

Between the Lines

SWR Community Rail Newsletter

Issue 2 | September 2022

Welcome back to Between the Lines, the South Western Railway (SWR) community rail newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about all of the exciting things that have kept us busy all summer. We love hearing all of your wonderful stories, so please keep sending them in on a regular basis to be included for future editions. You can email them to Matthew.Parkinson@swrailway.com

Welcoming a new station adopter to the network

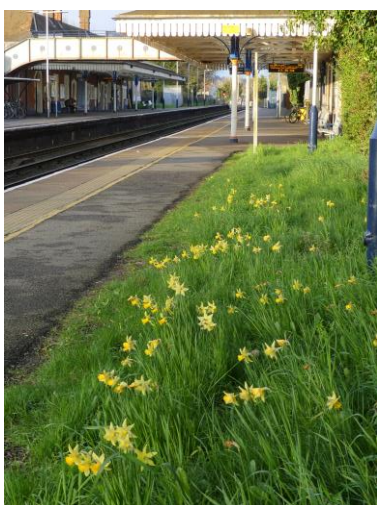
Some new adopters have joined the team at **Hinton Admiral** – The Sheiling College, Ringwood. Here's what they had to say:

"The students and staff here at The Sheiling College are really excited to be officially welcomed on board as community rail members! Our main objectives will be to keep the train station looking wonderful and inviting for those who visit, whilst providing ample opportunities for work experience in a range of vocational skills for our students. The world of work can be a daunting one for young adults with special educational needs and we hope to engage the local community at Hinton Admiral to join us on our new venture!"



Southampton to Dorchester 175

Celebrations were held in June to mark the Southampton to Dorchester Railway's 175th anniversary. There were lots of festivities on the stretch of line between Southampton and Dorchester, including a delicious cake at Southampton Central. **Purbeck CRP**, **Three Rivers CRP**, **New Forest CRP**, and Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole Council's **Mind the Gap** project were all hosted events at stations and in Wareham and Dorchester. Wareham Library Service read some extracts onboard six morning trains between Wareham and Dorchester South. Bournemouth University students also created a project on the history of railway. You can take a look at this here: (<https://purbeckcrp.org.uk/bournemouth-university-project/>).



The BIG Bulb Plant Out!

During National Customer Service Week (Monday 3rd – Friday 7th October), various SWR colleagues and Station Adopters will be getting involved in The Big Bulb Plant Out and Autumn station clean. We will be planting a mixture of 17,000 bulbs at over 30 locations around the network.



**South Western
Railway**

West Byfleet mural

Recently, the old and tired mural opposite the station ticket office at West Byfleet got a makeover. Local artist Nathalie Beauvillain Scott was commissioned to upgrade the space, someone who has created many murals in the community. *“Funds have been secured through SWR Sustainability Funding to re-do the art work. Without this generous funding the mural wouldn’t have been possible.”* said Louisa Abrahams, a founding member of the West Byfleet Community Gardening Group. *“The old mural was a superhero but its days were over; it was cracked and unrecognisable. New ideas for the mural centre on the themes of nature, local wildlife, community and travel. It’s a really exciting time now everything is coming together.”*

Through discussions with **West Byfleet Station Adoption group**, Louisa liaised with the Art Department at nearby Fullbrook School to bring local school children onboard to this community project. On 11 July Nathalie started her work in the middle of a major heatwave. On 15 July some of the Year 8 art students and their teachers from Fullbrook joined in and, under supervision, they painted sections of the new mural.

Nathalie said *“It has been a pleasure to work with the Fullbrook Art Team and their students. They spent a day on the mural for them to get a feel of what it is like to work on a big scale. Their talent and enthusiasm is inspiring. I have also very much enjoyed chatting to the commuters about the mural and the story behind it”*.



Celebrating success

We are proud and delighted to be shortlisted for not one, but two different upcoming awards. Firstly, the National Rail Awards – good luck to **Tolworth Station Adoption group** for their entry – and secondly, **seven shortlisted entries** categories for the Community Rail Network Awards.

The shortlisted categories are:

- **Involving Diverse Groups:**
Hampshire CRP / Winchester Go LD: Try the Train
- **Community Creative Projects and Station Arts:**
Feltham Arts Association / Feltham in Bloom, the Reach Hub: Feltham Station Gallery
- **Small Projects Award:**
Friends of Brockenhurst Station / Rail and Ramble
- **Best Community Engagement Project:**
The Community Brain / #ZiggyReturns #Celebrate72
- **Tourism and Leisure Award:**
Alton Town Council / SWR: Alton Walking Festival
- **Most Enhanced Railway Spaces:**
Solent Cycle Project c/o / Solent Remade – Havant Old Parcels Office
- **Station Friends and Adopters at the Heart of Communities:**
Sheree Whetren / Friends of Hedge End – Supporting the community



Water Vending Machines

SWR have partnered with 'Ape2o' to install new water vending machines at some of our stations. Our aim is to reduce the number of single use plastics and provide our customers with still and sparkling water at 25p per re-fill. Locations of the vending machines are at: Bournemouth, Hampton Court, Twickenham, Putney, Vauxhall, Wimbledon, Kingston, and Richmond.

