



6vt Community Rail Partnership



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Community Rail in Action – 6VT Youth CRP April – September 2023

In April we hosted a visit from Rail 74 from Rutherglen where we had an intergenerational session between the 2 groups. Rail 74 brought their chatty crafters to meet our young people. The older ladies showed our young people how to knit, crochet and makes arts and crafts projects and in return our young people helped them make their first video for TikTok. Over the summer 6VT will make a return visit to Rail 74 to visit the crafters and see the other projects that Rail 74 do.

Also, in April a couple of the CRP went to Stow for a networking day and see round their newly refurbished Station Building and got to add a stitch or two to the new Transport Tapestry panel, which will be displayed as a welcome to Galashiels Transport Interchange. The panel extends and promotes the work of the Great Tapestry of Scotland, housed in the nearby visitor centre just a few minutes' walk away from the Interchange. Displaying Scotland's history and culture in 160 panels, it is, at more than 140m (450ft) long, Europe's largest tapestry.

At our May meeting the young people were asked to judge a Network Rail Poster competition – with lots of entries it was difficult to agree on the top three – but we involved other young people from the café to help us come to our decision.

The first 2 weeks in May were all go as we got ready for our first day out at Waverley Station with Our Bags of Positivity project as part of Mental Health Awareness Week. The Bags of Positivity project – is a project highlighting that's its good to talk about our mental health and with those around us.

In the leaflet that the young people had written there was also a little badge that a young designer had made for us and mini bookmark which both act as a reminder to chat with friends, family etc. On the 19th May the CRP were in Waverley Station and handed out approximately. The youth CRP will head back out in September for Suicide Awareness week. All these packs had to be put together, so CRP members spent about 2 weeks prior to the event assembling the Bags of positivity every night during the drop in.

As part of Community Rail Week in May – the was a reception in Holyrood for all the Scottish CRPS, it was a great opportunity to raise awareness of the work we and others do in Community Rail. One of our members CJ gave a speech about 6VT and our work in community rail and we were all very proud of him! The young people went down very well and as you can imagine there were great opportunities for ministers, MSPs etc to get a photo and have a chat with the CRP.

Rail safety week In June, we have been working with St Catherine's Primary School and their P1s doing a rail safety project. For the first part of the project, we took the Tracks and Train game into school – Half the class played on the big one outside whilst the others played on the board games in the class and then swapped over. They had already done some rail safety work with their teacher, but we were still impressed how much they knew about keeping themselves safe around the railways. On the 22nd June, the CRP arranged for the class to go on a train and then visit Deep Sea World. Our members and staff accompanied them too as lots of help required to look after them all. Approximately half of the class had never been on a train before, so this was very exciting for them. They all got a wee goody bag on return to school after the trip – this has books about rail safety including Arlo's Adventures and a Thomas the Tank sticker book – all donated from Scotrail and Network Rail.

At the end of Rail Safety Week, we had a poster competition with the Primary 1's from St Catherines and the lucky winner won a family train ticket for anywhere in Scotland courtesy of Scotrail.

Also, in June we celebrated our CRP's 5th Birthday with a video montage of the past 5 years you can see it here <https://youtu.be/FbJLYfCmfCY>

In July during the summer holidays the CRP organised a "Fun Day out by Train" for some of our holiday clubbers. We went to Kinghorn beach for swimming, smores, exploring and just chilling by the sea. For 3 of our young people, it was the first time on a Train – we all had a great day out.

In August we went to visit our friends at Rail 74 and the Chatty Crafters at their centre in Cambuslang – we had a great day sharing our skills. The crafters taught us how to make rag wreaths and do some wood burning (controlled 😊) and in return we showed them how to make another TikTok video. We had a lovely lunch together and discovered a bit of Scotland that none of us had ever been to before.

In September we were back at Waverley with our Bags of Positivity during World Suicide Prevention week for 2 afternoons to raise awareness of the upcoming Suicide Prevention Day. We worked alongside the Samaritans and Railway Chaplains to spread a bit of positivity and give out information on where people can access support if they need it.

Above all this the CRP continue to meet once a month for their formal group meetings at 6VT Youth Café.

