a beautiful historical depiction of the station and celebrates local heritage whilst strengthening community ownership and engagement with the station.

Heritage initiatives have also been expanded, with the installation of a historical information plaque at Barrow Haven station. This installation honours the life and achievements of John Harrison, whose work revolutionised maritime navigation. Heritage features along the line provide passengers with meaningful insights into the area's rich history, transforming stations into spaces of learning as well as transit.



Another key highlight of the work of the CRP is a Wildlife Friendly Project at Goxhill Station. As part of a collaborative initiative with EMR and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT), the station has enhanced work to support biodiversity, and after an initial assessment by DWT the station received a Silver award! Suggestions were made to increase impact by adding more bug houses, bird boxes, and carefully selected planting schemes designed to attract more pollinators. Community involvement remains central to this project, with local schoolchildren taking part in planting pollinator-friendly species during National Gardening Week, fostering both environmental awareness and community pride from a young age.



Heading into the summer, several exciting projects will further engage young people and the wider community. An inspiring project is commencing with young people from North Lincolnshire who will contribute to a new mural at Goxhill Skatepark. Using art as a medium, the project is exploring themes including rail safety, careers within the rail industry, and positive behaviour around the railway.

Meanwhile, at Habrough Station, an old disused telephone booth will be transformed into a community hub, incorporating planting and informational displays, reflecting an ongoing commitment to repurposing underused spaces for the benefit of local communities. Following rail safety assemblies at a local primary school, a group of children who have never previously travelled by train have the opportunity to visit Cleethorpes for a day by the seaside. The trip includes entertainment such as live music, a puppet show, and a magician, creating a memorable fun experience.

Together, these projects highlight the central role of community rail in bringing people together and creating positive change. They demonstrate commitment to improving stations, supporting local

**BARTON CLEETHORPES COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP**

## JOHN 'LONGITUDE' HARRISON & BARROW HAVEN

The clockmaker who changed the world, right here on the Humber Estuary.

For centuries, navigators could determine latitude, but longitude was far more elusive. To pinpoint a position on the globe, latitude and longitude work together like the crosshairs of a rifle sight. Unlike latitude, however, longitude required a highly precise timekeeper, perfectly synchronized with the Earth's rotation.

John Harrison (1693–1776) was an English carpenter and clockmaker who revolutionised navigation. Born the son of a Yorkshire carpenter, he received little formal education and worked alongside his father before dedicating his life to solving the centuries-old problem of determining longitude at sea. Harrison spent almost 40 years in Barrow-upon-Humber, where he constructed his first revolutionary marine timekeeper, H1, in 1735. This was followed by improved versions, H2 in 1739, H3 in 1749, and the highly successful H4 in 1759. Harrison's solution revolutionised navigation and greatly increased the safety of long-distance sea travel. Designed for keeping the longitude at sea, H1 was tested extensively and successfully from Barrow Haven, probably on a Humber sloop adapted for the purpose.

In 1759, Harrison designed and made the world's first successful marine timekeeper that allowed a navigator to accurately assess a ship's position in longitude. Importantly, he showed the world that calculating longitude could be done by mechanical means. H4 was a departure in principle from his previous timekeepers by incorporating a high-frequency balance and a friction-reduced escapement. This watch won the Longitude Prize.

With the arrival of the railways, timekeeping became a major challenge. Noon is not the same everywhere, for example, when it is noon at Greenwich, the rotation of the Earth means that in Cardiff local noon occurs about 13 minutes later. Trains needed Harrison's invention, accurate time could be carried across the country and around the world. This made Greenwich Mean Time the global reference, essential both for railway schedules and for determining longitude.

Today, Harrison's first four marine chronometers are displayed at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich. The GREENWICH MERIDIAN is an imaginary line used to indicate '0' Longitude which passes through Greenwich and terminates at the North and South poles. It passes through Cleethorpes, less than two miles from Cleethorpes railway station.

WWW.BCCRP.COM    WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/BCCRP

With thanks to Ron Sparkes, Vice-Chair, Barton Cleethorpes CRP and O.H. Boyd, Freeman of the Worshipful Company of Clockmakers for their valuable input to this plaque.

