

CREWE TO MANCHESTER AND SOUTH EAST MANCHESTER COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIPS



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024



Chairmen's reports

South East Manchester and East Cheshire Community Rail Group

Our report for 2023/24 should give you a good insight into the work which is being undertaken by volunteers at our stations in partnership with the rail industry. This last year has been one of progress and strengthened partnerships between the Rail Industry and local volunteers keen to make a difference in their local areas and especially at their local station. We have supported many groups in their endeavours to make life better for rail travellers and local communities alike, ranging from support for sponsoring a Frogwarts Express Frog on the Stockport 2023 frog trail, now on display at Hazel Grove Station, to support to tell the story of the Railway Children and Edith Nesbit's love of the local area in Stockport around Strines and Marple station through support for a local leaflet bringing to life Three Chimneys House, the Old Gentleman and the gaping mouth of Marple South Tunnel conjuring up thoughts of the injured boy in the paper chase trail from the book, as well as supporting specific projects such as the fantastic Best Kept Stations in Cheshire awards, Community Rail Week, the formation of several new Station Groups, work on safety and young people involving providing the Arlo Safety Book to several schools and joining the Learn Live Safety programme from which many schools will benefit.

We also now have a great new website with improved logo's representing landmarks in our region. We have worked closely with Network Rail, train operators and local authorities, especially Northern, Avanti West Coast, TransPennine Express, Cheshire East and Stockport Councils who have generously provided much needed financial support. Similarly, as an accredited Community Rail Partnership we have received significant support and encouragement from the Community Rail Network. We are looking forward to revealing new artwork projects, producing more walking route leaflets some in conjunction with the Canal and River trust, participating in Rail 200 to celebrate 200 years since the birth of Railways in the North of England when in 1825 the Stockton and Darlington Railway was formed and continuing to work with heritage partners such as Crewe Heritage Centre and the Bahamas Locomotive Society.

We are also looking forward to honour a railway hero, John Axon, who died on the 9th February 1957 while trying to stop a runaway freight train on a 1 in 58 gradient at Chapel—en -le-Frith after a break failure and was posthumously awarded the George Cross. Working with Network Rail we are delighted that we will be commemorating his life in a plaque ceremony and renaming of the Stockport Thompson St bridge in his honour.

Finally, I must single out for special praise and thanks our Community Rail Officers - Sarah Morgan and John Kenny without whom we simply would not be able to deliver the successes that we have achieved the amount of work that they have taken on his past year has been tremendous and much appreciated.

Keith Whitmore

Chair – South East Manchester and East Cheshire Community Rail Group

Crewe to Manchester Community Rail Partnership

Welcome to our Annual Report which I am pleased to introduce. This has been a year of solid work against a backdrop of increasing usage of the railway. Encouraging the community's use of their stations and train services is important and so it is pleasing to see double digit percentage increases in footfall at our stations compared to 2022/23.

Supporting our Station Friends Groups is central to what we do, whether by funding projects or providing know-how, encouragement and contacts. We have seen new groups form at Cheadle Hulme and East Didsbury, while Styal Village Association who also recently adopted their station, were on the point of delivering a large map mural at the station as the year drew to a close. There are now only a handful of stations without Friends Groups, on the Airport line.

We are a key component of Cheshire Best Kept Stations along with three other CRPs. This year Alderley Edge took the top prize, with recognition for Goostrey, Heaton Chapel, Handforth and Sandbach. Goostrey also continued its success on the national stage, winning the Best Community Rail Photograph Award at the Community Rail Awards.

Encouraging young people to use the railway safely is an important theme. We have invested in a large supply of 'Arlo's Adventures' booklets. As the Feel Good Field Trips programme of activities for schools has come to an end we are just starting Learn Live's Rail Safe Friendly programme. Up to 90 schools can benefit across our and the South East Manchester CRPs and this should get underway in earnest from the next academic year.

Art is a continuing theme. We joined Stockport's Frog Trail by sponsoring the 'Frogwarts Express' sculpture placed initially outside Stockport station which has now hopped to a permanent home at Hazel Grove station. A considerable amount of effort has gone into developing the Edgeley Approach art project, not only with community art project ARC involving a host of local artists but also in obtaining consents and approvals with the rail industry and local authority. We expect all this to come to fruition in the summer when it will be transformational and well worth the wait. Nearby a public realm project at the Thomson Road bridge to commemorate the life of Driver John Axon GC will also soon enhance the Edgeley area. We are also in the early stages of developing a large mural project for the subway at Stockport station. Avanti West Coast are very supportive of this, following on from large art projects at several other large art projects at their stations in recent times.

Work began on renewing our website and publicity materials. An elegant new logo is the first fruits of this endeavour.

