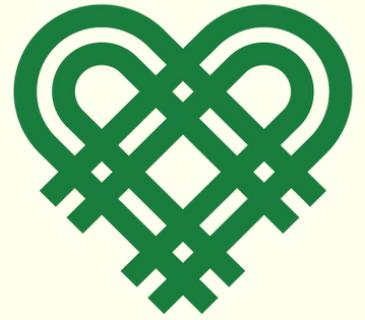


HEART OF ENGLAND COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

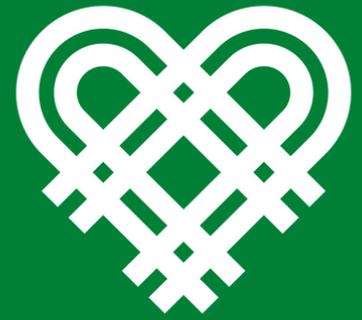


Community Rail

Accredited Partnership
2021-22

ANNUAL REPORT
FOR 2022





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CHAIR'S REPORT



As I approach my first anniversary in the role of chair, it is a good time to reflect on achievements of the past year, as well as looking forward to opportunities ahead. Despite passenger numbers being on the rise, especially for leisure users, passenger revenues for the industry remain a significant challenge for government. Industrial action has been a regular feature for many months, and reform of the industry is still very much on the agenda. Whilst bearing these challenges in mind, the CRP must continue on and make a difference in the communities that our railways support irrespective of wider uncertainties.

This past year saw a huge amount of activity for our CRP. From a wonderful Community Day at Coventry station in May (which also won Best Community Engagement Project at the national Community Rail Awards), the publications of Rail Trails for all our stations, to schools engagement and art, we are making a difference to people's lives, whether that it is the daily commute, pride in their station or supporting the growth of the next generation. I was particularly delighted to observe the support we provided to Syrian families who have recently arrived in the region, giving them confidence to use rail through our A Day Like This project. It has also been heartening to observe so much progress on the many station adoption schemes in the area, including those overseen by our partner organisations. I spent a very enjoyable day with the Friends of Shakespeare Line group (FoSL) seeing first-hand how the work of committed volunteers is making such a difference at many stations on the Stratford-upon-Avon line and found a visit to Wythall station particularly inspiring where the station adopters are students from the local school.

Looking ahead to 2023 we have many more exciting plans, outlined in this Report. To help ensure we can do as much as possible to facilitate and support community activity, the Steering Group recently approved the recruitment of an additional part-time Community Rail Officer to support Julia. I am also very keen to hear more diverse voices informing the Steering Group, particularly ensuring that our Rail User Groups and station adopters views and priorities are actively considered.

Many of you will know that I am leaving WMRE in March to take up the role of General Manager at the Great Central Railway, a steam heritage railway in Leicestershire where I have volunteered since my teens. Despite this change professionally, I will continue with my role at Heart of England CRP and look forward to collaborating with the committed community volunteers into 2023. Thank you for all that you are doing to create pride in our railways.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Malcolm Holmes'.

MALCOLM HOLMES

Heart of England Community Rail Partnership Chair

ABOUT US



The Heart of England CRP launched in 2019. Covering 36 stations, the CRP looks for opportunities for the railways to support the communities they serve through a variety of projects and initiatives.

Our aims are:

To identify suitable projects, and where agreed by the Heart of England CRP, develop them and prepare funding bids to relevant bodies.

To work with the Train Operating Companies, West Midlands Railways, Chiltern Railways, Avanti West Coast, and CrossCountry and rail industry body Network Rail, to maximise utilisation of their property portfolios and explore new and appropriate uses for railway buildings as well as improving existing facilities at stations, including bicycle storage, passenger information and waiting facilities.

To identify areas that are high suicide risks and develop a programme for prevention.

To involve the community in the work of local user groups, station partnerships, arts initiatives and improving links with local schools and colleges.

To raise awareness of, and promote, the rail services of the Heart of England CRP as a sustainable way to access the towns and cities within the Heart of England CRP for employment, education, leisure and tourism and as an access point onto the wider UK rail network.

To encourage and promote integration of rail with local bus services and links to the stations for walking and cycling, working in partnership with relevant providers and local authorities.

To actively involve children and young people by promoting rail as a safe environment through work in schools and the community.

Meet the objectives set out in the Department for Transport Community Rail Development Strategy 2018.

The CRP Officer is Julia Singleton-Tasker.

Network Rail and the Community Rail Network support the work of the partnership

The CRP would like to thank all its partners for their contributions and continued support in 2022 to make this partnership a success.

Click on our partners logos to find out more about them.



