



# Station adopters newsletter

Spring/Summer 2022

**E M R**





## Hello and welcome to the Spring Edition of the EMR station adopters newsletter

It has been a busy six months since the last newsletter in December, both for station adopters and the wider EMR railway family. It is always a pleasure to hear about the projects happening across the network and the highlights for me these past few months include the transformation at Stamford Station after a Community Action Day, the renovation of a disused room at Sleaford Station by the Poacher Line CRP, which is now a fully functional hub for the local community, and the installation of the Duffield Arch at my home station, a fantastic project working with young people who are not in mainstream education. You can read more about some of these projects in the CRP updates from page 3.

It has also been great to see the station improvements funded by the Stations, Social & Commercial Development Plan come to fruition, with increased CCTV, new noticeboards and defibrillators, all improving the experience for passengers. On pages 12 and 13 you can read our fleet and property

updates and get an overview of projects coming up.

I am currently in training with two of the Community Rail Team, Donna and Kaye, for the Three Peaks Challenge by Rail which takes place from 9th – 11th June. Over the past twelve weeks we have been walking up local hills and frantically fundraising to reach our £8000 target for the incredible charity that is the Railway Children. Thank you to every one that has sponsored us and if you'd like to contribute you can do so by visiting: [www.justgiving.co.uk/fundraising/emrthreepeaks](http://www.justgiving.co.uk/fundraising/emrthreepeaks).

Finally, I would like to thank you all for the work you continue to do to maintain and improve our stations, come rain or shine, and the crucial link you provide to our communities. I look forward to getting out and meeting more of you later this year.

**Will Rogers**  
**Managing Director**

# Barton Cleethorpes CRP Update



## RECENT ACTIVITY

We celebrated Easter by giving away over 40 Easter eggs to children on the Easter Saturday train. This is a long standing BCCRP tradition and is always a hit with passengers and on and off train staff.

We have been working with EMR to revisit our aims and how we can best achieve them in partnership with our members, other local groups and station adopters. We have also made some amendments to our constitution that will be presented to the wider partnership at the AGM in June for agreement.



## CONTINUED SUPPORT

We supported TransPennine Express (TPE) with their application to the Department for Transport's (DfT) cycle rail scheme. We are still waiting for TPE to update us on their progress and are looking forward to a positive outcome.

The replacement of the historic running-in boards at Thornton Abbey is making great progress and we await the great unveiling with bated breath.

We are looking forward to an update on the Sheffield-Gainsborough Central service to Barton upon Humber from Barry Coward at our next meeting in June.



## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

*We are still working on producing a new line guide and publicity boards.*

We are still hopeful that we will be able to move out from the umbrella of Community Rail Humber and become a stand-alone company supported by Humber and Wolds Rural Action. This will enable us to achieve our long-awaited accreditation as a Community Rail Partnership. Unfortunately, this is taking a long time and casts a shadow over our aspirations for the future.

We will be working with the New Holland station adopters and EMR volunteers in July to give the station garden some much needed TLC.

Finally, we'd like to say thank you to all the volunteers along the BCCRP for all the hard work they do keeping our stations looking lovely.

**Gill Simpson**  
**Community Rail Partnership Officer**

## Poacher Line CRP Update

2022 started much better than 2021 and we can hopefully get lovely projects completed this year. We have welcomed new adopters into our fold for Skegness, Boston, Heckington, Bottesford and Radcliffe and I know you will join me in giving a warm Poacher Line welcome to them all!

Our adopters at Boston have been very busy already. Thanks to funding from EMR, they have managed to clear the unsightly garden area on Platform 1 ready to build back to create a wildlife haven for bees, butterflies and other insects. Jo, one of our adopters there, is working with Boston College's carpentry students to design and build a bug hotel; now this will not be your ordinary bug hotel so watch out for developments later in the year! We had a lovely brainstorming morning at a local café back in February to discuss plans and they are all busy with designs and planting choices. This area will really enhance the station, so keep your eyes peeled!

The development at Sleaford started in January, but we had to issue an eviction notice to hundreds of pigeons, which saw a significant delay in the build. All that is a distant memory and we are now the recipient of a lovely new community room.

During February and March, we took students from the Young Persons Learning Provision at Boston and Grantham to Nottingham Station and delivered rail safety and rail confidence training to around 25 students – they loved it!

We joined the Friends of Radcliffe Station for their AGM in March, and it was lovely to see so many adopters face to face after such a long time. The Poacher Line was again accredited by the DfT in March, which shows that the Partnership is working to high standards – all helped by our wonderful adopters – thank you!



