SCOMMUNITY RAIL AWARDS CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Celebrating 20 Years of Outstanding Achievements

COMMUNITY RAIL AWARDS 2025

COMMEMORATIVE EDITION



Introduction

Welcome to the 20th anniversary of the Community Rail Awards.

We're delighted to bring you this special commemorative winners booklet, honouring our 2025 winners and celebrating two decades of exceptional achievements in community rail.

Each year since 2005, we've come together to celebrate the passion, commitment and innovation displayed every day across community rail. We shine a spotlight on community rail's incredible people and projects, and the difference you all make to communities, people's lives and our shared future.

Our esteemed judges have reviewed a diverse array of projects supporting social inclusion, sustainable travel, empowered communities, and economic development. These inspiring accounts showcase the hard work and dedication abundant across community rail, and evidence the wide-ranging positive outcomes.

Over the past 20 years, we've taken the Awards to every nation and region of Britain outside of London. From humble beginnings back in 2005 where we welcomed a modest 200 guests to this year's record-breaking 510 guests, all joining us in-person for an evening full of community rail celebrations.

We congratulate all winners, past and present, plus all those shortlisted and everyone contributing to community rail. We look forward to continuing to support and champion your efforts.

Thank you for being part of the community rail family. And cheers to 20 years!

Community Rail Network Team



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Spotlight On The Team Behind The Awards

Our dedicated events and fundraising manager, Hazel Lavery, has been the driving force behind the Community Rail Awards since their inception in 2005. With the invaluable support of her colleague, Hannah Cottrill, Hazel begins the meticulous planning process for the Awards evening over 12 months in advance. Together, they collaborate with headline partners and nearby community rail partnerships, to research and secure a venue that is conveniently accessible by rail—an essential consideration for the event.

As the planning unfolds, the team opens entries for the Awards and provides tailored assistance to members, providing them with the tools to craft compelling submissions that stand out. Once entries close, the team organise and oversee the judging sessions, ensuring a fair and thorough evaluation of each submission.

Every detail of the Community Rail Awards is carefully coordinated and executed, and the dedication and hard work of Hazel, Hannah and the wider team ensures that the event not only recognises outstanding achievement across community rail, but also cultivates a sense of immense pride and camaraderie among all participants and guests. This commitment ensures that the event remains a beloved highlight in the community rail calendar, cherished by everyone involved.



Over the years, we have enjoyed many unforgettable moments. From Scarborough's nautical-themed Awards in 2014, embracing traditional Cèilidh dancing in Scotland in 2018 and to community rail taking centre-stage at Swansea Arena in 2024. This year, we are thrilled to welcome 510 guests, a significant leap from our humble beginnings in Norwich back in 2005, where we started with just 200 attendees.

It has been an immense honour and privilege to witness the incredible evolution and growth of community rail initiatives over the years. Thank you for being a part of this remarkable journey!

HC Lavery

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Hazel Lavery



Hannah Cottrill



Involving Children and Young People



Robin Hood Line CRP for Fusion Learning

Fusion Learning brought young people together to gain knowledge and skills alongside practical on-the-job experience. The students worked towards achieving a recognised qualification while harnessing their creativity, nurturing their aspirations and boosting their confidence. Tasked with designing and creating a largescale metal sculpture, the students' finished work now sits proudly as a new landmark at Creswell Station.





Bishop Line CRP for Bishop Line Rail Education Programme

In response to an alarming level of rail trespass along the Bishop Line, the CRP developed a series of interactive workshops to raise awareness of rail safety to local young people. In total, the CRP

delivered 98 sessions, engaging over 3,700 schoolchildren with a mixture of classroom activities and travel confidence trips.



Shortlist

- Friends of Hindley Station Working with Scouts and Local Schools
- QE2 Silver Jubilee School QE2 Art Gallery and Beyond
- Marston Vale CRP Lidlington Youth Engagement
- Gloucestershire CRP Sustainable Travel Booklet
- Flimby Primary School, Workington Academy & Beardy Synergy – Graffiti Gallery

<mark>2025</mark>



Grays Convent High School and c2c for c2Sanitary

Train operator, c2c, supported a local programme to empower young people to tackle real-life business challenges. The winning solution was provided by Grays Convent High School who wanted to help tackle period poverty by installing eco-friendly sanitary products in vending machines in female toilets across c2c's stations. The first dispenser has now been installed and the project is already receiving significant positive feedback.



Winners Over The Years

2017 winner – Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership for The Carbon Reduction Challenge

A programme of school engagement centred around a competition that promoted awareness of rail as a form of sustainable travel among primary school children, while linking in with curriculum themes.



2019 winner – Community Rail Lancashire for Stand Clear of the Closet Doors

A writing and art project which shared the views and knowledge of young LGBTQ+ people via rail-linked information. It was delivered in partnership with the Proud Trust, a Manchester based organisation that enhances young people's lives by empowering them to make positive changes for themselves and their communities.'



