

THE DERWENT VALLEY LINE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP



ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022



Annual Report:
April 2021 - March 2022

Message from the Chair

Welcome to the Derwent Valley Line
Community Rail Partnership's Annual Report
for 2021/22.

This report highlights activities to encourage people to return to the railway, as well as the variety of projects that have taken place at stations and in communities along the line.



Following the easing of lockdown restrictions, the Partnership launched our new user friendly and informative website, a key highlight in our efforts to encourage a return to rail travel. New Derwent Valley Line platform signs and branded station displays, have complemented the website and assisted in raising the profile of our work.

It is pleasing to once again see the great impact that the station adopters have had in welcoming passengers back to our stations. Their role remains vital in helping to provide attractive station environments and their efforts have been well supported by East Midlands Railway and Network Rail.

I am grateful to our funding partners who continue to support our work, providing both core funding and this year providing significant funding to enable delivery of many of our own projects, as well as supporting the work of our station groups and other community initiatives.

I remain confident that operational and timetable issues which have impacted passengers will be resolved and the Partnership will continue to work with the rail industry to ensure the success of the line for the future.

Councillor Trevor Ainsworth



News from the Line

Passenger Journeys on the Derwent Valley Line

Passenger journeys in 2021/22 were approximately two thirds of 2019/20 pre-COVID levels. Matlock Bath had a strong recovery in leisure travel but reduced commuter travel notably impacted journeys from Duffield and Belper.

Station	Passenger Journeys 2021/22	Passenger Journeys 2019/20	% Change in Passenger Journeys 2019/20 to 2020/22
Ambergate	27,862	43,188	-35.5%
Belper	145,478	244,717	-40.6%
Cromford	29,496	46,443	-36.5%
Duffield*	39,969	79,589	-49.5%
Matlock	147,860	232,046	-36.3%
Matlock Bath	60,434	70,801	-14.6%
Whatstandwell	21,274	28,505	-25.4%
Total at all stations	472,374	745,289	-36.6%

N.B. Period 13 for March 2022 is compared with March 2019 as baseline, not March 2020 when COVID lockdown started.

*Total includes through tickets to Wirksworth from Duffield. The passenger journeys for 2020/21 totalled 147,955.

Train Timetable Changes

East Midlands Railway introduced a new timetable on 16 May 2021. This included changes to departure times each hour, an extra morning train from stations between Matlock and Whatstandwell to Derby and Nottingham, an improved Monday to Saturday evening service, more Sunday trains and an improved weekday service at Spondon.

Unfortunately the new timetable did not perform well and from 19 June, Matlock services only ran to Derby due to shortages of rolling stock, high levels of staff absence due to COVID-19 and operational issues at Nottingham.

The withdrawal of the through service to Nottingham caused concern to many passengers and led to a wide-ranging campaign to highlight the importance of these direct services to Nottingham, following their withdrawal in June 2021. This included extensive media coverage, such as the interview with Councillor Barry Lewis, Leader of Derbyshire County Council on the BBC's Politics East Midlands programme, a petition signed by over 10,000 people and two public meetings hosted by Belper Town Council. Following this campaign we remain confident that some through services from Matlock to Nottingham will be reinstated during 2022.

Duffield and Belper Access for All Proposals

Local stakeholders met East Midlands Railway and Network Rail to discuss options for an accessible Duffield footbridge and improvements at Belper.

Pauline Latham MP for Mid Derbyshire attended the meeting at Duffield station to give her full support to the proposals and a range of letters and emails of support were provided to East Midlands Railway, for the funding bids to the Department for Transport's Access for All funding for 2024-29.



Meeting to discuss station access proposals



Community Stations

Station Volunteers

Station volunteers continued their great work to ensure welcoming stations along the line and several groups received support on station action days from East Midlands Railway and Network Rail teams.

Garden areas and planting tubs flourished once again as volunteers were able to fully return to their stations, following the relaxation of COVID restrictions. Several groups including Duffield, Belper and Matlock gained new adopters to provide assistance to existing members.

Ambergate was adorned with a row of sunflowers grown by the station group, some of which reached a height of 2.5m. For the second year, Ambergate adopters had a Halloween display on their terraced garden area, which was followed by the display of a Remembrance banner and poppies on the lamp columns of the entrance road.

Cromford and Whatstandwell station groups received support on station action days, from East Midlands Railway and Network Rail staff. At Cromford, this enabled over 25 sleepers to be installed along the footway at the base of the steep embankment, to edge the garden area. In October, the Network Rail Executive Team held a team building day at Whatstandwell clearing vegetation from the disused platform and improving the planters.

Throughout the year the station groups were well supported by the Community Rail Partnership and EMR staff notably Kev Knight, Station Service Technician and Alexa Stott, Community Ambassador.