We supported Community Rail Week in 2023 and were doing so again at the time of writing this note. We look forward to planning for Rail 200 in the coming year and in particular building on our relationship with Crewe Heritage Centre and the Town Council there.

The work of our CRP depends on the financial contributions from Northern, Avanti West Coast, CrossCountry Trains, TransPennine Express and outside the rail industry from Cheshire East and Stockport Metropolitan Councils and we thank them for this at a financially difficult time. The practical working relationships we have with the rail industry are also greatly valued. Finally, my heartfelt thanks go to our hardworking CROs Sarah Morgan and John Kenny who do so much to make all of this happen.

Mark Barker

Chair, Crewe to Manchester CRP

South East Manchester Community Rail Partnership

Welcome to South East Manchester Community Rail Partnership's Annual Report for 2023-24. The Partnership has had an exciting year with a range of interesting projects either completed or underway.

The work of the CRP is currently focused on three main areas:

1. Improving station environments.
2. Promoting walking and cycling both as a leisure activity making use of the railway, and as a way of accessing stations; and
3. Encouraging young people to use the railway and to do so safely.

Our Station Friends' groups are at the heart of our Partnership and are key to improving station environments. They have carried out a wide range of projects during the year. The value of their work was recognized at the Cheshire Best Kept Stations Awards in March, where three stations in our area received awards. Recognition of our Friends' Groups work extends further, with 4 stations being shortlisted for the national Community Rail Awards.

Our largest current project is the "Steel Cotton Rail Trail", a station to station walking trail linking Sheffield to Manchester. This is being developed jointly with the Hope Valley and High Peak CRP and other partners including the Canal and River Trust. At short notice, we developed a walking trail between Strines and Marple stations highlighting locations featuring in Edith Nesbitt's classic children's book "The Railway Children" – this was linked to a play at the Garrick Theatre in Stockport. We are working with Hyde Together CIC on a project to improve access between the town centre and Hyde Central station and to increase the station's visibility in the community. The Partnership also sponsors Stockport Council's Walkaday programme of guided walks designed to be easily accessible by public transport.

Together with our colleagues at the Crewe to Manchester CRP, we are participating in Learn Live's Rail Safe Friendly programme of online education for young people. We are also funding the purchase of new trains for Northern's rail safety model railway.

None of this work would be possible without the generous support of our sponsors: Northern Trains, Avanti West Coast, Cross Country trains, Transpennine Express and Stockport Council. We are very grateful for their continuing support in challenging times and to Stockport Council for hosting the Partnership.

Finally, I wish to thank our Community Rail Officers – Sarah Morgan and John Kenny – for the huge amount of work they have done during the year. They are absolutely critical to our success.

Dr Simon Temple FCILT

Chair, South East Manchester CRP

Community Rail Partnership activities 2023-2024

CBKS Awards

Following the 2022 awards, the CRP officers have continued to support the CBKS awards by judging stations and actively participating in the planning and delivery of this year's event for the 2023 awards presentations, which took place at the Grange Theatre in Hartford on 12th March 2024.

A number of Station Adoption groups were successful at this year's CBKS awards, and the awards evening has generated a lot of publicity including a feature in the May 2024 Cheshire Life.

The overall winner of the CBKS Awards was Alderley Edge. Congratulations!



CRN Awards

In the 2024 awards, South East Manchester Community Rail Partnership was shortlisted for its entry of Brinnington station in partnership with Northern and the Station Adoption groups in the Best Community Engagement Category. The entry had a focus on the Brinnington Swap Shop which is run by Stew and Darin. Although not winners on this occasion, we are delighted to hear that Stew and Darin have been shortlisted in the Outstanding Personal Contribution category of the National Rail Awards which will take place later in the year. We are grateful to Stockport Council which supported with press coverage for the shortlisting of the Stockport stations:

<https://www.stockport.gov.uk/news/stockport-based-community-groups-shortlisted-for-national-rail-awards>

The Friends of Woodsmoor, Friends of Goostrey, Friends of Romiley, Friends of Reddish South and Friends of Guide Bridge stations were also successfully shortlisted. There was one winning entry with the Friends of Goostrey winning first place in the photo category for 'Best Image with Beavers doing their best.' Well done to the Friends of Goostrey and all those groups which were shortlisted.

Walkaday

The Stockport based volunteer led Walkaday group leads several free walks each week which all connect with public transport, including many stations within the CRP areas.

When funding was no longer available to print the promotional leaflet, the CRP offered support by funding printing of the Spring 2023 programme. This support has continued through 2023 and into 2024 with an additional grant from TfGM.

It is hoped that the printing of the brochure will encourage new participants to attend the walks as well as making the programme more accessible for those who already attend the walking groups.

We have received feedback that new members have been attending walks since the leaflets were reprinted, including those who have been visiting the area for a holiday.