2020 winner – Kent Community Rail Partnership and Sheppey College for A Chance to Shine

An initiative which saw students develop digital promotions, artwork and passenger surveys alongside hands-on manual construction and landscaping work at stations. This project empowered students to showcase their talents and boost self-esteem, while providing real-life experiences, and helping to build portfolios to enhance employment prospects.



Empowering Diverse Groups



Community Rail Cumbria, West House, Carlisle Day Services and Allerdale & Copeland Day Opportunities for Beyond the Home

This initiative supported local people with learning and physical disabilities to overcome challenges and barriers they encounter while travelling by train, helping to shape new visual aids, including Makaton boards, at stations along the line. This has helped increase confidence and travel independence for those involved while promoting active travel for the whole community.





South West Wales Connected for Joy of the Journey

Each month, South West Wales Connected assisted different community groups on a guided day out by train, providing participants with a positive and memorable experience. This initiative has helped the joy of rail travel become accessible to all, regardless of background or ability.



Shortlist

 Kent CRP, Guide Dogs UK and Southeastern – Paws on the Platform

 Market Rasen Station – Market Rasen Community Cafe Southeast Communities RP & Aspens – Aspens SEND Adults Get Mobile The Community Brain – Community Kitchen at Tolworth Station Gloucestershire CRP & Oxfordshire CRP – Getaway

2025

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Friends of Buxton Station for **Celebrating Roman Buxton and** Ancient Britons

Partnering with the More Care Design Collective, a special community arts project engaging people with learning difficulties, the Friends group supported participants in developing new artwork for the station. This project helped to give a marginalised group a voice and provided them with the opportunity to learn news skills while forging strong connections between the community and the station.



Awards Our judges In Numbers have reviewed over 4,300 inspiring entries

Winners Over The Years

2016 winner - Severn Dee Travel, Derwen **College & Gobowen for Gobowen Station Work Experience Cafe**

The first ever award given under this category was in recognition of the successful partnership between Severn Dee Travel and the local college, providing work experience and valuable employability skills for their students.



2021 winner - South East Lancashire **CRP for Hate Crime Awareness Project**

Aimed at addressing the rise in hate crimes, South East Lancashire CRP engaged around 60,000 people through a series of workshops, surveys and social media promotions.

HATE CRIME AWARENESS PROTECT 2021

2024 winner - Platform: A Joint **Community Rail Education Programme for** 'This Mighty Traveller'

Recognising that accessing the railways is particularly complex for young people with disabilities, Platform worked with specialist providers, teachers, and their students to create bespoke days out by train packages to help break down perceived barriers to rail travel and empower people with disabilities to use the railway in the future.



Community Creative Projects and Station Arts



Large groups winner: Tyne Valley CRP, Cumbrian Coast CRP and Queer Cumbria for Queer Rail Art Trail

This joint initiative commissioned artwork from talented young LGBTQ+ artists at 23 stations across the region, making the spaces more vibrant and inclusive. Not only did the project provide a voice for diverse communities and an opportunity for them to exhibit their work, but it also enabled the community rail partnerships involved to better understand the perceived barriers to rail travel, in turn providing a source of help and support for the LGBTQ+ community.





Medium groups winner: Bishop Line CRP and Shildon Station Adoption Group for Shildon Smart Art

By working with a local street artist, the CRP engaged 200 young people to develop a vibrant art piece for the station's footbridge, to help deter anti-social behaviour and enable passengers to feel safe and welcome. During the project, the students explored the themes of rail safety and pride of place, to help them become local ambassadors and equip them with the tools needed to speak up against anti-social behaviour with their peers.



Small groups winner: Co-Creative Connection for Celebrating Diversity and Unity through a Community Mural at Finsbury Park Station

Through a series of workshops, young people were encouraged to contribute ideas that reflected their cultural identities and values, with the aim of bringing life and colour to their local station. The results have transformed the station entrance into a vibrant showcase of local talent and diversity while serving as a colourful wayfinding tool for visitors.





Shortlist (by group size)

Large groups

- Essex & South Suffolk CRP – People's Platforms; Celebrating Railway Heritage
- Robin Hood Line CRP, Poacher Line CRP and EMR – We are Nottingham – Station Mural

Medium groups

- Creative Isle CRP Above & Beyond
- Wherry Lines CRP Wherry Lines Posters
- 3 Counties Connected CRP – Wrexham Station Art Project
- The New River Line CRP – The 'Welcome to Ware' Mosaic Project

Small groups

- Friends of Goostrey Station – Goostrey's Coronation Wallhanging
- Helmsdale Station CIC – Forsinard Flow Anniversary Event

- TiPP Moments in Transit
- Community Rail Lancashire and Oastlers School – Steeton and Silsden Artwork
- Severnside CRP & Platform Rail Education – It's a Newtiful Day _____
- Heart of England CRP, Avanti West Coast and the Colour Palette Company – Rugby Colour Palette

Enfield Chase

Station Partners - Our Community

Welcomes You To

Platform Artwork

 West Highland CRP and Geotone CIC – Benighted on the Moor

Enfield Chase Station:

Winners Over The Years

2005 winner – Essex & South Suffolk CRP for Southminster Mural Project

Involving many local schoolchildren, this project served as an innovative way to use creative art to help reduce vandalism and anti-social behaviour at the station. Judges hailed it as a fantastic piece of community art and it was the first project to win this prestigious award.



