

January 2022

Stakeholder Newsletter



"DRIVING THE TRAIN DOESN'T SET ITS COURSE. THE REAL JOB IS LAYING THE TRACK" - ED CATMULL

Julia Singleton-Tasker, CRP Officer

Whilst writing this newsletter, I came across the above quote and it resonated with me. For the past two years, plans have been made, adapted, postponed or even cancelled. Having just spent an inspirational week with the New Leaf Initiative, delivering our careers experience days, it feels like all the frustrations and delays have faded into the background. The time spent laying the foundations for the CRP - engaging with stakeholders, reaching out to community organisations, planning and research - means that we are on track (pardon the train pun) to have a great 2022. On a personal note, I'm looking forward to spending less time in front of a laptop and much more time out on the railways delivering projects and engaging with our fantastic communities!

NEWS & STORIES FOR
THIS ISSUE:

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- Leamington Subway
- Commonwealth Games Funding

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AGM

We will be holding our 2022 AGM on Wednesday 9th March, 10:00 - 10.30. This will be an open online event where the HoE CRP steering group will be voting in a new chair and 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 2021 and plans for 2022. The meeting will be hosted on Teams and invites will be sent out in due course. We will have time for questions and for feedback from our stakeholders so we hope many of you are able to attend.

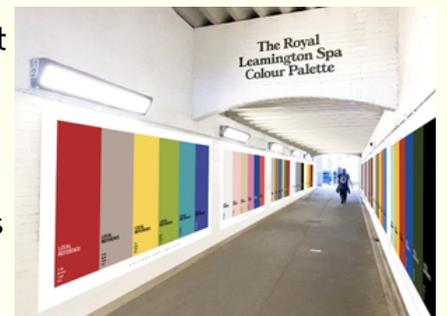


Careers, Creativity, and the Commonwealth

After delays due to Covid, we were finally able to welcome our first cohort for our Careers, Creativity and the Commonwealth project. Funded by Avanti West Coast, we have been collaborating with the New Leaf Initiative to deliver careers experience days as part of their 3 week pre-employment course. We have had some inspirational visits with English Heritage at Kenilworth Castle, Sulzer and Balfour Beatty Vinci at Birmingham Business Park, the NEC and with staff at Birmingham International Station. A full press release will soon be available on our Latest News page on our website.

Leamington Pedestrian Subway Engagement

Warwick District Council have launched a public consultation to inform a new piece of artwork for the Leamington Station Pedestrian Subway. The Royal Leamington Spa Colour Palettes art piece will be made up of a variety of colours and each one representing one of seven themes relating to the town. As part of the public consultation, we've teamed up with artist Melissa Keskinilinc to offer Leamington-based primary schools, workshops to develop their own colour palettes. These workshops will be taking place in February and we are looking forward to seeing what colours the students feel represent their home town. For the full information on the public consultation, please click [here](#).



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FUNDING

Commonwealth Games: Station Project Fund

The Heart of England CRP will be launching a Commonwealth Games: Station Project Fund in the near future. This fund will be for station adopters to apply for funding for projects at their stations in the lead up to the Commonwealth Games. Working with TOC partners and the CRP, volunteers will be able to apply for funding for projects in the lead up to the Commonwealth Games. Keep an eye on emails for further details!

Community Rail Awards

In December, we were delighted to attend CRN's Community Rail Awards in Southampton. Although we didn't win, it was a fantastic occasion and so lovely to see many of our community rail family.

There were so many inspiring stories and projects and it was a real highlight to finish the year on.

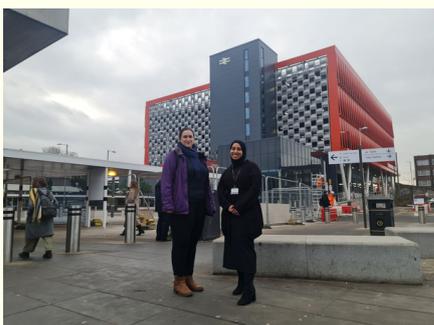


Upcoming Projects Overview

The Rambler's Association and the Long Distance Walker's Association have been working with us to provide maps for a series of **Rail Trail routes**. We are currently procuring a company to produce downloadable leaflets of these routes for all 36 of our stations. A team of Graphic Information Design students at Worcester University have been tasked with **re-designing our line map** this term. We've asked for them to highlight some of the many attractions and hidden gems that are accessible by rail in the CRP area.



Coventry-based **Positive Youth Foundation** have asked us to collaborate with them on a rail familiarisation session for young people who are newly arrived into the country. Our **Creative Platforms** project with local artists Katie Jones and Emily Pettitt, is now set for March and we enjoyed a planning trip to Mary Arden's Farm, courtesy of Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust.



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Station Adopters Update

Coventry Arena

The wonderful guys at Dhillon's Brewery adopted Coventry Arena and have now worked with local artists to capture Coventry's diverse culture and to promote sustainable travel in a piece of art that brightens up the station and reflects the city it serves.



Bedworth and Bermuda Park Stations

We are delighted to welcome two new station adopters from the Bedworth line & Hinckley Community Rail organisation. Stu and Dave from the group have adopted Bedworth and Bermuda Park Stations and we're looking forward to seeing their plans!

CRP Tour

On the 7th January we were joined by Malcolm Holmes, Executive Director of WMRE, and Tom Painter Head of Rail Delivery at WMRE, on a tour of the CRP patch. As well as discussing upcoming projects and meeting our wonderful adopter at Stratford Parkway, we popped into Warwick Parkway for lunch and a chat with Ashley and Myles, owners of Morning Sunshine Coffee.



