

February 2021

Stakeholder Newsletter



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Julia Singleton-Tasker, CRP Officer

With 2021 starting with another national lockdown and our volunteers once again unable to get to the stations, but with the possibility of a return being in the near future, we want to focus on the positives and the new opportunities that we hope Spring will bring. One silver lining to being in lockdown is that it's given us the opportunity to plan for projects in the upcoming year and the Annual Report gives a snapshot of some of those projects as well as celebrating the fantastic achievements of 2020. We know that volunteers across the area are looking forward to getting back to their stations and we will do everything we can to support and work with our fantastic station adopters.

NEWS & STORIES FOR
THIS ISSUE:

CRP News:

- 2020 Annual report
- School Engagement

RUG Update

Samaritans Course

CrossCountry Update

Funding Opportunities

Art at Henley-in-Arden Station

Events



2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Our 2020 Annual Report is out now! If you haven't received a copy, then get in touch and we'll email you a copy. It will also soon be available on our website.



Do you have a local primary school that would be interested in our KS1 and KS2 Rail safety lessons? We now have lessons that can be delivered in person or virtually and we will be launching them in the Summer term. If you know any schools that may be interested then feel free to pass them on our details!

Rail User Group Update

The offer of up to £175 towards plants and materials for each station within the CRP area (Stratford upon Avon - Shirley) has been welcomed by the Friends of the Shakespeare Line (FoSL). Station adopters within on the Shakespeare Line have been asked to forward their planting plans and requirements to FoSL who will co-ordinate the overall requirements and apply for the £175 funding per station where required.

Three local Rail User Groups, the Shakespeare Line Promotion Group, Solihull & Leamington Rail Users Association and the Cotswold Line Promotion Group, first two of which operate within part of Heart CRP's area, have successfully obtained up to £75,000 from the Department for Transport (DfT). The funding has been awarded in response to a successful bid to the DfT's "Restoring Your Railway" programme which the government launched last year together with £500m to support the process. The successful bid will enable and determine the economic impact and benefits from reopening the railway line between Stratford upon Avon and Honeybourne which was closed in 1976. If reopened, the line would enable an orbital West Midlands/South Midlands service as well as enabling direct connectivity between Stratford upon Avon, the Cotswolds, Oxford, Heathrow Airport and London Paddington. The work should be completed by late June 2021.

If you have any information you would like to share on this newsletter, or if you would like to unsubscribe, then please email: juliasingletasker@warwickshire.gov.uk



Samaritans Managing Suicidal Contacts Course

One of our volunteers attended this virtual training session and had the following feedback:

The course was very well managed by a skillful trainer who did a very effective job of including everyone involved. He clearly had an extensive knowledge in the field of managing suicidal contacts and delivered the material in a sensitive way... if space is available, I think that volunteers should have this training as they are quite likely to work on less busy stations at quiet times of day when nobody employed by the railway industry is around. Having suitably trained volunteers therefore extends the scope of the coverage by trained people and it may well be the case that a volunteer somewhere may be able to prevent a tragedy occurring.

Should anyone be interested in attending this training, then please let me know.

CrossCountry Update

Each year at CrossCountry we publish a Community Impact Report, setting out many of the actions and contributions our people and our business have made, to make the places our trains serve or our people live and work better.

The report showcases how our contributions are chosen specifically to help or benefit towns, cities and regions across Britain. From helping our people support local schools or sporting events, to working with Community Rail Partners to bring the railway and local communities close together, we are constantly looking for ways to use our position as Britain's geographically-largest train operator to 'give something back' and support the people and organisations who help others. And as well as today we're seeking to help future generations, with a partnership at Newcastle Rail Academy to support students learning to become railway engineers and our continued work with Community Rail Partnerships to develop communities and teach children the importance of safe and responsible behaviour. Download the latest report [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

Funding Opportunities

Small Grants Fund - The first round of our Small Grants Fund has closed and we've been able to approve grants for three of our station adoption groups to help pay for tools, plants and CRN membership. Next application window opens on the 1st April!

WCC Green Shoots Fund - A new £1million fund to help community projects to mitigate against, and adapt to, the impact of climate change. Only open to stations in Warwickshire - www.warwickshire.gov.uk/greenshootsfund

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 www.communityrail.org.uk/join-us/station-adopters-small-groups/

If you're travelling past Henley-in-Arden Railway Station, you may notice that the boarded up station building windows have had a makeover! As part of the CRP-supported Shakespeare Garden Project, the Friends of Henley Railway Station, commissioned these beautiful boards to showcase the Henley Heritage Trail.



Events

Community Rail Conference 2021. If you are a member of CRN then there is still time to register for this year's 4-part digital event. Check your emails for details on how to register.

WiCR South AGM. Join the Southern branch of Women in Community Rail for their AGM at 1pm on the 24th March. WiCR is an inclusive group that is open to all who work or volunteer in community rail. In their first year WiCR South have hosted the popular Breathing Space Sessions, which focussed on addressing topics such as mental health and achieving the work/life balance. To join the meeting via Zoom click [here](#).

Meeting ID: 842 8398 7369

Passcode: 963340

Women in Rail are hosting sessions with a variety of inspirational speakers, as well as a regular Kid's Hour. Find out more at www.womeninrail.org/events/

If you have any information you would like to share on this newsletter, or if you would like to unsubscribe, then please email: juliasingleton@warwickshire.gov.uk