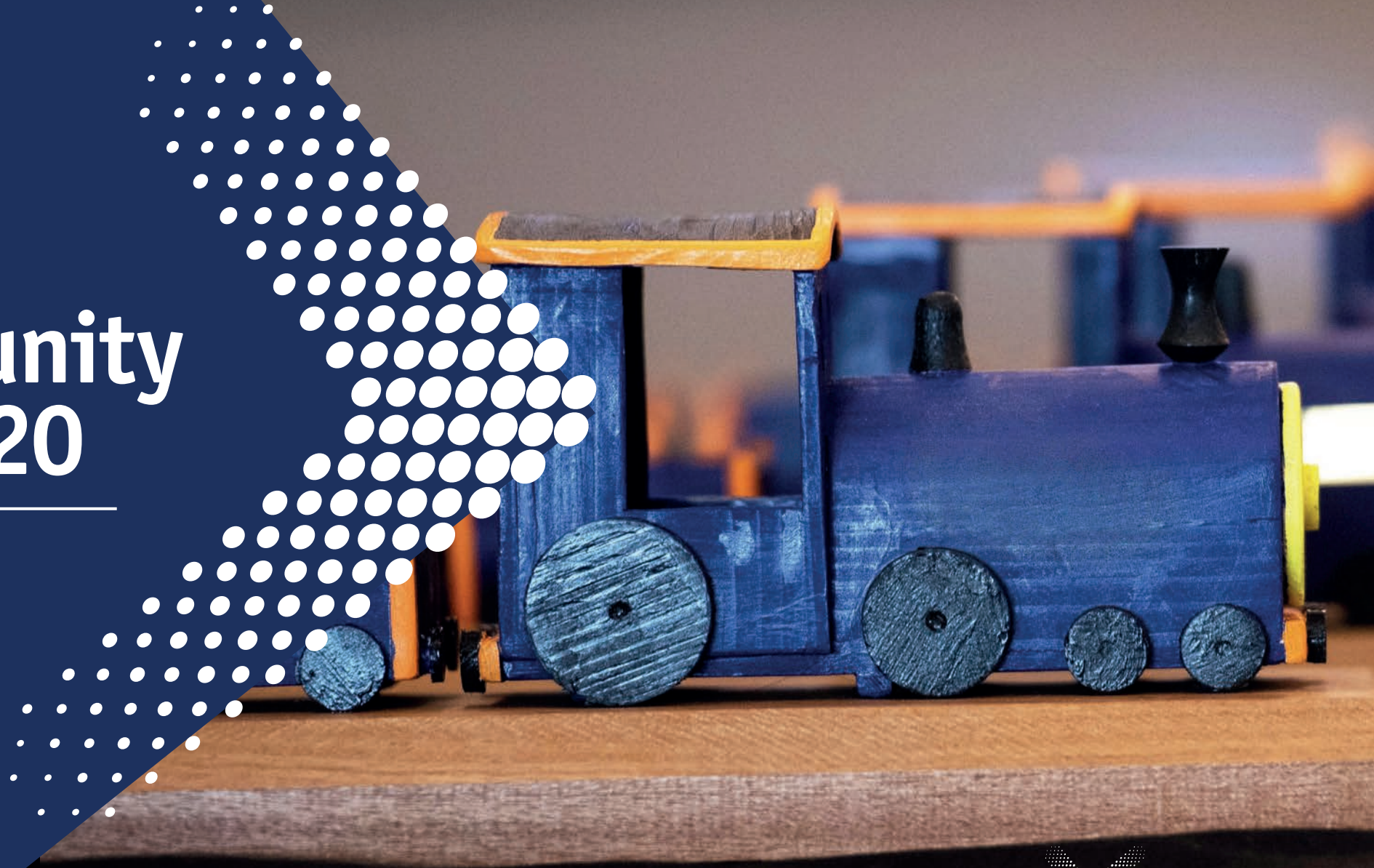


ScotRail in the Community Awards 2020

Virtual Premiere



Welcome to the ScotRail in the Community Virtual Awards!

