

Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership Annual Report 2018-2019



Read About:

- Restoring historic stations
- Station adoption projects
- Improved access to Whatstandwell
- Marketing initiatives
- Derby Resignalling project



Whistlestop Café opens at Matlock Bath Station



In Bloom Award for Belper



Duffield Station Garden completed



Whatstandwell Access Improvements



Launch of Pentrich Revolution Bicentenary Panel



Whatstandwell Station Landscaping

Message from the Chair

This last year has seen major investment, but also significant disruption of the local railway network in and around Derby. These major projects need to take place and from what I saw and understand, the major upgrade to both Derby station and re-signalling all went to plan. The Derwent Valley Line and our passengers were arguably impacted upon more, than any other route. Yet an enhanced level of rail replacement services for the Derwent Valley, which was well organised and promoted, helped to minimise the impact.

During the line closure, I am especially pleased that opportunities have been taken locally to carry out significant improvements at local stations to benefit our passengers. The fantastic restoration of the Whistlestop at Matlock Bath, canopy refurbishment at Matlock, platform enhancements at Cromford and smaller scale improvements and maintenance at Whatstandwell, have all made a real positive impact at our stations.

Considerable work has gone on behind the scenes by the Community Rail Partnership working with the rail industry and other local stakeholders to ensure that these local enhancements took place, during this window of opportunity. The partnership has also obtained significant funding to help make many of these projects happen. Working with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, we have brought an additional £40,000 through the rail industry to match Heritage Lottery and others, to enable the long awaited regeneration of the station building. This will bring a real boost for the local economy in Matlock Bath and lead to new jobs in the café.

The station volunteers put in many hours taking pride in their local station, so it is especially pleasing for them to see these enhancements taking place, alongside their activities. The station groups regularly receive praise from passengers who pass by and appreciate the difference they are making, but it's also pleasing to see how the Belper Station gardeners have been officially praised by the RHS in Bloom judges and Cromford's efforts feature in a local magazine article.

The partnership works with many local organisations to develop the stations and promote the line, encouraging more passengers and increasing visitor numbers to the area. One group that we have worked with this year is the South Wingfield and Pentrich Revolution Group. They were very pleased to work with the partnership to enable the installation of a panel at Ambergate Station to commemorate and inform both local people and visitors about the Pentrich Revolution.

Over the last few years, we have worked very closely on a number of projects with DerwentWISE. This has included project conservation work at Cromford station, producing the Derwent Valley Line panels and this year developing the wonderful Activity Book which will encourage more families to take a trip on the train and discover the Derwent Valley. I am really looking forward to seeing the finished booklet, in time for the summer. Unfortunately the DerwentWISE project has come to an end but their work has left a real legacy for both the valley and the line which we will benefit from for years to come.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the partner organisations we have worked with over the last 12 months and in particular all the station adopters and volunteers for all the time and effort they put into their volunteering for the benefit of others. It's a great privilege to work alongside these individuals who bring such enthusiasm and make this line a real success.

Councillor Trevor Ainsworth



Cllr Ainsworth admires the Pentrich Revolution Bicentenary Panel

News on the Line

Derby Resignalling Project and Ambergate Junction Improvements



During 2018/19 an 11 week major engineering project at Derby delivered an improved station layout enabling faster approaches into and out of the station. An additional week long project at Ambergate also delivered significant improvement in line speed across the junction.

Derby Resignalling was a £200 million upgrade of the railway in and around Derby station from 22 July to 7 October 2018. This 79 day blockade of Derby station was extremely complex with six different phases and varying impacts on journeys across the East Midlands. From 30 July to 2 September there was no train service between Nottingham and Derby and from 25 August to 7 October no train service between Derby and Matlock.

Installing Derby Resignalling banner at entrance to Ambergate Station

In February 2019, a £13m upgrade at Ambergate junction was carried out to enable trains to operate at higher speeds across the junction including services to and from Matlock.

As a result of these major projects, services on the Derwent Valley Line were severely disrupted for nearly a quarter of the year with rail replacement bus services operating for the majority of these 12 weeks. The community rail partnership worked with East Midlands Trains to provide good local awareness of the project and the rail replacement services. Dedicated local signage was installed and timetable information widely distributed in the Derwent Valley.