Engagement with Accessibility Panels

The CRPs continue to be members and represented on the CrossCountry Trains Accessibility Panel. The Community Rail Officers (CROs) regularly attends and contributes to the Panel meetings as well as the recently introduced technical meetings, which examine specific individual topics such as effective communication, travelling using a motorised wheelchair and travel assistance in a more detailed way than the Panel meetings allow.

Following on the gathering of detailed information by the CROs, working with Stockport Council GIS colleagues, CrossCountry and McCann an accessibility map of Stockport station and the town centre showing accessible facilities has been produced and printed.

In the final print of the leaflets the (old) logos for both Crewe to Manchester and South East Manchester have been included in recognition of the contribution of the CROs to produce the map.

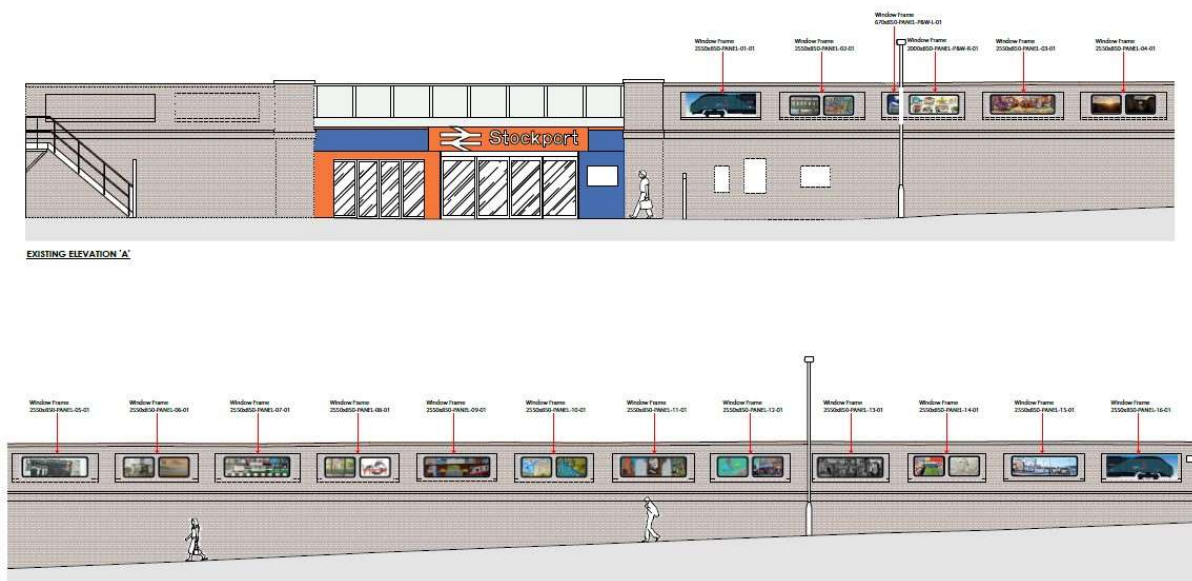
In a comparable way the CRPs have become members of the TransPennine Express Accessibility Panel with the CROs regular attending and contributing to this Accessibility Panel.

Edgeley Approach Art Project

The artwork plan has now been completed with additional submissions from Art for Recovery in the Community (ARC) as well as a submission from a member of Avanti staff, based at Stockport Station.

The project has required Landlord's Consent and planning application for Advertising Consent from Stockport Council which could not be submitted until all the artworks were finalised in Spring 2024. The planning application will be decided by 11th July and a provisional date has been booked for installation of the artwork in early September.

The display will be accompanied with a booklet which will include details about the groups and artists who have contributed to the project.



We have received the following feedback from the ARC Centre about their participation in the project:

"The Edgeley Approach Art Project provided a fantastic artistic opportunity for Arc's service users to work with artists and creatively celebrate their hometown with the exciting outcome of seeing their artwork permanently and proudly displayed in Stockport town centre. The project engaged over 50 of Arc's service users, including participants from the young people programme, older people group and Arts for Wellbeing programmes. Participants explored and expressed the theme of 'a view through the train window' and places in Stockport that were important to them through a variety of artistic mediums from painting and collage to printmaking. Arc provides a safe space for people experiencing mental health challenges and loneliness, to build confidence, reduce isolation and improve wellbeing, through creativity. The project provided an opportunity for participants to not just experience the therapeutic benefits of art-making, but also have that sense of pride that comes with the project legacy of developing a permanent piece of public artwork."

"I enjoyed the process of learning creative skills; I'm amazed at what I can do and understand myself better."

"I like the fact that the artwork is going to be displayed in a public place in my local area - the work had a real purpose."

New websites

Both the CRP websites are being renewed by Ethical Pixels. This is a lengthy process due to needing new photos and updated content for each station and page. New logos have also been designed for each CRP.