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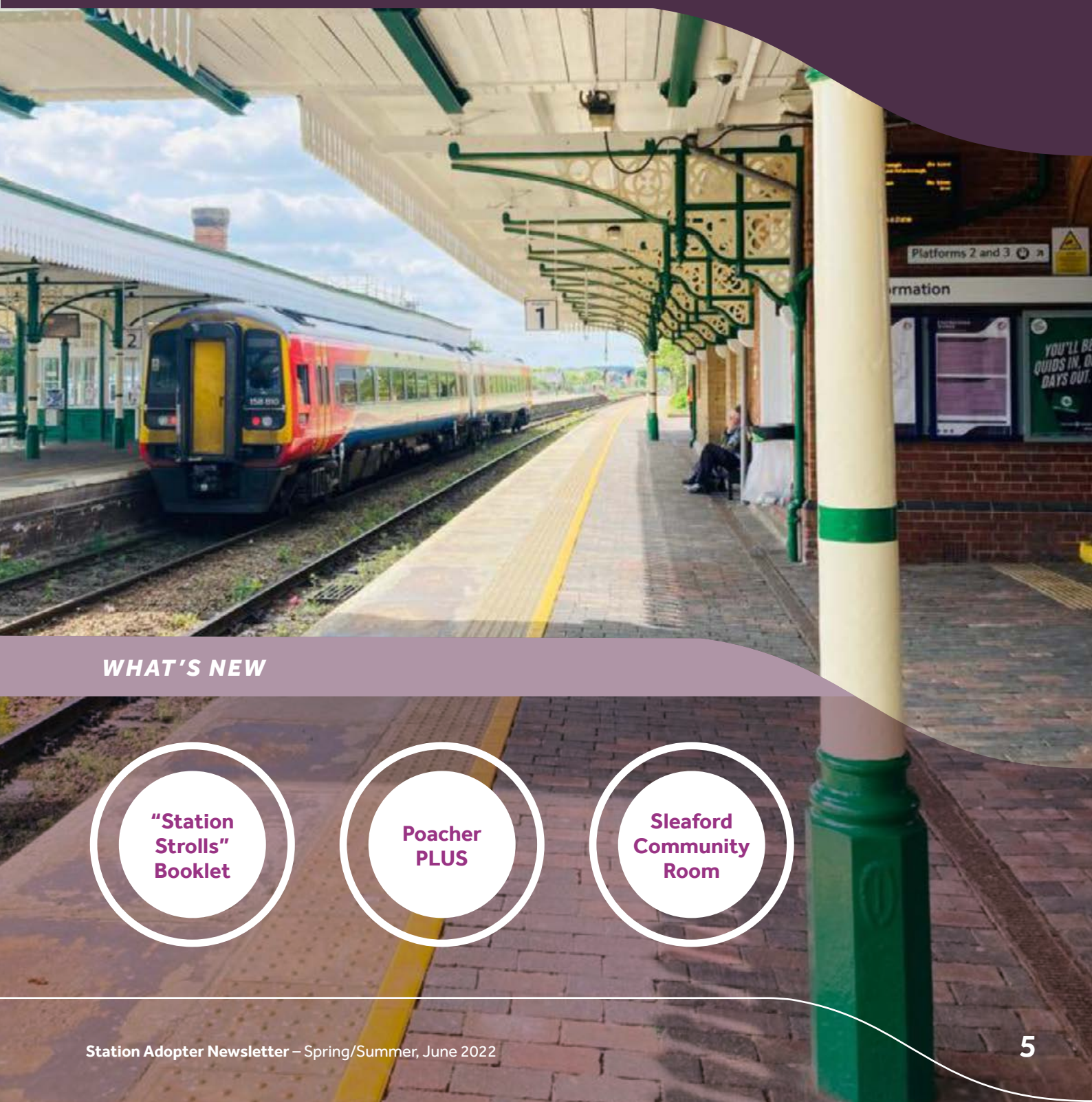
Work has started on the new "Station Strolls" booklet. Thank you to the adopters who supplied content and walked the routes for us – it was very much appreciated. These should be available soon.

Poacher PLUS, the new integrated travel offer available from all of our Lincolnshire stations, was launched in March and we hope to roll it out to all the stations in the future. You can read all about the initiative on our website Poacher PLUS – [Poacher Line](#).