STATION ADOPTION



Lapworth Station Adopters managed to secure funding from Lapworth Parish Council, and are starting to see pledges from local businesses, which means that they have just placed their first order for 3 planters to be placed on the platforms at Lapworth Station! They have also prepared a 'Sponsorship Pack' to try and drum up some more support and we're looking forward to seeing what this wonderful bunch do next!

Early in the summer we visited the volunteers from the local **Soroptomists at Widney Manor** who were planting new plants in the lead up to the Commonwealth Games. The station looked beautiful and has plenty to keep the local wildlife and commuters interested.

The Friends of Leamington Station, formed in 2004, have regularly entered the Royal Horticultural Society annual Heart of England It's Your Neighbourhood scheme where the gardens are usually assessed as Outstanding. This year they achieved a score of 97%, better than ever before, after a particularly difficult hot and dry summer. A dozen or more active gardeners work at the station every week of the year – plus smaller groups, and their dedication has certainly paid dividends this year. Green waste has always been composted on site before distribution around the gardens and rainwater from the garden shed roof is saved for use. The Friends are grateful to the Community Rail Partnership, Community Rail Network and Royal Leamington Spa Town Council for financial support for all they have achieved on the station gardens over the last 18 years. The trust and encouragement from Chiltern Railways has been unswerving.

The Friends of Solihull Station were joined by new volunteers from Hong Kong thanks to the Community Development Team at Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council linking the two communities.



HEART OF ENGLAND CRP

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Make a difference at your local railway station

Email HeartCRP@warwickshire.gov.uk or phone 07827 954 022 for more information.

WWW.HEARTCOMMUNITYRAIL.ORG.UK

WOULD YOU LIKE TO:

- Enhance your station environment?
- Meet others in your area?
- Improve your mental and physical wellbeing?
- Strengthen the relationship between your station and your community?

If so, get in touch today!

Why volunteer?

There are many benefits of station adoption to: the health and wellbeing of volunteers; the sustainability, development and cohesion of the wider community; and the success of the railway and how it serves its passengers. At a time when we want to encourage people to use public transport, tackle the social isolation that Covid-19 has caused, and empower people to improve their local areas, station adoption is more important than ever – hence it's supported and encouraged by government, the rail industry and others.

We have station adopters at most of the stations in the area, however new volunteers are always welcome. If you are interested in adopting a station that currently has no 'Friends of...' group, then the CRP can support you and provide guidance as to how to set one up.

What can volunteers do?

Station adopters have a real opportunity to make an impact on their station and their local community. Every station adoption group is different and will have its own unique way of working with the station. We always recommend that people do what they are interested in. Green-fingered? Create a wildflower patch. Creative? Find new ways to add colour and personality to life.

These are just some ideas of what volunteers can do at their stations (with permission from the managing TOC).

Gardening:

- Increase biodiversity and encourage wildlife by installing planters
- Grow your own edibles
- Encourage involvement from young people

Other Ideas:

- installing heritage boards or community artwork to help people learn about and take pride in their area;
- basic upkeep and litter-picking to create a welcoming, safe environment;
- working with the rail industry towards improvements, such as better shelters, signage or pedestrian and cyclist access, or sometimes spearheading larger-scale developments;
- running events, workshops or other activities to promote sustainable travel, bring people together, and celebrate the local community.

How we can help.

The Heart of England Community Rail Partnership works with Station Adoption groups in numerous ways by:

- Providing guidance for and supporting new station adoption groups
- Helping to recruit new volunteers
- Facilitating the projects that station volunteers wish to undertake
- Providing a Small Grants Fund
- Collaborating on joint projects with the Station Adoption Groups

What we can't do:

- Give permission for work at stations that has to be done by the TOC
- Provide Health and Safety Briefings, although we can help to arrange them with the TOC
- Hold on to funds for groups. As part of Warwickshire County Council, we are not able to receive funds or hold on to funds for station adoption groups, which is why we recommend that they set up a community bank account, which we can help with!

2022 KEY PROJECTS



Coventry Station Community Day

Coventry Station has seen huge investment in recent years, including a new £82million building and work on the existing listed building, which celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2022. The Coventry Station Community Day was developed to showcase these improvements, alongside giving local cultural organisations a spotlight to promote their work to tie in with the end of Coventry's City of Culture year. With huge thanks to Avanti West Coast and Coventry City Council, who not only funded the majority of the day, but also worked with us and Highly Sprung to deliver an amazing event, we were able to hold an event that had over 1,000 people participating in the daytime events and an estimated 800 people enjoying the In Transit performances. We were thrilled to win the 'Best Community Engagement Project award at the 2022 national Community Rail Awards for this day and there are plans to hold more community days at the station.

