



ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021

Message from the Chair

Welcome to the Derwent Valley Line
Community Rail Partnership's Annual Report
for 2020/21.

This report shows the Partnership's main
achievements during this challenging period
and sets out some of our plans for the future.



This entire year has been dominated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of which will prevail for the foreseeable future. The Partnership, like the rest of society has had to adjust to various restrictions, including essential travel only, social distancing and working from home.

Many projects have been delayed or put on hold, including an extensive range of rail marketing, which had been planned for spring and summer 2020. Restrictions on volunteer numbers has limited station activity, yet despite the challenges, many of our groups have gained more station adopters.

The rail industry has changed with less commuter and business travel, brought about by working from home and virtual meetings. As travel restrictions have eased, demand for leisure travel has increased and the Derwent Valley Line is well set, to cater for this demand.

The Partnership remains active and continues to be financially well supported, with rail industry funding from EMR and CrossCountry Trains, complemented by local authority support from Amber Valley Borough Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council and Peak District National Park Authority.

I would like to thank everyone, who despite the challenges, has contributed to the partnership over the last year, including the many volunteers who remain vital to the success of the Derwent Valley Line.

Councillor Trevor Ainsworth



News from the Line

Passenger Journeys on the Derwent Valley Line

Passenger journeys fell dramatically in 2020/21 reflecting the COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Station	Passenger Journeys 2020/21	Passenger Journeys 2019/20	% Change in Passenger Journeys 2019/20 to 2020/21
Ambergate	8,897	41,720	-78.7%
Belper	49,388	236,579	-79.1%
Cromford	8,652	44,629	-80.6%
Duffield*	12,789	76,991	-83.4%
Matlock	44,543	223,257	-80%
Matlock Bath	17,418	68,104	-74.4%
Whatstandwell	6,268	27,210	-77%
Total at all stations	147,955	718,491	-79.4%

*Total includes through tickets to Wirksworth from Duffield

New Derwent Valley Line Logo

While all rail marketing was on hold, we took the opportunity to refresh our Derwent Valley Line and associated Community Rail Partnership logo. Working with EMR's Design Team the main features of the logo have been updated, including an updated train 'flowing through the valley' - mimicking the newer class 170 train, which will be used on the line. The new logo will be used to influence the design of our new website and brand development for the line.



Supporting COVID-19 crisis hit communities along the Derwent Valley Line

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, East Midlands Railway provided funding of £1,500 to the Community Rail Partnership to support Rural Action Derbyshire's foodbanks in Long Eaton, Belper and Matlock. This funding helped to support increased demand on local foodbanks due to the additional financial difficulties that many people were facing. The funding from EMR helped purchase 'top-up' supplies for food parcels as well as helping towards the costs of operating home delivery services, such as vehicle hire and fuel costs.



Jigsaw Foodbank, Matlock



Station Adoption

Ambergate station

Throughout spring and early summer, the usual volunteer activity at our stations was curtailed as part of the national lockdown restrictions. In late summer, in line with some easing of restrictions, station adopters were allowed to move from their own garden to the station garden, socially distanced, in small groups and following new working procedures.

Social interaction gradually returned as our station adopters reconnected and spruced up their stations. More local people got involved, with a significant expansion in the group at Ambergate, along with new volunteers at Matlock Bath and Whatstandwell, increasing the number of station volunteers to over 60 along the line.

Groups in Matlock, Matlock Bath and Cromford were kindly offered surplus plants by Derbyshire Dales District Council to brighten up their stations, with Matlock Bath also benefitting from new 'self-watering' type planting barrels.

At Ambergate and Whatstandwell, significant work was undertaken to rejuvenate planters and brighten up the station environments for the autumn, while extensive garden areas at Belper, Cromford and Duffield were brought back under the care of their groups.

The station groups were supported by Community Rail Partnership and EMR staff in particular by Kev Knight, Station Service Technician and Alexa Stott, the newly appointed Community Ambassador.



Whatstandwell station



Matlock Bath station



Belper station

Community Projects

Children's Pumpkin Creations Illuminate Ambergate station



Ambergate Station Adopters organised a wonderful Pumpkin Carving Competition to enable local schoolchildren to enjoy Halloween.

Ambergate Primary School's annual pumpkin carving competition was under threat due to COVID-19 restrictions for indoor gatherings, until an offer from Ambergate Station Adopters to host the event. More than 25 children took part from the village school and the pumpkins created an impressive Halloween display on the approach road up to the station.

The pumpkins were carved into a vast range of scary faces and creative creatures including an elephant, cat and octopus. The pumpkins formed part of an extensive Halloween display in the station garden area along with ghosts, skeletons, witches and fictional gravestones created by the Ambergate Station Adopters.



Judges from the Community Rail Partnership and EMR awarded prizes across the different age groups with winners receiving tickets for family days out to Cromford Mill, Ecclesbourne Valley Railway and Heights of Abraham along with complimentary train travel from EMR. All the entrants received an EMR goodie bag including Derwent Valley Line Activity Book, balloons and pens.

