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Railway 200

Be part of the journey





What are we celebrating?

27 September 2025

RAILWAY 200



200th

A year-long national celebration in 2025 of the 200th anniversary of the modern railway.



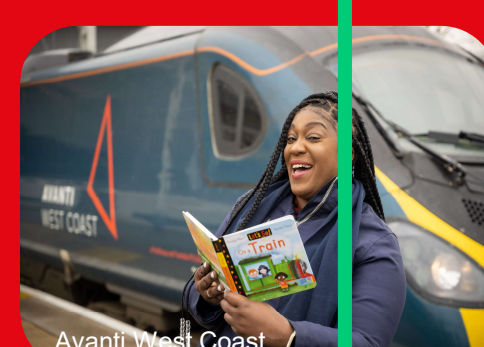
**Past
Present
Future**



Avanti West Coast



Network Rail



Telling the story
through four
key themes.

How it will work

National Programme

Cultural & Tourism Partnerships

Rail Industry Activity



Railway 200 is the umbrella

Our partnership-led approach will encourage local activity to create a year-long campaign, supported by several nationally-led initiatives

Heritage Railways

Locally Led Activity

S&DR200

International Activity

Who's on board

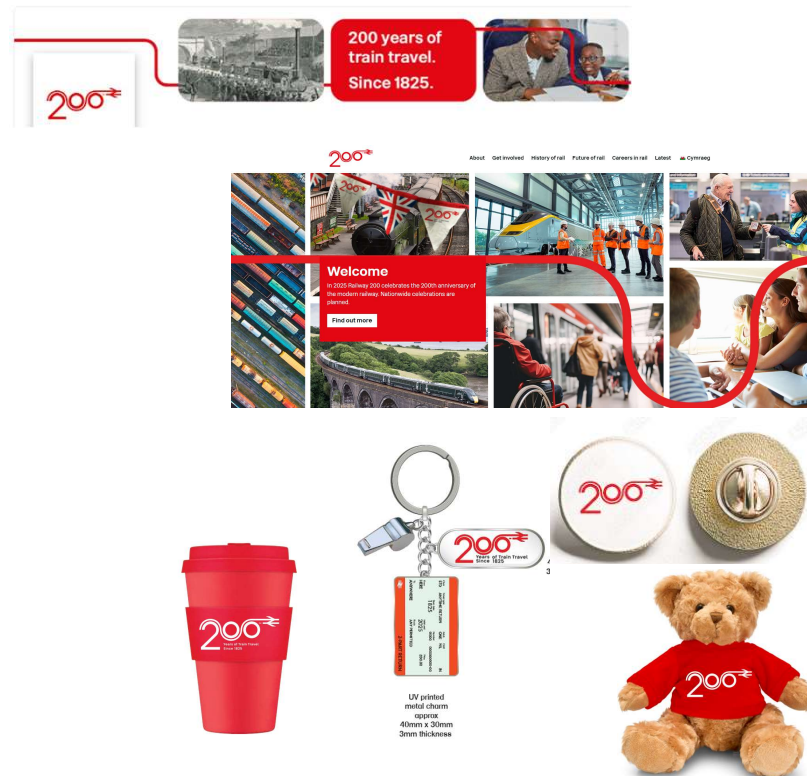
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Supporting a better profile for rail



Forever Forward



The National Programme

- Branding
- Marketing Tool Kit
- Campaign Website
- Social media
- PR & Communications
- Broadcast Programming
- Commemorative Merchandise
- Commemorative Partnerships
- National Charity Partnership
- Railway 200 Exhibition Train

Our role

- Managing relationships with stakeholders
- Coordinating activities on a national scale
- Leveraging the UK-wide reach of industry to support local and regional events

We are unable to provide funding

A red logo celebrating the 200th anniversary of the railway, featuring the number '200' in a stylized font with a red arrow pointing right, symbolizing the railway's history and future.