The event took place on Saturday, 7 May, 2022, on the boulevard in front of the station. The day had a family-friendly festival feel, featuring activities including Coventry Transport Museum's 'Playhem on the Promenade', designing a 'train of the future' with local artist Emily Kaye, and a scale model of the Coventry-based world's first fully operational Urban Airport. There was a strong focus on encouraging active travel with Learn to Ride a Bike sessions, bike security marking, pedi-cabs, free cycle safety checks from Dr. Bike and information about the West Midlands Cycle Hire Scheme.

The event was able to showcase some of the best local talent as part of the City of Culture's Open Weekend, and culminated with two sold-out performances of 'In Transit' by Highly Sprung. A mix of professional performers and over 100 children from six local schools amazed audiences with music, dance, and aerial performances, all showcasing the role the railways have in connecting people and the environmental benefits of travelling by train.

[Community Day Report](#)

[Community Day Photo Book](#)



2022 KEY PROJECTS



Rail Trails

We've been working with the The Ramblers', the Long Distance Walkers Association and the Millennium Way Group to create a range of 36 self-guided walks from railway stations in Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull. Explore historic Stratford-upon-Avon, discover Riversley Park in Nuneaton or see the narrow boats pass by on the Grand Union Canal as you take a walk from Hatton Station. You'll find both circular and linear routes of varying distance, but each is easily accessible from a station and helps you explore some amazing places!

Download the trails from our website and don't forget to share your journeys using the hashtag **#HeartRailTrails** and tagging us **@HeartCRP** on social media. There is plenty to discover by rail in the Heart of England!

Rail Trail Downloads

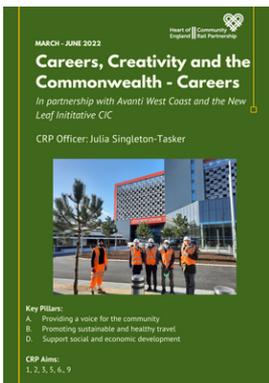


Careers, Creativity and the Commonwealth

In 2020 the impact of COVID-19 saw rising levels of unemployment and increased mental health issues. In the younger and disadvantaged groups in society there is even less opportunity for them as a result. Working in collaboration with the New Leaf Initiative C.I.C and funded by Avanti West Coast, the Heart of England CRP aimed to provide a mix of classroom-based learning and practical careers experience for 3 cohorts of New Leaf trainees. 3 cohorts of trainees participated in 2 weeks of pre-employment training with New Leaf, learning skills such as CV writing, improving maths, English and IT skills and visited to Suited for Success, a Birmingham-based charity that provides a free outfit for those who are unemployed, to give them confidence and suitable clothes for job interviews.

After the 2-week pre-employment training, the trainees attended a series of Careers Experience Days organised by the CRP. Trainees experienced days with English Heritage at Kenilworth Castle and with Birmingham Business Park who organised talks with Sulzer and Balfour Beatty Vinci amongst others and where trainees were invited to join in their monthly netwalking event. Learners experienced an amazing tour of the NEC, hearing about the wide range of careers available across their many venues. They also met some of the Avanti West Coast and BTP staff at Birmingham International and Coventry Stations where they explained their roles in more detail, discussing how they keep people safe across the rail network. On another occasion, Switch Hospitality Management organised an experience day at the Park Regus in Birmingham. This included time spent in the Maintenance, Food and Beverage, and Hospitality parts of the business.

Trainees were asked to comment on two things that they had learnt throughout this project. Answers ranged from how to be professional, to how to adapt to different situations as well as changing CVs to be more role-specific. There was also an increased awareness of the importance of time-keeping, being accountable for their own actions and work and not being afraid to ask for help.



"It was good to meet employers and do things that are outside of my comfort zone..."

"It was good to see some real employers and have that time to ask those important questions which will help me in the real world. I feel that there are chances out there for me."

It was good to ask questions about what jobs are available and how to get there."

2022 KEY PROJECTS



A Day Like This

Towards the end of 2022, we had the pleasure of working with Highly Sprung to deliver A Day Like This. With thanks to funding from CrossCountry and Community Rail Network, we worked with newly arrived families and individuals from Syria to develop their rail confidence and familiarise them with the railway network and the opportunities and places they can access through it.

Following a series of workshops based in the new Community Hub at Coventry Station, we took the group out on a day trip to Mary Arden's Farm, where they were able to try different activities and use cameras to document their day out on the rails.

Two weeks later, we held a mini exhibition at Coventry Station, showcasing their photos, talking about the project and showing the video of the day. We were delighted to be joined by representatives from CrossCountry, Community Rail Network, the National Railway Museum and Coventry Refugee and Migrant Centre, who were instrumental in making this project happen.