Bus replacement signage at Belper Station

Passenger Journeys on the Derwent Valley Line

Despite the significant impact on the train service of both the Derby Resignalling and Ambergate junction projects, passenger journeys on the Derwent Valley Line only reduced by 12% across the whole year, compared to 2017/18. An excellent communications campaign and a well operated rail replacement bus service helping to minimise the impact on passengers. Most noticeable was the impact at Matlock Bath during the late summer and autumn including the first half of the Illuminations' season. The changes in passenger journeys for each station are shown below:

Station	Passenger Journeys 2018/19	Passenger Journeys 2017/18	% Change in Passenger Journeys 2017/18 to 2018/19
Ambergate	41,241	46,680	-11.7%
Belper	210,886	233,582	-9.7%
Cromford	41,740	47,601	-12.3%
Duffield	68,954*	74,580*	-7.5%
Matlock	201,649	222,504	-9.4%
Matlock Bath	62,151	86,222	-27.9%
Whatstandwell	23,181	26,843	-13.6%
Total at all local stations	649,767	738,012	-11.9%

*Total includes through tickets to Wirksworth from Duffield

East Midlands Franchise

The Invitation to Tender for the next East Midlands Franchise was issued. The most notable benefits for the Derwent Valley Line include a more frequent Sunday service and an increase in Community Rail funding.

Improving Local Stations

Improving Local Stations

Significant enhancement and maintenance work was carried out during the year, much of which took place whilst the line was closed due to the Derby Resignalling project. Network Rail refurbished the station canopies at Matlock whilst other smaller scale improvements took place at each station. Station adopters on the Derwent Valley Line continued to enhance their local station with their management of station gardens and planting displays along the route. During the year, three new volunteers have joined our existing station groups at Ambergate and Matlock.

Duffield

In April a community action day was held to complete the extensive station garden feature. Over thirty rail staff and local volunteers worked in heavy rain to carry over 350 bags of compost, woodchip and 400 shrubs over the station footbridge, to fill the fifteen large planters and complete the station decking and planting feature. Staff and volunteers joined forces from ACoRP, Department for Transport, Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership, Duffield Parish Council, East Midlands Trains, Ecclesbourne Valley Railway and Network Rail to complete the project.

Over the last two years, the large, formerly barren platform has been transformed by the completed station decking and planting feature that now comprises over 30 planters. The planters have a typically Mediterranean feel as shrubs and herbs have been selected that will flourish in a minimal depth of soil. The project was shortlisted at the Community Rail Awards 2018 in the 'Most Enhanced Station Buildings and Surroundings' category.



The extensive station garden area at Duffield

Belper

Transition Belper's station gardening prowess was recognised by the Royal Horticultural Society with an East Midlands in Bloom "Judges Award" for 'their planting and maintenance of Belper Railway Station'. The station formed part of the judges' tours for both the East Midlands and Britain in Bloom entries organised by Belper Town Council, as well as a location on the Belper Open Gardens weekend.

The volunteers continued to meet up every Sunday morning throughout the spring, summer and autumn to care for the extensive station garden areas including the wildlife meadow and adjacent footpath areas. In May, the volunteers also shared a stall with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust at the Belper Goes Green festival and using natural materials, they helped children make mini-insect homes to take home, whilst also promoting their station gardening activities and achievements.



RHS In Bloom Judges Award

Ambergate

Two more local residents joined the Station Adopter group to help look after the colourful floral displays around the platform, car park and station entrance as well as the large terraced garden area on the Station Approach.

The new information board commemorating The Pentrich Revolution was unveiled at Ambergate Station on 19th August by The Mayor of Ripley, Councillor Paul Lobley and his Consort Mrs. Lobley. They were accompanied by Cllr Trevor Ainsworth, Donna Adams from East Midlands Trains and members of the Pentrich and South Wingfield Revolution Group, who are dedicated to sharing the little-known story of how over 300 men set off for Nottingham to bring down an unjust and oppressive government. The Pentrich and South Wingfield Revolution Group worked with Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership to create the panel and promote the significance of the Pentrich Revolution, to visitors arriving by train at Ambergate Station.