200

COMING DOWN THE TRACK

Avanti West Coast



S&DR200

**A festival celebrating the birth of the modern railway,
March to November 2025**



**Step McGovern hosted
the public launch of
S&DR200 and Railway 200
at the Hippodrome in
Darlington (19 Sept).**

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The Greatest Gathering (Friday 1 – Sunday 3 August 2025)

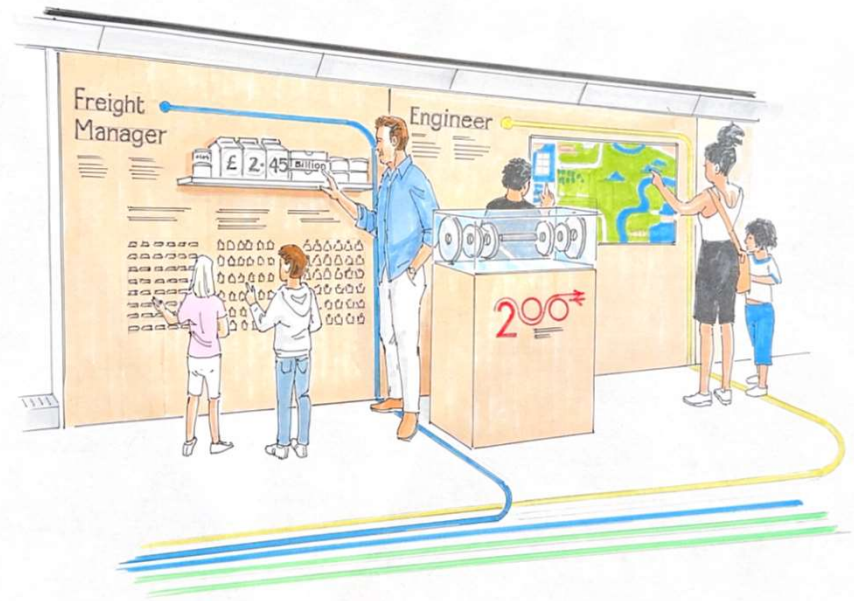
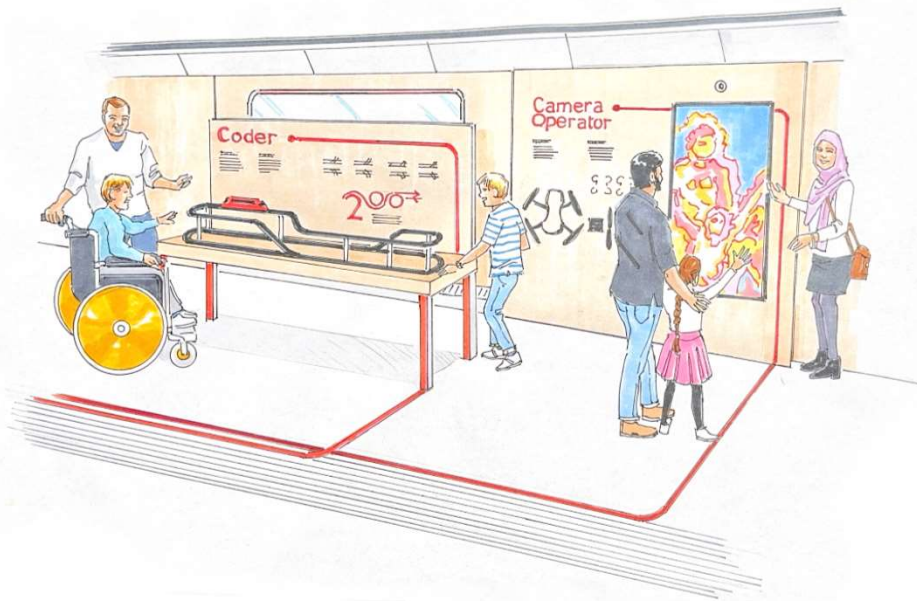
- Alstom's Derby Litchurch Lane Works to host the largest temporary gathering of rolling stock and railway-related items in a generation

Polmadie 150 (Glasgow) (Date TBC)

- Site opened on 16 September 1875 (September 2025)
- Located around two miles south-east of Glasgow Central, the Alstom depot is currently the main base of the iconic Caledonian Sleeper service, where it is maintained and cleaned by over 100 staff who provide a round-the-clock service