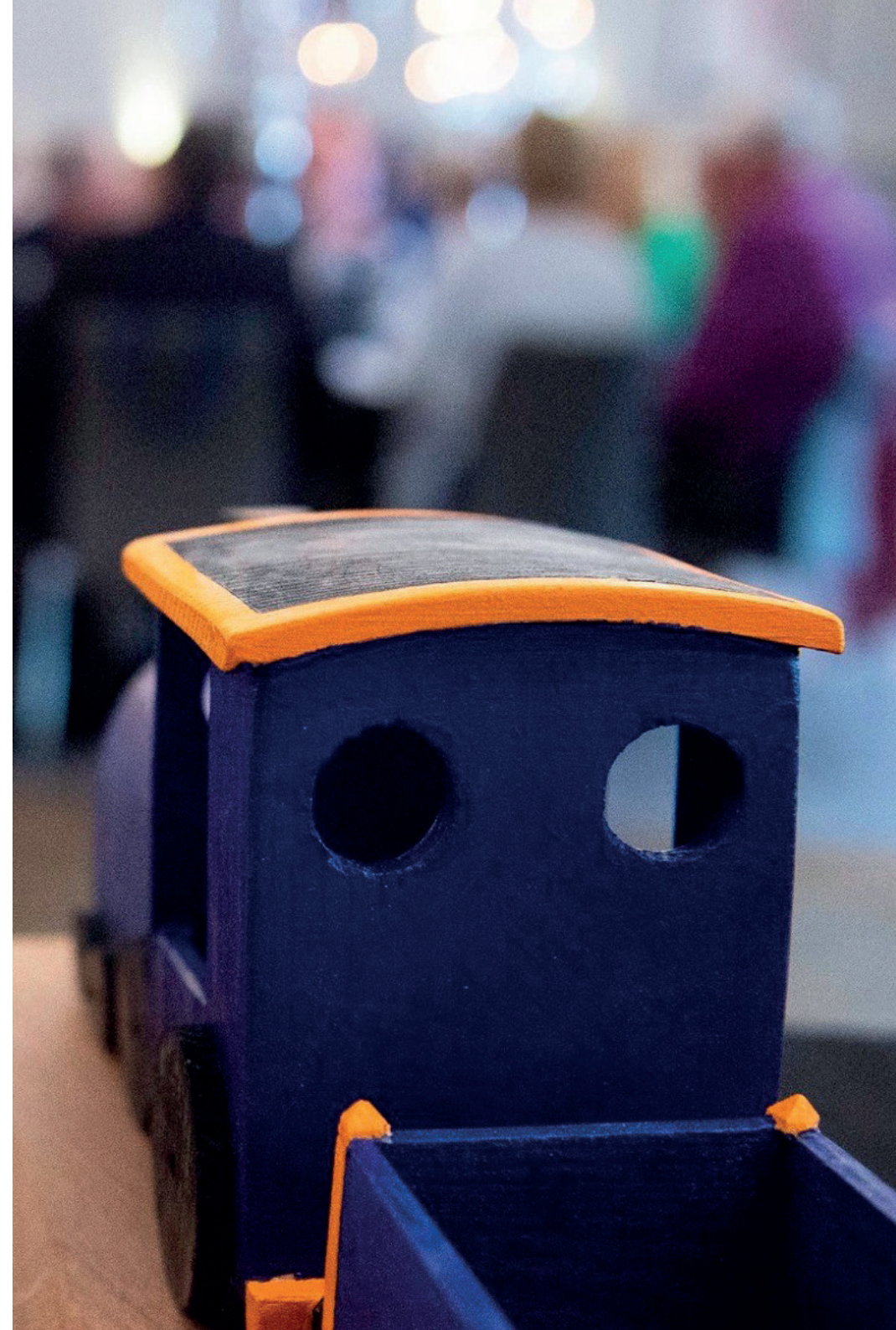
This year has been very different to any we have ever experienced. Having begun the year with plans for the second annual **ScotRail in the Community Awards** to take place as the culmination of National Volunteer Week in June, plans quickly changed when COVID-19 took hold of the country and we were placed into national lockdown. For a while it looked like our celebration would merely be postponed until later in the year when “everything got back to normal”. However, it soon became apparent that “normal” was not going to return rapidly and that we would all have to adapt to a very different way of doing things.

