

October 2021

Stakeholder Newsletter



“WINTER IS A SEASON OF RECOVERY AND PREPARATION.” – PAUL THEROUX

Julia Singleton-Tasker, CRP Officer

With the 2022 Commonwealth Games, we have a huge opportunity to showcase all the amazing attractions and opportunities the West Midlands has to offer. The CRP will be busy making plans over the Winter and we hope that all our volunteers and partners will join us in ensuring that the legacy of the Commonwealth Games goes beyond the two weeks of amazing sport. 2022 will be an exciting time, however as the nights draw in, there is still plenty going on in the community rail world to keep us busy. As ever, the amazing station volunteers are busy planning, planting and maintaining their stations ready for the Spring as well as developing projects to renovate disused station buildings, bring art to the railways and much more. Please do keep sharing your stories with us and help to keep inspiring community rail volunteers.

NEWS & STORIES FOR THIS ISSUE:

Community Rail Week

Olton Celebratory Planters

TOC Update - Coventry Station

Funding Opportunities

Events





Community Rail Week

The 18th - 24th October saw the first Community Rail Week launched, with the theme of 'Going Green by Train'. With COP26 about to start, this was a key time to remind and educate ourselves and others about the environmental benefits of railway travel. CRPs and station adopters across the country joined in with a host of different events, and here in the Heart of England CRP, we organised two public events. Full details of both will soon be available on our Community Projects webpage.

Pledge Day

On Wednesday 20th October, we held a pledge day at Coventry Station, where we asked rail users to sign a pledge to 'Go Green by Train'. We had a fantastic response from members of the public and a short video of all the pledges will be available soon to watch on our website. We were honoured to be joined not only by our partner organisations, but also by Councillor John McNicholas, Lord Mayor of Coventry, Cllr Rob Tromans, Mayor of Nuneaton and Bedworth, Cllr Parminder Singh Birdi, Deputy Mayor of Warwick, Cllr Butlin, Deputy leader of Warwickshire County Council, Cllr Timms, Cllr Dickson and Malcolm Holmes, Executive Director of WMRE.



Sustainable Stations

Our second event was on Saturday 23rd October and we partnered with Coventry Transport Museum to deliver a Sustainable Stations workshop that was free for all those visiting the museum. We were joined by families who junk modelled their own ideal sustainable stations, planted their own station gardens to take home and we talked about how buildings such as railway stations can play a huge part of our sustainable future. We're thrilled that Coventry Transport Museum have asked us back to host two more workshops this year and to work with them on future projects in 2022.



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

Sustainability

We will shortly be going live with our Sustainability page on our website. On this page you'll find details of the Heart of England CRP's Sustainability Statement (pictured), as well as details of how our partners are adopting sustainable practices for a greener future. By working closely with Sustainability leads in our partner organisations, we will continue to encourage, educate and support our communities in leading more sustainable lifestyles.

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.

With so many fantastic projects nationwide, we are honoured to be on the shortlist for the Best Community Engagement Project for the 2021 CRN Awards. We have been nominated for our Avanti West Coast funded project, Coventry Acts of Kindness, which we planned and delivered in partnership with the fantastic Kaleidoscope Plus Group

CERTIFICATE
OF SHORTLISTING

Your entry to the 2021 Community Rail Awards has achieved shortlisted status in the category

Best Community Engagement Project
sponsored by

ROCK
rail

GWR Great Western Railway | **South Western Railway** | **Community Rail Network** | **McBarnes** Hardware Events & Fundraising Manager

ExploreStation

ExploreStation is an initiative commissioned by Network Rail, and led by Design Council, exploring the future of railway stations across Britain. The aim is to create better travel experiences and new community hubs for the benefit of passengers and local people alike. There are online and in person workshops and exhibitions that you can register to attend and you can share your views on the nine key focus areas. Find out more at explorestation.commonplace.is

Tyseley Station

Neil Ewart, Friends of Vintage Trains

The Tyseley Team have been looking after the three very large flower beds on the end of the platform. One is in need of repair and we can announce that Spencers are going to refurbish it as part of a community project. This will involve very large amounts of soil plus repair of stonework. It is anticipated this will take place during December and will be done with no charge.



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

Olton Celebratory Planters Project

Geoff Taylor, Friends of Olton Station

Four large, blue wooden planters on the station platform had been in place since the 1990's, were showing signs of age and decay and needed replacement.



The Friends of Olton Station (FOS) were given the opportunity to bid for a grant from The Customer and Communities Improvement Fund, later known as the Your Community, Your Fund in 2019. A detailed bid was accepted and FOS were awarded funding for this project.



There followed a period of many hours of meetings, and fine tuning the planning details of the project to enable the work to go ahead. Several quotes were obtained from outside businesses in relation to the removal of the old planters, building, installation and stocking the new ones. Emphasis was placed on engaging local businesses.