2012 winner – Friends of Heaton Chapel Station for the 'Running Man' project

This winning project was commended by the judges for its innovative funding diversification. Rather than seek just one funder, the Friends group approached local businesses, organisations and industry supporters to sponsor a section of the artwork. This resulted in an impressive multipanelled, eye-catching installation at the station, that has taken pride of place in the community.



2018 winner – Severnside CRP & Crimestoppers for The Fearless Four Seasons Mural

Concerned about the rise of vandalism and graffiti to Montpellier Station, the CRP wanted to bring colour back to the area while tacking anti-social behaviour. The CRP engaged over 170 people during the design phase to seek suggestions on the theme of the mural before local children and young people got stuck in with street art masterclasses to help bring the ideas to life.



Severnside CRP

Small Projects Award – Under £500



Friends of Bishopstone Station CIC for History Weekend

The Friends group welcomed over 120 people to the station during a special open weekend, bringing the community together and celebrating local history. The weekend included talks from local historians, tours of the station led by volunteers, and provided the opportunity for visitors to meet new people and socialise. Many expressed interest in volunteering at the station themselves, eager to be part of this thriving community and build on its exciting future.





Youth Inspired for Friends of Bedford St Johns Mosaic Artwork

Working with local community organisation, Youth Inspired, this initiative enabled people with learning difficulties and disabilities to learn and grow through art and design. The group were supported to design and create a mosaic to brighten up a relatively unknown and tucked-away station along the Marston Vale Line, resulting in an overwhelmingly positive response from the wider community.



Shortlist

- Friends of Goostrey Station Goostrey cubs do a good turn for station wildlife
- Friends of Bentham Station Creating a Community Christmas Display
- Bolton Station Community Partnership

 On Not Being Observed
- Furness Line CRP, Northern, Cumbrian Railways Association and ISS – Upcycling Ulverston Underpass

2025



Friends of Worksop Station for Worksop 175 History Storyboard

In celebration of the station's milestone anniversary, the Friends group produced a storyboard to create a visually appealing and informative display, showcasing the station's history, notable passengers, and the surrounding area. The results generated an increased interest in local history and has helped enhance the visitor experience at Worksop Station.



Winners Over The Years

2014 winner - Friends of Bentham Station & Bloomin' Bentham for the Annual Planters Sponsorship Scheme

By partnering with local businesses, this project provided an innovative solution that raised funds to cover the ongoing cost of plants and flowers throughout the year, enhancing the platforms and enriching passenger journeys.



Volunteers spent weeks clearing an overgrown area of the station to improve the appearance and make it more welcoming for passengers. The community also got involved by donating the bulbs and shrubs that were planted in the garden, allowing for the project budget to go a lot further.





2022 winner - Kent Community Rail Partnership and Five Acre Wood for 'Sunflower Mural – Let's Celebrate Differences'

This project was developed by local students who wanted to raise awareness of hidden disabilities and celebrate people's individualities and differences while bringing a splash of colour to Snodland Station.



Most Effective Communications Campaign



Gloucestershire CRP for Black History Month Every Month

The delivery of this comprehensive communications campaign aimed to celebrate the county's rich cultural heritage and connect its diverse history to the present day. Centred around a new station exhibition, the campaign included a launch event, integration of the Black History Map, and coordinated press and social media strategy. The campaign's integration of art, history and community involvement created a rich, engaging experience that resonated with local residents and media outlets.



High Peak and Hope Valley CRP for The Buxton Line

Arts, film and photography formed the key elements of this multi-faceted campaign that spanned social media and broadcast, designed to promote each of the stations along the line and the diverse array of visitor attractions that surround them. In the six months after the campaign, passenger numbers to destinations including Whaley Bridge, Chapel-en-le-Frith and Disley showed a marked increase of between 18-27%.





Shortlist

- Gloucestershire CRP Black History Month Every Month | Tyne Valley CRP World Heritage Sites by Rail
- High Peak and Hope Valley CRP The Buxton Line

<mark>2025</mark>



Tyne Valley CRP for World Heritage Sites by Rail

Working in collaboration with World Heritage UK, the CRP supported the Hadrian's Wall Youth Ambassadors to generate ideas on how to effectively promote rail travel to and around the World Heritage sites, aligning with UNESCO's Sustainable Development Goal to 'build sustainable communities and take climate action'. The resulting leaflet has been distributed nationally and viewed online globally from Asia, Australia and New Zealand to North America and Argentina, enabling messaging about greener leisure travel and tourism in the UK to be promoted worldwide.



Winners Over The Years

2006 winner - Heart of Wales Line Forum for Marketing Strategy for the Heart of Wales Line

This project consisted of developing a comprehensive marketing strategy that would raise awareness and maintain support for the line, alongside identifying areas for future development and opportunities.