<https://www.ape2o.com/>



Brockenhurst & Sway – Ride & Stride

Lots of leaflets have been distributed to hotels, B&B's, and local businesses in Sway. The leaflets give information on the inter-station walk – 'ride and stride' – between Sway and Brockenhurst stations. The adopters at both stations worked in conjunction on this project, and following the success, are hoping to design a further inter-station walk together next year based on a different route. So if you enjoy a leisurely walk, and train rides, this one is for you!



Ryde Esplanade – Macmillan Cake Event

Over on the Isle of Wight, Ryde Esplanade Station hosted cake stalls in the ticket office area. Cakes were made by Island Line staff from all departments, including friends and family. Raffle and Tombola prizes were also donated by many, including local businesses. The cakes went down a treat, and lots of money was raised for Macmillan.



New Malden – New mural

New Malden Residents' Association has recently joined the Station Adopter network.

"In August 2022, we were delighted for New Malden to achieve our very own Lionel Stanthorpe mural, funded by the Royal Borough of Kingston (RBK). Lionel is known and admired for his retro station signs – our has added bees, a symbol of New Malden and Coombe when we were a separate borough. Many thanks to RBK, to South Western Railway and Network Rail for enabling the use of the wall, and to Natalie Walton, secretary of NMRA, for putting in the funding bid and organising the work. Special thanks to Fred Sweeney who helped prepare the wall."

- Liz Meerabeau, New Malden Adopters



**South Western
Railway**

Stations in Bloom 2022

“When Community Rail Partnerships work together amazing things can happen! Onboard for a series of tours in a month-long celebration of volunteering called ‘Stations in Bloom’ were five community rail partnerships from the SWR and GWR networks in Southern England; Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership, East Hampshire CRP, South Wessex CRP, Purbeck CRP and the Blackmore Vale Line CRP.

We had fantastic support, with six tours, forty stations visited and so many outstanding volunteers on hand to welcome teams. Volunteers willingly conducted tours around their stations, showing the teams all they are doing on a regular basis to make them into welcoming spaces for rail-users and visitors. It isn’t a competition but a celebration, with each station volunteer group receiving a special, unique award recognising their outstanding efforts.



The first regional awards ceremony is taking place in the beautiful West Dorset town of Sherborne and is being sponsored by the prestigious West Country business The Gardens Group. On Wednesday 19th October, volunteers are invited to join us for celebrations and afternoon tea. Claire Mann, Managing Director of South Western Railway, will be in attendance to present the awards.

Community Rail Officers, SWR and GWR, members of our visiting teams and especially the wonderful volunteers are all thanked for their ‘blooming’ marvellous efforts in making this venture such a success.

- Caroline Rowland, Partnership Officer for the Blackmore Vale Line Community Rail Partnership.”

Photo gallery

Photographs are an excellent way to show off all of the great work going on in the world of Community Rail. We have had lots of photos sent in from CRP's and Station Adopters showcasing your achievements and hard work put into enhancing stations – keep them coming, even better if you post on social media and tag us!



The launch of a new coffee shop at Honiton Station.



Maria Miller MP viewing student artwork at Basingstoke Station.



Dementia friendly Try the Train trip.



Lots of taps are appearing across the network!



Solent Remade in Havant – just one example of repurposing redundant spaces.



The launch of Beryl Bikes at Wool Station, promoting the use of sustainable travel.



New artwork in the waiting shelter at Winnersh.

Hampton Court Gardening Festival

"This July we exhibited at Hampton Court Garden Festival as part of their community allotment plot. The theme this year was food and so we worked off the well known Shakespeare quote 'If music be the food of love, play on' and created a garden called 'Symphony of the Wild'. We had three composers (Jon Shave - an accomplished composer, songwriter and music producer, who has worked with well known artists such as Rihanna and Little Mix. Samuel Robinson - A Kingston University music student and trainee composer. Marian Bore - an amateur composer) and a local primary school create music based on the sounds of the nature reserve, Tolworth Court Farm Fields, behind Tolworth station. We grew the wildflower meadow at the station as well as the plants we used to plant donated damaged instruments. Local design & make studio, 121 Collective, built the giant violin. The exhibit was popular, and has returned to Tolworth station to be planted up as part of our community garden there."

- Trudie Green, The Community Brain



Suit Yourself

In June, **The Isle of Wight CRP** has supported 9 women on the Suit Yourself project. The aim of the project is to provide delegates with a mix of personal development guidance and practical support to help them gain employment.

Since it was started on the Isle of Wight SYS has benefitted hundreds of women, encouraging a 'can do' attitude which, for many participants, has proved a turning point in their lives. The ten week course was held at Sandown Community Rooms at the station, and from this course, the majority of the candidates have moved onto employment or continued with further educational courses. In addition, attendees are supported with free transport on either the bus or by train from Island Line and Southern Vectis, removing additional barriers from people wanting to be able to attend the course.

Congratulations to those who have attended the course.

And finally... SWR Community Rail Conference 2022

We are looking forward to welcoming lots of our CRPs, Station Adopters, and Stakeholders to our annual Community Rail Conference. This year it will be held at The Guildhall in Salisbury on **Thursday 29th September 2022**. We have lots of guest speakers, and will be an excellent day for all.