With all of us finding new ways of working and connecting with our communities, we were delighted to see CRPs and adopters beginning to “meet” using technology. Many volunteers shifted their focus of volunteering from activities at the stations to delivering essential items to their neighbours, helping to raise funds for their local foodbanks and providing additional support to local organisations needing an extra pair of hands.

During the lockdown we took the opportunity to improve what our volunteering programme would look like on your return. We made changes to the health and safety information available to volunteers, introducing additional information on safer manual handling and the danger of sharps, as well as introducing the five rules for safer volunteering at stations.

When we were able to invite you back, you came back in your finest fettle and have achieved so much in the short time left of the summer season, tidying, planting and getting things ready for winter. We are immensely proud and grateful to each and every one of you.

We can’t wait until we can see you again in person but in the meantime, we hope you enjoy your virtual awards event.



Adopt-a-Station of the Year Award





Adopt-a-Station of the Year



Portlethen Station

Portlethen Social Gardening Group,
supported by Mearns and Coastal Living Network

The Portlethen social gardening group for older people adopted Portlethen train station 4 years ago and over that time have transformed the unkempt garden grounds into a beautifully vibrant and creative area. Working with the Men's Shed, they have installed planters which provide a seasonal display of plants that provide beauty and biodiversity. The station area has also become part of the town's "edible trail" project, and is a focal point for flowers, fruit bushes and herbs.

The group, supported by the Mearns and Coastal Healthy Living Network, values the social aspect of working together to benefit the community whilst sharing knowledge, skills and gardening creativity as they work together.

John Shackleton, a Portlethen Social Gardening Group member said

"I have been a member of the group for a number of years now. We alternate (coronavirus permitting), between cultivating the Primary School garden with the children and tending the gardens along the platforms at Portlethen Station. As I am retired and no longer meet people with my job, it gives me a chance to get out and do something useful in the community and meet other people who are similarly at a loose end, and keep the railway station looking bright, tidy and welcoming to passengers leaving or alighting, or even a pleasant glimpse of colour for longer distance travellers as they whiz past."

Adopt-a-Station of the Year



Silver
Award

Aberdour Station Gardens

John Burrell, a local resident of Aberdour in Fife supported the nomination of Aberdour station for the improvements that were made to the steep terraces on platform 2 of the station in 2019. The group created new terraces and planting as well as continuing to provide a wonderful display of tubs and hanging baskets on both platforms throughout the summer and autumn. These are appreciated and commented on by residents and visitors to the station and to the Heritage Centre which occupies two rooms in the station building. One visitor at the station, recently commented

“It must be wonderful to have a station like this.

We couldn't agree more.



Bronze
Award

Gorebridge Station

Craig Walls and Cath McGill started volunteering at Gorebridge Station in Midlothian three years ago starting off in 2017 with around 18 wooden boxes built by the local Community Justice Team. In 2020 there are 35 containers which have all been sponsored, encouraging interest and pride in the station. Cath said

“We enjoy gardening and find it very therapeutic. Getting local people and businesses involved by paying for annual sponsorship of the planters has enabled us to be self-funded and the interest has grown every year. The community has benefited from us being able to create a colourful area which everyone can enjoy when travelling to or through Gorebridge on the train and it's something that the people who live in Gorebridge can be proud of.”



**Adopter
of the Year**





Adopter of the Year



St. Denis Primary School

Station Adopters

A group of twelve very enthusiastic gardeners aged between seven and 10 years old, from St Denis Primary School, have been tending the planters at Duke Street Station, Glasgow for almost two years.