On a personal note, by the time this article is published, I will have left the Poacher Line and I hope you will have a new officer in post soon to help with all your future plans. It has been a privilege to work with such a wonderful bunch of kind and community spirited people and I want to thank you for all your help during my time on the Poacher Line, I will miss you all.

**Jo Andrews**

**Community Rail Partnership Officer**



## WHAT'S NEW

**"Station  
Strolls"  
Booklet**

**Poacher  
PLUS**

**Sleaford  
Community  
Room**



## Derwent Valley Line CRP Update



It has been a very busy winter and spring with lots of projects happening along the Derwent Valley Line.

Duffield is now home to an impressive entrance archway leading into the station. The Duffield Arch was designed by young people who we funded to gain a Welding and Fabricating qualification with Engineered Training in Derby. To inspire the design, created by the young people, they enjoyed a train trip on the Derwent Valley Line, with a visit to Duffield, including to the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway's station.

During their course they also took part in an outdoor team building exercise, attended a rail safety talk, visited Etches Park train depot and attended a personal development and careers advice session hosted by EMR. The culmination of their course was the welding and fabricating of the arch. The project was funded by Community Rail Network and EMR, Derbyshire Police &

Crime Commissioners Fund, Open Gate Trust and Derwent Valley Line CRP.



The Partnership has initiated and jointly funded a number of station improvements through EMR's Stations, Social & Commercial Development Plan. These included various signage enhancements including new Derwent Valley Line station signs, directional signage at Ambergate and Belper as well as improvements to station safety with lighting of the overbridge at Belper and CCTV at Belper and Matlock Bath.

In March and April, we worked with Derbyshire Environmental Studies Service and EMR to deliver a rail confidence programme with pupils from Alderwasley Hall Special School, all of whom have autism or specific learning needs. The project was carefully planned and resourced to build skills for the pupils in preparing, planning and using the train confidently and safely as well as developing life skills in navigation, working towards independent travel, and confidence in working and speaking with new people.

The three classes took part in a familiarisation trip to Whatstandwell Station to get used to the new sights, sounds and safety requirements at the station. They explored features around the station and learned how to purchase and print tickets, before exploring the nearby Cromford Canal towpath and wildlife and visiting the local café. The pupils

returned to take a train trip to Matlock and back to Cromford for a visit to Cromford Mills, to find out more about the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site landscape they were travelling through. This was a thoroughly enjoyable and worthwhile project for the pupils, staff and delivery partners with really positive outcomes and lots of potential for the future.

The Alderwasley School project was funded by EMR's Community Rail project funding which has also paid for a new leaflet to promote the Derwent Valley Line and provided funding to Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to transform the interior of the Whistlestop Education Centre at Matlock Bath Station.

**Al Morley**  
Community Rail Partnership Officer





## North Staffs CRP Update

For weeks the Blythe Bridge volunteers had been clearing an old raised bed of overgrown shrubs, including a monster thorny Berberis plant with deep roots. Then, on a cold December morning, they planted 49 red, white (Iceburg) and blue (Blue for You) hybrid tea roses in a new Platinum Jubilee Rose Garden. The rose cultivars are thornless and include a brand new red cultivar called Silky Smooth. We are keeping everything crossed to ensure that the roses will flower at the same time and during Jubilee Week.

Also at Blythe Bridge, the crumbling corners of a nearby raised bed were rebuilt to make a much more welcoming entrance to the station car park. Both projects were funded by EMR SIF grants and a Cross Country CEF grant supplemented the cost of the wall repairs.

For the first time in two years, we have a new CRP Line Guide – Things to See and Do by Train in Staffordshire, Cheshire and Derbyshire. The purpose of the Line Guide is to raise awareness of all the visitor attractions that can be reached on foot from our stations – 27 in total! Highlights include: Gladstone Pottery Museum, Redfern's Cottage, Uttoxeter Race Course, Foxfield Light Railway, Tutbury Castle, Crewe Heritage Centre, Stafford Ancient High House, Middleport Pottery and Penkridge Old Gaol.

Local residents have been asked to send us their favourite Uttoxeter locations to be included in a new mural at the station. Special "Your Uttoxeter" postcards have been distributed around the town and sent to local schools. Collection boxes are located at the Museum, the Town Hall, the Library and the Leisure Centre.



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The Community Rail Partnership was awarded the dubious honour of leading the first walk in the Staffordshire Moorlands Walking Festival, from Blythe Bridge Station. We are grateful to Levison Wood Senior who contributed some very interesting stories and facts about his home village. The photo shows Forsbrook Hall built in 1672 and still looking good.