2010 winner – Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership for Days Out By Train leaflets

Suggestions for delightful days out by train, from South Devon towns and cities, were promoted to visitors through a series of leaflets featuring things to do alongside practical train times and fares. This project helped to increase the number of off-peak day returns sold in the area by nearly a third.





2020 winner – The Bittern Line, Wherry Lines, East Suffolk Lines, Hereward Line, Essex and South Suffolk Community Rail Partnerships and Greater Anglia for Room with a View

A joint initiative to help celebrate the introduction of Greater Anglia's new trains and showcase the amazing places and attractions within easy reach of the railway. The project resulted in a series of visually engaging videos promoting each community line posted across social media and online. Results saw a significant uplift in passenger journeys during the campaign, generating an additional £108k in ticket sales.



Best Community Engagement Project



Friends of Blair Atholl Station for Sharing our Past, Building our Future

An intergenerational, multimedia project that set out to help the community reconnect and engage with its neglected station. Personal stories, anecdotes and recollections from across the local community were collated and promoted through a series of podcasts, published as a book and even turned into a short film. The group used the stories to engage with local schoolchildren around the station's history and also hosted a weekend-long exhibition to showcase some of the highlights for all the community to take pride in.





Southeast Communities Rail Partnership and Explore the Arch for A Town Explores a Book

Southeast Communities Rail Partnership worked with a group of 17–25 year-olds to research and create a heritage artwork exhibition and railway-themed street party as part of 'A Town Explores A Book', a community arts festival supporting young diverse readers to gain familiarity with their literary heritage.



Shortlist

- Cafe Art and MTR Elizabeth Line Cafe Art and MTR Elizabeth Line Project Partnership
- Community Rail Lancashire and Community Rail Cumbria – Soulful Days Out
- Chappel Station Adopters 175th anniversary of the Chappel Viaduct and the Gainsborough Line
- Conwy Valley and North Wales Coast CRP – E-bikes for Wellbeing

2025



Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership and Sally Crabtree for Birds on the Branchline

Through a series of wildlife conservation workshops, 265 people took part in birdthemed activities led by Sally Crabtree, performance poet and cultural animateur. Participants included adults with physical disabilities, refugees and young people with anxiety disorders. To celebrate the finished project, a pop-up exhibition was held at Liskeard Station and a podcast was featured on the local radio.



Winners Over The Years

2017 winner - Swale Rail CRP, Historical Research Group of Sittingbourne and Kent CRP for 'Ambulance Train'

This ambitious intergenerational event involved 21 community groups coming together to commemorate the role the area played during World War I, in particular the Ambulance Trains. Linking in with the 100th anniversary of the War, a special 'Poppy-branded' Javelin High Speed train connected 320 passengers with a series of interactive activities proving to be a powerful, educational and thought-provoking event.



2021 winner - Community Rail Lancashire for 100 Women, 100 Journeys

This project involved encouraging women to write about a memorable rail journey they had taken. The partnership collected 100 stories from 100 women and compiled them into a book sharing their recollections and experiences. These stories were then used to support rail recovery post-Covid by reminding readers of the romance of train travel, as well as promoting rail as a viable career option for young women. The project also helped to raise fund's for Women's Aid to support the Rail to Refuge campaign.

2024 winner - Severnside CRP, GWR REACH and Network Rail Cultural Fusion for 'Carnival Train'

The project involved providing free rail travel from Bristol Temple Meads to London Paddington to help reduce barriers to rail travel and open opportunities to under-represented groups, who would otherwise not have been able to attend the Notting Hill Carnival. Passengers were encouraged to festoon the carriages with carnival-themed artwork, Jamaican snacks were available and a steel band played upon arrival to Paddington Station.





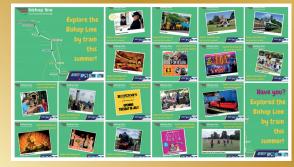
Tourism & Leisure Award



Bishop Line CRP for Explore the Bishop Line By Train This Summer

This campaign promoted six local attractions, how to get there easily by rail and the positive benefits of greener leisure travel options. Delivered through a range of different media including traditional print, digital and social, the campaign was well received with reports of stations featured seeing an increase in passenger footfall.







Community Rail Lancashire and partners for Yorkshire Dales Explorer

Community Rail Lancashire (CRL) worked with a host of partners including Settle-Carlisle Railway Development Company, local authorities, Rail North Partnership and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority, to encourage visitors to use the new train service for car-free access to the beautiful Yorkshire Dales area, and to join other activities that promote health and wellbeing, such as guided walks. CRL also arranged days out for groups including Darwen Asylum & Refugee Enterprise and Humraaz, an organisation which supports women from the BME community. To date 1.3k passengers have used the service with over 50% joining a guided walk.



