

May 2023

# Stakeholder Newsletter



**“UNITY IS STRENGTH...WHEN THERE IS TEAMWORK AND COLLABORATION, WONDERFUL THINGS CAN BE ACHIEVED.”**

— MATTIE STEPANEK

Railways have long been recognized as a symbol of unity, bridging gaps between nations, cultures, and communities. These remarkable networks of tracks, engines, and carriages have played a pivotal role in shaping the world we live in today. The power of railways to foster unity is deeply rooted in their ability to connect people and places, transcending geographical barriers and fostering a sense of shared identity. Community Rail emphasizes unity and collaboration between local communities, rail industry stakeholders, and local authorities, and as National Volunteers Week begins, we want to say a special thankyou to the network of volunteers who help to unite our railways and make them thrive.

Malcolm Holmes, Chair of Heart of England CRP

## NEWS & STORIES FOR THIS ISSUE:

- Latest News
- Projects
- Name the Line
- Creative Platforms
- Partner updates
- Events and Funding Opportunities



Appreciating nature on our Rugby Rail Trail as part of the Curious Trails project

## Latest News



### New CRP Officer!

We're delighted to announce that from the 5th June, we will be joined by new CRP Officer Madeleine Snowdon.

Madeleine has engaged with communities in and around Coventry and the West Midlands for a number of years, having worked recently as a Community Engagement Coordinator at the Herbert Art Gallery & Museum and as a freelance community artist engaged in social practice.



In all aspects of her work, Madeleine is passionate about creating opportunities for young people and groups who face barriers to access that are community-led. She is really looking forward to helping to build projects with Community Rail that creatively empower people to use the railways and reduce social isolation and can't wait to get started here at the Heart of England CRP.

Madeleine will mainly be focussing on the youth engagement projects for the CRP, however she will be supporting other aspects of our work as necessary. We're sure she's going to be a valuable member of the Community Rail family and can't wait for her to start in June!

It's been a busy few months at the CRP with various events and conferences. In March we held our AGM where we presented our 2022 Annual Report. We were delighted to be joined by representatives from rail industry partners, local authorities, project partners and volunteers across the region. CrossCountry invited us to speak at their Community Conference held in York. The key focus of the conference was 'Sustainability and Education' and we presented our work with the [Smallpeice Trust](#) and our current STEM 5 project. March also saw the annual Community Rail Conference being held in Nottingham. With presentations from [Halifax Opportunities Trust](#), the [Great British Railways Transition Team](#) and many more, plus the opportunity to meet Officers from CRPs around the country, this was a great day that informed and inspired us. To download the presentations and read the highlights please visit the CRN [webpage](#). At the end of march we attended the [Hub for Education for Refugees in Europe \(HERE\)](#) online networking event 'Refugee education: continuing conversations', where we were chosen to give one of the lightning talks on our A Day Like This project with Highly Sprung in the first hour and then most of the second hour was given to discussions and networking opportunities in break-out rooms. Lastly we joined in the Eurovision spirit by going on LNR's Eurovision Party Train to Liverpool. It was a fantastically joyous occasion and a definite highlight of the year has to be dancing down Liverpool Lime Street Station platform with the Mayor of Liverpool - not your average day in the office!