Ambergate station



Matlock Bath station



Cromford station

Station Signage Improvements

New East Midlands Railway platform signs which incorporate the Derwent Valley Line logo, have been installed at all stations between Duffield and Matlock. These give the stations an enhanced local identity and complement our new promotional station display boards.

Additionally, Belper has benefitted from new directional signage providing clearer platform indication and wayfinding to local places of interest.



New platform signs

Community Projects



Routes of Remembrance

The Community Rail Partnership, station adopters, Steeple Grange Light Railway and Ecclesbourne Valley Railway members, joined with East Midlands Railway to take part in Routes of Remembrance, organised by The Veterans Charity.

Our event began at Steeple Grange Light Railway, who have a special affiliation with remembrance - as the railway brought stone from the local quarry to be transported all around the world for the Commonwealth War Graves. After a short service of commemoration at Steeple Grange, vintage Army jeeps carried a wreath down to the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway station at Wirksworth.

Ecclesbourne Valley Railway's rail car 'Iris' then made a special journey with the wreath to Duffield. At Duffield, the Wirksworth group joined station adopters from Cromford, Ambergate, Belper and Duffield on the train from Matlock.

At Derby, a service led by The Railway Chaplain, included East Midlands Railway Managing Director, Will Rogers and Network Rail Route Director, Gary Walsh along with many others from Derby and surrounding stations, over 100 in total.



Train Travel Project with Alderwasley School

Derbyshire Environmental Studies Service worked with Alderwasley Hall Special School pupils on a Derwent Valley Rail Education Project with the Community Rail Partnership, East Midlands Railway and Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.

Over five sessions pupils developed a variety of skills including navigation, social skills, working towards independent travel and developed an understanding of their local area, particularly the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site.



Young People's Designs for Duffield Arch

Following the delayed start to this project in March 2021, due to COVID-19 restrictions, the young people produced design ideas for the arch as part of their Welding and Fabricating course, with Engineered Learning. These designs were shared with a group of consultees from the local community and rail industry.

This led to agreement on the key elements that will form the arch, enabling work to start on the production of the decorative metal archway for Duffield station.



New Matlock Interpretation Panels

New interpretation panels were installed around Matlock, with two of the five panels in the vicinity of the railway station. The panels include a town map and local information to help visitors navigate and explore Matlock.

This Matlock Town Council led project was funded by Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership, Community Rail Network, Derbyshire Dales District Council, Matlock Civic Association and Matlock Town Council.

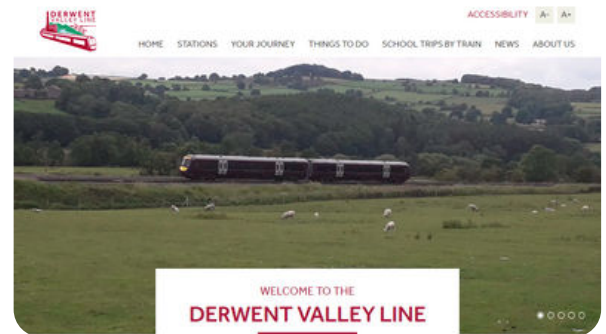


Marketing and Communication

Derwent Valley Line Website

The new Derwent Valley Line website was launched to promote the summer 2021 return to rail travel. The website features more than 100 Things To Do and over 50 walks along the route. Passenger information, onward travel, station adoption and interesting facts are included, for all 13 stations along the line.

Community Rail Network, CrossCountry Trains and East Midlands Railway, provided funding for the new website.



Derwent Valley Line Website www.derwentvalleyline.org.uk

Derwent Valley Line Branding

New Derwent Valley Line brand guidelines and a variety of easy-to-use templates were developed, to complement the style of the website.

These enable a consistent style of marketing literature and communications to be produced including branded information displays providing a welcoming and informative set of posters at our stations.



Derwent Valley Line Branded Information Displays

Community Rail Ram

Our Community Rail ram sat proudly outside Derby railway station, one of 30 rams comprising the Derby Ram Trail, which was held from 27 May to 25 August 2021.

Our ram was created by local artist Holly Aspinall and includes illustrations of places along the Derwent Valley and North Staffordshire Community Rail Lines. The Community Rail ram was jointly funded with East Midlands Railway.



Community Rail Ram outside Derby station

Views from the Train Window

Views from the Train Window, is an illustrated guide to what you can see from the train window on your journey along the scenic Derwent Valley Line between Derby and Matlock. The guide also includes historical details and old photographs of the line.

The guide was produced by Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site and is featured on a dedicated page in the Your Journey section, of the Derwent Valley Line website.