[Highly Sprung's A Day Like This blog](#)

[A Day Like This Video](#)



Rail Week at Finham Park 2

Finham Park 2 Secondary School in Coventry were one of the 6 schools that took part in the In Transit performance at our Coventry Station Community Day. We had the great joy of being able to work with the school to deliver a Rail Week to 120 Year 8 students in November. Rail industry colleagues from WMT, WMRE, CrossCountry and the Railway Children joined us to deliver career sessions, sustainability workshops and rail safety talks. The Smallpeice Trust delivered a full day of STEM activities to the students and the teachers at the school held art, food, drama and puzzle sessions all with the railways as the connecting theme. At the start of the week, 91% of the students said that they wouldn't consider a career in the rail industry. By the end of this week this percentage was down to 40% and students commented that some of their favourite parts of the week were the STEM sessions, the art and the Sustainable Stations workshop. It was a fantastic week and we are now working with the school on delivering further rail weeks as well as organising school trips out by trains.



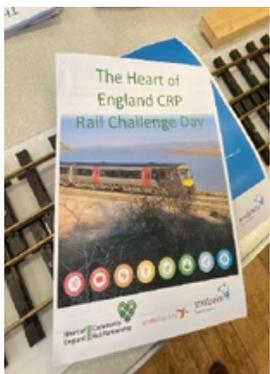
STEM+ Challenge Days

Four STEM+ Challenge Days were delivered by the Smallpeice Trust, with thanks to funding from CrossCountry during the last academic year. 4 schools across the CRP area were identified where pupils may not receive these sorts of opportunities. The sessions were raising awareness of rail in the Midlands and giving pupils the opportunity to understand the different routes into careers in the rail industry, with a focus on engineering, but with elements of project management, marketing, and presentations.

Key themes explored were:

- Sustainability and the importance of electrification in the rail industry
- Careers in engineering and the rail industry

Workshops benefitted underrepresented groups, where possible, with schools being asked to ensure: 50% of all places are held for girls or students that identify as female; and 25% of places are held for students on FSM/Pupil Premium.



[Full Impact Report](#)

ART



We are blessed to have an amazing amount of creative talent in the West Midlands and we have had the opportunity to work with local artists on numerous projects throughout 2022.



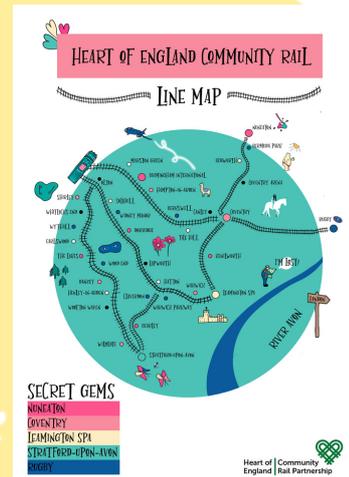
[Leamington Colour Palette Booklet](#)

[Warwick Colour Palette Booklet](#)

At the start of the year Warwick District Council worked with artist Stacey Barnfield of The Colour Palette Company, to create a new, community-informed, public artwork in the pedestrian underpass at Leamington Spa Station. As part of the community engagement, the Heart of England CRP worked with local artist, Melissa Keskinilinc to develop one-off workshops for schools, exploring colours and textures that reflect Leamington Spa. We then offered schools the chance to have a follow up session visiting the finished colour palette installation and then for students to take a colour palette quiz and use their knowledge of colour theory to create colours that were meaningful to them, which they then used to create their own train wraps. Warwick District Council also created a colour palette installation at Warwick Station, so we were able to deliver the same workshops to schools in Warwick. Overall, 440 students from 7 schools participated in the workshops.

We were also able to work with older students from the University of Worcester. Graphic Design students at the University were given a 'live' brief by the Heart of England CRP, to redesign our line map to showcase all the amazing opportunities the area has to offer. Students were tasked with creating a more visually attractive product that evolved and expanded the Partnership's original more utilitarian map of the region's network. Updates included representing some places of interest and amenities at various station stops via new illustrations, diagrams and supporting information (i.e. walking distances between stations and key historical sites).

Senior Lecturer in Graphic Design, Andy Stevenson, said: "This was a lovely 'live' concept artwork project that fits with our 'Design for Social Good' course initiative with which we aim to support charitable or community organisations utilising our students' design skills. Information graphics are involved within a growing range of commercial projects in our industry, and our aim is to equip students with a wide cross section of skills and experiences on the Graphic Design course to try and best mirror those that are in demand commercially. Additionally, we feel it's really important to give students the opportunity to get involved with real clients and genuine design projects, and, had this one not been addressed by ourselves, on this occasion it would ordinarily have been tackled by a commercial studio."



