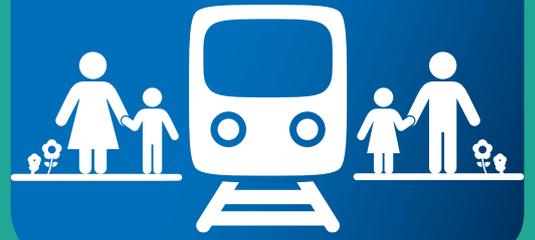


Community Matters

Community Rail



Issue 3 **June 2019** | 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 June 2019 edition of Community Matters, the Community Rail newsletter from East Midlands Trains.

The past six months have, once again, seen Community Rail at East Midlands Trains go from strength to strength, with the station adoption teams at Alsager, Market Rasen and Radcliffe-on-Trent being recognised and rewarded for their continued hard work at their respective stations.

We've also seen examples of other fine work going on across our community, with local schools and colleges working alongside us, as well as our strong relationship with the Community Rail organising body, ACoRP, continuing.

As we enter the final few months of the current franchise, I want to take this opportunity to personally thank each and every one of our station adopters and volunteers. Some of our smaller,

unmanned stations truly benefit from you giving up your own time to keep our stations looking neat and tidy. I know that your good work will continue in August and well into the future.

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

Thank you once again, and I wish you all the best for the summer.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jake Kelly".



East Midlands Franchise Update

In April, the Department for Transport announced its intention to award the East Midlands Railway franchise to Abellio East Midlands. This is due to begin on Sunday 18th August 2019, and will run for at least eight years, until Saturday 21st August 2027.

The company will be known as EMR, and its logo can be seen to the right.

Over the past few weeks, you may have seen some of the East Midlands Trains management team across our route taking note of what's on display at our stations. This was done so that the transition to East Midlands Railway goes as smoothly as possible in August.

If we need you to do anything to prepare for the changeover, we will be in touch over the coming weeks.

For more details on the changes you can expect to see on your individual lines, please visit the Department for Transport website: maps.dft.gov.uk/east-midlands-rail-franchise



Follow us on Twitter [@EMCommunityRail](https://twitter.com/EMCommunityRail)

Introducing...

Paul Mobbs, Customer Experience Manager, Derby

What are your key responsibilities in your current role?

I've been a CEM at Derby for seven years now. My main duty is to look after the day-to-day running of Derby station, which includes ensuring trains arrive and depart safely and on time. As a qualified assessor, I complete a lot of safety critical assessments to ensure all staff deliver a high level of customer service to create an excellent first and lasting impression. I also spend a lot of time working on the Derwent Valley Line with Alastair Morley (CRPO).

What is the biggest challenge you have faced?

Probably time management! I never say no to anything and will always do my best to help others. No job is too big or too small!

What is your biggest achievement to date?

When I took the job, I wanted to make Derby station a great place to work and travel to and from. Seven years later, I feel like we're nearly there. We have a great team at the station who are happy in their work, and this really shows in the great feedback that we receive from customers and staff.

What inspires you about Community Rail and station adoption?

I absolutely love working in the community, and was so happy when I found out I'd be looking after the Derwent Valley Line, Spondon and Long Eaton. I feel so lucky to have a great working relationship with Alastair, but the bit that makes me most proud is the wonderful team of station adopters we have on our route. Some of them are in their eighties and still giving up their free time to make our stations a great place to be. Going back to my army days, I really do salute you and thank you so much for your hard work.



Matlock Bath station building transformed for locals

The Grade II listed building at Matlock Bath station has opened its doors after being closed for 11 years. The popular Whistlestop building houses a visitor centre and cafe, as well as providing toilet facilities.

The grand opening took place on 11th April and was attended by a small group of partners who had helped reopen the building, including East Midlands Trains.

The cafe is open 1000-1600 daily, with profits going to the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

East Midlands Trains in the community

Between January and June, staff members from East Midlands Trains, Network Rail and CrossCountry were joined by volunteers at community days at: Bottesford (six separate days), Longport, Kidsgrove, Skegness, Uttoxeter, Alsager, Spondon and Lincoln.

If you'd like to get involved at an event, email us at stationadoption@eastmidlandstrains.co.uk



Upcoming community days in 2019

4th July Aslockton | **10th July** Beeston | **8th August** Langley Mill

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our community days this year

'Try the Train day' piloted with local schools

Working alongside North Staffordshire Community Rail Partnership, East Midlands Trains has piloted a new learning scheme in Derby.