Views from the Train Window - an illustrated guide

Full Steam Ahead Event

Partnership volunteers joined with North Staffordshire Community Rail Partnership and East Midlands Railway to promote our lines at this well attended event.

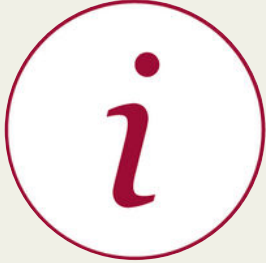
Full Steam Ahead was held on 22 January 2021 at the Museum of Making, and featured various railway themed organisations celebrating the importance of the railway to Derby.



Promoting the line at Full Steam Ahead

Looking ahead to 2022/23

Various proposals have been developed and funding gained to deliver projects in the year ahead. These include more station improvements, provision of real time public transport information and promotion of sustainable tourism.



Transport and Tourism Information Points

Digital public transport and tourism displays are to be installed near Belper and Matlock stations. These will provide real time bus and rail departure times with destination and local stop information.

The displays will include local wayfinding to both transport and tourism locations and an interactive touch screen display that will provide local information, including maps, events and tourism.



Ambergate Station Totem and Signage

A station totem sign will be installed at the entrance to Ambergate station to make the station entrance more noticeable.

Additionally, there will be signage to local tourism attractions and places of interest including Cromford Canal, Shining Cliff Woods, Great British Car Journey and White Peak Distillery.



Station Defibrillators

Following requests from some of our station groups, East Midlands Railway are to install lifesaving defibrillators at a number of Derwent Valley Line stations.

Having a defibrillator close, when someone suffers a cardiac arrest, greatly improves their chances of survival. Each defibrillator will have step-by-step instructions and the computers inside can analyse people's heart rhythms and if required, electrodes then automatically deliver the shock.



CCTV at Belper and Matlock Bath Stations

CCTV will be installed at Belper and Matlock Bath stations to help address anti-social behaviour as well as providing reassurance to customers.

Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership has provided funding towards the CCTV projects and is working closely with East Midlands Railway, to help inform planned camera coverage.



Belper Overbridge Lighting

Lighting will be installed on the overbridge connecting the platforms at Belper station. An anti-climb light fitting, will be fixed to the bridge which will improve passenger safety and confidence when using the station, at times of darkness.

Finance Report

Partnership Core funding was provided by Amber Valley Borough Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, Peak District National Park Authority, EMR and CrossCountry Trains.

Expenditure	£	Income	£
Salary Costs	29,661.00	Amber Valley Borough Council	2,000.00
Staff Travel	607.21	Derbyshire Dales District Council	2,000.00
Partnership Management Costs*	4,000.00	Peak District National Park Authority	2,000.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	344.57	Derbyshire County Council*	4,000.00
Projects and Marketing Activities	109,586.29	East Midlands Railway	26,025.00
Grants to Partner Organisations	41,170.00	CrossCountry Trains	10,138.00
Sub Total for 2021/22	185,369.07	Grants and project contributions	118,825.00
To be carried forward to 2022/23	40,293.55	DVLCRP Reserves from 2020/21	60,674.62
Total Expenditure	225,662.62	Total Income	225,662.62

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:

Five grants were provided to partner organisations to deliver projects totalling £41,170: £15,000 to Bee Friendly Trust for the Bee Friendly Planters; £11,000 to EMR towards station enhancement projects; £6,170 to EMR for installation of Duffield Arch; £5,000 to Derbyshire Wildlife Trust for Whistlestop Discovery Centre at Matlock Bath Station and £4,000 to Matlock Town Council for Interpretation Boards.

Grant Income:

The Partnership gained grant contributions totalling £118,825. This included:

- £37,000 from Community Rail Network comprising: £15,000 - Belper & Matlock Digital Displays; £15,000 - Bee Friendly Planters; £3000 - Derwent Valley Line Website; £3000 - Matlock Interpretation Boards; £1,000 - Matlock Footbridge Artwork.
- £35,000 from Derbyshire County Council Local Transport Plan for Belper & Matlock Digital Displays;
- £25,825 from EMR comprising: £16,000 - Belper & Matlock Digital Displays; £5,000 - Whistlestop Discovery Centre; £2,000 - Station Planters, Plants & Tools; £1,000 - Derwent Valley Line leaflet; £1,000 - Matlock Footbridge Artwork; £825 - Alderwasley School Rail Project.
- £16,000 from CrossCountry Trains for Belper & Matlock Digital Displays and
- £5,000 from Belper Town Council for Belper Digital Display.

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.



Contact Information

Alastair Morley Partnership Officer Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership,
Derbyshire County Council, Economy, Transport and Environment, County Hall, Matlock DE4 3AG