Kidsgrove Garden Rescue Day, on 28th April, was attended by a hearty gang of 17 including volunteers from Kidsgrove, Blythe Bridge and Alsager; Kidsgrove Ranger, Mark Jones; and Jon and Ken from the North Staffs Rail Promotion Group. Plus Neil, Kevin and Alexa from EMR, of course. Together we shifted a million bags of compost and bark chippings and dug up a lot of weeds. Thank goodness for the new lifts!



**Claire Sandys**

**Community Rail Partnership Officer**





## North Notts & Lincs CRP Update

*Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to the wonderful station adoption groups at Market Rasen, Lincoln, Saxilby and Gainsborough Lea Road for all your amazing contributions to the stations over the past six months and beyond.*



### MARKET RASEN

Throughout the year the station adopters continued to make the station a pleasing gateway to the town with their abundance of floral displays, posters, artwork and their book exchange. Their efforts were recognised by being short listed at the 2021 Community Rail Awards.

The station adoption group welcomed Will Rogers, EMR Managing Director, on a

tour of Market Rasen Station where plans were discussed for 2022.

Talks with Network Rail and Railway Heritage Trust about the damage to the listed waiting room are ongoing. It is hoped restoration work will take place at the end of this year.

We look forward to celebrating the Platinum Jubilee at the Lions Gardeners Market in Market Rasen on 4th June.



## GAINSBOROUGH LEA ROAD

The Friends continue to make huge improvements to the gardens, nature and approach at the station with the help of EMR's funding. A 'Welcome to Gainsborough' banner has been created by Worksop-based artist Kyle Emmerson for both Gainsborough stations. We look forward to starting work with a local youth group in September which we then hope to translate into a mural to brighten up the subway.

## SAXILBY

A station adoption group has been established with three volunteers coming forward. An action plan has been created for 2022 including cleaning, painting, gardening, promotion and environmental projects. A relationship has been established with the local Girlguiding group who are keen to help us develop an area at the station into a mini allotment.



## LINCOLN

The Grand Opening of Lincoln Station's Romans to Railways project was held on 25th February. This project has resulted in six panels being fixed to the station back wall. It involved two Lincoln schools, a National Citizen Service (NCS) group and local artist Mel Langton, who tutored the students along with creating three of her own pieces for the display.

We will be working with more local groups over the coming months to design a further six boards.

We have planted a sensory garden at the front of Lincoln station and we look forward to seeing it in full bloom over the next few months. BT came along to help us clear two smaller gardens and we will be working with Lincoln City Football Club's gardening group to turn these into herb gardens.

**Kate Myers**

**Community Rail Partnership Officer**



## Robin Hood Line CRP Update



We are delighted to announce we have gained enough funding for an additional part-time officer. Justyna Mayer started in March this year and will support Arron with the day-to-day running of the Partnership. The CRP has gathered a lot of interest over the past 7 months since its inception, attracting financial support from various authorities and organisations.

The Terms of Reference have now been signed by all interested parties and the CRP will be signed up as members to Community Rail Network in due course.

As well as getting the Partnership set up from an admin perspective, we have had some great projects happening along the line too. The Creswell Heritage Rail Trail has seen bronze plaques installed between Creswell Station and Creswell Crags Visitor Centre. This is being supported with a booklet and map for visitors to follow the Trail.

We also delivered a distraction project to reduce anti-social behaviour near stations along the line. This had a 3 month pilot but has been extended to 48 weeks of the year. This sees the local youths completing a sports programme and understanding the dangers of the railway.

Land ownership at Whitwell Station has been signed over to the station adoption group – Just Good Friends. They will now start the hard work of turning the land into a Community Garden and café.

We are also looking to work on rebranding and a new website. An application for funding has been submitted so we are hoping work can start on this soon.

Looking ahead, the Robin Hood Rail Trails project has been mapped out for walking and cycling routes and we will work with neighbouring authorities to engage with tourist attractions.

Finally, we are slowly getting to meet all the station adopters along the line. We are excited to do more work with you to improve the Robin Hood Line further. The Partnership is truly grateful to all our adopters, so a big thank you for all the hard work you do.

