

February 2023

# Stakeholder Newsletter



**"IN EVERY COMMUNITY, THERE IS WORK TO BE DONE. IN EVERY NATION, THERE ARE WOUNDS TO HEAL. IN EVERY HEART, THERE IS THE POWER TO DO IT."**

— MARIANNE WILLIAMSON

Spring is always a time for change and for new beginnings. For me, March this year marks the end of my time at WMRE as I start my new role as General Manager at the Great Central Railway, a steam heritage railway in Leicestershire where I've volunteered for many years. My 10 years at WMRE have been hugely enjoyable and fulfilling and in the past year it's given me great joy to become more involved in the community rail side of the industry. We have been able to reflect on the success of last year with our 2022 Annual report and, as I move on to my new role, I look forward to continuing as Chair of the CRP and the forthcoming changes, with a new officer being recruited to expand our capacity and with plenty of new and innovative projects across the patch.

Malcolm Holmes, Chair of Heart of England CRP

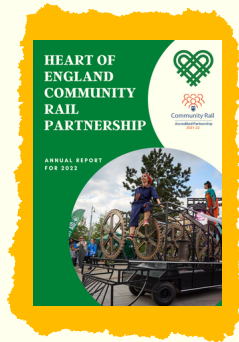
## NEWS & STORIES FOR THIS ISSUE:

- Latest News
- Completed projects
- Upcoming projects
- Partner updates
- Events and Funding Opportunities



Springtime colour in Leamington Spa

## Latest News



## Our 2022 Annual Report is out now!

[Click here to read.](#)

## Recruitment

We have extended the deadline for applications to join us as a CRP Officer. The deadline is now Monday 6th March. All the details of the role can be found [here](#) and we're looking to shortlist and interview in March with the hope that the new person can start in April.



## AGM

We will be holding our 2023 AGM on Monday 13th March, 13:30 - 14:00. This will be an open online event where the CRP Officer will be presenting the annual report to stakeholders. This will include a financial update as well as details of projects delivered in 2022 and plans for 2023. The meeting will be hosted on Teams and if you haven't yet received an invite, then please just let us know. We will have time for questions and for feedback from our stakeholders so we hope many of you are able to attend.

## A Day Like This

In 2022, we worked with Highly Sprung on a project to help those who are newly arrived to the country to navigate the railways. The full project report can be read [here](#) and you can also watch our video of our lovely day trip out with families from Syria by clicking on the link below.



[A Day Like This video](#)

If you have any information you would like to share on this newsletter, or if you would like to unsubscribe, then please email: [juliasingletontasker@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:juliasingletontasker@warwickshire.gov.uk)

## Completed Projects



### White Ribbon Day

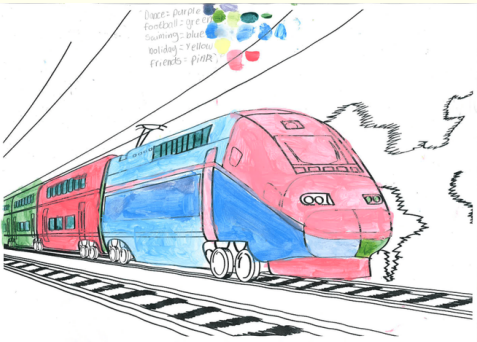
On November 25th, The Heart of England CRP and West Midlands Railways teamed up with White Ribbon – the UK's leading charity engaging men and boys to end violence against women and girls – and Network Rail to encourage everyone to make the White Ribbon Promise to never use, excuse or remain silent about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

### Colour Palette School Engagement Sessions

We've been back to schools in Warwick and Leamington delivering follow up sessions for our Colour Palette School Engagement Project. Students have visited the colour palettes at Leamington and Warwick Stations, some taking their first ever train trip to do so. They've also had a go at our colour palette quizzes - click on the links below to see how many you can answer. Using their knowledge of colour theory, students also explored colours that represented things that were important to them and then used them to design their own train wraps



### Leamington Tree Festival

We were delighted to be asked to be a part of Leamington's Tree Festival at All Saints Church this Christmas. 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. We were tasked with creating decorations that were sustainable and, preferably made from recycled materials, so thanks to Chiltern Railways, who donated maps from the Commonwealth Games, we were able to put our origami skills to use to create our tree decorations.