Turning Around Vulnerable Young Lives Through Engineering



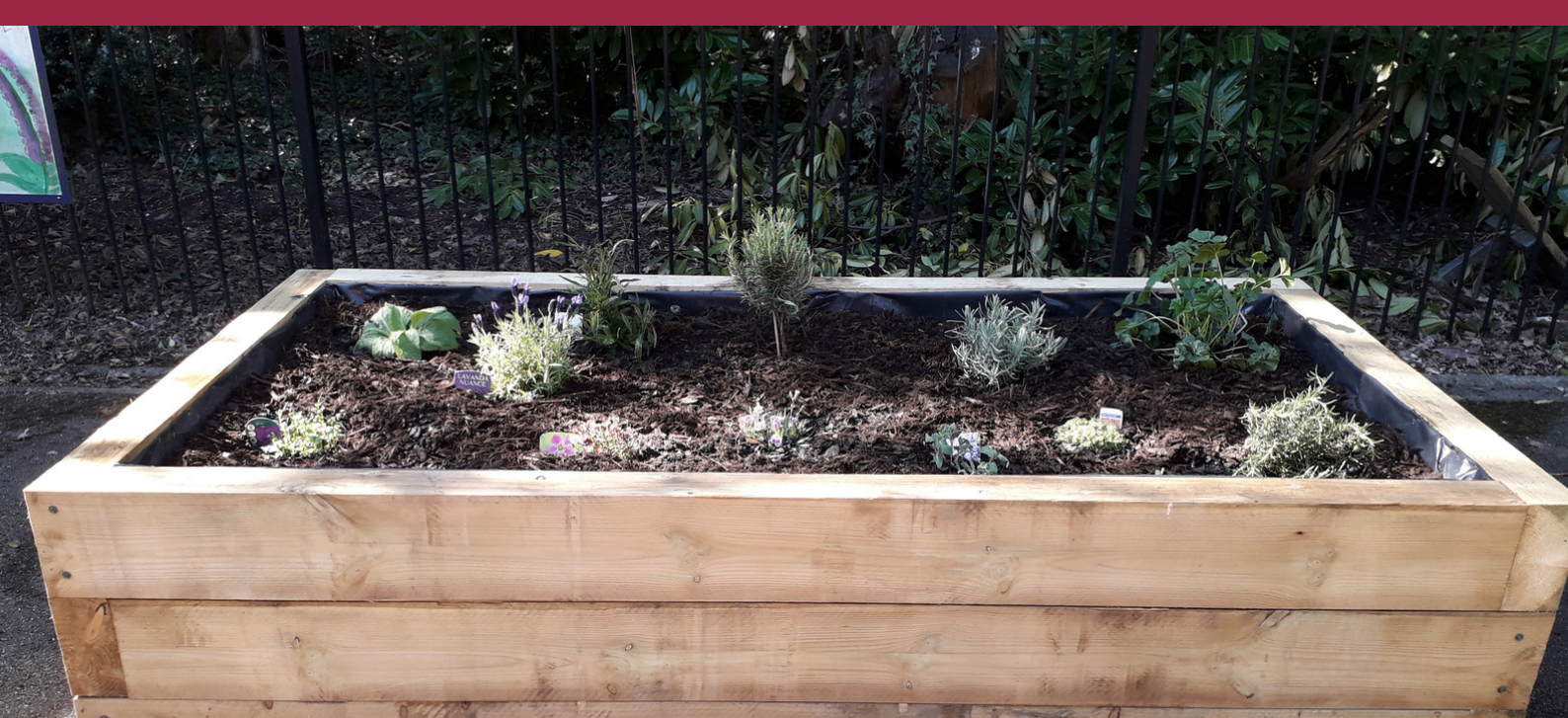
Despite funding challenges and several COVID-19 related delays a group of young people joined Engineered Training's Welding and Fabricating course in March 2021, tasked with designing and constructing a welcome arch for Duffield station.

As part of their induction, staff from the CRP and EMR arranged a train trip on the Derwent Valley Line, with a visit to Duffield, including to Ecclesbourne Valley Railway's station. The young people also took part in an outdoor team building exercise, attended a rail safety talk, visited Etches Park train depot and attended a personal development and careers advice session, hosted by EMR. These sessions helped to improve their self-confidence and engagement in the project, learn about the railway and apprenticeship opportunities.



The young people then began creating their design ideas for the metal arch, which will be assessed by a group of railway and community consultees, prior to making the arch.

Funding for this project has been provided by Community Rail Network, EMR, Open Gate Trust, Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Fund and the Community Rail Partnership.



Building the Planters at Cromford station



Station Adopters Planting Up at Whatstandwell station



Whatstandwell station

Bee Friendly Planters

Over winter and early spring 2021, projects took place with Bee Friendly Trust to create bee friendly environments at five Derbyshire stations.

Projects took place at Cromford, Whatstandwell, Chesterfield, Ilkeston and Tutbury & Hatton stations with the installation of Bee Friendly Trust planters and associated gardening projects.