**Arron Johnson and Justyna Mayer**  
**Community Rail Partnership Officers**



# Fleet Update

## AURORA

The Class 810 Aurora fleet is progressing well. Hitachi's Newton Aycliffe facility has now started manufacture of the fifth unit, with assembly continuing on the first and second units. The first six units are going to be used for 'Type Testing' (proving that the units meet all technical standards requirements such as braking, acceleration and working with signalling) which will start at Network Rail's 'Rail Innovation and Development Centre' at Melton Mowbray in the late summer of this year.

The 'New Trains' team are keeping busy with detailed design decisions, recently finalising the design of the various labels for the trains and working with our customer information teams on the passenger information system screens and announcement information. The team is also assessing the operational requirements for the new fleet, including station interfaces such as where will the wheelchair ramps be situated when the trains arrive at a station in both 5-car or 10-car formation and making sure there is sufficient clearance for manoeuvring.

Our cab driving simulator arrived in March and has been installed in Rickman House. It will be used initially to help our Learning & Development team develop training packages for drivers before being used as a valuable tool for our driver competence assessments. The virtual tour of the units is pending an update to reflect recent design changes before we can share it with the wider public – watch this space for updates on this. Work continues at Derby Etches Park depot to prepare for the new trains with work on the fuelling road and track layouts happening ahead of the more visible North Shed extension which will commence later this year.

The following images show

1. Fitment of the Generator Unit (engine and alternator raft) on Unit 1;
2. Coupler fitment on the driving car of Unit 1;
3. Cab driving simulator installed at Rickman House.







## CURRENT FLEET NEWS

As we move into Summer 2022, our teams are hard at work preparing for the remaining cascade of Class 170 units to EMR which will take place in late 2022/early 2023. This includes working with Govia Thameslink (4 x 3-car units), Transport for Wales (3 x 2-car units and 8 x 3-car units) and West Midland Trains (16 x 2-car units) to manage the physical transfer of units to EMR and then also internally within EMR to prepare these units for service and release them on a route-by-route basis.

In support of this, our maintenance depots at Nottingham Eastcroft and Derby Etches Park are being upgraded and modernised to support the fleet, with multi-million pound investments in stabling, train wash and depot plant/equipment being made. These changes will ensure that EMR is able to robustly deliver the fleet into service and continue our work on performance improvements following the cascade. These changes will see the withdrawal of the Class 156 fleet from use on EMR's network.

On our Intercity routes, the main change that is being made in advance of the Class 810 Aurora introduction is the reconfiguration of our Class 222 "Meridian" fleet to turn our 4 x 4-car units and 2 x 7-car units into 6 x 5-car units. This work will be completed in time for the May 2022 timetable change and makes the fleet more comparable in unit configuration to the Aurora which in turn will help with the introduction of Aurora to timetabled services in the future.

On our EMR Connect route, work continues with the Class 360 vehicle owner (Angel Trains) and manufacturer (Siemens) to develop a robust proposal for the refurbishment of these units.





1

## SSCDP

The last four months has seen the culmination of the SSCDP 2021/22 funding programme which has delivered several projects for EMR stations.

2

## CCTV

New CCTV systems have been installed at four stations – Alsager, Belper, Matlock Bath and Willington – at a cost of more than £120,000. The stations will all benefit from the new cameras, which were installed and commissioned in April 2022, and they will help improve the station environment. EMR worked closely with the CRPs, station adoption teams and local community groups to identify the areas at each station that required camera coverage - helping to address any anti-social behaviour, vandalism and graffiti, as well as providing reassurance to customers.



3

## DEFIBRILLATORS



The programme to install defibrillators at various stations on the EMR network, both manned and unmanned, is ongoing. To date nearly £42,000 has been spent on installing this life saving equipment, which will be available to use by emergency services, station teams and members of the public.

12 stations

The locations were requested by station adopters and/or the local CRPs and have so far been installed at 12 stations (Whitwell, Creswell, Duffield, Belper, Whatstandwell, Matlock Bath, Long Eaton, Willington, Burton on Trent, Blythe Bridge, Tutbury & Hatton and Narborough).

## 4

### PAINTING OF SLEAFORD STATION

Supported by funding from the Heritage Railway Trust, Sleaford station received a makeover which was completed a few weeks ago. This was part of the biggest project supported by the SSCDP funding in 2021/22 – the creation of a new Community Room on platforms 2 and 3 at the station.



## 5

### STATION SIGNAGE



The SSCDP also funded new running in boards for the Derwent Valley Line, improved wayfinding signage at Belper and Ambergate and new totems at Ilkeston and Ambergate.