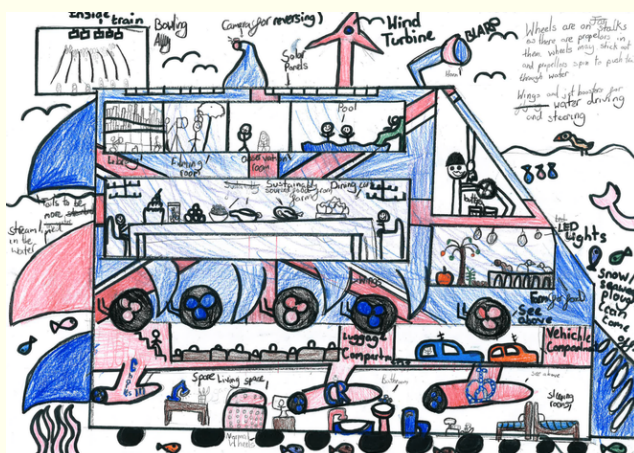
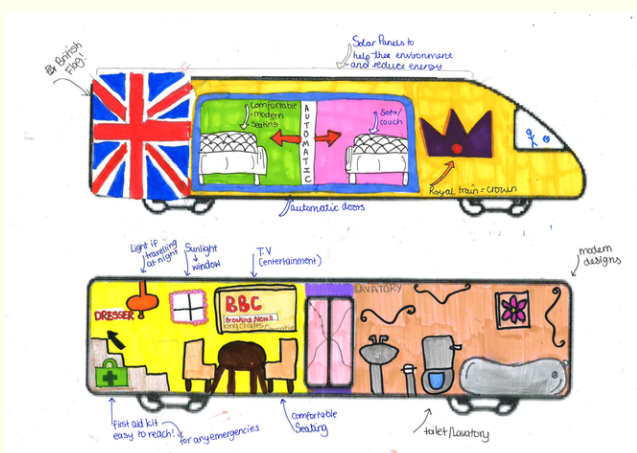


If you have any information you would like to share on this newsletter, or if you would like to unsubscribe, then please email: [juliasingletontasker@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:juliasingletontasker@warwickshire.gov.uk)



## A Very Royal Train

If you've been passing through Solihull Station, you may have seen our fabulous Royal Trains created by students at St Alphege Junior School to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III. Over 2 days, we delivered workshops to almost 300 students looking at royal trains of the past, the importance of sustainability in the rail industry and designing our own Very Royal Trains of the future. The artwork on display will be returned to the school for the students to keep. We want to say a huge thank you to Chiltern Railways for supporting the project and coming along to our school workshops.



## Community Rail Week 2023

As a proud member of Community Rail Network, we celebrated this year's Community Rail Week from the 22nd - 28th May. The week is a key chance to raise the profile of this grassroots movement and share the work we do throughout the year. During the week we had two guided Rail Trails from Leamington and Coventry Stations with Verity Tiff, an experienced Blue Badge Tourist Guide as well as delivering rail safety sessions to classes at St Patrick's Catholic Primary School in Leamington. On the 23rd we were joined by Warwick District Council at Leamington Station to promote our Rail Trails and the Better Points Scheme, where With the BetterPoints app your sustainable journeys can earn you rewards every time you walk, wheel, run, cycle, or use public transport. The app is free to download and you can find out more about the scheme at [www.chym.betterpoints.uk](http://www.chym.betterpoints.uk)



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)

# Projects



## Schools

We've taken several schools out on rail trips this year. Finham Park 2 have been participating in the Avanti West Coast Feel Good Field Trips and as part of this we've taken two groups down to London. One group visited the London Bridge Experience, had a boat ride on the Thames and got time to explore Covent Garden. The other headed to the Guardian Offices where they discovered more about how the newspaper works as well as exploring Real and Fake News.

As part of our Name the Line competition, we provided a free workshop to students at St Patrick's Catholic Primary in Leamington where we looked at what makes our local and regional areas special. Students were then treated to a free train trip to Coventry Station where they had an animation workshop by Let's Animate. The students had an amazing time and their animation creations can be seen at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=JxyfBRG\\_u0A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JxyfBRG_u0A) As part of the same project, we delivered an assembly to the students at Little Heath Primary School in Coventry and encouraged them to enter their suggestions for our Name the Line competition (more details on this competition are on the next page)

Our STEM 5 project has continued, with Avon Valley School in Rugby and Hartshill School in Nuneaton having now had their STEM day with the Smallpeice Trust. We're really looking forward to introducing their students to the rail industry and highlighting the many different opportunities that the railway creates.