Kelvin Briggs, Stations Rep for Crewe to Manchester CRP and Chair of Alderley Edge Volunteer Group, has been supporting with taking photographs of all our stations. We are enormously grateful for this support.

Train trips

We have continued to support the Feel Good Field Trips with our final grant funding from Avanti West Coast being used to support trips to Food Sorcery in East Didsbury. Several local schools have taken up the opportunity to join Feel Good Field Trips, with visits to the Gladstone Pottery in Stoke, Lake District Fell Foodie and Liverpool Liver building.

We have also supported 'try the train' trips in partnership with Northern, with a primary school from Crewe taking a trip to Wilmslow.

The Holmes Chapel Youth Council were supported by the CRP with making a group booking through Avanti, which enabled the group to spend the day in London and visit the Houses of Parliament.



Visit [Cheshire Map](#)



The Crewe to Manchester CRP has worked with North Cheshire and Mid Cheshire CRPs and Marketing Cheshire to redesign their updated tourist leaflet for Cheshire, which is widely distributed with 10000 copies being printed.

The free Family Friendly Guide to Chester and Cheshire now includes an advert showing tourist destinations which are easily accessible from train stations as well as a clear map of the region highlighting the leisure destinations that are most easily accessed by rail. This map has been available for one year, but we are meeting in June to discuss the continuing use of the map.

We also have Cheshire by rail pages on the Visit Chester website which are under review due to the website redevelopment but will remain available for ongoing updates and rail promotion across the region.



Ryder Brow

Last year the CRP worked with the station group to bring school artwork to the station in the form of a brightly coloured banner. This banner was unfortunately vandalised shortly after being installed.

We then agreed with Northern to install two dibond signs instead of the banner as a stronger replacement which would be more resistant to vandalism. This has remained in place for around half the year before one half was ripped off and thrown on the track.

Although there were concerns about replacing this yet again, Northern supported with the replacement including installing it with more fixings that would be tough to remove. Thanks to Northern for support with keeping this station artwork on display and for the school for persevering.



Steel Cotton Rail Trail

The Steel Cotton Rail Trail is a joint project with the High Peak and Hope Valley CRP which will result in a waymarked route from Sheffield to Manchester Piccadilly with route guides for each section. The project is progressing well in partnership with the Canal and River Trust, and we hope to have a final version of the Guide Bridge to Piccadilly leaflet available soon. It is hoped that the whole route will be completed by May 2025 in time for Community Rail Week.

Arlo books

We have continued to distribute Arlo books directly to schools and through the Station Adoption groups, many of whom have great connections with schools through station activities.

The picture below is from the Friends of Handforth Station with the group distributing copies to the local primary school.

Frogwarts and EGG charity donation

Mid Cheshire CRP joined South East Manchester and Crewe to Manchester CRP to sponsor a giant frog model to be placed outside of Stockport station as part of the Great Frogtastic Invention Trail which took place throughout the summer of 2023, encouraging an increase in footfall across the town centre.

The frog was skilfully decorated in a Hogwarts design by school teacher and artist Greg Williamson.

After the trail has ended, the frogs were sent to a charity auction with the CRPs being offered the chance to purchase the frog for a donation to a local charity. The chosen charity for Frogwarts was EGG which supports homeless people. The donation was made by Crewe to Manchester and South East Manchester CRP which enabled Frogwarts to be rehomed to the car park at Hazel Grove station, with installation support from Monika Sayed and Rebecca Styles.



New station groups

This year we have welcomed two new Station Adoption groups at East Didsbury and Cheadle Hulme.

The group at East Didsbury has family connections with another Station Adoption group in Lancashire, so this group has hit the ground running with a start up fund to purchase new planters and a book shelf.

The new Cheadle Hulme group has been supported by Darren Flannery, District Centre Manager at Stockport Council, and we look forward to seeing new planters and a book swap very soon. Thanks also to the Friends of Hesketh Park for their support of this new group.

Station Connections artwork exhibitions

For Community Rail Week 2023, the CRP exhibited the Stations Connection artworks on the panel display for 2 days at Manchester Piccadilly Station. This exhibition was supported by CRP volunteers and station group members, and we received lots of interest in the artwork and other leaflets and information we were distributing.

In October 2023 we arranged for another 2 day exhibition at the Clarendon Centre in Hyde, with support from Hyde Together CIC, CRP volunteers and station group members. This was another successful event with a focus on promoting train accessibility information.



Contributions to Station Adoption group projects

Each CRP has continued to give grants to station groups for a range of activities and has supported with the planning and consents processes as well as giving support to secure additional funding where required.

In South East Manchester we have supported the popular Teddy Bear's picnic which is led by the Friends of Glossop at stations along the Glossop Line.

We have funded the reprinting of popular walks booklets for two groups and have supported with museum lease fees for the long-awaited museum at Guide Bridge station.