**EMR**    **Community Rail Network**

GREENWICH LINE RUNS THROUGH CLEETHORPES

wildlife, celebrating heritage, and fostering community connections, showing how Barton Cleethorpes CRP delivers social, environmental, and cultural benefits along the Barton line.

## Poacher Line CRP Update



The Poacher Line has enjoyed a vibrant and productive start to the year, with the arrival of milder weather bringing renewed energy and enthusiasm across the partnership. As spring unfolds, attention has turned once again to planting initiatives at our stations, alongside a growing calendar of community action days and events that promise to make this summer both engaging and impactful.

Among the highlights ahead are two dedicated action days, taking place at Wainfleet and Rauceby stations. These events provide valuable opportunities for volunteers and community members to come together, enhance station environments, and strengthen local connections. Alongside this, we are particularly excited to be working in partnership with the Guides to launch the early stages of a new railway initiative. This programme is designed to improve awareness, confidence, and safety for young girls in and around the railway environment.

Engagement with young people remains at the heart of our work. The partnership is deeply committed to collaborating with schools and community groups, ensuring that key messages around rail safety and responsible travel are shared effectively with the next generation. We have already begun delivering rail safety talks and are building strong relationships with local schools, marking an important step forward in expanding our educational outreach.

We are also pleased to once again be part of the North Kesteven Walking Festival. On 6 June, in celebration of Community Rail

Week 2026, we will host our annual six-mile guided walk from Ancaster Station to Sleaford Station, led by Stuart Parker, from Ramblers Lincolnshire Area. This event continues to be a popular way to showcase the scenic value of the line while encouraging sustainable and active travel supporting health and wellbeing by encouraging participants to foster new relationships, have conversations and get back to nature.

Another key moment this spring was the arrival of the Inspiration Train at Skegness station in May, delivered in partnership with EMR. This exciting event offered a unique opportunity for the Poacher Line to contribute to a nationally significant initiative while engaging directly with schools and the wider community. Visitors were able to explore not only the train itself but also discover the many attractions and destinations accessible along the line. We were grateful to our dedicated station adopters, whose support and enthusiasm helped ensure the event was both welcoming and memorable for all.

Throughout the winter months, our station adopters have continued to demonstrate exceptional commitment, maintaining stations to a high standard despite challenging conditions. At Wainfleet, adopters have created a striking "Railway 200" installation, featuring silhouettes of passengers from different eras, from Victorian times to the present day. Surrounded by vibrant floral displays, this installation beautifully connects the station's past with its present, leaving a lasting impression on visitors and the local community alike.



At Rauceby, we have also collaborated with Network Rail and the Railway Heritage Trust to restore the station's running-in board, preserving an important piece of local railway heritage.

We extend our sincere thanks to all station adopters for their ongoing dedication, enthusiasm, and hard work in keeping Poacher Line stations looking so welcoming and well cared for.

Finally, we would like to recognise our Chairman, Peter Roberts, our supportive TOC's, LNER, EMR and CrossCountry and our stakeholders, LCC, NKDC, Network Rail and DfT in supporting the Poacher Line enabling us to make a difference within our communities.

**Peter Roberts**  
**Chair of the Poacher Line**

Meanwhile, the Friends of Radcliffe Station have worked in partnership with the local Restoration Café to carefully restore a historic railway footbridge plate, originally from the station's distinctive "Meccano-style" bridge. This piece has now been returned and is proudly displayed at the station for all to appreciate.



*Friends of  
Radcliffe-on-Trent  
celebrate the installation  
of the historic railway  
footbridge plate*

# Derwent Valley Line CRP Update



Spring is in the air. This turns all our attention to the refreshing of all of our station planters and beds. Our adopters on the Derwent Valley are up and running in their sessions to maintain how gorgeous all of the Derwent Valley line stations look.