Improving Local Stations

Whatstandwell

The public footpath between Whatstandwell village and the station has been greatly improved with new surfacing and lighting improvements, funded jointly by ACoRP and Derbyshire County Council.

At the start of the project, a section of wall which was deemed unstable, was re-built by Amber Valley Borough Council. Derbyshire County Council then carried out works included regrading and removal of steps midway along the footpath, drainage improvements and resurfacing, including an anti-slip surface on the top steepest section of the path. Five low intensity, low voltage LED 'sign light units' have been installed along the line of path, including a light at the top of the path, illuminating the steps. A new handrail and painting of the bollards completed the project with the footpath reopening in May 2018.

The disused platform at Whatstandwell Station has been dramatically improved with six, new large planters surrounded by an attractive feature of cobblestones. The landscaping was organised by Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership working with Network Rail and East Midlands Trains. To overcome the access difficulties the project was carried out during the Derby Resignalling Project when the line was closed, enabling movement of materials across the track.

The project took place over two days, with Network Rail's Asset Team having a team building day working with East Midlands Trains staff to build the planters and prepare the area. This was followed by a community action day with staff from East Midlands Trains and Network Rail to carry out the planting. The Station Adopters were also assisted in extending part of their shrub garden behind the main platform. ACoRP provided Small Grant Funding towards the improvements.



Landscaping enhancements to the disused platform at Whatstandwell Station

Cromford

Throughout the year, Cromford station volunteers continued to make improvements to the station environment at their regular working parties. Station Adopter, Garry Purdy was shortlisted for the 'Outstanding Volunteer Contribution' at the Community Rail Awards 2018. Since 2008 Garry has been a passionate advocate for the Derwent Valley Line and a committed Cromford Station Adopter.

The group which are overseen by Cromford Parish Council gained funding from Derbyshire Dales District Council's Local Projects Fund to buy plants and to build bird boxes for the station. These have been made in kit form at the Greenaway workshop, for adults with long term health conditions. They will then be assembled by children from Cromford School, ready for installation at the station.

In the autumn the Arkwright Society organised a group of Rolls Royce engineers to install a border edge of old railway sleepers between the car park and the banking to the rear. This has provided both a boundary to the car park and greatly assisted the volunteer work in this area.

The work of the station group and community rail partnership, to transform the station environment was featured in the March 2019 edition of Reflections, a free magazine which is extensively distributed throughout Derbyshire

www.reflections-magazine.com/end-of-the-line-for-an-overgrown-mess/

During the Derby Resignalling project, a project action day was organised during the line closure to undertake various maintenance work including cleaning the footbridge and cut back of vegetation. Network Rail also carried out significant platform improvements including resurfacing and improvements to the platform edge.



Adopters maintaining Cromford Station

Improving Local Stations

Matlock Bath

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust opened The Whistlestop Café in the former station building in March 2019, following an extensive and high quality restoration of the Grade II listed building. The £130,000 renovation and refurbishment of the building into a café and visitor gateway for Matlock Bath has been funded by Heritage Lottery, Crowdfunding, Leader in the Peak and grants secured by the Community Rail Partnership from ACoRP and CrossCountry Trains.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust worked closely with Network Rail to enable them to install a new roof across the whole building whilst there were no trains running during the Derby Resignalling project. Once this major part of the project was completed an extensive internal refit took place. This included installation of wood burners and central heating funded by an ACoRP grant enabling the building to be in use throughout the year and access and toilet improvements funded by CrossCountry Trains. The former station building now comprises the main café, with an adjoining family discovery area and adjacent room displaying station memorabilia. An opening event is planned for Easter 2019.

On the station platform, the Station Adopters, installed eight new 'self-watering' planters. These have proved to be a great success due to the self-contained water reservoir making them easier to maintain and enabling the flowers to flourish. Funding gained last year from ACoRP by the Community Rail Partnership had funded these planting barrels.