At Cromford and Whatstandwell, three large planters were installed at each station by EMR Station Service Technician's Kevin Knight and Neil Reed, working with staff from the Bee Friendly Trust.

Station Adopters planted a variety of bee friendly plants, which have brought colour and increased biodiversity to less well used areas at these stations. The planters were funded by Community Rail Network and Bee Friendly Trust.

“We were very happy with the results of our match funding and regard this as a model for future partnerships”.

Dr. Luke Dixon, Bee Friendly Trust

Top photo Whatstandwell station and cover photo Cromford station

Looking ahead to 2021/22

Various project plans have been developed and funding gained to deliver projects in the year ahead. This includes to promote rail travel - when the time is right, further station improvements and to support communities along the route.



Derwent Valley Line Website

Towards the end of the year, funding was secured from Community Rail Network, CrossCountry Trains and EMR to develop a Derwent Valley Line website. The website will promote the line, including the numerous places to visit and feature the work of the Partnership. Tessellate Design Studio were commissioned in March to begin the website development with the aim of the site to be completed for summer 2021, when COVID rules had been relaxed and rail travel could be promoted again.



Matlock Map and Interpretation Panels

A new map and five interpretation panels will be produced to enhance the visitor welcome into Matlock, with two of the five panels in the vicinity of the railway station. This project has been enabled by the Partnership gaining grant funding from Community Rail Network, matched by funding from the Rail Partnership, Matlock Town Council and Matlock Civic Association. This Matlock Town Council led project will be delivered over spring for completion in early summer, prior to the anticipated return of visitors to the town.



Train Travel Project with Alderwasley School

A rail travel training project for KS3 age children at Alderwasley School that was planned for April 2020, was put on hold due to COVID-19 restrictions. This school project was to be delivered by Derbyshire Environmental Studies Service, Derwent Valley Line CRP, and Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site, with support from EMR who have offered funding to support the project. It is hoped that this project can take place in autumn 2021.



Stations Social & Commercial Development Plan

The Partnership has been successful in gaining funding from EMR's Stations Social and Commercial Development Plan for a number of station enhancements in 2021/22. The projects that have been agreed to be funded include CCTV at Belper and Matlock Bath, signage and lighting at Belper, new entrance signage and visitor wayfinding at Ambergate as well as station running in boards, promoting the Derwent Valley Line. The Partnership has agreed to provide match funding towards these projects.



Community Rail Ram at Derby Station

The Derby Ram Trail originally planned for summer 2020, will now take place between 27 May and 22 August 2021. The trail will feature the Community Rail Ram by local artist, Holly Aspinall, promoting both the Derwent Valley and North Staffordshire community rail lines.

Finance Report

Core funding to support the Partnership, continued to be provided by Amber Valley Borough Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, Peak District National Park Authority, EMR and CrossCountry Trains.

Expenditure	£	Income	£
Salary Costs	29,281.15	Amber Valley Borough Council	2,000
Staff Travel	462.49	Derbyshire Dales District Council	2,000
Partnership Management Costs*	4,000	Peak District National Park Authority	2,000
Miscellaneous Expenses	296.57	Derbyshire County Council*	4,000
Projects and Marketing Activities	2,227.60	East Midlands Railway	25,671.50
Grants to Partner Organisations	20,140	CrossCountry Trains	12,736.54
Sub Total for 2020/21	56,407.81	Grants and project contributions	11,640.00
To be carried forward to 2021/22	60,674.62	DVLCRP Reserves from 2019/20	57,034.39
Total Expenditure	117,082.43	Total Income	117,082.43

Funding Notes: * In kind support from Derbyshire County Council, as the Partnership's host organisation. This includes Management, Finance, Audit, Procurement, Information Technology, Human Relations, Payroll and Administrative Support.

Grant Expenditure:

Two grants were provided to partner organisations to deliver projects totalling £20,140:

- £18,640 to Engineered Training for Turning Around Vulnerable Young Lives Through Engineering;
- £1,500 to Rural Action Derbyshire for Supporting COVID-19 crisis hit communities along the Derwent Valley Line.

Grant Income:

The Partnership gained grant contributions totalling £11,640:

- £5,140 from EMR for Turning Around Vulnerable Young Lives Through Engineering;
- £2,000 from EMR for Derwent Valley Line Website;
- £2,000 from CrossCountry Trains for Derwent Valley Line Website;
- £1,500 from EMR for Supporting COVID-19 crisis hit communities;
- £1,000 from Community Rail Network for leaflet distribution.

Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership

The Partnership is funded by Amber Valley Borough Council, CrossCountry Trains, Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, East Midlands Railway and Peak District National Park Authority. The Partnership is managed by Derbyshire County Council.

The Partnership is accredited by the Department for Transport in recognition of our work to develop, promote and work with local communities along the Derwent Valley Line.

The Partnership would like to thank all our station volunteers, members of the Partnership and Chris Darrall for meticulously recording the minutes of the meetings.



Community Rail
Accredited Partnership

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