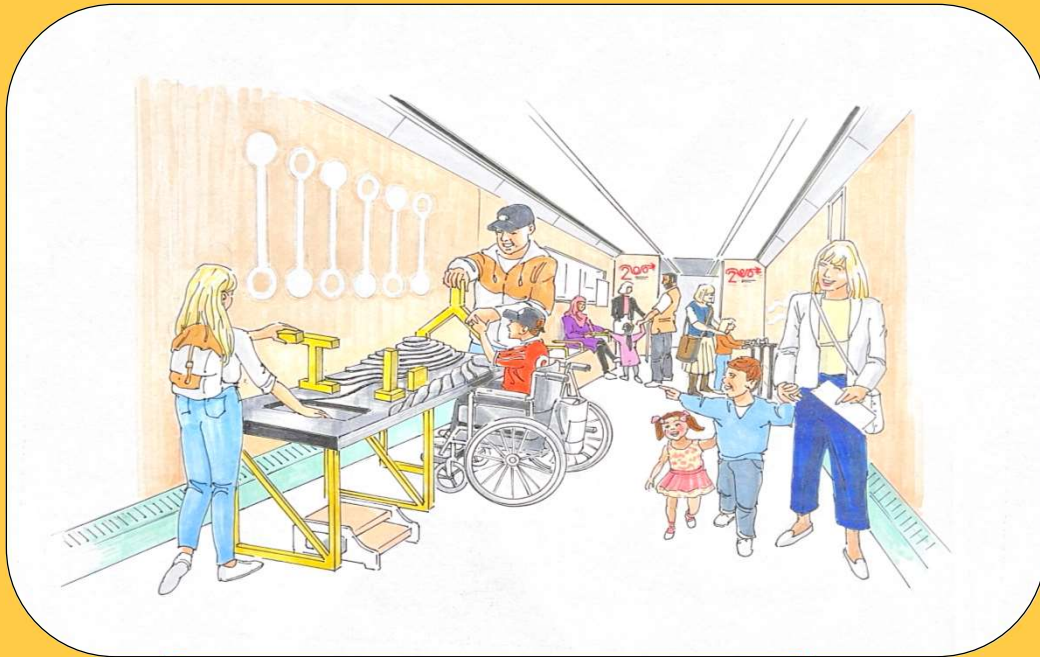


'Inspiration' carriage illustrations



Your Railway Future
(careers carriage)

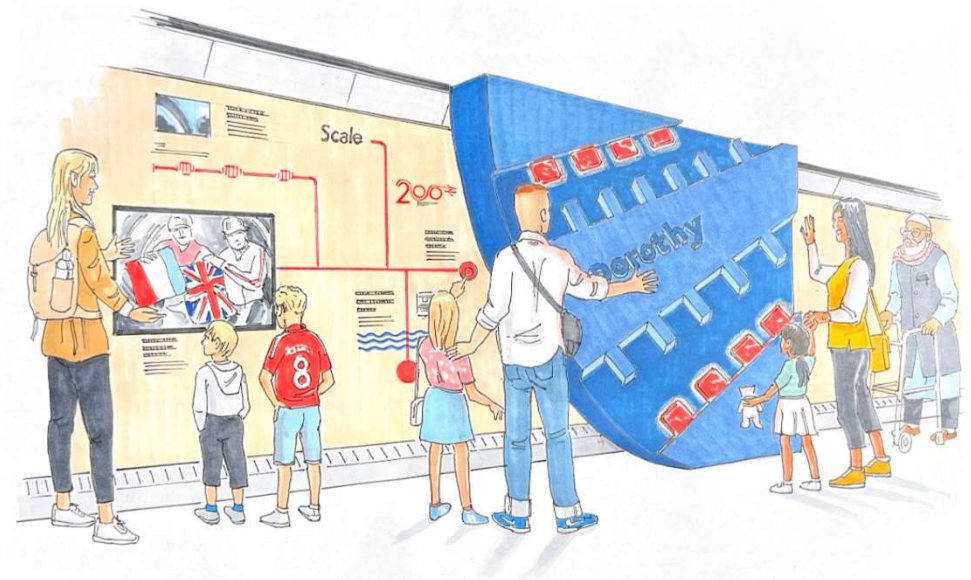
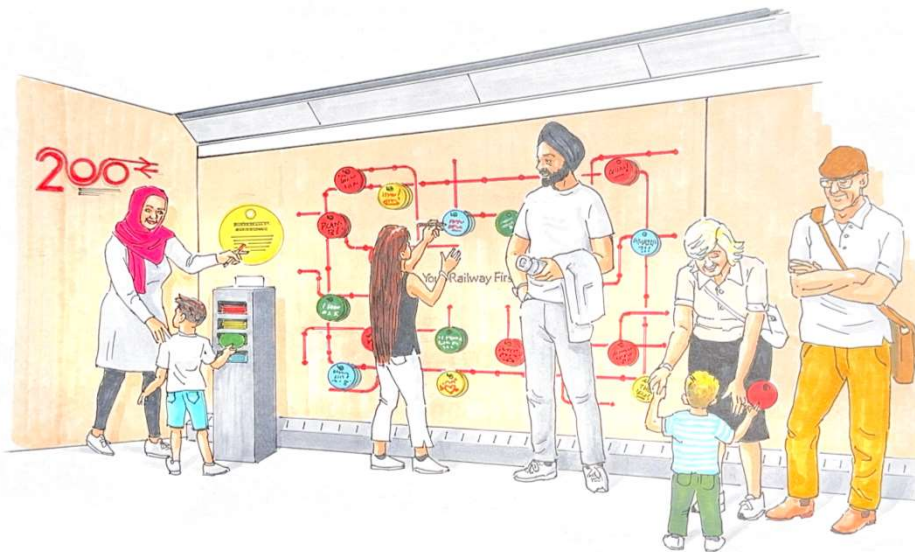
'Inspiration' carriage illustrations