Shortlist

- Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton CRP and Visit South Cambs – The South Cambridgeshire Rail and Ale Trail
- Southeast Communities Rail Partnership

 From Seaford to Seven Sisters the Sustainable Way
- Esk Valley RDC First New Year's Day Train
- 3 Counties Connected CRP #3CountiesByRail

• Gloucestershire CRP – An Innovative Approach to Responsible Tourism

2025



Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership, Blackmore Vale Line CRP, South Western Railway and Great Western Railway for Rail Ale Trails - A New Era!

With 16 pubs closing in the UK every week, Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership and Blackmore Vale Line CRP teamed up for a revitalised promotion of real ale pubs along community rail lines. Together with South Western Railway, the partnerships created a new 'Rail Ale Trail' between Salisbury and Exeter, inviting visitors from near and far to visit pubs along the line, collect stamps and win a t-shirt. Over 75 t-shirts have been claimed, with 688 pub visits and 53 pub meals bought, injecting thousands of pounds into the local economy as well as boosting rail journey figures.



Winners Over The Years

2019 winner - Heart of Wales Line Development Company for Heart of Wales Line Trail

The Heart of Wales Line Development Company created a long-distance walking trail linked to the line, to encourage sustainable tourism, healthy outdoor activity and the use of public transport, and to promote local businesses. The team consulted with a wide range of stakeholders, including four local authorities and Rights of Way teams, tourism and countryside bodies and local walking organisations to complete the full 140-mile route from Craven Arms to Llanelli.

2020 winner - Wherry Lines Community Rail Partnership, Lowestoft Central Project, Lowestoft Heritage Open Days Festival, and Network Rail for Lowestoft Signal Box Tours

This project engaged people in local railway heritage while raising awareness of community rail. The result was to offer unique tours of Lowestoft Signal Box, which had overseen the town's station and goods yard for over 100 years. The event was a major focal point for Lowestoft's Heritage Open Days Festival and welcomed several hundred visitors, ranging from ages five to 89.

2022 winner - Great Little Trains of Wales and the Community Rail Partnerships in Wales and the Borders for Wales on Rails

This sustainable pan-Wales tourism project was designed to provide a resource for tourist travellers to explore Wales by public transport, offering a series of maps, itineraries, and information cards, all explaining the heritage and social and cultural landscape of Wales to enrich the visitor experience. It consists of a website and complimentary social media channels that are still popular today.







Photo Competition | 'Best Image Capturing The Essence of Community Rail'



Settle-Carlisle Railway Development Company for Settle-Carlisle Calendar Girls

To celebrate 20 years of providing a refreshment trolley on the Settle-Carlisle Railway, the staff and volunteers providing the service have been raising money for the local air ambulance service. The team has raised £1,000 through sponsored walks and from sales of a special Settle-Carlisle Railway calendar, from which this photo was taken. This winning photo was chosen by the public and received over 600 votes.





North Staffordshire Community Rail Partnership with Avanti West Coast for Our Railway Themed Poems Are In These Booklets!



Shortlist

- Gloucestershire CRP Cotswolds Car Free
- Friends of Kents Bank Station & Foreshore – Joyful Smiles at Kents Bank Community Fete!
- Friends of St. Albans City Station Community + Rail, Set in Stone
- Friends of Buxton Station Bee a Volunteer
- Platform Thumbs Up for Adventure!
- Sarah Grove Shout out to the Rail and Ale Trail
- Barton-Cleethorpes CRP I love my EMR safety book!
- Leeds-Morecambe CRP Onboard the Manxman Sharing Project Success
- Barton-Cleethorpes CRP I want to be in the photo too!

2025



Friends of Goostrey Station for Keeping Up Appearances



Winners Over The Years



2008 winner – Until We Meet Again by Geraint Morgan



2013 winner – Cromford by Derwent Valley



2017 winner - We Would Like To Apologise That The Next Train To Wareham Is 45 Years Late by Phil Dominey



Influencing Positive Change & Sustainability



Gloucestershire CRP for Youth Travel Toolkit

Through workshops, surveys and research, the partnership brought together over 600 young people, five businesses and multiple rail industry partners to address sustainable travel challenges collaboratively, but with a youth-led approach. This resulted in the production of a comprehensive toolkit, to empower businesses to engage young people and consider their aspirations for greener travel.





Severnside CRP, Sustainable Hive CIC & West Country Crimestoppers for Fishing for Change

This initiative offered families from disadvantaged neighbourhoods in Bristol and Bath a unique multi-model day out. 130 people joined the adventure that started with a train ride, linking up with Bristol Community Ferries, before transferring to SeaCycler, an electric-powered punt made from recycled plastic for a 'litter fishing' experience, collecting litter from the harbour.

The project aimed to strengthen community cohesion by supporting families to try something fun and sustainable together, completely free of charge. With recent instances of knife crime prevalent in the areas participants live, the project incorporated early interventions to the crime epidemic through soft messaging and resources from Crimestoppers.