Whistlestop Café during and after renovation



Matlock

The two historic canopies at Matlock were renovated by Network Rail whilst the station was closed during the Derby Resignalling works. The main glass canopy benefited from a treatment of abrasive (sand) blasting of the steel structure, new roof panels, drainage improvements and a complete repaint. The flat roofed canopy was also given a full repaint, with both structures maintaining their Midland Railway red and cream colours.

To provide better wind and rain protection under the main canopy, a scheme is being developed by East Midlands Trains to install a glass side panel inside the main canopy structure. Design options are being developed to be agreed with Network Rail and commented upon by Derbyshire Dales District Council. Funding for this project has been agreed by the Community Rail Partnership, ACoRP and CrossCountry Trains.

The station platform environment continues to be cared for to a high standard by the Station Adopters. They are assisted with supply of water by Peak Rail enabling them to maintain impressive floral displays in their numerous planting tubs.



Matlock Station canopy restored

Marketing the Derwent Valley Line

Marketing activities to promote the line were delivered by the Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership. During the year, the following marketing initiatives were delivered:

New Derwent Valley Line Activity Book

A new Derwent Valley Line Activity Book is being produced, providing fun walking trails from each station with numerous family orientated quizzes and activities to take part in. The booklet is aimed at families with young children who are encouraged by 'Perri the Peregrine' to "Spot things and do stuff" by discovering history, spotting wildlife or just explore the wonderful countryside along the Derwent Valley Line. The booklet is nearing completion and will be launched in the spring. The booklet has been produced in partnership with DerwentWISE and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and has also received funding from ACoRP.

In March, the community rail partnership and volunteers from Cromford Station attended the DerwentWISE Celebration event at which the soon to be launched Activity Book, was promoted as part of the display.



Promoting the soon to be completed Activity Book at the DerwentWISE Celebration event at Cromford Canal

Summer Evening Saver

Leaflets and posters were produced to promote the Derwent Valley Line Summer Evening Saver ticket, between Derby and Matlock. Evening return fares were again just £3 return and the promotional fare was available between 14 May and 24 August 2018.

Derwent Valley Line Promotional Panel and Station to Station Walks Panel

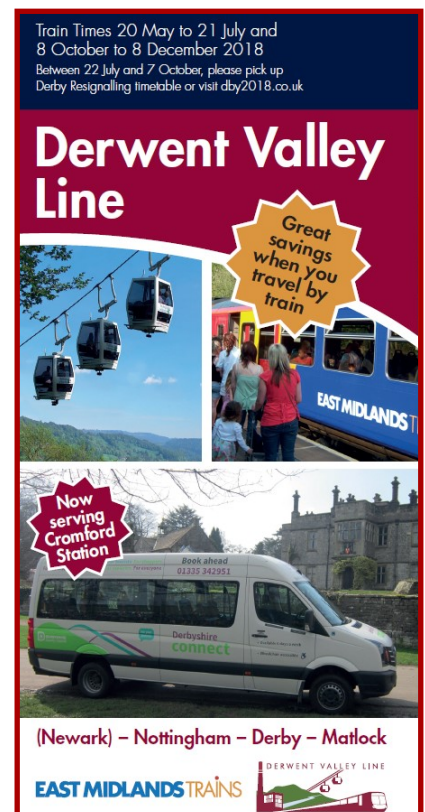
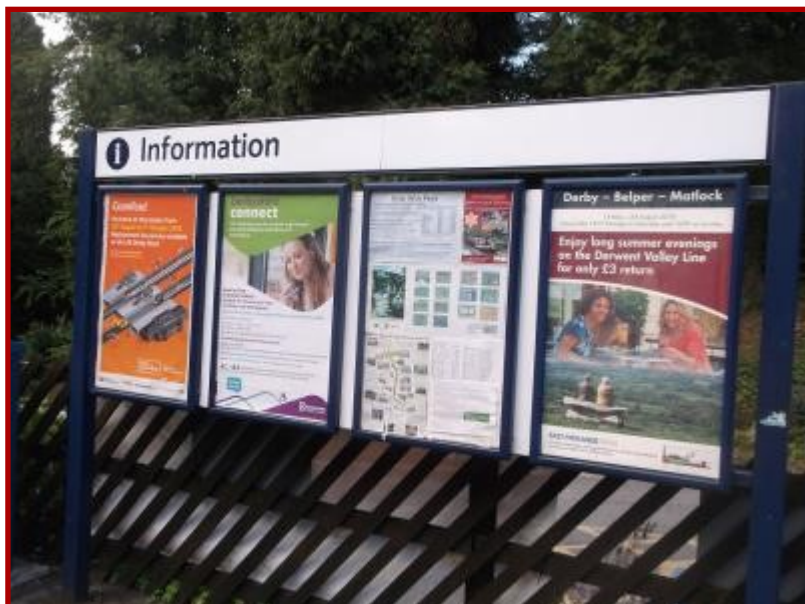
Installation was completed at all stations between Derby and Matlock of the illustrative panels promoting the Derwent Valley Line and the Derwent Valley Station to Station Walks.