### OTHER PROPERTY PROJECTS

At Kidsgrove the Access for All Bridge & Lifts project was completed earlier this year, replacing the original life expired footbridge and making the station fully accessible to all customers. Progress is now being made on the Kidsgrove Town Fund Deal, which will see the station building refurbished, a transport hub for buses and taxis and a new car park.

On the Midland Main Line, new ticket barriers have been installed at Corby, Kettering and Wellingborough. At Market Harborough work is progressing on the new toilet block and waiting room facilities.

On the Barton-Cleethorpes line, work has started on upgrading Barrow Haven station. EMR and Network Rail are rebuilding the platform and installing a new waiting shelter, help point, seating, signage, poster cases, lighting upgrades and cycle hoops, giving the station a much need facelift.



# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF



**SEB CABOT**

**Head of Passenger Experience,  
Network Rail East Midlands**

Being a relative newcomer to the rail industry I've been increasingly surprised and inspired by how much of an impact we can have on people's day to day lives and the opportunities we have each day to make a difference to how people travel. Working as the Head of Passenger Experience for the past two years has been an absolute delight and I hope you enjoy reading about how we're going to make it even better.

Since 2019 Network Rail has challenged itself to not only to put its customers first but to do this in an efficient and dependable way that our team are proud to be a part of. As a team we've made great steps in improving our services amongst both passenger and freight customers with the formation of 14 new routes – including the East Midlands – to deliver local operations, maintenance and renewals of our infrastructure. These routes are responsible for the day-to-day delivery of train performance and work closely with local train operators to deliver a safe reliable railway for our passengers every day.

These changes are what brought about my role within the East Midlands with one of my main focuses being on how Network Rail and Train Operators can collaborate in bringing track and train closer together by delivering a 'one railway' approach for our customers. So, what do I do? I lead a team that is responsible for the stakeholder management between Network Rail and our Train and Freight Operators. My team do this by promoting collaborative working with colleagues, dealing with issues and ensuring escalations are made and handled correctly. Amongst this, our work with community rail partnerships and passenger focus groups within the East Midlands

Route has been a crucial part in understanding what our communities want, how they want it and why. For Network Rail our customers' needs and wants should always be at the heart of our decision-making process and this is what my team promotes each and every day.

A key aspect of my work involves a large amount of synergy between ourselves and EMR, through our Alliance which was formed in August 2019 with a shared vision of collaborating to deliver a sustainable railway for our customers and stakeholders. By working in partnership, we want to better enable a more open platform across both organisations. By identifying opportunities and developing future initiatives we have created a Common Plan that supports the sustainable future of our railway; all of which is built upon 4 pillars:

1. Delivering our railway safely
2. Delivering our railway for our customers
3. Developing tomorrow's railway
4. Delivering our railway sustainably

My team are extremely passionate in their drive to improve the customer experience and encourage passengers back onto our railway. They do so by supporting and attending EMR's Customer & Inclusivity Board which has been a very rewarding experience in itself.

In my time working within the East Midlands, it's clear that the sense of community within our route is second to none and to be a part of supporting Community Rail has been one of the highlights of my career. The sense of pride we see, when working with people like



Donna, Alexa and Kaye in their work to support local communities with projects and activities, is outstanding and really hits home the fact that we can have an impact with our work every single day. In the past year my team has organised 5 volunteering days with our amazing Network Rail colleagues to support Community Rail groups by improving stations and making it a more welcoming environment for those beginning and ending their journeys in these areas. These community days involved working with the locals in Ancaster, Beeston, Gainsborough Lea Road, Spondon and Whatstandwell who all helped us gain a great perspective on the importance of community and resilience. One of our goals for the coming year is to work with the EMR team to involve more people in similar events this year. We look forward to meeting you all!

After a hard day's work I enjoy long walks and exploring new places with my gorgeous miniature dachshund George (who shares his birthday with the Queen!). Always a fan of mixing things up you'll find me in a theatre watching one of my favourites 'Phantom of The Opera' or ending a lovely Bank Holiday at a Blondie concert throwing some questionable shapes! Originally from Jersey in the Channel Islands a passion of mine has always been taking part in a Carnival called 'Jersey - Battle of Flowers' for over 20 years now. The Carnival is a celebration of our island spirit and is made up of a parade of floats decorated with fresh flowers and performances of each community. If you don't believe me, I definitely recommend checking it out.







*To all our wonderful  
adopters.  
Thank you for  
everything you do!*

FROM THE COMMUNITY RAIL TEAM







# EMR