Several groups have received funding for planting, and we have also funded a mural at Marple. We have supported artworks at Middlewood, in partnership with the local area committee and TfGM.

TfGM have also provided funding to the CRP for a new bench at Brinnington.

Three stations worked together on a project to promote the Stockport Hydro with information boards displayed at Romiley, Marple and Rose Hill.

The Hyde Loop group received funding for A-boards to display information about the group's activities and the CRP has also borrowed these boards for other promotional events.

On the Crewe to Manchester line, we have supported with a Coronation Tapestry for Goostrey village which was supported by the Goostrey art studio and the Women's Institute.

A large mural project at Styal received funding and support was given for gaining additional funding. This was completed in May 2024 and was installed along with some National Trust signs for Quarry Bank Mill.

Holmes Chapel and Alderley Edge received funding for new planters and Alderley Edge has also received funding for an owl carving and history board which will be completed later in the year.

Handforth have received funding for a new village map which has been designed by the group. The group is hoping to install the map at the station once the Access for All works are completed.



Updates from Station Groups

Our thanks go to all the station groups along our lines. These stations would not be the same without the hundreds of volunteer hours that are put in by station volunteers at their local stations and in their communities.

Several groups have provided us with updates on their activities through the year which are below as well as some pictures and short updates from other groups that we have received through the year.

Alderley Edge

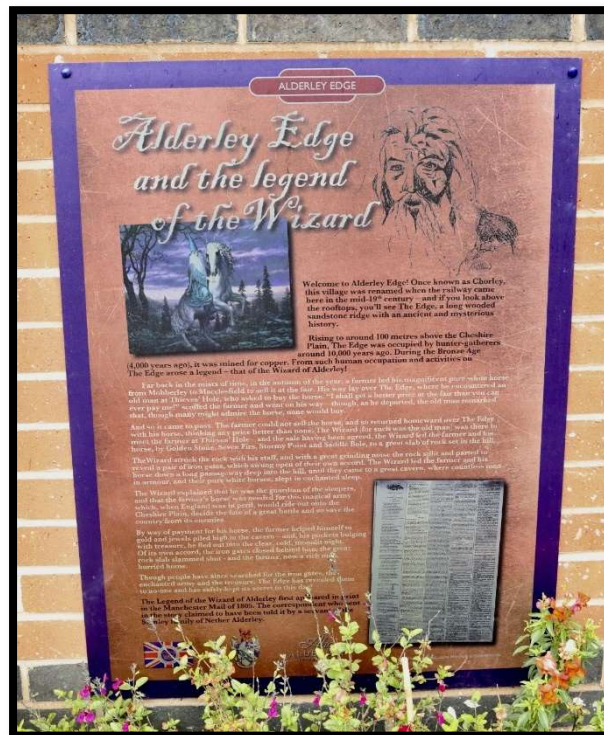
Alderley Edge Station Volunteer Group had a highly successful year receiving the award of Cheshire's Best Kept Station 2023.

Working parties were held every month to garden and manage planting displays and create new features. The group participated in Community Rail Week organising a herb sale at the station.

The Station was Judged as 'Outstanding' in the North West in Bloom 'It's Your Neighbourhood' competition.

A new digital artwork funded by C2M features a wizard's image. Created by artist John Broadley, the image is the logo for the 'Invisible Worlds' project that explores the legends of Alderley Edge.

The group organised a 'Try the Train' activity for 25 primary school children and delivered over 400 'Arlo's Adventures' rail safety books to 3 local schools.



Woodsmoor

Woodsmoor Station Friends had an excellent floral display on our planters over the summer, using bedding plants bought via the local scout troop. We held a Volunteer Day with local company Thales painting the station fences. We entered our Art Project into the national Community Rail Awards where it was shortlisted in the Art category. Our five carved Owls on the Station approach continue to be a local attraction, particularly when decorated for an event such as national Saints' days, sporting events or Eurovision where they became The Beat Owls!



Heaton Chapel

Another successful year has seen an addition to the art work of the Northern Train on the Viaduct., and the community events celebrating the Coronation. We were entered but not really prepared for the Stations in Bloom competition, so it became a learning experience as we achieved the Level 4 Certificate. We had mixed success with the areas of bedding plants. Demands for watering during the sustained periods of dry weather took their toll. 2024 will see changes with beds going to wildflower gardening, and a focus on permanent planting of drought resistant varieties in the planters. At the Cheshire Best Kept Stations Awards evening, the group were awarded the TfGM Award.



Reddish South

The Friends of Reddish South Station are still waiting for the Restoring Your Railways decision - so we can either celebrate or commiserate and decide how we continue, so as far as the campaign is concerned, we are still in limbo.