## DERWENT VALLEY LINE CRP

I was very proud to present at the National Community Rail awards where we had six nominations for four of our stations from photo of the year for Cromford's 'Some Might Say' photo above to volunteer of the year for Peter Lynch to most enhanced space for Ambergate's community garden.

We worked with Friends of Cromford Canal and Whatstandwell Adopters to deliver a walk along the canal, see picture below.



I attended the pre-awards meeting and excellent theatre performance by young people of the life of George Stephenson. Ambergate station are part of a joint project with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and EMR to recognise work towards wild life and bio diversity.

We have an action day coming up during Community Rail Week at Matlock Bath in liaison with Siemens.



We have just appointed a joint marketing and communications officer Jemma Notley with High Peak and Hope Valley Line. Jemma will be working one day a week for DVL.

We had a community engagement day at Matlock on April 17th. We are working with Cllr Jenny Lowthrop from Matlock Town Council and asking residents and visitors about public transport in the town but in particular bringing the Matlock station heritage buildings back into use.

Accessibility to our stations is a key pillar of community rail. To that end I have been working with Derbyshire County Council and Amber Valley Borough Council to deliver a fully accessible walking and wheeling route across Field Lane car park in Belper.

2026 is the Year of Reading. There are a number of projects in the pipeline including pictures of people reading books on the DVL, a poetry train and event and a wooden sculpture to celebrate a local author at Cromford.

**David Clasby**  
**Community Rail**  
**Partnership Officer**



# North Notts & Lincs CRP Update



## STATION PROJECTS: MARKET RASEN CAFÉ AND HUB

It's been a busy start to the year for NNLCRP. We're thrilled to announce that the Market Rasen Café and Hub is now open, and this was celebrated on March 30th with an open day. A big thank you to everyone who dropped by; it was great to see it so busy. NNLCRP would like to thank EMR and Community Rail Network for their help and support with funding this project.



## STATION SERVICES: MARKET RASEN DAY CARE

We were delighted that the service users at Market Rasen Day Care Centre designed the fabulous centre pieces for the Community Rail Awards held in March. This was a collaborative effort supported by Gainsborough Men's Shed and Engineered Learning. These centre pieces were later auctioned off, raising funds for the groups.

**COMMUNITY RAIL AWARD:  
MARKET RASEN STATION  
ADOPTION GROUP**

To finish our Market Rasen round-up, we would also like to congratulate Market Rasen Station Adoption Group for their shortlisting in the "Gold" category "It's Your Station" at the Community Rail Awards.



NNLCRP were delighted to join EMR at Lincoln Station for their CRP Day in early April, promoting stations and attractions along the lines. We look forward to the next one.

Work continues to promote rail safety and rail careers in schools, as well as with Scout groups. This ranges from a story time and basic rail safety with the youngest of children, to aspirational assemblies for young people considering their career possibilities.

Finally, we'd like to say thank you to all our station adoption groups across our network for all the hard work put in to keep the stations looking so vibrant and welcoming.



Station Adopter



Connecting Communities

## North Staffs CRP Update



Since Charlotte joined North Staffs CRP in July, she has taken great pleasure in getting to know our line's station adopters. The passion, pride and dedication shown week in and week out is what makes our stations such welcoming and vibrant spaces, and it continues to be a privilege to support you in that work.



We've had a busy and rewarding period across the partnership, with a number of projects bringing together heritage, community and creativity. Thanks to kind funding from EMR, we were delighted to produce The Knotty Line

book as part of Railway 200 celebrations. This publication captures the rich history of the line and has already seen 500 copies distributed across our communities, helping to share and preserve the story of our railway for future generations.

Engaging young people has also been a key focus. We were pleased to attend the ever-popular 'Tales in the Park' events in Stoke-on-Trent, encouraging a love of reading among young people from all backgrounds. As part of this, we hosted a pottery plates competition to celebrate Stoke-on-Trent's centenary year, which marked 100 years since being granted city status. Entries were proudly displayed at Stoke station, and the winners received a family pottery painting experience, kindly sponsored by Emma Bridgewater, plus tea with the Lord Mayor.