Rain or shine, they carry their plants and gardening tools from school over to the station to carry out their tasks. As well as planting bulbs, they grow plants from seed and transfer the seedlings from the school greenhouse to the station planters. There have been many benefits to their efforts; the station planters look beautiful and colourful; wildlife has been encouraged and the children themselves have grown in confidence as they develop their gardening and growing skills. The gardeners from St Denis are committed and enthusiastic, and always behave in a responsible manner at the station. They are very aware of rail safety and have shared its importance with others at school. When they are out wearing their ScotRail high-vis vests they beam with pride and they always show the head teacher photos of their gardening exploits when they return to school.



Adopter of the Year



Perth Station

Garden Volunteers

“Nurturing Nature” is the aim of the group of ScotRail colleagues who, when not working, have volunteered their time over the last seven years turning an area of wasteland into beautiful gardens.

Often joined by their families and volunteers from the wider community, they rejuvenated what was a disused, overgrown and neglected area of scrub land, turning it into a thriving biodiversity garden. There are now ponds, an orchard of native Scottish apple trees, a wildflower section, raised vegetable beds and an herbaceous border. There is also a bird feeding station beside the group’s pride and joy – a summer house with a living roof – which is often used for meetings, biodiversity blitzes and fundraising activities. The group also aims to recycle and reuse at every opportunity in support of the aims of Zero Waste Perth.



Community Project of the Year





Community Project of the Year



Winner

6VT Youth Community Rail Partnership

6VT Youth Community Rail Partnership is made up of young people from a variety of ages and backgrounds.

All of them got involved through the 6VT Youth Service and now they passionately share the Community Rail Partnership's work with anyone who will listen! Having delivered many projects in 2019, the Pram Safety project was a standout achievement which gained them the winner's title.

Working in partnership with ScotRail, a special training package focusing on making train travel easier and convenient for people travelling with prams and buggies was arranged. The accompanied train journey enabled the participants to put into practice the pram safety knowledge learned the previous week. The session involved a return journey to Dunbar from Edinburgh Waverley Station.

One participant, Adel said **"I went on the Parent and Buggy safety trip. I had never taken my kids on the train, so I had never even considered all the safety stuff about travelling with little kids and prams. The safety video really helped to prepare me for the trip and showed me how I could get around. On the day of the trip we met with the Youth CRP & ScotRail staff who were helpful and nice. Then off we went for my kids' first train journey, which was fantastic! Because of this activity I actually had the confidence to go and do that trip again, but I took a friend and her kids and felt really proud I could keep her right on safety in the station."**



Community Project of the Year



Highly
Commended

Dyce in Bloom

Gardening Club/Station Adopters

To mark the dualling of the railway line from Aberdeen to Inverness, Dyce Gardening Club was keen to enhance the refurbished station with art.

Pupils from Dyce Academy Art Department were invited to produce Art Deco style posters advertising the area. The project formed a 13-week block in the curriculum for S3 art students and included researching the style before completing their designs. The 32 posters that resulted were professionally printed and displayed in frames on both platforms at Dyce Station. When the posters

were installed, press and local councillors were invited to join parents, pupils, club members, representatives from ScotRail and Lofthus Signs for a celebratory lunch in the platform shelter. It was the educational and intergenerational approach to the project which earned the highly commended title from the judges.



CRP Volunteer of the Year





CRP Volunteer of the Year



Winner

Maureen Black

With nine CRPs covering 86 different stations across the network, there are around 100 volunteers involved in lots of different CRP activity.

Maureen has been involved with the Rail74 CRP since its very beginning and was nominated for the award by the rest of the Rail74 members. Maureen has been a very active volunteer who gives up her free time and balances her full-time job as an advanced Practitioner Occupational Therapist for NHS Lanarkshire with giving back to her local community. Maureen is a kind and generous individual who is a real community activist. She inspires not only the clients and users she works with through brilliant ideas, she also takes others on a community rail journey to encourage strong partnership bonds that make ideas become reality.