[See all the designs here](#)

In March 2022, we partnered with Emily Kaye Illustrations and Katie Jones Art Studio to develop and deliver our Creative Platforms project. Creative Platforms aims to build confidence in rail travel, and provide artistic and social confidence to people that have been impacted by Covid-19. We wanted to give people a toolkit of artistic techniques that they could use in any anxiety-inducing situations to help ground themselves and cope with the situation. Participants experimented with mark-making, different mediums and enjoying creating art with no sense of being judged for the outcome over 2 workshops, the first in Leamington Spa at the Spa Pump Rooms and Jephson Gardens, and the second at Mary Arden's Farm, which was the perfect setting to practice mindfulness through creativity.



Katie and Emily took participants through different exercises and techniques to show how we could enjoy making art for ourselves and then there was plenty of time to wander around the farm finding inspiration before coming back to create our final pieces.

All participants were able to take home a sketchbook and a pencil case filled with useful art implements that they could use to practice and employ the techniques they learnt on the workshops. Over the 2 days, we had 10 participants, 9 of which scored the enjoyability of the workshops 10/10 and examples of their work are now on display at **8.** Leamington Station.

[See more photos from the workshops](#)



In the lead up to the Commonwealth Games, the CRP commissioned two murals to create eye-catching pieces for passengers travelling to Games venues.

The first was part of the Avanti West Coast funded project Careers, Creativity and the Commonwealth at Birmingham International. In April, Lord Numb from Brink Contemporary Arts, installed a contemporary street art mural that represents how the railways connect our communities. Using the current Avanti locomotive graphics as a starting point for inspiration, the mural concept embodies a subtle sense of movement. Future transport and infrastructure developments are implied by angular shapes and forms, the spectrum of colours reference the varied national flags of the Commonwealth countries, whilst the use of blue is a contextual hint to the Coventry City of Culture 2021.



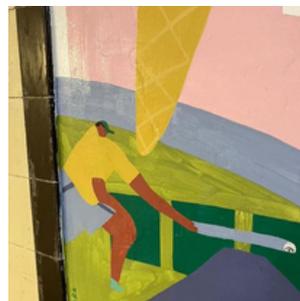
ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA



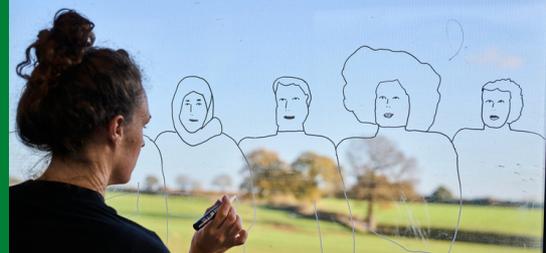
The second of our murals was at Leamington Spa Station. Leamington-based artist Emily Pettitt of Emily Kaye Illustration, created a beautiful map of Leamington with nods to the numerous sporting activities and iconic tourist attractions in the town.

Emily said, "I was inspired to create a colourful artwork that celebrates Leamington, it's parks, nature and sporting activities. Whilst painting the mural I had many conversations with the public and added their suggestions including a heron and an elephant. I hope people will enjoy pointing out their favourite spots and be inspired to think about our town."

Liane McCarthy, Area Manager for Chiltern Railways has said she's, "Absolutely delighted with the mural at Leamington Station. It is fast becoming an Insta spot with our customers."



2022 ROUND-UP



2022 was a big year for the West Midlands. Coventry saw the last part of their year as the City of Culture and the Commonwealth Games came to venues across Warwickshire and the West Midlands.

At the start of the year, the Heart of England CRP set up the **Commonwealth Games: Station Project Fund** to support the work of station adopters in the area in the lead up to the games. **Friends Of Solihull Station** were awarded funds to fill their planters with red, white and blue flowers for an eye-catching display at the station. A day of hard graft from the volunteers and the station looked beautiful and undoubtedly lifted the spirits of those travelling by rails to Commonwealth Games events. As an added bonus, the plants were in for the Platinum Jubilee! **Warwick Station** saw the installation of a new community noticeboard and the **Friends of Leamington Station** were awarded funds to renovate and redecorate windows, planters and benches.



There have been a couple of changes to the CRP with **Malcolm Holmes** being voted in as Chair after Margaret Smith stood down from the position early on in the year. Margaret has done a fantastic job in chairing the CRP steering group through Covid and we want to take this opportunity to publicly thank her for her dedication and enthusiasm for community rail. The geographical area the CRP covers also changed slightly, with partners voting to include **Rugby Station** into the patch. The CRP was also pleased to be **re-accredited** for another year. **Accreditation** is formal recognition by the **Department for Transport** and the **Welsh Government** that a CRP operates to a high standard and with objectives and activities that are supported by Government. More about the accreditation process and what it means can be found [here](#).

