



JUNE 2020

Welcome Back Packs

CRP Officer: Julia Singleton-Tasker

Funded by: Heart of England CRP

Community Rail Network



Key Pillar:

D. Support social and economic development

CRP Aims:

1, 2, 9



Overview

In June 2020 we had 15 highly dedicated station adoption groups in our area and during the current COVID-19 crisis they were not able to continue their fantastic work at stations. Unfortunately, with the hot weather and the lack of attention, some of the work that the volunteers have done, such as planters, suffered and as volunteers were starting to return to their stations, we wanted to give the volunteers a token of appreciation for all the hard work they do and for the commitment they show. Several volunteers had raised concerns about safety so, although we couldn't provide every volunteer with full PPE, we wanted to have a mix of practical items such as hand sanitiser and face masks, as well as treats as a thank you to them all.





Goals/Objectives

- To ensure our volunteers felt appreciated
- To provide basic PPE for volunteers to use at stations
- To support the local economy by sourcing as much as possible from local independent retailers



Community Benefit

The main reason for doing the Welcome Back Packs was to make our volunteers feel valued. They are all members of communities local to the train stations and lock down effected everyone to varying degrees. By providing a small gesture to each individual and a voucher to each adoption group, it was a small act of kindness that would show our appreciation for them. We tried to source all the items in the Welcome Back Packs from local suppliers in order to support the local economy. The hand sanitisers were from the Warwickshire Gin Company, the popcorn from Birmingham-based Joey Koala Gourmet Popcorn, Iyoki Chapmans Original is based in Warwick, the chocolates were hand-made from Henley Chocolates. The garden centre vouchers were purchased from independent garden centres close to the individual stations. This helped to advertise the local businesses as well as making the volunteers feel like they're being supported not only by the CRP, but by their communities as well.



Items Sourced

ITEM AND COMPANY	QUANTITY	COST
Hand Sanitisers <i>Warwickshire Gin Company</i>	131	£393
Face Masks <i>Etsy</i>	131	£360
Iyoki Chapmans Original <i>Warwickshire Gin Company</i>	131	£131
Garden Centre Gift Vouchers <i>Various</i>	10	£150
Hand-made chocolates <i>Henley Chocolates</i>	265	£262
Cards <i>Bryan B Kelley</i>	8	£0
<i>Janet Watson</i>	8	£0
Pens <i>Samaritans</i>	131	£0
TOTAL COST		£1296

Feedback

“Community Rail isn’t just about trains and stations, it’s about supporting the local communities. As well as saying a huge thank you to our amazing volunteers, it was also important that, as far as possible, we sourced the items in the Welcome Back packs from local, independent businesses.”

The Welcome Back packs were very well received, with volunteers describing them as ‘lovely and thoughtful’. Social distancing was followed when delivering the packs and guidance from West Midlands Trains and Chiltern Railways was reiterated in relation to their guidance on volunteer-based activity at stations