Partnership working continues to be at the heart of everything we do. Our thanks go to EMR's Revenue Management Team for joining us at an action day at Tutbury & Hatton station last September. We also enjoyed a fantastic day at Peartree station in February where regular



station adopters, including students from St Martin's School, were joined by colleagues from Derby City Council for a hands-on session of litter picking, planting and positive conversations about the station's future. It was wonderful to see such pride and partnership in action – community rail at its very best. We were also delighted to welcome Baggy Shanker MP, who took the time to meet volunteers and see first-hand the difference our Community Rail Partnership is making.

During the Community Rail Awards, we were proud to host a fringe event at Longton, giving visitors the opportunity to explore the unique bottle kilns that form such an important part of our area's cultural and industrial heritage. At the awards themselves, the Blythe Bridge station adopters were recognised with a

Bronze award in the 'It's Your Station' category, a fantastic and well-deserved achievement celebrated by Charlotte and the team. This success was further complemented by Blythe Bridge receiving a Silver award from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust as part of their 'Wildlife Friendly Stations' programme. We hope to see more of our stations recognised through this scheme in the coming years.

All of this sits alongside the ongoing, invaluable work of adopters, who continue to care for and champion their stations throughout the year. It was a pleasure to see so many of you at our annual thank you lunch in April – a small token of our appreciation for everything you do.



## DISCOVER LOCAL ROUTES: WALK, WHEEL, CYCLE

Whether you enjoy walking, cycling or wheeling, Robin Hood Line (RHL) Community Rail Partner (CRP) has partnered with the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust to create a series of beautiful, accessible routes starting directly from our stations. These short trails have been designed by local community members who know the area best, showcasing the most interesting and scenic spots along the line. The maps can be found on the RHL website - Walk & Cycle - Robin Hood Line.

We hope to feature these routes on new Community Boards across our stations soon – a space that will also highlight local events,



celebrate community groups, and share RHL activities.

## HUCKNALL STATION BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

Hucknall Station has been transformed through a new greening initiative delivered by RHL CRP with East Midlands Railway, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, local authorities and station adopters. Identified as a priority site through a biodiversity mapping tool, the station now features a bespoke green bench and pollinator-friendly planters that bring colour, wildlife and a welcoming atmosphere to the platform.

Volunteers played a key role in planting and ongoing care, and early observations already show pollinators using the new habitats. The project was shortlisted for a Community Rail Award, recognising its innovation and community impact.



## SILENT STARS – INSPIRING YOUNG PEOPLE

The Silent Stars project was developed to inspire young people by combining technical learning with personal development. Through workshops in schools and at Bolsover Castle, pupils explored engineering, robotics and creative problem-solving, gaining hands-on experience with STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) skills.

A two-part confidence and resilience workshop helped students build communication skills, self-belief and strategies for overcoming challenges.

The project concluded with a Career Day on the Robin Hood Line, where students travelled by train and met professionals from councils, colleges, East Midlands Railway, Community Rail Network and Network Rail. These conversations broadened their understanding of future opportunities and strengthened their connection to local heritage and the railway. Silent Stars strongly supports RHL CRP's mission to engage young people, raise career awareness and celebrate community identity.

RHL CRP supported Bolsover District Council's Leisure Officer in delivering the You vs. Train Distraction Project, using sport to engage

young people in Creswell while promoting essential rail safety messages. Held at the Creswell Heritage & Wellbeing Centre, the sessions—built trust, reduced risky behaviour near the railway, and shared safety information in a relaxed, youth-friendly way.

From April to December 2025, the project recorded 277 attendances, reaching young people who may not usually access organised sport or formal safety education. A mix of activities – including OzBox non-contact boxing – helped maintain engagement, while gradual, relationship-based safety messaging proved highly effective.



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



robinhoodlinecrp



@RobinHoodLine1



robin-hood-line



# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF



**TOM GUNTON**  
**Environmental & Sustainability Manager**

Together with colleague Rajvir, we make up EMR's two-person Environment & Sustainability Team, leading the "Getting There Greener" initiative and helping create a more sustainable railway for the East Midlands.