Suzie Mccheyne said ***“Maureen is bright, funny, engaging and driven to provide care for others and the communities she serves with her humour and organisational skills. She is passionate about people turning their lives around and shares her knowledge freely. She is always reliable and an absolute pleasure to have as a member. Maureen is an inspiration to me and the other partners around the Rail74 CRP table.”***

Community Involvement Champion



Community Involvement Champion



Winner

Laura Yetton

Laura works for the Moving On project which was set up by Kilmarnock Station Heritage Trust.

The project supports individuals dealing with social isolation including those affected by addiction, bereavement, loneliness, and mental health issues. Laura has been instrumental in securing funding to facilitate a programme of activity called Mind Matters which helps people in the community recover from adversity. Her passion to assist people who may be struggling is inspiring and her dedication has meant the realisation of a programme that has assisted hundreds of people

recover and integrate back into their community. Laura has also recently been accepted on a CBT counselling course which will enable her to not only practice counselling with individuals but will also enhance her ability to oversee the organisation's nine counsellors and offer them mentoring support. The need for such a project has always been evident and increasingly so in current circumstances.



Outstanding Contribution





Outstanding Contribution



Winner

Jordan Whiteford

Jordan was nominated in the category of Volunteer of the Year, however the judges believed that Jordan showed exemplary traits which set him apart for the Outstanding Contribution award.

He first began volunteering with the Knowe Garden Centre just over a year ago. As he has cerebral palsy which affects his mobility and fine motor skills, and learning difficulties, he had found it difficult to be taken seriously when looking for work. This, together with some other challenges that Jordan has faced in his life had left him very isolated and depressed. With support from a local youth organisation, he was referred to the garden centre where he now attends 5 days a week. He volunteers his time at the garden centre as well as at both adopted railway stations, Auchinleck and New Cumnock. Some duties have been adapted to suit

his abilities; however, he excels at remembering which tools are best for each job, often setting them up for the day ahead. He has become more sociable, his mental health has improved dramatically, and he has benefited from being among other young people his age, particularly enjoying the camaraderie and the banter in the small team. In fact, you could say that volunteering has seen him blossom! Kaye Hannah from the garden centre says ***"I am very proud of Jordan. He's here because he wants to be, and a loyal, hardworking volunteer is invaluable. I wish I had six of Jordan!"***



And finally...

The ScotRail in The Community team have many people to thank, without whom this event could not have been possible.

We'd firstly like to thank the presenters for supporting our first ever virtual event. **Phil Prentice** from Scotland's Towns Partnership, **Karen Biggs** from Phoenix Futures, **Louise Macdonald OBE** from Young Scot, **Riddell Graham** from Visit Scotland, **Paul Tetlaw** from Transform Scotland as well as our very own **Alex Hynes** of Scotland's Railway – all your support and encouragement of Community Rail is very much appreciated.

We'd also like to thank everyone who took the time to nominate for the awards and special mention should be made to all the shortlisted entries (in no particular order!) **Caird House and CCI; Albion Rovers Buddies; Ian Kinghorn; Largs Community Garden; and the Garden Project Sacro.**

The winners could not have been chosen without judges to adjudicate the brilliant entries. **Mark Henderson** from Transport Scotland, **Morag McGown** from MND

Scotland, **David Lister, Kathleen McGee, Paul McKay, Ros Houldsworth** and **Tracy Stevenson** from ScotRail provided considered input into very difficult decisions, with the discussion ably chaired by the scrupulously impartial **John Wilson**. We thank you for your support for this year's awards.

Thanks are also due to the wider **ScotRail** team for their input for the awards and support throughout the year. A special thanks to our host and events team for

the evening, **Tracy Stevenson** who has worked tirelessly with **Luke** and **Ben** from **BA Events** to pull together everything required for our virtual awards show.

Last, but most definitely not least, thank you to the army of volunteers who make the **Scottish Community Rail** programme the success that it is. We owe you a huge debt of gratitude.



Thank you.