Wonderlab on Wheels (STEM Carriage)

'Inspiration' carriage illustrations

200⁺



Railway Firsts Carriage

Tourism

ALAN HYDE, RAILWAY 200

Join the railway's 200th anniversary celebrations in 2025

Next year marks a major milestone in our national life – the 200th anniversary of the modern railway.

Nationwide celebrations are planned throughout 2025, highlighting the historic event in 1825 when George Stephenson's *Locomotion No.1* travelled 26 miles between Shildon, Darlington and Stockton in the North East of England; a journey that signalled the birth of the modern railway and changed the world forever.

The celebrations, called Railway 200, will showcase how the railway shaped Britain and the world, and how its pioneering pedigree continues today and will shape tomorrow.

As part of Railway 200 there will be a nine-month international festival taking place across County Durham and Tees Valley.

There are also expected to be a wide variety of events and activities happening across many other parts of the UK, aimed at attracting domestic and overseas visitors. These will be promoted later this year on an interactive map on the Railway 200 website: www.railway200.co.uk

The national celebration is backed by the UK rail industry, community rail partnerships, heritage railways, tourist bodies, museums, civic groups and a wide range of other organisations.

One of Railway 200's highlights will be a touring exhibition train which will visit locations across England, Scotland and Wales from summer 2025 for 12 months. It will comprise four carriages, covering: railway innovation; an interactive 'wonderlab on wheels' to excite and invite young people to consider joining the

railway; a careers-focused carriage; and a shop, offering a range of branded merchandise. The itinerary is currently being developed.

To help tell rail's big story, four main themes will be explored:

- Skills & Education
- Innovation, Technology & Environment
- Heritage, Culture & Tourism
- Celebrating Railway People

One of the objectives of Railway 200 is to encourage more visitors and volunteers to the UK's 211 heritage railways, which are enjoyed by 13 million people a year and cover 600 miles of some of the UK's most spectacular scenery.

The role of the railway in shaping our cultural landscape will also form part of the celebrations, exploring how rail has inspired and continues to inspire countless artists, writers, musicians and film-makers down the ages.

There are also plans to put Railway 200 on the international map, recognising how the railway crossed continents, created countries, connected cities and communities, and has improved the lives and livelihoods of billions of people around the globe.

For example, Railway 200 plans to feature in an Expo in Japan next year and will be helping to promote the BritRail pass to encourage more inbound tourism to all parts of the UK. There has also been positive engagement with international rail retailers and trade bodies to encourage involvement.

Ultimately, Railway 200 is about encouraging everyone to join this once-in-a-generation opportunity, whether that's by displaying the Railway 200 logo, organising events and activities, running competitions, or sharing rail stories.

Rail's bicentenary in 2025 promises to be a very enjoyable and memorable year. All are welcome to jump onboard and everyone has a role to play!