Pupils from Abbey Hill School and Watermill School in Stoke-on-Trent took part in 'Try the Train day' on Thursday 14th March. The school children, who have learning difficulties, travelled from Blythe Bridge to Derby where they were given a tour of Derby station and had the opportunity to learn about keeping safe whilst at a railway station.

The school children were then taken over to the East Midlands Trains Customer Service Academy, where they had the opportunity to try out the driver simulator that is used to train drivers within in a safe environment.

They also had the chance to learn about a career in the railway by spending time with the East Midlands Trains Talent Team. They were taught interview skills and how to write a CV.

'Try the Train day' has many benefits; from boosting independence and helping with self confidence, to letting the children travel by train, showing them different ways of travelling to their destination.

Mr Porter, Head Teacher from Abbey Hill School said, "Promoting independence skills for life is a key priority for all our students. We therefore run a comprehensive Travel Training programme for our school and others. We employ staff specifically to teach our children how to travel independently."



Steam train pays tribute to Melton man

A special steam train arrived at Melton Mowbray station on 17th March to honour the late Nigel Dobbing, aged 66, who established The Railway Touring Company, which organises steam train trips in the UK and across the world.

The private train carried around 80 of Nigel's closest friends and family and a memorial plaque has been placed in the waiting room at Melton Mowbray station.



Perri the Peregrine launches activity book

An activity book has been produced to inspire families to take a ride on the Derwent Valley Line.

The book includes walking trails from each station between Duffield and Matlock, as well as numerous activities and quizzes for families.

The book was funded by East Midlands Trains, the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, ACoRP and the Derwent Valley Line CRP.



Friendly Garden opens at Bottesford

Monday 17th June saw the official opening of Bottesford Friendly Garden, by the Duchess of Rutland.

Funded by the Poacher Line CRP and the Bee Friendly Trust, the area has been transformed from a derelict site to a garden with plants, fruit trees and places to sit. It is also a safe haven for wildlife, with a bug hotel and pond included.

Bottesford is now adopted by four volunteers.



Got an idea for a story? Drop us an email and we may include it next time:
stationadoption@eastmidlandstrains.co.uk

Alsager station wins Cheshire's Best Kept Station Award 2018

Alsager station has been awarded the 2018 Cheshire Best Kept Station award for its 170th anniversary activities, known as 'The Jinty Project'.

The name 'Jinty' was the popular name of the steam engine that was frequently housed at the Alsager station sheds.

The project resulted in three new pieces of school artwork (from pupils at Alsager School and Excalibur Primary School), a Jinty willow sculpture, a pollinator friendly garden and a week-long display at Alsager Library, which was attended by volunteer station adopters.

Market Rasen station honoured for outstanding contribution

The Market Rasen Station Community Project has been awarded the prestigious Contribution to Arts and Culture Award by West Lindsey District Council.

Ian Hind and Daniel Clark, who are both on the board of the Market Rasen Station Community Project, collected the award.

Presenting the award, Cllr David Cotton said, "The completed refurbishment has allowed local people to visit this much-loved building and see it brought back into everyday use. It holds a strong memory for many and has raised the collective spirit of everybody in the town."

Work continues at Burton-on-Trent to revitalise the station

East Midlands Trains are working with Burton-on-Trent Rotary Club and others over to develop proposals to improve the station and create a more welcoming and inviting station for all.

Plans are well underway, with the creative vision including a sustainable garden and more seating. A competition has recently taken place for local students to have the chance to create a sculpture. Students on the Level 3 Product Design and Craft course at Burton and South Derbyshire College were set the challenge of designing the sculptural piece with a brief that it is memorable and aesthetically pleasing to customers passing through the station. The sculpture was to resemble the area's four national centres: The National Arboretum, The National Brewery Centre, The National Forest and St. George's Park.

Donna Adams, Stakeholder and Community Rail Manager for East Midlands Trains, said, "We are really pleased with the progress of the improvements at Burton station. The landscape plans are coming together and parts of the station are already looking a lot cleaner. The competition for local students to create a sculpture based on the four nationals has seen some amazing work being presented that will enhance the look and feel of the station.



Hinckley station 'highly commended' at council awards

The Friends of Hinckley Station picked up a 'highly commended' award at the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council 'Make a Difference' award ceremony. The medal was given in the Protecting, Improving or Supporting our Environment category, following the work that the group has done at the station over the past 12 months.

The event took place on Thursday 6th June at Hinckley RFC.

EAST MIDLANDS TRAINS

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