We had great success with the RHS 'It's Your Station ' awards with a Level 5 'outstanding' grade at our first attempt which was a wonderful surprise.

As you can see from the picture, our station continues to be of use to the community. At the 2023 elections the Tai Chi class was moved from its usual location & they were able to use the platform for their Thursday session, albeit with interruptions from a few freight trains.



Prestbury

The Friends of Prestbury Railway Station has been an enthusiastic and active group since its formation in 2022. After installing a rainwater collection system, we then progressed our planting scheme on the platforms. The garden area has been transformed by a Herculean weeding effort. Pruning, planting and path laying followed. Our project to display 300 ceramic tiles with artwork painted by children from Prestbury C of E Primary school was installed in May 2024. The Friends are grateful for grant funding from Northern and CRN. Prestbury station was recognised as “thriving” by the RHS in your Neighbourhood Awards 2023.



Holmes Chapel

The Volunteers and Friends of Holmes Chapel Railway Station and Viaduct have tended to the railway station throughout the year.

We have a range of planters and pocket gardens and this year we have been particularly pleased with the sweep of Forget-Me-Nots on the side of the Manchester platform.

As community volunteers we are invited to and attend a special annual service at St. Luke's Church in Holmes Chapel. It is a new and quite heart-warming experience to sing 'God Save the King'!



Guide Bridge

The Guide Bridge group have kindly hosted the South East Manchester CRP Station group meetings throughout the year where we have admired the number of projects going on including the new signaling garden. We are looking forward to the opening of the museum which will hopefully be taking place later this year. The picture below was taken at the station open day in 2023.



Hyde Loop Group

Artwork was commission by the Friends of Hyde Loop and installed at all three stations earlier in the year. The group has also supported the CRP with promotions at events as well as leading on their own community promotions like the one shown below in the Hyde Clarendon Centre.



Middlewood

With funding support from the CRP, Marple Area Committee and TfGM, Middlewood station now has its own display of Station Connection artworks by Eamonn Murphy which look fantastic.



Handforth

The planned installation of a pair of lifts at Handforth Station means that no new infrastructure may, now be installed either at platform or at concourse level. This embargo has very much limited the activities of the Friends of Handforth Station (FoHS). For that reason, FoHS did not anticipate receiving any kind of award at the Cheshire Best Kept Stations (CBKS) awards ceremony held on Tuesday 12th March. FoHS were therefore very surprised, but very delighted, to receive a Highly Commended designation in the 2023 Northern Best Staffed Station category.



Goostrey

There's a magnificent new wall hanging in Goostrey village hall which celebrates King Charles 111's coronation year. Friends of Goostrey Station are proud to have helped Jodrell Side WI in the production this unique work of art.

During the autumn and winter, more than 30 local ladies (including members of FoGS) used a variety of sewing techniques to represent roads, buildings, landmarks and organisations in Goostrey. The influence of the railway in our village is seen through the restored station building, station house (the home of the station master), a keystone from the original road bridge and FoGS logo.

In February, Chair of Crewe to Manchester Community Rail Partnership, Mark Barker, cut the ribbon at the unveiling event. He explained that CRP exists to strengthen links between the railway and the community, and so it helped to finance the project. He added that he already knew from working with FoGS over many years that there was a strong community spirit in Goostrey, and this is clearly reflected in the wall hanging.



Sandbach

We have received a grant for 3 small planters (Amberol) which have been installed platform one. These are self-watering so should make things a little easier next year.

We planted bulbs and pansies for the winter and our plans are to obtain a grant for a metal water butt (designed to fit behind the waiting room on the wall. This will be expensive as it has to be metal and thin. Water will be captured from the Waiting Room roof. This will then enable us to water planters on platform two without lugging watering cans over the bridge constantly. We hope to apply for multiple grants to fund this.



Marple

The Friends of Marple welcomed the Mayor of Stockport for a tour of the station to see the new Hydro board and new train planter.



Hydro Boards – Romiley, Rose Hill, Marple

Stockport Hydro - Community owned renewable energy supply



Stockport Hydro Limited at Otterspool weir is the first community-owned hydroelectric scheme in Greater Manchester.

The water diverted from the weir flows down the Archimedeans screw turbines, turning them and generating electricity.

Fish are not harmed by passing down the screws and there is a special new fish pass to assist fish such as salmon in swimming up the river to breed.

The power generated rises to about 50kW when the river is high, and drops to a tenth of that when there is less water available. In a typical year enough clean, green electricity is generated for the domestic usage of about 150 local residents (Based on Ofgem figures for average UK households).

The scheme was funded primarily by a community share offer which raised more than £250,000, supported by loans (since repaid) and a grant that covered environmental works including the fish pass.

The renewable electricity that we generate feeds into the National Grid.