For further information visit:
www.railway200.co.uk and
www.sdr200.co.uk



All aboard! Help celebrate the birth of the modern railway

UK museums are invited to mark the 200th anniversary of this historic milestone in 2025, says Alan Hyde



Blue Badge Guides want to connect with Community Rail Partnerships



heritage open days



Department for Culture Media & Sport



The Annual National Conference of Visitor Attractions - VAC

623 followers
15h

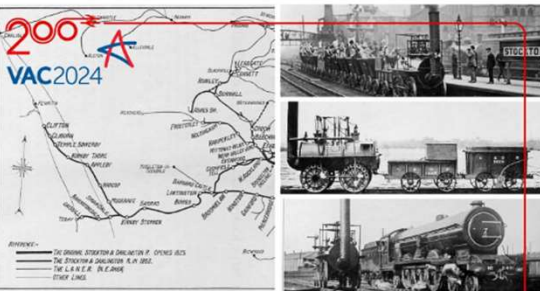
In 2025, we will be celebrating 200 years since the birth of the modern railway and the opening of the Stockton & Darlington Railway (27 September 1825).

The railway took 3 years to construct, costing £5.1 million in today's currency, spanning 25 miles in length and averaging 8 mph, the Stockton & Darlington Railway was revolutionary for its time: creating jobs for the local community, increasing the accessibility for valuable industrial resources and eventually paving the way for the modern tourism industry as it welcomed its first passengers on board.

On 10th September, Emma Robertson from Railway 200 will be presenting a talk at VAC 2024, promoting the celebration of sustainable and historical transport to your visitor attraction.

Will you be joining us? Book your tickets at VAC 2024 on our website:
<https://vacevents.com>

#VAC2024 #UKVisitorAttractions #GrowYourBusiness #WelcomeNewVisitors
#TourismInnovation #HeritageRailway #SustainableTourism #BritishHeritage



3

Like

Comment

Share

Thanks for your support...

Railway 200 involvement in **Community Rail Awards** in March

Railway 200-themed **Community Rail Week** in May

Community Rail Lancashire are working with the Girl Guides to produce a Railway 200 badge focusing on STEM.

The **Southeast Communities Rail Partnership** will be producing 200 'blue plaques' to celebrate 200 people connected to its railway lines

A celebration, in July, of the Heart of Wales Line by **the Heart of Wales Community Rail Partnership**

The **Heart of England Community Rail Partnership** will be working with local artists and schools to produce a celebratory banner

Greater Anglia is liaising with Community Rail Partnerships and others in the region to organise a range of Railway 200 related activities in 2025



How the national campaign can support you

Put your event on our map

30 entries and counting

Map of activities and events

There will be many activities and events taking place across the UK, and beyond to celebrate Railway 200. Use our interactive map to find out what's near you.

The map below shows the approximate locations of activities and events celebrating Railway 200. Click on a circle to view more details about an activity or event. You can zoom in/out of the map, move it around using the +/- buttons or by clicking and dragging the map.

The same activity or event information is in the list of events under the map. Click on the title of an activity or event to view the full details.

Hosting a Railway 200 event?

If you're hosting an activity or event, submit your plans to feature on our interactive map.

[Submit your plans](#)

Search for activities or events

Within 100 miles of:

Date:

