

Jools Townsend
Chief executive

AGM

Wednesday 5 November 2025



Impact report 2024-25



- Major political change
- Rail reform powers ahead
- Railway 200 gets underway
- Major new grants from Motability Foundation
- Member support development



Key numbers on us & our delivery

- ✓ **75** community rail partnership members
- ✓ **329** station groups and community station members
- ✓ **18** webinars, training courses & events
- ✓ **5** networking and discussion groups
- ✓ **227** Awards entries, with **20** winners and **510** guests
- ✓ **110** activities held during Community Rail Week
- ✓ **9,655** social media friends/followers
- ✓ **£419,052** provided in grants
- ✓ **23** staff members



Supporting & empowering members



- 1,080 instances of support and advice
- Creating opportunities for networking and exchange
- Building resilience through turbulent times
- Expertise on education, tourism, multi-modal travel
- Enhancing how we work to support a growing membership



Friends of Prestbury Station



Tyne Valley CRP



Severnside CRP

“ Face-to-face meetings have helped us to consider plans for future activities. Community Rail Network team members are always very willing to share ideas and to offer help wherever needed. ”

“ I think the quality of training offered and how it is delivered is one of Community Rail Network’s greatest strengths. ”

“ As CRP Officers, we spend a lot of time sitting by ourselves trying to figure things out, so being in a room of other passionate officers is invaluable. ”

“ The [Community Rail Network] team make [it] feel like we are part of a warm and friendly family that we can trust and get support from. This is a big deal, as we can often feel a little isolated in our roles by the nature of the structures we work within. I feel like no matter what the issue or challenge, we can always seek support from the team. ”

“ The support we received from Community Rail Network was greatly appreciated. Their guidance – from initial planning to securing funding – ensured we had the confidence and tools to launch successfully. It helped lay the groundwork for a CRP that truly reflects and serves our communities. ”

- Verity Lewis, community rail officer for Three Valleys CRP

“ Thank you so much for a fantastic session expertly delivered by the training team. I really can’t stress enough how amazing it is to work with like-minded individuals with common goals despite geographical differences. ”

Informing policy & decision-making



- Meetings with Ministers & Shadow teams, GBRTT
- Speaking at major transport events & forums
- Inputting to consultations & inquiries
- Chairing Sustainable Transport Alliance
- Regional engagement with mayors & senior officials



With our Sustainable Transport Alliance partners on World Car Free Day



Showcasing the value of community rail at Lumo's Parliamentary Reception

Putting community rail at the forefront of change

- Scenic Rail Britain revamp / 105k visitors over the year
- Days Out by Rail, Oct '24
- Profile-raising in Scotland
- Resources & research on cross-modal integration and community engagement
- Motability grants achieved
- Record-breaking Awards
- Community Rail Week May 2024: More than a Railway



With Scottish CRPs at the Rail Scotland Conference



Launching the Value of Community Rail report at Coventry Station



93 partners and **20** train operating companies supported the campaign on social media

“

The resources provided by Community Rail Network for campaigns are excellent and all credit to the team/s who pull them together.

”

“

We enjoyed participating in Community Rail Week and valued the support material. Keep it coming!

”



85 CRPs and station groups involved



110 member-led events and activities took place



3.7k unique users visited our website



50 pieces of media coverage



113 downloads of the member toolkit



88k views of Community Rail Network content across social media

Railway 200



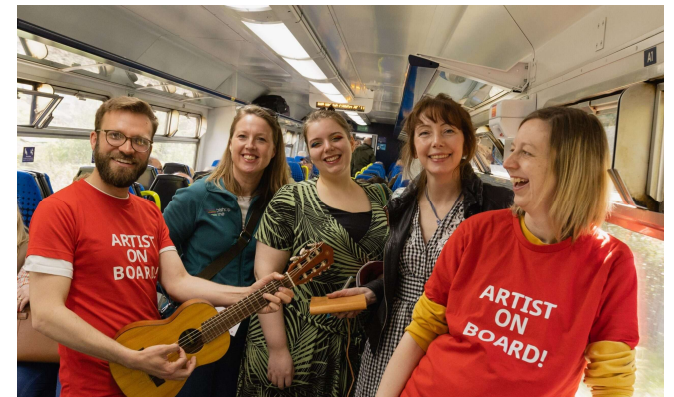
- Steering group input
- Five online info sessions
- Toolkit of digital resources
- ‘Waving in’ the celebrations on social media
- 200+ member events and activities so far in 2025



Exhibition train at Lowestoft Station



Bentham Line CRP



Bishop Line CRP

Creating a conducive environment

- Feeding into GBRTT, DFTO, DfT, devolved authorities
- Network Rail's Greener Railways Strategy
- Motability grants
- Corporate partners scheme
- Third sector partnerships
- Growing our evidence base
- Helping members evidence value & explore wider income



Gloucestershire CRP



TeamBA with West Midlands Railway station adopters



Members' survey 2025

- Good value? 94% CRPs & 86% station groups say 👍
- Good communication? 90% CRPs & 85% station gps say 👍
- Joined events/training? 94% CRPs & 75% station gps say 👍
- Had direct support? 92% CRPs & 78% station gps say 👍
- Involved in campaigns? 80% CRPs & 28% station gps say 👍
- CRP focuses: local engagement, tourism & leisure, promoting rail
- Station groups: arts/creative/history, volunteers, gardening/wildlife
- Support for sharing insights on wide-ranging policy issues

>> Development areas: succession planning, funding, changing political landscape & devolution, our role in rail reform



Looking ahead

- Strategic review underway
- Proactive, confident input on rail reform, while keeping members engaged
- Playing our part in transport integration & devolution
- Strengthening our member support while growing the movement
- Ongoing focus on fundraising & resilience
- Evidencing our/your impacts & value
- Strengthening regional relationships
- Pursuing charity registration



Barrow in Bloom

Robin Hood Line CRP



Key opportunities for you



- Community Rail Awards (19 March 2026)
- Community Rail Week (TBC June 2026)
- Community Rail Conference (TBC Oct 2026)
- Networking & sharing sessions for officers / chairs / station groups
- Tourism, education & integration networks
- Topic-specific training, webinars, resources and campaigns
- Talk to the team for queries and help

>> Please share evidence of your impact!



Essex & South Suffolk CRP



Use your member benefits:
communityrail.org.uk/join-us

Keep up to date:
communityrail.org.uk
Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram,
Bluesky, TikTok and X

Keep talking to us:
[communityrail.org.uk/about-us/
our-team-and-board/](https://communityrail.org.uk/about-us/our-team-and-board/)



Conwy Valley & North Wales Coast CRP

Questions, comments, thoughts?