No two days are ever the same. A typical week involves responding to environmental queries and incidents across the EMR network, working quickly to resolve issues while ensuring we continue to protect the natural environment and minimise our impact on it. Much of this work is carried out alongside Fleet and Depot teams, where the direct environmental risks are often greatest.

One of our biggest current priorities is the rollout of our Simpler Recycling programme. This includes upgrading the business's "binrastructure" with smarter, more effective recycling bins, alongside clear communications for passengers, staff, and station tenants. The aim is to help everyone use resources more responsibly and manage waste more efficiently.

Air quality is another major focus area for the team. Regular tasks include maintaining, analysing, and reporting on our air quality monitoring network, as well as supporting projects that reduce fleet emissions. We also work closely with drivers on idling reduction initiatives to help improve air quality across the railway.

While the role involves plenty of emails, spreadsheets, and compliance reporting – all essential for meeting environmental legal requirements and keeping the business running smoothly – the most rewarding part is seeing the real-world impact of our work. Whether it's supporting the Solar PV installation at East Midlands Parkway or contributing to nature recovery projects with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, there's a genuine sense of making a difference. Rail plays a vital role in building a more sustainable modern world, and there are huge opportunities to create positive change – from reducing impacts within the supply chain to improving the everyday journeys and experiences of passengers across the railway network.



# 2026 COMMUNITY RAIL AWARDS

We were delighted to be the headline partners of the Community Rail Awards 2026, delivered in conjunction with Community Rail Network, as we welcomed the community rail world to Derby in truly spectacular style. From the moment guests arrived – greeted by vibrant bunting adorning Derby station, creating a warm and celebratory first impression – the city set the tone for an unforgettable few days.

## The Event: 18 to 20 March 2026

Between 18–20 March, we hosted over 600 community rail guests, offering a programme packed with memorable experiences. Celebrations began on the Wednesday with a 'Welcome to Derby' event at The Wardwick. Hosted by Will Rogers, the evening featured keynote speeches from Jools Townsend, Chief Executive of Community Rail Network, and Nadine Peatfield, Deputy Mayor. Guests were also treated to a fantastic performance of 'I am George Stephenson' by Graves Youth Theatre, which was warmly received by all. The evening provided a great opportunity for networking, with Community Rail Partnership officers showcasing inspiring projects and encouraging attendees to explore our network.



## WELCOME TO DERBY

Home of the National  
Community Rail Awards 2026



2026 COMMUNITY RAIL AWARDS

HEADLINE PARTNER

**EMR**



## Thursday, 18 March

Thursday saw the focus shift to both exploration and celebration. During the day, the Derwent Valley Line CRP hosted a scenic walk along the Cromford Canal, where adopters from Ambergate and Cromford shared insights into their invaluable work.

That evening, Derby Arena lit up in purple as Will Rogers and Vicky Pipes took to the stage to host the 21st annual awards ceremony. We were thrilled to see such a strong field of shortlisted entries, particularly across the 'It's Your Station' category. A special congratulations goes to Friends of Burton Joyce and Lowdham Station, winners of the Small Project Award for 'Newark Brake Trials'.



This inspiring initiative brought together EMR, the Air & Space Institute in Newark, and Primary Engineer, enabling 40 local pupils to travel by train and learn about engineering and the history of brake testing in the area.



## Friday, 19 March

These were auctioned on the evening, raising over £2,000 in support of their work.

Overall, the event was a tremendous success, with many attendees describing it as the best Community Rail Awards yet, a true celebration of the passion, innovation, and community spirit that defines community rail.

The celebrations continued into Friday, with North Staffs CRP hosting a Longton Bottle Kiln walk, while EMR organised a special train journey to Barrow Hill Roundhouse and on to Chesterfield, where guests could visit the resting place of George Stephenson.

Adding to the uniqueness of the event, three wonderful charities, Engineered Learning, Market Rasen Day Opportunities, and Gainsborough Men's Shed collaborated to create the stunning table centrepieces.



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

FROM KAYE, SAM & NANCY

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# EMR

