

Welcoming the Community Rail Awards to the East Midlands

Showcasing the region!

East Midlands Railway is delighted to be headline partner of the 2026 Community Rail Awards. With the East Midlands having a rich railway history, we are excited to welcome attendees and invite you to explore our routes.

Along with our Community Rail Partnerships, we have organised some fantastic opportunities for you to visit some key attractions whilst attending the awards in Derby.

As well as these events, we urge you to visit our [dedicated webpage here](#) for our Community Rail and Heritage lines to take the opportunity to perhaps stay and explore for a long weekend.

EAST MIDLANDS RAILWAY EVENTS

‘WELCOME TO DERBY’

Wednesday 18 March, 17:00 – 19:00

Join Will Rogers our Managing Director for our Welcome to Derby event. Enjoy drinks, canapes, keynote speakers and a very special performance of ‘**I am George Stephenson**’ performed by the award-winning Graves Youth Theatre.

There will be a chance to network and a goody bag for all attendees.

Places are strictly limited therefore early booking is encouraged.

 **Book your place via Eventbrite: [Welcome to Derby](#)**

‘RAILWAY 200 – WITNESSING THE INNOVATION’

Friday 20 March, 09:30 – 14:00 (approx.)

Join the EMR Community Team for this very special trip to Barrow Hill Roundhouse. Including a guided tour, a sneak peek at the new innovation centre and chance to look at some locos through time, this is a trip not to be missed.

After visiting Barrow Hill, we will then take you to Holy Trinity Church in Chesterfield where George Stephenson is laid to rest, to explore the EMR supported exhibition all about his life.

There are very limited places on this trip, early booking is encouraged.

 **Book your place via Eventbrite: [Trip to Barrow Hill Roundhouse](#)**

Please note these events are being run by EMR independently from Community Rail Network.

For any questions regarding these events please email stationadoption@eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk in the first instance.

COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIPS' EVENTS

'UTTOXETER HISTORICAL WALK' – WITH NORTH STAFFS CRP

Thursday 19 March, 12:00 at Uttoxeter > Depart Derby 11:26

Flexible return with an hourly train service to Derby leaving Uttoxeter at 13:14, 14:14, 15:14

Uttoxeter is one of those towns that often surprises people once they spend some time there. Famed for its racecourse, it continues to be full of market town charm. It also has a deeper history, being where Dr Samuel Johnson (the famous dictionary writer) stood bareheaded in the rain for hours as an act of penance for once refusing to help his father on the market stall (there's a statue marking the spot) and features several other interesting historic quirks.

This guided walk will start at the Railway Station, taking in the station gardens, artwork, and continuing through the historical town. At the end of the walk attendees will be able to visit Redfern's Cottage (small admission fee of £3), a fascinating living history museum, where participants are then welcome to take tea in the café, or to sample one of the towns many traditional pubs or microbreweries. The guided walk will be around ½ mile with return trips to stations self-led but guide on hand to offer assistance.

Maximum attendance 20.

 **Book your place via Eventbrite: [Uttoxeter historical walk](#)**

Please note this event is run independently from Community Rail Network. For any questions regarding this event please email: Charlotte.Eccles@stoke.gov.uk

'CROMFORD CANAL WALK' – WITH DERWENT VALLEY CRP

Thursday 19 March > Depart Derby by train at 10:49 > arriving back to Derby at 13:17 or 14:17

We will meet at Derby train station and travel to Whatstandwell station (arrive 11:12) to meet members of the local adopter group. This will be followed by a lovely 2 mile walk along the Cromford canal to Ambergate (arriving on foot at around 12:40), to meet the adopters there and hear about their community garden. If time allows we can also explore the railway heritage of Ambergate station.

Ambergate used to have 6 platforms over 3 stations but is now reduced to one platform. Return to Derby from Ambergate at either 12:59 (13:17) or 13:59 (14:17).

Note: Lunch will not be provided, you are advised to bring your own with you.

Maximum attendance 20.

 **Book your place via Eventbrite: [Cromford Canal Walk](#)**

Please note this event is run independently from Community Rail Network. For any questions regarding this event please email: David.Clasby@derbyshire.gov.uk

‘LONGTON BOTTLE KILN WALK’ – WITH NORTH STAFFS CRP

Friday 20 March, 11:15 (*duration - 90mins approx.*)

Longton is the southernmost of Stoke-on-Trent’s six towns and its second busiest shopping location. There were once 4000 coal fired bottle kilns in the six towns, today only 47 remain, of which 20 are in the town of Longton. This guided walk will take them all in, with the guide highlighting the role and significance historically, and explaining how industry shaped the Potteries.

The guided walk will be around 2 miles and take around 1.5 hours, starting and finishing at the station, with participants welcome to remain in Longton after the walk to visit other local attractions including Longton Victorian Market or take part in some retail therapy.

Maximum attendance 20.

 **Book your place via Eventbrite: [Longton bottle kiln walk](#)**

Please note this event is run independently from Community Rail Network. For any questions regarding this event please email: Charlotte.Eccles@stoke.gov.uk

‘BELPER, RAILWAYS AND WORLD HERITAGE SITE’ – WITH DERWENT VALLEY CRP

Friday 20 March - depart Derby by train at 09:49,

Flexible return with an hourly train service to Derby

A visit to the historic market town of Belper. Meet the adopters and explore the wonderful work they do around the station, followed by a railways and Belper heritage walk with Adrian Farmer from Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site team and Belper resident. 2026 is also ‘Belper 250’ as it is 250 years since The Strutt family opened their first mill in Belper. The Strutt family had a big influence on the railway and the town.

Maximum attendance 20.

 **Book your place via Eventbrite: [Belper, Railways and World Heritage Site](#)**

Please note this event is run independently from Community Rail Network. For any questions regarding this event please contact: David.Clasby@derbyshire.gov.uk