Shortlist

- Greening Arundel and the Green Team A Green Welcome to Arundel Community Rail Lancashire with Accrington & Rossendale College – Supporting students on NVQ Railway Maintenance Course
- Friends of Brockenhurst Station Lymington Hospital Connectivity Study
- Platform Transport Takeover

 Friends of Buxton Station – Flagship station for biodiversity pilot project <mark>2025</mark>



Helmsdale Station CIC for The Helmsdale Station Project

Through tireless fundraising spanning over 10 years, Helmsdale Station has undergone a massive transformation to restore the once derelict station building. In 2014, His Majesty the King officially unveiled a plaque commemorating the 150th anniversary and the dedication of the volunteers in revitalising the station. The volunteers work closely with the local primary school offering students the chance to help maintain the station while also arranging rail trips for them to develop rail confidence and sustainable transport habits.



Winners Over The Years

2018 winner - Women in Community Rail for 'Achieving Change Together'

Women in Community Rail (WiCR) supports colleagues in the community rail family to work towards a more inclusive, tolerant, and diverse society. Part of their work saw them develop a code of conduct which has now been widely adopted across community rail groups and the rail industry, used as a tool to challenge inappropriate behaviour.



2024 winner – Community Rail Education Network and Cross Country for Travel Green with Daffnee Green

This initiative saw the development of a suite of resources to engage 7-11 year olds in learning about rail's green credentials. The character of Daffnee Green was created to tell the story of what the railways are doing to address climate change and the positive benefits of taking the train. The bank of resources has proved to be an effective, engaging and easy to deliver solution to a gap in the curriculum, putting sustainability at the heart of children's learning.



Most Enhanced Railway Spaces





Severnside CRP for Mike Hodge Community Room at Bridgwater Station

Severnside CRP has breathed new life into this Grade II listed station building, creating a warm, inviting and accessible space where people in the community can gather, hold meetings and host small-scale events. The Mike Hodge Community Room, named after a dedicated station volunteer (who is still going strong in his nineties!) was officially opened during Community Rail Week last year and has been popular with local community groups, receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback and repeat bookings.



Shortlist

• Southeast Communities RP – Battle Community Hub

• Friends of Glazebrook Station – Community Orchard

• Severnside CRP – Mike Hodge Community Room at Bridgwater Station

Winners Over The Years

2014 winner – Highland Main Line CRP and Pitlochry in Bloom for Pitlochry Station Refurbishment

A major refurbishment of Pitlochry Station was delivered as part of its 150th anniversary celebrations. The restoration included work on the station's footbridge, cladding, windows, doors and other areas of the station in need of care. With direct links to Inverness, Edinburgh and London Kings Cross, it was important that the work would enable passengers to feel welcome and safe. In one of the waiting rooms, a vibrant mural was created to brighten the area, planters were installed with colourful blooms and the historic charm of the station was brought back to life.



The Friends group restored and relocated an old red phone booth to house the station's automated external defibrillator (AED). Once complete the group held a launch event working with local brewers, Red Willow, and their popular 'Heartless' ale to maximise exposure and inform the community about the life-saving addition at the station. With this initiative, the team not only saved a classic piece of British street furniture, they also provided the potential to save lives.





We have welcomed over **7,000** guests to our prestigious ceremonies

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It's Your Station



Platinum Lead: Friends of Buxton Station

Since they were established in 2009, the Friends of Buxton Station (FOBS) have worked tirelessly to establish their station as a welcoming, vibrant and accessible community hub. Recent community development and environmental work includes: advancing rewilding programmes, encouraging 'bumblebee safaris', supporting Ukrainian settlers to feel part of the community and improving station signage and wayfinding.







Gold Lead: Coöperatie Stationspark Deurne

Coöperatie Stationspark Deurne is a station friends' group that is putting community rail firmly on the map of the Netherlands. The group has positioned Deurne Station as a vibrant hub at the heart of its community, delivering a diverse range of projects including a bicycle service point, a book exchange and a Fairtrade catering facility. Going well beyond their station, Coöperatie Stationspark Deurne has built momentum on a wider scale, gathering best practice from the UK and empowering community groups at other stations to carry out impactful initiatives.







Silver Lead: Friends of Bishopstone Station CIC

Once an old, disused parcel room and ticket office and now a thriving community hub, Bishopstone Station has gone from strength to strength this year thanks to the dedicated group of volunteers. As well as managing and maintaining the hub, the Friends group maintain the station garden with wildflowers and bee-friendly plants, host seed swaps and a pop-up pantry scheme, and organise art workshops for children. Through their hard work and determination, the volunteers have truly breathed new life into their station, establishing it's indispensable place at the heart of community life.







Bronze Lead: Habrough **Station Adopters**

Habrough Station Adopters have only been together since the end of 2023 but in their first few months they worked hard to bring colour and cohesion to a previously neglected space. Their activities have developed from litter picking and clearing rubbish and weeds from the main green space, to making plans for art installations and the addition of bug hotels and bird boxes. Where previously passengers were greeted by untidy planters and an overgrown garden, they are now met by beautiful vibrant planting and an attractive, tidy station. The work has provided the opportunity for the whole community to share knowledge, skills and ideas, as well as increasing their confidence, physical activity and wellbeing.