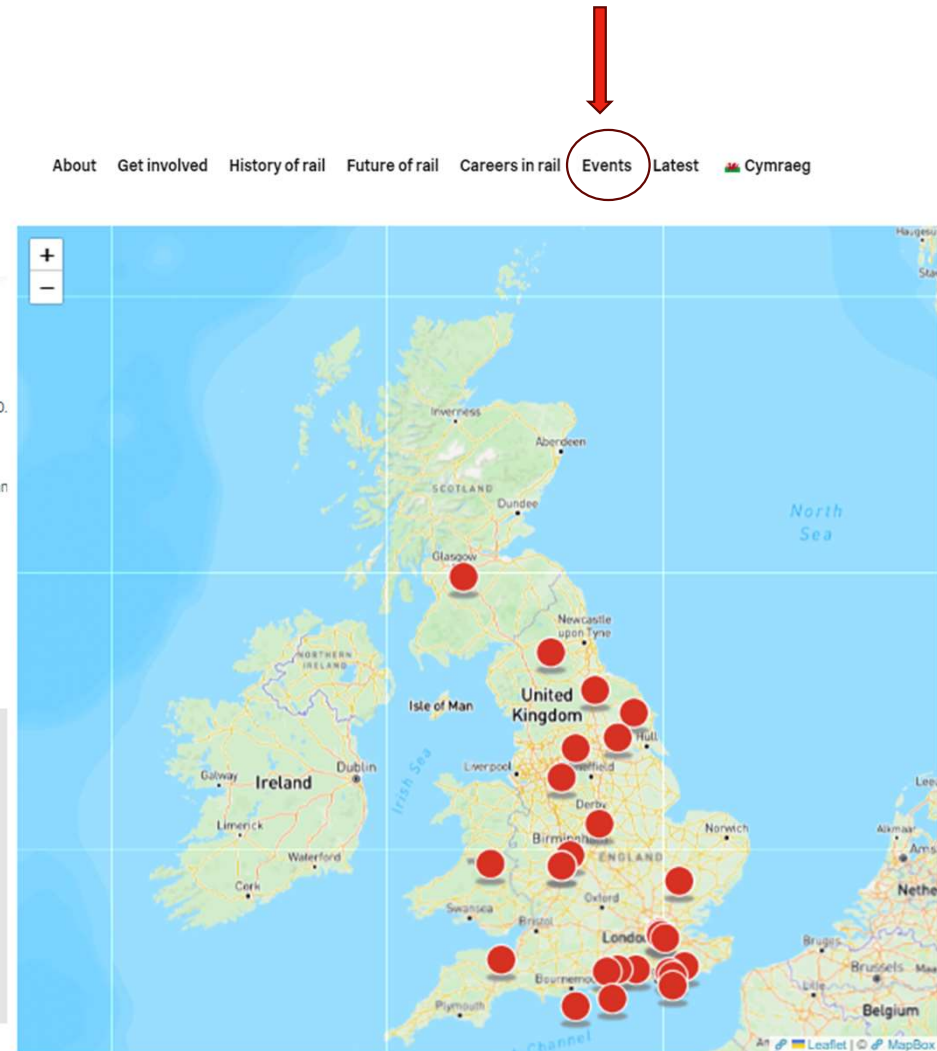
--Any date--

[Search](#)

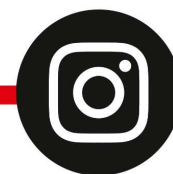
[Reset filters](#)

Theme of activity or event:

- ☒ Railway history or heritage
- ☒ Careers in rail
- ☒ School/college engagement
- ☒ Family-focussed experience or activity
- ☒ Special offer, product or discount
- ☒ Other activities



**Follow us on
social media**



@Railway200

Download our partner toolkit



Put your news in our Stakeholder newsletter

Database over 1,000 people



Railway 200
Update.



Hi Martyn,

Join the history-makers!

As preparations build for the year-long national celebration of 200 years of the modern railway in 2025, now is an ideal time to jump on board, register your interest and join the history-makers.

It promises to be a year to remember. Everyone is invited to get involved in this historic occasion.

With the support of partners, Railway 200 plans to tell the biggest UK rail story ever told, of how the railway has transformed our lives and how it continues to innovate and encourage young people from all backgrounds to become the rail pioneers of tomorrow.

If you've not already done so:

- visit: www.railway200.co.uk.
- [register your activity or event](#) or, if details and dates are yet to be confirmed, [signal your planned involvement](#). Activities and events will be promoted on an interactive map on the Railway 200 website later this year.
- promote the forthcoming celebration on your social media using #Railway200
- invite your friends, family, colleagues and community representatives to get involved, including [signing up for the newsletter](#) and following Railway 200 on [LinkedIn](#) and [X](#).

And if you have rail stories you'd like to see promoted, and/or have great content (images, videos, animations, etc.) to support them, please get in touch: railway200@gbtt.co.uk.

A steam locomotive, numbered 572, is pulling a train through a station. The locomotive is green and black, with smoke coming from its chimney. The train is passing through a station with wooden benches and a platform. A large Union Jack bunting is strung across the foreground, partially obscuring the view. The bunting has the number 200 on it. The text "LET'S MAKE HISTORY" is overlaid in large white letters, and the word "together" is written in red cursive below it.

**LET'S MAKE
HISTORY**

together