



**THE GREAT GET
TOGETHER.**
INSPIRED BY JO COX

The Great Train Together

23 – 25 June 2023



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GET TOGETHER**

What is the Great Train Together?

- The Great Get Together is all about connection; linking different communities, places and people together in the understanding that we all have More in Common than that which divides us. And few things connect us more, both literally and figuratively, than the railways and stations.
- Jo Cox understood this and was a strong supporter of Community Rail. She was, and remains, Vice-Chair of Friends of Batley Station and understood the central place the station played in the local community.
- This is why, alongside the Community Rail Network, the Jo Cox Foundation is launching the Great Train Together – a initiative to encourage community rail members to run Great Get Togethers this summer.
- The Great Get Together is about celebrating that we have, in Jo’s words, More in Common than that which divides us. It seeks to bring together the whole community, to reject division and to make meaningful connections. We understand how Community Rail Partnership sit at the centre of their communities and want to celebrate this through the Great Get Together.
- There are many ways to take part in the Great Train Together – whether that be through having a open day, running a walk from the station, welcoming commuters or doing a clear up.



Who was Jo Cox?

- At the heart of the Great Get Together is Jo Cox. Jo was a passionate campaigner, activist and humanitarian; a proud Yorkshire lass and internationalist; and a devoted mum, daughter, sister, wife, friend and MP.

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- She lived by the words she expressed in her first speech in Parliament: “We are far more united and have far **more in common** than that which divides us”.
- On 16th June 2016, on her way to a constituency surgery to meet with local residents of Batley and Spen, Jo Cox MP was murdered because of her beliefs.
- The Jo Cox Foundation was established in 2016 by the friends and family of the late Jo Cox MP, and exists to build a positive legacy for Jo and to create something positive from the tragedy that was her murder.

The Great Get Together 2023 (23rd-25th June)

- The Great Get Together is all about celebration; celebrating what we have in common, what we achieve together and the fantastically diverse country we live in. It rejects those forces which would seek to divide us and brings together the whole community.
- [Register your event](#) and it'll appear on our Great Get Together [map](#) so that people looking for what's happening local to them can find it.
- While the official Great Get Together weekend is on the 23-25 of June you can **run a Great Get Together on a different date** if you want – just register it on our website by the 24th of June.



The Great Train Together Event Ideas

A Great Get Together can be anything provided that it's positive and brings people together; it could be a day of connection events, a focus on a specific book that you feel epitomises 'more in common' or a simple chance for people to come in and have refreshments. Provided it's positive and brings people together we want it to be part of the event! The below ideas are aimed at station volunteer groups or community rail partnerships but you can find other event ideas in our resource links below:



Run a walk / Share a walking route

For many people a railway station is their first introduction to a new community; from whence they venture out to explore somewhere new. Why not take advantage of this by running a walk from the station to explore the local area?

Walks from railway stations have long history; the early Ramblers movement was very much driven by railway walks and they are a fantastic way to introduce new people to your community. You can find advice and support on how to run a guided walk in our Great Walk Together guidance here.

Have an Open Day

Stations act as the heart of our communities; but few of us ever spend more than a few moments at them. For this year's Great Get Together why not change that?

Running a open day at the station and inviting people in to explore, have some refreshments and spend time can be a fantastic way to build connections and recruit new volunteers. It's also can be a great way of building people, and particularly, young people's affinity for rail travel more generally and to see its potential.

Welcome Commuters

One of the most common ways Community Rail Partnerships have run Great Get Together is by setting up a stall to offer tea/coffee or other refreshments to commuters and to encourage them to stop for a moment and connect.



The Friends of Batley Station have been doing this as their Great Get Together for a number of years – and it's helped to foster a sense of community among commuters into Leeds. Gwen, the group Chair, says about their Great Get Together 'We decorated our station with lots of bunting. FOBS served tea, coffee and cake and chatted with train passengers using our lovely station. We even had folk who weren't even travelling on a train just dropping by to see us which was lovely. A couple of our Fobsians even got on a train to Dewsbury to hand out cake on the train – and collected over £30 in donations!'

You can find out more about their event, which they run annually, [here](#).

Host a chatty café or public living room

Stations sit at the heart of many communities and many also contain a café or spot where people can meet and connect. Why not take advantage of this by hosting a chatty café or a public living room at your station? Both are fantastic initiatives that encourage people who may be socially isolated to come along and connect.

The [Chatty Café Scheme](#) offer fantastic advice about how to set up a chatty café, meanwhile [Camerados offer both advice and a free box of resources](#) to help you set up a public living room.

Station Clean Up/Improvements

Our stations are beautiful places but often need a lick of paint or a quick touch up to really show off their full glory. Why not bring together the community to do a action day as part of the Great Get Together; working together to restore a aspect of the station or give it the attention it needs.

Event Support Factsheets

PLEASE READ BEFORE USING TEMPLATES

[Great Get Together Top Tips](#)

[Great Get Together Planning Checklist](#)

[Great Get Together Organiser Pack](#)

[Great Walk Together Resource Pack](#)

[Great Get Together survey leaflet](#) and [Monitoring and Evaluation guidance](#)

[Spirit of 2012's Monitoring and Evaluation toolkit](#) and [evaluation template](#)

Marketing support

[Marketing factsheet](#)

[Template Press Release](#)

[Template invites](#)

TEMPLATE SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

→ Photo frame post ([Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)) ←

[*ALL DOWNLOAD MATERIALS CAN ALSO BE FOUND HERE.*](#)



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Contact Us

If you have any questions or would like to know anything else about this year's Great Get Together, please visit our website at www.greatgettogether.org or get in touch with us at hello@greatgettogether.org.

If you would like to discuss ideas of how your community rail partnership or station volunteer group can get involved, please contact Community Rail Network's Comms team on news@communityrail.org.uk.

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