Derwent Valley Line Visitor Leaflet

Two editions of the Derwent Valley Line promotional leaflet were produced in May and December 2019. To promote the numerous places of interest along the line, the leaflet includes the illustrative Derwent Valley Line map used on the panels at local stations.

Local Transport Information

The Partnership's station information cases continued to provide visitor and local event information, as well as useful travel information. Town and village timetable cases were also kept updated.



Partnership display cases promoting rail services, tourism, onward travel and promotional fares.

Finance Report 2018/19

Rail industry funding has continued from East Midlands Trains and CrossCountry Trains along with the Local Authority contributions from Amber Valley Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council and Peak District National Park Authority. This funding enables employment of a part time officer and delivery of marketing and small scale station enhancements.

Financial Statement 2018/19

Expenditure	(£)
Salary Costs	19,738.30
Staff Travel	590.95
Partnership Management Costs*	4,000
Miscellaneous Expenses (admin, IT and mobile)	323.41
Projects and Marketing Activities	9,239.15
Grants to partner organisations	51,989.00
Sub Total for 2018/19	85,880.81
To be carried forward to 2019/20	61,877.63
Total Expenditure	147,758.44
Income	(£)
Amber Valley Borough Council	2,000.00
Derbyshire Dales District Council	2,000.00
Peak District National Park Authority	2,000.00
Derbyshire County Council*	4,000.00
East Midlands Trains	15,000.00
CrossCountry Trains	10,000.00
Grants and project contributions	58,839.00
DVLCRP Reserves from 2017/18	53,919.44
Total Income	147,758.44

Grant Expenditure

Two grants were provided to partner organisations to deliver projects:

- £39,489 to Derbyshire Wildlife Trust towards 'Waking up the Whistlestop' at Matlock Bath Station and
- £12,500 to Derbyshire County Council for surfacing and lighting of public footpath to Whatstandwell station

Grant Income

The Partnership gained grant and project contributions totalling £58,839:

- £22,969 from ACoRP and £16,520 from CrossCountry Trains for 'Waking up the Whistlestop'
- £12,500 from ACoRP for surfacing and lighting of public footpath to Whatstandwell station;
- £2,750 from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and £2,500 from ACoRP for Derwent Valley Line Activity Book;
- £950 from ACoRP for Whatstandwell disused platform improvements and
- £650 from ACoRP for promotion of Derbyshire Connect

Funding Notes: * In kind support from Derbyshire County Council, as the Partnership's host organisation. This includes Management, Finance, Audit, Procurement, Information Technology, Human Relations, Payroll and Administrative Support.

Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership

The Derwent Valley Line Community Rail Partnership works to develop and promote the Derwent Valley Line for the benefit of residents and visitors. The Partnership's role in developing the line is officially recognised by the Department for Transport.

The Partnership's vision for the Derwent Valley Line is:

'The operation of a frequent and reliable 7 day a week railway service that will attract a growing market, meet the needs of residents and visitors and support the economy of the Derwent Valley'.

The Partnership is funded by Amber Valley Borough Council, CrossCountry Trains, Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, East Midlands Trains and Peak District National Park Authority. The Partnership is managed by Derbyshire County Council.

The Partnership would also like to thank all our station volunteers, members of the Partnership and Chris Darrall for meticulously recording the minutes of the meetings.



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