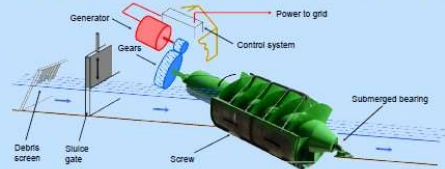
HISTORY



The weir was built by Jesse Howard of Stockport, a local mill owner who planned a cotton mill on the river in the 19th century. The mill was never built but there are many similar weirs marking the sites of old mills on the Goyt and Etherow rivers. Upstream at New Mills, the Torrs Hydro scheme of a similar size has been operating since 2008.

Planning for the Otterspool scheme began in 2006; the necessary consents were obtained including planning permission and an abstraction licence from the Environment Agency (permission to divert the water) and construction was complete by May 2012.

The system started generating on October 22nd 2012 and by March 2013, we had produced 100,000 units (kWh).



HOW IT WORKS

The usable height of the weir is 1.35 m (4ft 6in.) At full power, 260 tonnes of water flows down the screws every minute.

The main parts of the system are:

- The intake screens, to catch debris;
- The sluice gates, which use hydraulic rams to shut off the water to each screw;
- The screws, which rotate under the weight of water and drive the generators. Archimedeans screws were originally designed to be turned to raise water - here, they run in reverse;
- The gearboxes, which speed up the slow screw rotation by a ratio of 90:1 to drive the generators, at up to 3000rpm;
- The generators, which convert the mechanical power into three-phase mains electricity that is fed into the National Grid;

We have a variable speed control. As the river flow drops, the speed of the screws is reduced by the control system to maintain the water level over the weir to at least 6cm. At low rates of flow one screw may stop to reduce losses. On rare occasions the river level has been so low that both screws have had to be stopped.

The screw bearings and sluice gate pumps use bio-degradable lubricants minimising any environmental harm.

All routine maintenance tasks, including daily trash screen cleaning, are carried out by volunteers.

ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGE

In March 2022 we held our seventh Environmental Awards Ceremony at the Hydro.

Stockport Hydro have made exactly 100 environmental awards, putting over £30,000 into the community.

The pot has risen from £1,000 to nearly £8,000 in 2022 with a substantial amount being gifted by Members who donated their interest into the fund.

Awards have been made to local schools, charities, scout troops, community groups, environmental bodies, parks and amenities within the Stockport MBC area.

OPEN DAYS AND GUIDED TOURS

The hydro holds open days where interested members of the public can see the system in operation. We have also hosted visits from Manchester University, local schools, USA & Probus groups.

Details of open days are published on our website:
www.stockport-hydro.co.uk

or on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/Stockport-Hydro.Ltd

Stockport Hydro Limited, Mill Lane, Romiley, Stockport, SK6 3BR



10 YEARS OF OPERATION




In October 2022 we held a special AGM AT Chadkirk Chapel to celebrate 10 years of successful operation.

As well as many of those who have been or still are involved on a day-to-day basis we welcomed several guests including David Wilson, the Mayor of Stockport.

On the 6th November just 14 days past 10 years of operation we achieved another milestone as our export meter rolled over to 2 GWh.

Davenport

The Friends of Davenport have continued to carry out gardening activities and this photo is of Charlie from Davenport and Andy from Woodmoor who had teamed up to repair a picture that had been vandalised, covering it in polycarbonate.



Brinnington

The pictures below show historic pictures collected by Dave Jepson above the clothing rail in the Swap Shop, new planters bought by Dave for the front of the station and a picture of Stew Hall who works for Northern and leads on the Swap Shop along with Darin Astbury.



Romiley

The picture below shows one of the many task sessions which take place throughout the year at Romiley station. The Friends of Romiley also take part in community events and distribute an excellent monthly newsletter which is both informative and entertaining with its quizzes.

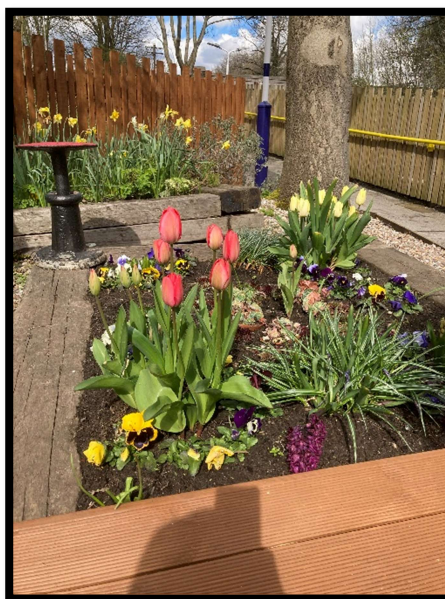


Rose Hill

The Friends of Rose Hill continue to carry out a range of projects with the station gardens being maintained to a very high standard, with the group participating in the Open Gardens event last year.