We continued to engage with young people throughout the year. On April 11th, the **Heart of England Community Rail Partnership** and **CrossCountry** collaborated on a **Connect Day** to educate and inspire **Arkwright Engineering Scholars** to consider a career in rail. With hands on activities, virtual depot tours and careers presentations from CrossCountry, Chiltern Railways, Siemens and Thales, we were able to provide Scholars the opportunity to learn more about the different pathways into the industry and the variety of engineering roles available.

[Read our Connect Day Report](#)

We had the pleasure of hosting a **work experience** student from a local school at the start of June. As part of their week, they've created a **report** for us to share on their experience of a week of Community Rail.

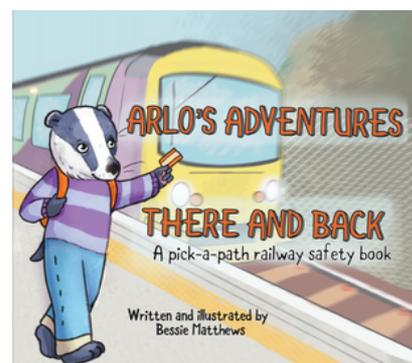
Coventry Transport Museum invited us to deliver our **Sustainable Stations** workshops to young people as part of their HAF programme in the summer. We loved their creativity & the numerous fountains, solar panels, wind turbines & plenty of green space incorporated into their station designs.



In September, we worked with **Warwickshire County Council's Road Safety Education Team** to promote our KS1 and KS2 rail safety lessons and activities. We are now a part of their **Safe and Active Awards** for schools, where schools can earn awards by completing a combination of active travel activities.

[Find out more about the Awards](#)

National anti-trespass campaign, **Backtrack** returned for 2022 and Chiltern joined us for a day at Leamington Spa Station promoting the competition and giving out pencils, stickers and the fabulous new '**Arlo's Adventures - There and Back Again**', a new rail safety book that encourages readers to make the right choices to keep them safe using the railways. The Community Rail Education Network has been working with Freightliner driver Bessie Matthews and has been funded by Community Rail Network, Scotrail and Freightliner. There is an **online version** where you can follow Arlo and his friends on their adventures.



2022 ROUND-UP



In May the Heart of England CRP joined community groups and volunteers across Britain for this year's **Community Rail Week** to encourage people to 'give the train a try'. Using our brand new **Rail Trails**, the CRP organised 2 **guided walks** from the 25th - 28th May which were open to anyone to join as well as an additional walk for families from St Michael's Children and Family Centre in Bedworth. Our tour guide, **Verity Tiff**, led all three walks sharing her local knowledge and we had great feedback from all participants. Watch out for more guided Rail Trail Weeks coming up this year.

On Friday 30th September, we held our first in person stakeholder event since Covid. Despite horrendous weather, we had representatives from local authorities, Train Operating Companies, Community Rail Network, local community representatives and station adopters attend. We had some great feedback and ideas for future Community Rail Partnership activities, which we reviewed to see how we could incorporate them into our activities.

On the 6th October, we were honoured to win **Best Community Engagement Project** at the national **Community Rail Awards** for our **Coventry Station Community Day**. Thanks to the amazing partnership with **Highly Sprung** and funding and support from **Avanti West Coast** and **Coventry City Council**, we were able to hold a day filled with fun, transport innovation, creativity and culture, with industry partners, local organisations, businesses, creatives, performers and schools coming together to showcase the best of Coventry. It was a night full of inspirational stories and projects from across the UK and truly showed how special and important the Community Rail family is.



On November 25th, **The Heart of England CRP** and **West Midlands Railways (WMR)** teamed up with **White Ribbon** - the UK's leading charity engaging men and boys to end violence against women and girls - and Network Rail to encourage everyone to make the White Ribbon Promise to never use, excuse or remain silent about men's violence against women.

We commissioned local artist **Emily Pettitt** to be part of a special journey between Leamington Spa and Nuneaton, where she live drew a striking window display representing the White Ribbon campaign. Passengers on board were invited to add their own white ribbons to this unique piece of art and ourselves and WMR were on hand to provide passengers with information surrounding White Ribbon Day, how they can get involved and where people can find help and support.

Other events this year included being a panellist for CRN's **Connecting and Empowering our Diverse Communities** webinar and speaking at the **Chiltern Railways Community Conference** in October. We've also taken part in a litter pick with **Stoke Aldermoor Social Action Project** and our year ended with us taking part in the **Leamington Christmas Tree Festival** at All Saints Church. We were one of 47 local organisations, schools, businesses and charities who decorated a Christmas Tree as part of the festival. Once the festival was over, we donated our fully decorated tree to **Helping Hands**, who in turn gave it someone who mightn't otherwise have had one.



