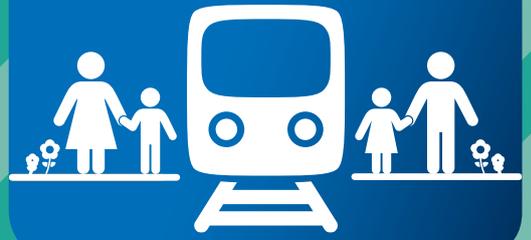


# Community Matters



Community Rail



Issue 2 **December 2018** | Your biannual newsletter for Community Rail news at East Midlands Trains

## Welcome to your Community Rail newsletter

Jake Kelly, Managing Director

Hello and welcome to the latest edition of Community Matters, the Community Rail newsletter from East Midlands Trains.

The past six months have seen Community Rail at East Midlands Trains enjoy further success as our franchise draws to a close. I am personally very proud of the hard work our volunteers and station adopters have put in throughout 2018 and look forward to seeing their further successes in the new year.

In 2019 we expect our number of station adopters to grow, as we welcome members from the Barton to Cleethorpes Community Rail Partnership to the East Midlands Trains family and look forward to this expansion across the country.

Between July and October this year, extensive work took place around Derby station as part of the Derby Resignalling project. Whilst this work

was ongoing, some of our volunteers and station adopters took the opportunity to work on the hard-to-reach areas at several of our Derwent Valley Line stations that are inaccessible whilst our train service is running.

I hope this newsletter helps to highlight the excellent work taking place across our network on a daily basis.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas, and all the best for 2019.

*Jake Kelly*



## Remembering the fallen, one hundred years on

November 11th 2018 marked one hundred years since the end of the First World War, with several station adoption groups across the East Midlands Trains network marking the occasion with memorial events of their own.

Syston station held a memorial service (top, right) on Sunday November 11th as they unveiled a memorial stone at the front of the station commemorating those who had left the area to serve their country. The proposal was put forward by Syston's station adoption group, 'Syston in Bloom', who joined war veterans past and present for the service on the day.

Station adoption groups at Spondon, Attenborough, Longport, Willington (bottom, right), Long Eaton, Heckington and Hinckley also held events to mark the occasion, which were attended by locals from across the respective towns and villages.



**Keep an eye out!** Station Adopters' Conference 2019 details will be with you next year.

# Introducing...

Kaye Robinson, Community Rail Partnership Officer

## When did you first become interested in Community Rail?

I am very new to the Community Rail world and only joined the Poacher Line in April 2017. Having found out about the movement, I thought this would be an amazing opportunity to make a difference in local communities. Since then, I have gained a lot of knowledge and can't imagine doing any other job.

## When did you first start doing station adoption work?

I was lucky enough to inherit some long term station adopters that have been helping the Poacher Line since it was first recognised as a Community Rail Partnership. Working together, we've encouraged groups to grow and expand, with new groups opening along the line, including Radcliffe-on-Trent, Heckington and Skegness.

## What would it mean to you if someone on your route won a Community Rail Award?

I have been delighted to see two stations on my line, Ancaster and Radcliffe-on-Trent, achieve Lead Bronze in the 'It's Your Station' category at the Community Rail Awards in the past, which is fantastic and I am so proud of what these groups have achieved. I am really hopeful that continued hard work and determination will see other stations placed in this category, and one day I'd love one of our stations to be the Gold overall winner, as the calibre of entrants is so high.



## Arnold Bennett Society Plaque

Thursday 19th July saw the unveiling of a plaque at Longport station commemorating local author Arnold Bennett's references to the station in several of his novels. The plaque was unveiled by the Lord Mayor of Stoke-on-Trent and Professor Ray Johnson, in the guise of Arnold Bennett himself.

Also present were local station adopters, Frank Foy and Allison Dias, who were responsible for the idea of the plaque.

## East Midlands Trains in the community

Between March and November, over 300 volunteers from East Midlands Trains, Network Rail and CrossCountry were joined by volunteers at 17 community days across the network at stations including: Attenborough, Duffield, Ambergate, Skegness, Matlock and Whatstandwell.

If you'd like to get involved at an event, email us at [stationadoption@eastmidlandstrains.co.uk](mailto:stationadoption@eastmidlandstrains.co.uk) and help us make a difference at our stations.

We'll be announcing future community days as we enter the new year.



## Station Adopters' Conference 2018

A massive thank you to all those who attended this year's Station Adoption Conference at Pride Park, Derby. The day was attended by over one hundred station adopters and staff from East Midlands Trains.

# Station adopters win flurry of awards

Station adopters across the East Midlands Trains network have been winning awards in recognition of their hard work in 2018.

At the prestigious ACoRP Community Rail Awards, held in Glasgow, the Poacher Line Community Rail Partnership led the way and won the Best Marketing or Communication Campaign Award for their work on the RAF100 campaign. Station adopters at Market Rasen were also rewarded for their work over the year and were presented with a Gold Level Award in the 'It's Your Station' category. Alsager, Attenborough, Syston and Ancaster all received Silver Level recognition, whilst Radcliffe-on-Trent got Lead Bronze in the same category.

As well as the ACoRP success, Syston in Bloom and Transition Belper were both given Judges Awards for their work on their stations at the East Midlands in Bloom Awards.

The efforts of the Kettering Civic Society didn't go unnoticed either, with the group winning the award for 'Best Special Project from 2013 Onwards' at the Northamptonshire Heritage Awards.

There was good news for the North Staffordshire Line too, with Uttoxeter achieving Level 5 Outstanding in the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' assessment by RHS and Kidsgrove scooping the Gold Award in the Community Gardens competition at Newcastle in Bloom 2018, as well as being nominated in the 'Best Community Group' category.



## Significant engineering work coming up

### Ambergate Junction

Improvements at Ambergate Junction mean that buses will replace trains between Derby and Matlock between Saturday 9th and Sunday 17th February.

East Midlands Trains services will also be impacted on the Midland Main Line, with no direct services between Sheffield and Derby and fewer trains running to London. CrossCountry will still operate between Sheffield and Derby.

### Market Harborough

Significant improvement work around Market Harborough station means that a reduced service will operate from all stations to London St Pancras from Tuesday 28th May to Monday 3rd June.

Journey times will be extended and no trains will be able to call at Market Harborough, with buses replacing trains between Leicester, Market Harborough and Kettering.

## Heckington school children spread festive cheer

On December 10th, school children from Heckington St Andrew's CE Primary School sang carols for Poacher Line customers at Sleaford, Grantham and Nottingham.



Got an idea for a story? Drop us an email before May 1st and we may include it next time:  
[stationadoption@eastmidlandstrains.co.uk](mailto:stationadoption@eastmidlandstrains.co.uk)

# EAST MIDLANDS TRAINS

We are *one* team • We keep people *safe* • We *embrace* diversity  
We do the *right* thing • We *delight* our customers