There are plans in motion to carry out works to the embankment to make it safe to work on and Thales are working with the group to develop the plans.

The Santa train and grotto at the station is also highlight of the year for local children.

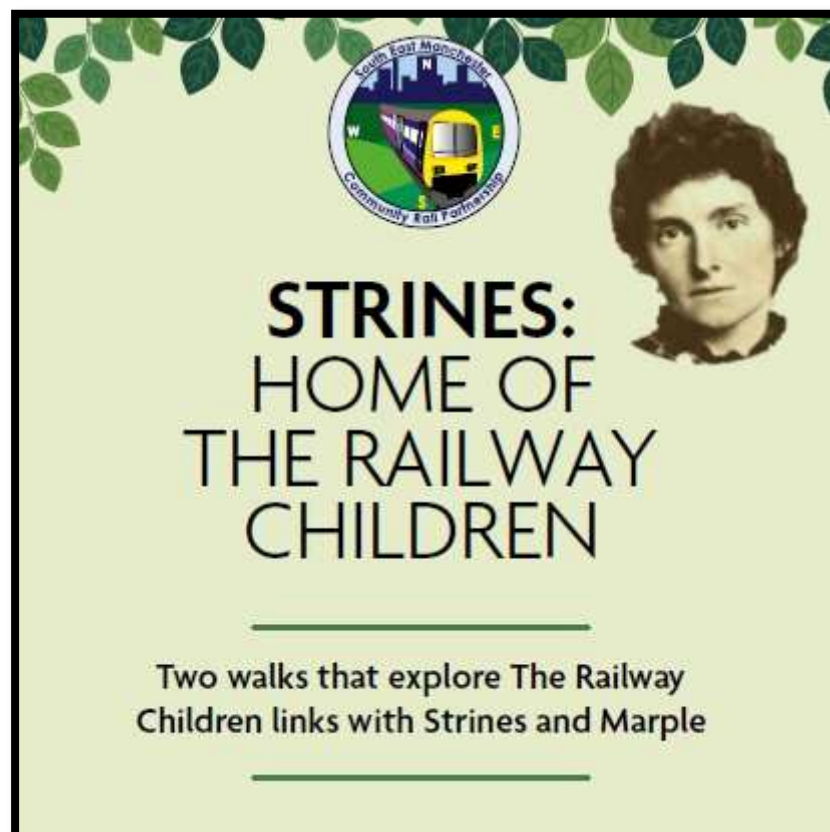


Strines

The Friends of Strines keeps the station looking fantastic with a range of planting around the station.

This last year the CRP has worked in partnership with the Friends of Strines to create two walking trails leaflet with a Railway Children theme, which were launched in time for a production of the Railway Children at the Garrick Theatre in Stockport.

Thanks to Craig Wright who has put together the routes and wording and to Mel Smith who provided the artwork for the leaflet. The walks have been very popular and we have already printed a second batch of leaflets.



Some of our plans for the coming year

- Crewe to Manchester CRP is supporting train trips and activities for the Cheshire Buddies
- Learn Live Rail Safe Friendly will be offered to up to 90 schools.
- The Edgeley Art Project will be completed in September.
- The Steel Cotton Rail Trail will be completed in May 2025 for South East Manchester CRP (logo below)
- We will provide ongoing support of new and existing station groups, with grant funding available.
- We will fund a Ron Hill mural at Hyde Central which will be completed in summer 2024.
- Our new websites will be launched.



Crewe to Manchester CRP Finance Report

Balance brought forward		171879.1
Core funding receipts		
Northern Trains	31003	
Cheshire East Council	4500	
Transpennine Express	1718.75	
Avanti West Coast	14318.69	
Crosscountry	12989.29	
Additional receipts		
CBKS funding from Avanti West Coast	1000	
Total receipts		65529.73
Payments		
Staff costs	29823.2	
Core costs and expenses	6209.46	
Grant payments	12013.04	
CRP Events and activities	13165.5	
Total payments		61211.2
Closing balance		176197.6



South East Manchester CRP Finance Report

Balance brought forward	116588.6
Core funding receipts	
Northern Trains	31003
Transpennine Express	1718.75
Avanti West Coast	7159.35
Crosscountry	12929.29
Additional receipts	
Grant for Middlewood from Marple Area Committee	270
TfGM grant for Middlewood artwork	645
TfGM grant for Brinnington bench	500
TfGM funding for Walkaday	750
CBKS funding from Crosscountry	500
Total receipts	55475.39
Payments	
Staff costs	29811.55
Core costs and expenses	3488.46
Grant payments	4947
CRP Events and activities	16398.83
Engineer fees	2235.36
Total payments	56881.2
Closing balance	115182.8



CONTACT US



07915 483332
07800 618368



communityrail@stockport.gov.uk



@C2MCRP
@SouthEastManCRP