Shortlist (by banding)

Bronze

- Friends of Southwick Station
- Beverley in Bloom
- Friends of Hale Station
- Settle-Carlisle RDC

Silver

- Grow Feral & Open Return Garden, Weston-Super-Mare
- Uttoxeter Station Adopters
- Greening Arundel and the Green Team
- Kidsgrove Station Adopters
- Friends of Glazebrook Station
- Stone Station Volunteers
- Bottesford Friendly Garden
- Evesham Station Garden Project
- Friends of Bletchley Station
- Friends of Chirk Station
- Boston Station Adopters

- Kettering Civic Society
- Lincoln Station Adopters
- Friends of Learnington Spa Station (Coronation Corner)
- Friends of Bradford-on-Avon Station
- Friends of Prestbury Station
- Friends of Radcliffe Station
- Friends of Torquay Station
- Friends of Lowdham & Burton Joyce Stations
- Friends of Yatton Station
- Station
- Adopters
- Great Coates in Bloom
- Friends of Cark Station

 Friends of Gordon Hill Station

Gold

- Wyre Forest & District U3a and Kidderminster Station Adopters
- All Aboarders (Welwyn Garden City)
- Friends Of Angmering Station

Platinum

- Friends of Hindley Station
- Friends of Glossop Station
- Friends of Goostrey Station

Winners Over The Years

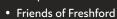
2024 Platinum Lead -Friends of Hindley Station

2024 Gold Lead -**Friends of Brighouse Station**

2019 Silver Lead -**Action Stations (Bingley & Crossflatts)**

2016 Bronze Lead -Friends of Hattersley Station

- Friends of Blair Atholl
- Peartree Station



Outstanding Volunteer Contribution



Jaymii Claxton -Bulwell Station

Jaymii has demonstrated an outstanding volunteer contribution at Bulwell Station, consistently going above and beyond in serving the needs of passengers, the station and the local community. Jaymii is East Midlands Railway's youngest volunteer and has been active at Bulwell Station



since 2021. Jaymii has worked with Buzzing Roots CIC to take on the challenge of transforming the large piece of disused land behind the platform and has organised community action days for local people to help out with litter picking and planting at the station. Through tireless dedication and a genuine commitment to service, Jaymii has become an invaluable asset to the station, positively impacting staff and passengers, and creating a more vibrant, friendly environment for everyone to be proud of. She is a shining example of what a community rail volunteer can bring to stations.



Anne Ridley -Tyne Valley CRP

Anne has been supporting Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership as marketing, communications and events director for over six years, bringing a wealth of skills to the partnership's board. Anne worked hard to increase the partnership's networking through her active role in Carlisle



Ambassadors, as well as advocating for the CRP to join the North East Chamber of Commerce. Her reflective voice and experiences of business processes provided valuable input around the Tyne Valley CRP board table, particularly at a time when the board was looking to develop income streams. Anne loves to keep busy and is a passionate, lifelong learner, never afraid of a challenge!

Shortlist

• Gina Haigh – Nantwich Station

• Harry Allen – Friends of Plumley Station Kath Beck – Chappel and Wakes Colne Station • Mike Shanto – Friends of Blair Atholl Station Rachel Grimwood – Harold Wood Community Group

2025



Jill Tiernan - Settle-Carlisle Railway Development Company

Jill has been a driving force at the heart of the Settle-Carlisle Railway Development Company for over 15 years. As the partnership's accessibility and inclusion officer, Jill is the 'go to' person for guidance and support around how the group can ensure



their initiatives enable the whole community to take part. has been the driving force in supporting Settle Station to achieve 'Dementia Friendly' status, and her work with Dementia Forward culminated last year in an art exhibition celebrating the 'Making Memories' project. Jill has also built relationships with schools, community groups, charities and individuals living along the line with enthusiasm and passion to promote how community rail can help make a positive difference to people's lives.



Winners Over The Years

2018 winner - Neil Williams - Friends of Glossop Station

Neil Williams is described as a "truly outstanding" volunteer. He is the founder member of Friends of Glossop Station (FOGS) and has been elected as chair for over 14 years. He actively participates in practical activities such as gardening and cleaning, but also works tirelessly promoting community rail in the local and wider community. He not only represents the group at meetings, seminars, conferences, and other community rail events, he is also a fantastic ambassador for the movement as a whole.



2021 winner – Dave Carlisle – Friends of Buxton Station

Dave's approach is described as "innovative", and "a breath of fresh air", and his determination and passion ensure he always gets results. He is extremely persuasive – as local council planning officers can testify – but also inclusive of everyone and happy to share his knowledge and ideas. This can be seen in his pride at mentoring other adoption groups, and his enthusiasm when showcasing FoBS' projects. He has a "relentless stream of creativity and energy," and is always sure to thank anyone who supports the group's work. In recent years, Dave has led FoBS to success in projects ranging from the installation of a defibrillator housed in an old phone box at the station, to a host of wildlife and biodiversity schemes, including the creation of a 'Japanese Garden' and a campaign to support Buxton's rare and endangered Bilberry bumblebee.