## Upcoming Projects



### Naming the Line

We're looking for suggestions for a new line 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.

We're working with schools and inviting members of the public 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 in the summer. We have also created resources for schools along the line to use to join in with this project and we are offering free workshops and trips out along the line for schools who book us for our in-school workshop.

Schools can choose from a Let's Animate workshop at Coventry Station, an Escape Arts workshop at Nuneaton, or a 2 hour workshop with the fab team at the Royal Pump Rooms in Leamington Spa.

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

THE  
**CURIOUS**  
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB



# Make your connection

CURIOUS TRAILS

WE COME FAR

Heart of Community  
England Rail Partnership

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. Workshops will be Saturday 25th March, 10am - 3pm and Saturday 1st April, 11am - 2pm



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

To register, scan the QR code.

If you have any information you would like to share on this newsletter, or if you would like to unsubscribe, then please email: [juliasingletontasker@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:juliasingletontasker@warwickshire.gov.uk)

# Partner Updates



## Chiltern Railways

Chiltern Railways have released their annual Community Rail Report. The report contains updates from the adoption groups at Chiltern-managed stations as well as their charity partnerships and initiatives. Click on the link below to read the full report.

[Chiltern Railways Community Rail Report](#)

## Avanti West Coast

Coventry Station has a brand new Community Hub that is free for community groups, charities and organisations to book out. With capacity for up to 30 people, small kitchenette and screen that can be linked to laptops, phones etc, this is a great space for people to be able to use free of charge. To book click on the link below or please get in touch if you'd like more details.

[Community Hub Booking Form](#)

HEART OF ENGLAND CRP

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Make a difference at your local railway station

Email [HeartCRP@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:HeartCRP@warwickshire.gov.uk) or phone 07827 954 022 for more information.

[WWW.HEARTCOMMUNITYRAIL.ORG.UK](http://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!

## Station Adopters

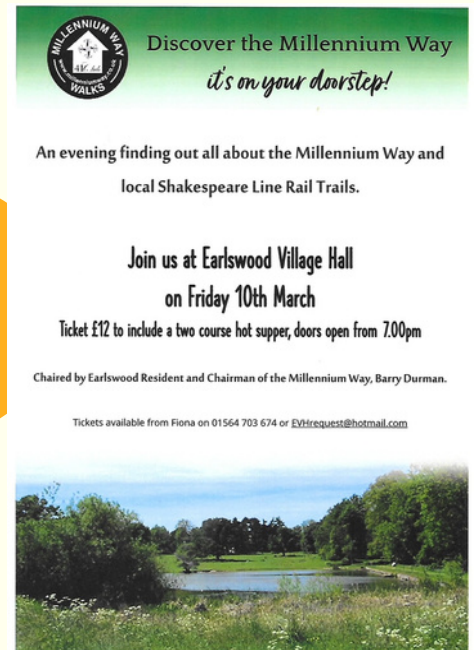
We're looking for people to volunteer at stations across Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull. Get in touch for more details!

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# Upcoming Events and Funding Opportunities



We'll be speaking at the Discover the Millennium Way evening, organised by the Millennium Way Group, on the 10th March. Come along to find out more about our Heart Rail Trails and the Millennium Way Walks in the area. See poster for more details and how to reserve your place.



## Heart of England CRP AGM

**Date:** 13th March, 2023 **Time:** 13:30 - 14:00

**Location:** Online

Join us for our AGM where we will be presenting our 2022 Annual Report

:

## Community Rail Week

**Date:** 22-28 May, 2023

**Location:** Nationwide

Community Rail Week is set to return on Monday 22 to Sunday 28 May 2023. We're encouraging all our members and partners to consider how you can get involved and make use of this great awareness-raising opportunity. More information about the campaign can be found [here](#).

## WEST MIDLANDS RAILWAY: Small Grants Fund for WMR STATIONS

There is a facility for small grants of up to £500 at WMR stations for enhancements and volunteer projects, examples of schemes include gardening schemes, planters, and arts. The application process requires an outline of the project and details of any matched funding available, which can include the value of volunteer hours.

For more information contact [fay.easton@wmtrains.co.uk](mailto:fay.easton@wmtrains.co.uk)

## Community Rail Network

If you are a member of CRN, then you can apply for grants of up to £1000. Membership for a year is £25 +VAT and you can find out more details [here](#)

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