# Name the Line



From over 200 individual suggestions, our shortlisting panel has had the unenviable task of picking three names for the Nuneaton - Leamington Line shortlist. We've had an incredible response to the competition with suggestions being entered by school students, rail enthusiasts, volunteers and members of the local community. The Nuneaton - Leamington Line is unique in the fact that it is the only whole line that serves Warwickshire and Coventry and there are so many amazing places and opportunities across it, that we want a line name that creates of identity. The panel chose names that have regional significance and that can inspire people who live along the line and those coming to visit the area to use the railways to explore one of the many attractions along the way.

The three names are:

## **Coventry & Warwickshire Line**

This says exactly what this line is. A simple name, like the Cross-City line in Birmingham which runs north-south through Birmingham. This line runs north-south through Coventry connecting the city to North and South of Warwickshire.

## **Elephant & Bear Line**

This name refers to the symbols of Coventry and Warwickshire. This is the only railway line that only serves the two areas and the elephant and bear have cultural and historical significance along the line.

## **Pioneer Line**

The line has a history of local pioneers e.g. George Eliot in Nuneaton, Lady Godiva in Coventry, Frank Whittle - born in Coventry and educated in Leamington. This line name celebrates the lives and works of the many amazing pioneers that have come from Warwickshire and Coventry.

The vote closes at midday on Saturday 10th June. Please share with your contacts and across social media! Find us @HeartCRP on Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and LinkedIn.

[Vote Now](#)



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)

CREATIVE  
PLATFORMS



# ART

## WORKSHOPS promoting mental wellbeing

Week 1 Grounding 16th June 2023

Week 2 Journeying 21st July 2023

Free workshops for adults focussed on mindful art techniques. Join local artist Emily for activities including painting. In Week 2 we journey by train to explore the local area and inspire the art.

### sign up

To sign up and find out more please visit our [Creative Platforms webpage](#) or email [HeartCRP@warwickshire.gov.uk](mailto:HeartCRP@warwickshire.gov.uk)



 mind  
Coventry and  
Warwickshire

Heart of  Community  
England || Rail Partnership



# Partner Updates



## WMT

The new Class 196 trains have entered service on the Nuneaton - Leamington Line. Find out about the new features at [www.westmidlandsrailway.co.uk/travel-information/whats-new/new-trains/class-196-fleet](http://www.westmidlandsrailway.co.uk/travel-information/whats-new/new-trains/class-196-fleet)

## Avanti West Coast

Coventry Station's Community Hub has seen an increase in community groups and organisations looking to book the space. It is a space that is completely 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](#)



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)

# Upcoming Events and Funding Opportunities



**Volunteers please! Getting people involved in community rail activities.**

**Date: 13 Jun, 2023**

**Location: Zoom**

**CRN Members only**

This interactive workshop will open up ideas and conversations around why you might want to recruit volunteers and why different people might want to join in (or find it difficult). We will discuss how we can plan for new people joining in, how we spread the word about opportunities to be involved and how we can make people feel welcome and included. Come along, share your experiences and learn from others.

This session is for members of Community Rail Network. The session will take place on zoom. The zoom details will be sent to the email you use to book on here the day before the event.

**Days Out by Rail**

**Date: 3-28 Jul, 2023**

Our Days Out by Rail campaign is set to return from 3 to 28 July. This tourism and leisure campaign will provide an opportunity for members to promote their lines and stations to a wider audience and will be delivered through our tourism initiative, Scenic Rail Britain. We'll be encouraging everyone in community rail to get involved with more details released in May but in the meantime, please contact [Alice](#) for specific support on tourism and leisure.

Find out more details and register for all CRN event [here](#).

**CRP Small Grants Fund**

Over the past year we have had a dedicated Small Grants Fund for station adopters to apply for. Each station adopter group in the CRP area can apply for up to £175 a year to spend on things like bulbs, tools, CRN membership etc. Up until now there have been 4 application windows for when groups can apply, however we are now changing this so that adoption groups can apply at any time of the year. The £175 will reset at the start of every financial year (April 1st). For more information about the grant, please email us.

**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](#)

**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)**