Small Projects Fund

The deadline for this quarter's Small Projects Fund has been extended until the 10th February. All station adoption groups are eligible to apply for up to £175 a year to go towards costs such as gardening tools, CRN membership, plants etc. The funding year runs from January - December, so if you applied last year, then you can apply for the full amount this year again. For more details and to receive an application form, contact juliasingletontasker@warwickshire.gov.uk

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Partner Update

Chiltern Railways

Chiltern Railways has been awarded a new six-year contract that includes commitments to continue working towards decarbonising and modernising its fleet and customer experience. The new contract started on Friday 31 December and runs until the end of 2027. The contract builds on Chiltern's track record of investing in trains and stations to attract millions more customers over its current 20 year franchise.

The new contract means Chiltern Railways will continue operating its existing services between London and Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and the West Midlands, providing journeys for business and leisure customers and connecting cities and towns to support the region's social and economic recovery.

The new contract provides certainty and a sustainable service for Chiltern's customers, as well as a range of benefits to improve the experience of travelling and benefit the communities Chiltern Railways serve.

Chiltern has committed to delivering the following;

- To continue and expand the trials of HybridFlex technology which converts existing trains to diesel-battery hybrid with zero emissions whilst at stations
- To work on a business case for converting all diesel trains to hybrid technology
- To introduce Delay Repay 15 which means customers can make compensation claims when a train arrives 15 minutes or more late at its destination
- An improved onboard customer environment with new LED lighting and CCTV on the vast majority of trains and a plan for a light refresh of train interiors with the owners of the trains
- Extended opening hours for the customer contact centre to ensure we offer an enhanced customer experience 7 days a week



Richard Allan managing director of Chiltern Railways said, "I'm delighted and proud that Chiltern Railways has agreed a new National Rail Contract with the Department for Transport (DfT) for the next 6 years. This gives certainty to customers and stakeholders and is a vote of confidence in our future and in the hard work of the Chiltern team which has made us one of the best performing train operators over many years."

"We are determined to modernise Chiltern Railways again and ensure we are fit to meet the challenges of the future. We look forward to continuing to serve our customers and attracting more customers to use the railway."

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Partner Update Continued

WMT

WMT have announced the very welcome news that the Leamington – Nuneaton train service will be reinstated in full on Sunday 27 February.



Friends of the Shakespeare Line CSP Update

It's the beginning of another year, and we are looking forward to 2022 as a year that will hopefully see everyone get back to some semblance of normality. We appreciate the support that Heart of England CRP has given to those stations, through its small grants scheme of up to £175 per station, in the CRP's area between Stratford upon Avon and Shirley. For those stations, the Small Grants Scheme has helped with the cost of planting and other items to support the individual adopters.

We have established a closer working relationship between Friends of the Shakespeare Line and the Heart of England CRP through a weekly catch up call between Fraser at FOSL and Julia at HOE CRP. The weekly catch up works well and enables each organisation to know what the other is doing and what opportunities there may be to help each other.

Towards the end of last year, FOSL spent considerable time working with the adopters at the northern end of the line in some of Birmingham's most socially deprived areas. It has been rewarding for volunteers from along our line who have rallied to help and encourage those who have stepped forward in those communities left behind for decades. We are pleased that the railway sector is now putting time, effort, and funding into those stations and communities.

We published our first Annual Report towards the end of 2021 and its available at our website [here](#).

We hope to agree and announce our plans for 2022 in early spring. We aim to put the Shakespeare Line firmly on the map and encourage as many people as possible to use their train service and visitors to explore our line and the Heart of England.

Fraser Pithie

Friends of the Shakespeare Line

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Funding Opportunities

Solihull MBC

Solihull MBC have partnered with the Heart of England Community Foundations, to offer grants of up to £5,000 to support ideas and proposals which will provide and deliver:

- Community events
- Community based arts and cultural activity
- Community activity that supports the Commonwealth Games

For more information, click [here](#).

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/

Job Opportunity

Chiltern is currently recruiting for their Stakeholder Executive role. Sitting within the Corporate Affairs team, the Stakeholder Executive will lead on Chilterns Community Rail Strategy, supporting Heart of England Community Rail Partnership and the Station Adoption Scheme. They will also manage relationships with charity organisations, including Chilterns Charity Partnership and the employee volunteering programme.

This is an exciting opportunity for someone with a passion for community engagement and social value as they will play an important part in building a new Community Rail Strategy, developing Chilterns community engagement work, with the ability to really make the role their own.

If you know someone with an interest in Community Rail who is looking for a new challenge, please share the job details [here](#)

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Events



Great British Railways transition: webinar for community rail

Date: 1st February 2022, 4pm - 5pm

Location: Online

Community Rail Network members are invited to this webinar, especially for community rail partnerships and groups, on the transition to Great British Railways. The webinar will be hosted with the GBR Transition Team, and there will be a chance to ask questions and reflect on how community rail can play an increasingly important role.

Using the Impact platform for surveys and polls

Date: 7th February 2022

Region: Members only

Type: Online training

The Impact reporting platform can be used to undertake polls and surveys. It is free for Community Rail Network members to use, there is no limit to the number of responses, and the data can be easily downloaded.

This short demo will show you how to set up a survey and then collect and analyse responses. If you do not already have access to Impact we'll let you know how to sign up. This session will be held on zoom. Details will be sent out a few days before.

Heart of England CRP AGM

Date: 9th March 2022, 10am - 10.30am

Location: Online Via Teams

Open to all. Invites will be sent out in due course.

Community Rail Week

Date: 23rd - 29th May 2022

Location: Nationwide

Community Rail Week is returning and CRN are encouraging all our members and partners to consider how they can get involved and make use of this great awareness-raising opportunity.

You can register and find out more about all CRN events [here](#).

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