THE YEAR AHEAD



Nuneaton - Leamington Line Naming

The Heart of England Community Rail Partnership would like to work with local communities to help choose a new name for the railway line between Nuneaton and Leamington Spa. This is a key rail line linking North and South Warwickshire with Coventry, where there are many fantastic attractions that we want to shine a light on.

Schools across the area are invited to take part in this special project through a programme of workshops designed to support the National Curriculum targets for English and Geography. The workshops will culminate in a competition to decide on the new name for the Nuneaton-Leamington line and members of the public will also be invited to submit their suggestions for the new line name. Entries will be short-listed by a panel of industry and community experts before the final decision goes to a public vote.

[Click here for more information and to submit your entry](#)



Feel Good Field Trips

Avanti West Coast have launched a first-of-its-kind initiative Feel Good Field Trips, that offers thousands of free tickets to school children. We're working with Community Rail Lancashire to deliver school trips to Coventry and London, with students taking part in activities at art galleries, recording studios and newspaper offices.

Curious Trails

The Curious Trails, in partnership with the Curious Boys and Girls Club, is an artist-led walk through the urban and green spaces across the region, kick-starting a range of events specifically aimed at reaching black men (described as those who identify as men) aged 25+. We will be using the Rugby Rail Trail for our walk and the new Community Hub at Coventry Station for the follow up workshops

The Curious Trails, invites men to connect with others, building relationships and explore their creativity through photography and illustration.

STEM 5

Following a successful implementation of the local school's engagement programme with the Smallpeice Trust, we have now collaborated to develop a 5-year STEM programme that has been awarded funding from CrossCountry. The 5-year plan will deepen and widen access to Rail based careers and engineering knowledge through STEM engagement in Year 9, offsite visits in Year 10 and careers focussed activities in Year 11.

Key themes of sustainable stations, rail safety, rail engineering and engagement from the rail industry across years 9, 10 & 11 and key outcomes will be:

- 900 students receiving a CREST Discovery Award.
- 15 Students attending the Rail Course at Birmingham University.
- 60 Arkwright Scholars attending 3 Connect Days.
- 900 students receiving Rail Safety Education.

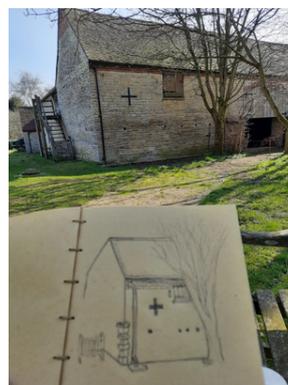


Creative Platforms

Creative Platforms will return this year with three opportunities for people to participate in workshops across the CRP area.

And more, including:

- Our AGM and more stakeholder events
- Guided Rail Trails Weeks in May and October
- Events at stations
- Community led and community inspired art work
- Greater school engagement

