

Schoolchildren unveil Mosaic and Artwork at Belper Station

Schoolchildren have unveiled a large Station Mosaic and Station Art Gallery of over 25 paintings at Belper Railway Station.

The colourful and vibrant scenes, produced by local schoolchildren depict local places of interest including Strutt's North Mill, Belper River Gardens, Belper town centre, local parks and play areas. A selection of the paintings were used to inspire the design for the impressive Station Mosaic located on Platform 1 at Belper.

Christine Gray, a local artist and member of Transition Belper worked with children from Herbert Strutt Primary School, Leaps and Bounds Nursery, St. Johns C of E Primary School and Turnditch C of E Primary School to produce the paintings. The children's paintings were scanned and printed onto large panels which now adorn the railings at Belper Railway Station.

The Station Mosaic wonderfully illustrates Belper's heritage by featuring Strutt's North Mill, and the River Derwent set within the beautiful landscape of the Derwent Valley. The Mosaic which comprises thousands of small ceramic tiles was produced at The Belper Goes Green ECO Festival by hundreds of festival goer's cutting ceramic tiles and using adhesive to build the mosaic. The Station Mosaic has been a real community project inspired by local children and produced by local people, facilitated by local artist Christine Gray. Once completed Christine, painstakingly grouted the Station Mosaic onto a specially built frame that had been built by staff from East Midlands Trains. The Station Mosaic and collection of children's artwork wonderfully complement the bright and colourful station gardens which are maintained by numerous Transition Belper volunteers.

David George, Chair of Transition Belper said "“This is true community art crafted by the children and people of Belper to welcome rail travellers to our town and tell visitors how proud we are to live in such a wonderful place. Congratulations and thanks to everyone involved.”"

Councillor Irene Ratcliffe, Chair of the Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership said “The Mosaic and dozens of paintings are a wonderful feature at the station and a real asset for the town. I am extremely pleased that the Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership has been able to support this wonderful project in so many ways including gaining funding from different sources to help make it a reality”.

Paul Mobbs, Customer Service Manager for East Midlands Trains, said: "“The fantastic artwork at Belper station is a great welcome to the town and a prime example of what we can achieve by working together. I would like to congratulate everyone involved in creating the artwork and look forward to passengers enjoying the new addition to the station”.

Transition Belper have co-ordinated the production of the artwork and Station Mosaic assisted with great support from the Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership and East Midlands Trains. Funding towards this project has been received from the Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP), Belper Town Council, Department for Transport, East Midlands Trains and Network Rail.