Unforeseen circumstances and issues had to be resolved, including Covid-19, local suppliers going out of business, ensuring proper permissions were granted and all associated health and safety regulations were met. During this time, FOS were greatly indebted to the support and guidance provided by David Wisehall, Fay Easton and her team at West Midlands Railway. Fraser Pithie and the Friends of the Shakespeare Line also were very forthcoming with helping us to source our materials locally and manage our grant funding.



Access from the road up to the platform is via two flights of stairs and a small lift. On the day the new planters were scheduled to be installed by Earlswood Garden and Landscape Centre the lift broke down. Undeterred three members of their staff and some FOS carried eight preformed planters up the stairs along with 128 bags of compost and planting medium to fill them.

Over the next few weeks, grant money was used to purchase seeds, bulbs and established plants and these were lovingly put in by FOS. We look forward to a colourful display next year. The successful completion of this community project is testament to what can be achieved by the cooperation of different stakeholders of the Community Rail Partnership.

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



Partner Update

Avanti West Coast

Coventry Station has been undergoing a huge amount of work and, not only is there a whole new station building, but the existing listed building has also been getting some changes.

Artist Christopher Tipping has created vinyl artwork inspired by and reflecting Coventry's culture and history. The refurbishment of the first class lounge into a community room is progressing and we're looking forward to hosting community rail events there in 2022.



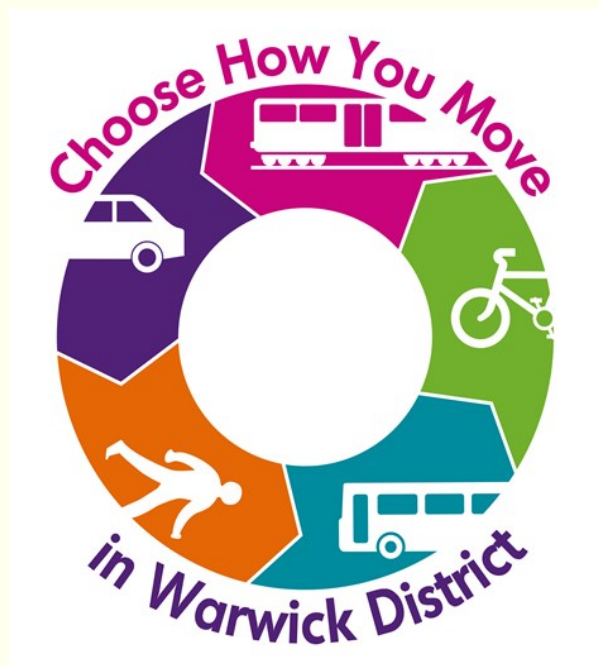
Andy Street, along with Andrew Haines & Tim Shoveller from Network , plus Phil Whittingham and the Council Leader visited the new building. Pictured here in the new turning loop.

Warwick District Council

Earn rewards for your active and sustainable travel 'Choose How You Move' is a rewards programme for ditching the car and making more active and sustainable travel choices in Warwick District, to enhance health and wellbeing, improve air quality and support local businesses.

It runs from 1st January 2021 to 8th August 2022 and follows on from a successful pilot in Leamington Spa. During this time residents of Warwick District can download the free BetterPoints app, track sustainable and active journeys to earn BetterPoints, and BetterTickets to win prizes.

BetterPoints can then be redeemed for a whole host of retail vouchers or donated to charities. Find out more on their [website](#).



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



Funding Opportunities

The CRP is working on a list of potential funding sources for station adopters in the CRP area to be added to our website. If you are aware of any local funds that are available to volunteer groups, then please let us know and we can make sure we include them in the list.

Small Grants Fund - The third round of our Small Grants Fund closes today, the 30th October, and the next application window opens on the 1st January 2022.

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/

National Lottery Together For Our Planet Fund- Apply for £1,000 to £10,000 of National Lottery funding to support communities across the UK to take action on climate change on projects and activities, including those relating to transport and promoting sustainable travel. www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/together-for-our-planet



Rail is one of the greenest ways to travel and is getting greener all the time

1% of domestic UK transport emissions

goGreen by Train Community Rail Week 2021 We Mean Green



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



Events

WMT Annual Community Rail Conference

Date: 11 Nov, 2021, 10am - 12.30pm

Location: Online, register [here](#).

Community Rail Network events:

Community Rail Network AGM and board elections

Date: 2 Nov, 2021

Location: Online via Zoom

Effective Meetings

Date: 8 Nov, 2021, 10am – 12.30pm

Location: Online via Zoom

How do we make meetings effective and inclusive? This short and participatory online workshop will consider:

- why we have meetings and the importance of being clear on expectations/roles etc
- the different roles that people take in meetings
- managing and responding to difficult conversations/behaviour
- practicalities to make meetings as productive as they can be

There will be plenty of opportunity for you to reflect on how this will be useful for the meetings you manage or attend. Places are available for Community Rail Network members only.

Community Rail Awards 2021

Date: 9 Dec, 2021

Location: Southampton

CRN are aiming to run a prestigious hybrid presentation event at the iconic Guildhall in Southampton, which will include both live and digital attendees.

[Take a look ahead to this year's awards.](#)

You can register and find out more about all CRN events [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