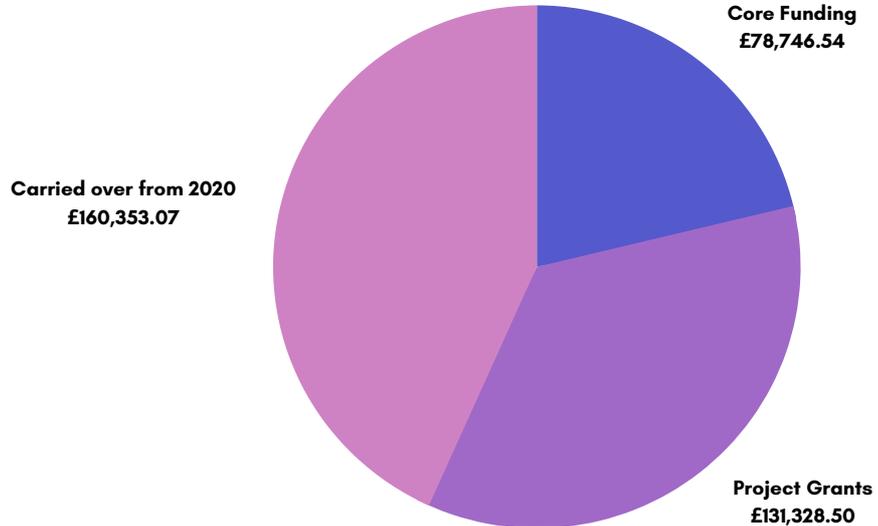


FINANCIAL REPORT



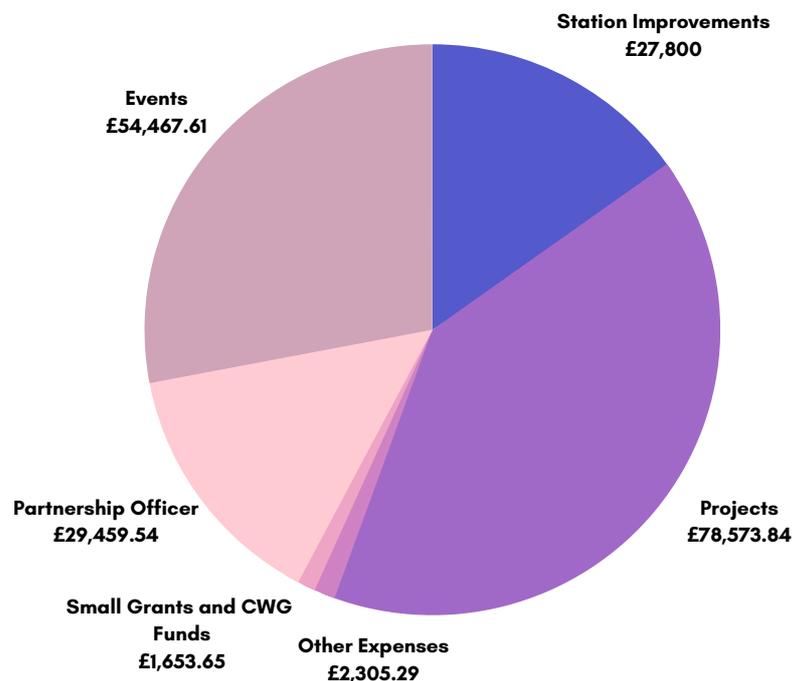
Income

TOTAL £370,428.11



Expenditure

TOTAL £194,570.31



Carried forwards to 2023: £175,857.79

Projected core funding for 2023: £82,618.69

Projected grant funding for 2023 (not all confirmed): £40,577

Projected planned project, event and station improvement outgoings for 2023: £148,722

Projected planned staff outgoings for 2023: £56,000

Reserve (15% of carry forward from 2022): £26,378.67

Carry forwards to 2024: £64,852.81

USEFUL LINKS



Heart of England CRP website: www.heartcommunityrail.org.uk

CRP Steering Group Partners:

Avanti West Coast: www.avantiwestcoast.co.uk/where-we-go/community-hub

Chiltern Railways: www.chilternrailways.co.uk/sustainability/community

CrossCountry: www.crosscountrytrains.co.uk/xc-community-hub

West Midlands Railway: www.westmidlandsrailway.co.uk/adopt-station

West Midlands Railway Executive: www.wmre.org.uk

Coventry City Council: www.coventry.gov.uk

Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council: www.solihull.gov.uk

Stratford District Council: www.stratford.gov.uk

Warwick District Council: www.warwickdc.gov.uk

Warwickshire County Council: www.warwickshire.gov.uk

Community Rail Network: www.communityrail.org.uk

Network Rail: www.networkrail.co.uk

Others:

Department for Transport: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport

Scenic Rail Britain: www.scenicrailbritain.com

The Gloucestershire CRP Tourism Toolkit: www.communityrail.org.uk/gloucestershire-crp-launches-destination-tourism-toolkit

CRN's Community Re-use of Buildings resource: www.communityrail.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Station-buildings-guidance-FINAL-FOR-WEB.pdf

CRN Events page: www.communityrail.org.uk/events-training/events-diary

Platform Rail Educational Resources: www.platformrail.org

At the Heart of England Community Rail Partnership, we recognise that environmental protection is one of the most important issues facing the world today. We're committed to working in environmentally sustainable ways, applying the principles of sustainable development for the benefit of current and future generations, both locally and globally.



We will be mindful of sustainability principles and strive to reduce the environmental impact of our activities.



We will work with partners to increase biodiversity at our stations.



We will reduce the amount of waste we produce by reducing, reusing and recycling items whenever possible.



We will source items and resources from local independent businesses and organisations when reasonably possible.



We will encourage CRP Officers and partners to apply sound sustainability practices at home and within the wider community as well as at work.



We will promote the benefits of the railway and how it helps individuals to lead a more sustainable life.



We also work to raise awareness of environmental issues and the need to move towards a more sustainable future among partners and other stakeholders. To this end we encourage sustainability research and education, through workshops, education programmes and collaborative work with community partners.



**If you have been inspired by the work of the CRP
and your organisation would like to get involved
with ideas or as a supporter then please contact:
HeartCRP@warwickshire.gov.uk**

CRP Contact Details:

HeartCRP@warwickshire.gov.uk
www.heartcommunityrail.org.uk

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