



20th Anniversary!

Community Rail Awards 2025

[Sponsorship opportunities](#)

About community rail:

Community rail is all about ensuring communities get the most from their railways. Working alongside local, regional and national partners, community rail partnerships and groups around the country aim to play an important role in social inclusion, community wellbeing and economic development, and promote rail as a key part of sustainable, healthy travel.

[Community Rail Network](#) supports 75 [community rail partnerships](#) and over 320 smaller community groups, such as [station friends or adoption groups](#), around Britain. These groups work along railway routes to connect communities with the railway, train operator and other partners. They deliver a range of activities locally, often involving volunteers, which contribute significantly to the needs of their communities and the railways.

About the Community Rail Awards:

The Community Rail Awards are all about celebrating the passion, commitment, innovation, and best practice in community rail, recognising the volunteers, groups and partnerships doing wonderful work on behalf of their communities and railways. They give community rail the chance to shine, showcasing the array of work happening across Britain, and showing influencers and decision makers what community rail achieves. See our [Award Winners Hall of Fame 2024](#) (and previous [winner booklets](#)).

Hosted in March, our awards event, is a highlight of the railway calendar. The evening is attended by a wide range of guests including senior train operator executives, senior civil servants, government ministers, and third and public-sector partners, alongside community rail officers, chairs and volunteers. We regularly receive up to 200 entries, which feed into our year-round work supporting and championing community rail.

Our exclusive sponsorship opportunities give funders the chance to show their support for community rail and commitment to working with and serving communities as part of an inclusive, sustainable, community-minded industry.

Venue: The Awards have taken place in many UK locations, so we know selecting the right venue for the event is crucial, with capacity of up to 500 and appropriate facilities. The venue for 2025 has just been announced as Newcastle Civic Centre and will be closely supported by our headline partner **Lumo & Hull Trains**.

Partnership working:

Community Rail Network's events team, led by Hazel Lavery (Events & fundraising manager), with Hannah Cottrill (Events and partnerships officer), bring decades of experience in delivering a range of high-profile events. Their commitment to delivering the Awards, especially over recent years despite serious impact from global and national events, has showcased not only their expertise and organisational skills, but also their ability to adapt and rise to new challenges. The team prides itself on working in partnership with sponsors to keep them regularly informed and engaged throughout the process and help them to make the most of the associated benefits.

Sponsorship opportunities

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY	COST
Headline Partner – Lumo & Hull Trains confirmed	
Platinum sponsor: Covering key production and venue technical support costs Angel Trains confirmed	
Gold sponsor: Supporting the provision of a partnered dedicated tech team to oversee and deliver the production on the night. CMAC confirmed	
Trophies and certificates Transport for Wales confirmed	
Silver sponsor: Supporting the provision of quality entertainment for the event, e.g. local live band etc Available	£4000 (+VAT)
Drinks Reception Available	£3,500 (+VAT)
Event Photography Available	£1,500 (+VAT)
<p>Category sponsorship: There are 13 award categories available in 2025:</p> <p>All categories now have confirmed sponsors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Rail Network Award for 'Outstanding Contribution to Community Rail' (two winners) GTR • Involving Children and Young People LNER • Empowering Diverse Groups East Midlands Railway • Community Creative Projects and Station Arts Avanti West Coast • Small Projects Award (Cost under £500) Great Western Railway • Most Effective Communications Campaign West Midlands Trains • Best Community Engagement Project Freightliner • Tourism & Leisure Award TransPennine Express • Photo competition – <i>Best image capturing the essence of Community Rail</i> Porterbrook • Influencing Positive Change & Sustainability Northern • Most Enhanced Railway Spaces Greater Anglia • It's Your Station Merseyrail • Outstanding Volunteer Contribution CrossCountry 	
Bespoke opportunities to suit budget available upon request	

In return for sponsorship of any of the above items, ALL funders will receive the following benefits package:

- Sponsor recognition in the following Awards literature, including a sponsor's logo and paragraph:
 - Entry booklet (online)
 - Event programme (hard copy)
 - Winners' enclosure on website (online)
- Acknowledgement on all Community Rail Network social media channels announcing their support of the Awards. Plus, further acknowledgement in additional social media posts specifically mentioning their sponsorship item.
- Hyperlink to the sponsor's website on the dedicated Awards page on Community Rail Network website.
- Sponsor logos on appropriate Award presentation slides at the presentation evening.
- One complimentary guest place at the presentation evening or a 10% discounted table of 10.

As a key supporter, **'Gold' sponsors** will also receive the following enhancements:

- Prominent **logo spot** on the Entry Booklet; Dinner Programme and Winners' enclosure (website)
- Logo (to accompany sponsor acknowledgement) on the Awards pages on Community Rail Network website
- Support from Community Rail Network in promoting your sponsorship, such as providing information, images and thank you messages for inclusion in your corporate communications (as requested).
- Acknowledgement as a **key supporter**, including higher logo billing, on relevant promotion materials and on the production slides on the night.
- **Complimentary and discounted places:** Three complimentary places at the presentation evening or a 25% discounted table of 10.
- **Video opportunity for a senior staff member** – the chance to provide a video message of support for community rail, which will be shown on the night as part of the overall production

'Silver' sponsors and the **'Outstanding Contribution to Community Rail' category** will also receive the following enhancements:

- Prominent **logo spot** on the Entry Booklet; Dinner Programme and Winners' enclosure (website)
- Logo (to accompany sponsor acknowledgement) on the Awards pages on Community Rail Network website
- **Complimentary and discounted places:** Two complimentary places at the presentation evening or a 20% discounted table of 10.

Drinks reception sponsor:

- Prominent **logo spot** on the Entry Booklet; Dinner Programme and Winners' enclosure (website)
- Logo (to accompany sponsor acknowledgement) on the Awards pages on Community Rail Network website
- **Complimentary and discounted places:** Two complimentary places at the presentation evening or a 20% discounted table of 10.

To discuss sponsorship please contact:

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