2024 winner - Barbara Mine - Bishopstone Community Hub

A volunteer with the Friends of Bishopstone Station, Barbara was nominated for this award by her colleagues in recognition of the outstanding difference she has made to her group and the local community. Barbara has worked tirelessly to help transform the long-redundant ticket office into a thriving community hub. Harnessing the qualities and experience from her former role as a sales executive, she has brought that same drive to steer the project from conception to completion – even being named one of 500 'Community Champions' recognised by the King as part of the official Coronation celebrations. Barbara's grit, determination and tenacity are just some of the qualities that enabled the major station development project to take place. She reflects community rail at its very finest.



Board's Special Recognition Award

<mark>2025</mark>



Awarded to: Brian Barnsley

One of the pioneers of community rail, indeed from before it was even called that, Brian started out as a volunteer on his local line, the Penistone Line, before becoming the partnership officer.

In 2006, Brian joined the small Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP) team as operations manager. As ACoRP became the Community Rail Network, Brian's role grew to become director of member support & development and deputy chief executive. Brian worked tirelessly to support community rail partnerships and station friends' groups across England, Scotland and Wales, before retiring in 2023.

Always ready to share the benefit of his community rail experience and phenomenal railway knowledge, Brian has enjoyed a long and fulfilling career, advocating for the grassroots movement and supporting it to withstand a number of challenging times.

Community rail would not be what it is today without the incredible drive, expertise and passion demonstrated by Brian, and we are delighted to recognise all of his outstanding achievements with this award. "Brian has played a vital role over a very long period in the development of community rail both locally and across the UK. He was a great help to me in my role here at the Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership, particularly regarding funding bids. I have always found Brian to be positive, helpful and thoroughly committed. Lots of us across community rail have much to thank him for. Thank you, Brian."

Richard Burningham, manager of the Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership and former Community Rail Network chair







Winners Over The Years



2021 winner - Kulvinder Bassi MBE

Throughout the 15 years Kul was part of the community rail team at Department for Transport, he was pivotal in securing and maintaining departmental support for community rail, and through his chairmanship of the Civil Service Staff Network, he was able to introduce community rail to other government departments.



2022 winner - Richard Watts

Richard is one of the founders of community rail, and has been a proud ambassador for the movement at a national level, showing an exemplary commitment to consistently taking the movement forward. As chair of Community Rail Lancashire (CRL), Richard has led community rail in new and exciting directions, including a range of pioneering education programmes.



2024 winner – Heather Cullimore, Severnside CRP

For over 14 years, Heather has shown strong commitment to enrich the lives of those who live around the stations, with a passion for breaking down barriers, engaging diverse communities and enabling everyone to enjoy the benefits and freedom of rail travel. Heather's initiatives have seen huge success in boosting rail confidence and mobility among young people, refugees and asylum seekers, elderly people and those at risk of isolation, and members of the D/deaf community. One of Heather's most significant achievements was the joint creation of Platform, an award-winning rail education scheme working together with other community rail partnerships.



Outstanding Contribution to Community Rail 2025



Kent Community Rail Partnership

Kent CRP has delivered a vast range of projects over its 22-year history and across its three lines, from social inclusion and youth engagement to integrated travel and the redevelopment of station buildings. In addition, the CRP has worked with local organisations to engage with the public around rail safety, days out by rail and volunteering opportunities. It also plays an active role supporting others across community rail, peer to peer, through their involvement in the tourism network, sharing knowledge and experience to help others grow and develop.

Kent CRP is a partnership that continues to thrive year after year, meeting the needs of the wider community, and delivering incredible benefits on behalf of the community rail movement.





Greening Arundel

Greening Arundel is a passionate alliance of individuals and organisations dedicated to driving environmental change in Arundel. They believe in the power of collective action and community engagement to create a more sustainable, greener town for all. Station adoption is just one of their many projects, delivered by 30 dedicated volunteers known as the Arundel Green Team. In just two years, the volunteers have transformed the station and its environs to create a safer, more welcoming space which encourages biodiversity, active travel and community engagement.





Winners Over The Years

2017 winner - Community Rail Cumbria







2019 winner - Mytholmroyd Station Partnership







2021 winner – Southeast Communities Rail Partnership







2022 winner - Friends of Goostrey Station







Learn more about our previous winners: communityrail.org.uk/awards

Categories Of Years Gone By

As community rail has grown and developed over two decades, so have our Award categories. Here's a small nod to some of the categories we've celebrated over the years...



Best Community Rail Website

2007 winner – Bittern & Wherry Lines



Best Railway Pub

2007 winner - Batemans Brewery Tap, Poacher Line



Rolling Stock Award

2006 winner - ScotRail for the Class 322 refurbishment



Passengers Matter

2011 winner - Bittern Line CRP & Paston College



Community Art Schemes 2017 winner - ScotRail Alliance for

Kilmarnock Connections



Local Transport Integration

2006 winner - Docklands Light Rail for London City Airport Station

