



# Crewe to Manchester and South East Manchester Community Rail Partnerships

2022 - 2023 Annual Report



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# The Community Rail Partnerships

The South East Manchester and Crewe to Manchester Community Rail Partnerships are hosted by Stockport Council, with the partnership areas extending into Cheshire East, Tameside, Manchester City and towards the boundary of the High Peak.

The Community Rail Partnerships carry out a range of projects which meet objectives set out in the Department for Transport Community Rail Development Strategy. Projects include those which enhance stations, promote active travel and involve diverse groups.

Sarah Morgan and John Kenny work as Community Rail Officers part time across both partnership areas, with support and direction from the respective Steering Groups.

South East Manchester and East Cheshire Community Rail Group is the overall Management Group for the two partnerships.

Having reformed with new members in early 2022, over the last year the partnerships have sought to build connections with the communities along the lines, develop strong working relationships with stakeholders and build on plans for projects that will raise the profile of the railway and the work of the community rail partnerships.

As well as receiving support from stakeholders, the CRPs have received invaluable support from community partners and station groups who have been generous in sharing their experience and passion for their local stations.

We hope you enjoy reading this annual report with introductions from our chairmen and details of this year's projects. This coming year we have some exciting projects that we look forward to sharing with you in next year's report.

## Our CRP members



Mark Barker - Chair of Crewe to Manchester CRP



Roy Chapman - Vice Chair of Crewe to Manchester CRP



Cllr Peter Robinson - Vice Chair of South East Manchester CRP



Dr Simon Temple PhD FCILTC - Chair of South East Manchester CRP



Keith Whitmore - Chair of South East Manchester and East Cheshire CRG



Kelvin Briggs - Station Group representative for C2M CRP



Alf Clarke - Station Group representative for SEM CRP

# Chairmen's reports

## *South East Manchester CRP*

Welcome to this Annual Review of the work of the South East Manchester Community Rail Partnership (SEMCRP) for the year from April 2022 to March 2023.

This has been an exciting year for the Partnership as we emerged from a period where we were largely dormant due to the COVID pandemic and the retirement of our previous Community Rail Officer – Steve Forde. It is also the first year of our new structure in which the South East Manchester and Crewe to Manchester CRPs have been linked together and guided by the South East Manchester and East Cheshire Community Rail Group. This new structure is functioning well and helping us to work effectively across the area covered by the two Partnerships.

An important achievement early in the year was gaining accreditation from the Department of Transport. This opened the door to a range of funding sources and this has enabled us to take forward a number of interesting projects, described later in this Review. We also provide details of some exciting plans for 2023/4.

I would like to thank our funding partners: Northern Trains, Avanti West Coast, Transpennine Express, Cross Country Trains and Stockport Council for funding our work. We greatly appreciate Stockport Council's continuing willingness to host the Partnership.

I also wish to thank our Community Rail Officers – Sarah Morgan and John Kenny – for their outstanding work over the past year. In addition thanks are due to our station volunteers, who are the backbone of our Partnership. They have made sterling efforts to improve their stations, at a difficult time for the rail industry.

Dr Simon Temple FCILT  
Chair, South East Manchester CRP

## *Crewe to Manchester CRP*

Our CRP was created in the aftermath of a line closure lasting many months that was associated with the West Coast Route Modernisation in the 'noughties'. Our aim then, as now, was to reach out to communities and raise the profile of the line and encourage people to return to their stations. Our Accreditation finally took place in 2022-3 and we are all excited to have achieved this status.

Central to our work is the support and encouragement of Station Friends Groups. Only one local station remains now without a Friends Group on the 'main line', and we are making progress on the Manchester airport line. Our Friends Groups are hard working, creative, imaginative and passionate about their stations whether they are long established like Handforth or newcomers like Wilmslow. We were delighted when one of our most active groups, Goostrey, shared the prestigious Outstanding Contribution to Community Rail Award at the 2022 Community Rail Awards as well as winning and coming second in other categories. The Partnership supports and works with Cheshire Best Kept Stations. These 2022 Awards saw six stations on our line win awards while two picked up Highly Commendeds.

Art is another theme. We have developed the wonderful 'Connected Communities' artwork of Eamonn Murphy at stations along the line and held participative art events at Crewe Heritage Centre with Goostrey's resident artist Debbie Goldsmith. We are developing a large community art project to transform the Edgeley approach to Stockport Station. This is taking longer to mobilise than expected, but we are making good progress and have had great community input.

We are developing relationships with a number of Town and Parish Councils on the line and this will give us a deeper understanding of the communities that the line serves. Crewe Heritage Centre is another new partner and we can see great synergy in promoting it as a destination.

It has been a productive year and I would like to thank our Community Rail Officers Sarah and John for their hard work and commitment. It has been a pleasure to work with them.

Mark Barker

Chair, Crewe to Manchester CRP



## *South East Manchester and East Cheshire Community Rail Group*

The Crewe to Manchester and South East Manchester and East Cheshire Community Rail Group was formed last year as it was thought that a strategic group to oversee the work of the 2 Community Rail Partnerships would be useful to coordinate activities and to work closely with both CRP's as well as profile activities with the Rail Industry. I was honoured to be asked to Chair the Group and was happy to do so. I hope that my background as a former member and Chairman of TFGM and my involvement with local transport heritage have been helpful and we have developed a close relationship with organisations such as Crewe Heritage Centre, Bahamas Locomotive Society, and Manchester Locomotive Society I am especially delighted to have been involved in the accreditation process which has been successful for both the CRPs. I was also delighted that working with Old Hall Drive Academy School we were able to mount an art exhibition at Gorton Market and secure the Lord Mayor of Manchester to be able to hand out the prizes at a celebration event at the market following the unfortunate vandalising of the school pupil's artwork which had been displayed at Ryder Brow Station. Events that I have been able to attend such as the Cheshire Stations Awards evening, Community Rail Awards, Cross Country Rail Partnerships Conference, and Community Rail Network Conference show how much influence community rail groups these days can have on the railway stakeholders.

I am especially looking forward to working with Stockport Council and the Axon Family later this year on a project in Stockport to commemorate the bravery of Edgeley Driver John Axon who was posthumously awarded the George Cross for trying to stop a runaway freight train at Chapel en le Frith following on from an event in 2018 which celebrated the 60th anniversary of the BBC broadcast by Ewan MacColl, The Ballad of John Axon.

I would like to thank both Sarah Morgan and John Kenny for the support they have given to me and for their passion in developing our community rail partnership programme as well as all those dedicated volunteers who give their time without whom we would not be able to operate.

Keith Whitmore

Chair, South East Manchester and East Cheshire Community Rail Group

# Community Rail Partnership activities 2022-2023

## *DfT Accreditation and wider community engagement*

In June 2022, both our CRPs achieved their first DfT Accreditation following support from the CRN. It has since worked to address the actions set out in the post accreditation report. Following the restructure of the CRP in early 2022 to include an overarching management group, the South East Manchester Community Rail Group (SEMEC CRG), the CRPs have met regularly and has also engaged more widely with community stakeholders including local councils within Cheshire East. The Crewe to Manchester CRP has invited town and parish councils to become members of the steering group and has built strong connections with Sandbach and Crewe Town Councils.



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## *The Big Draw at Crewe Heritage Centre*

In October 2022, the CRP worked with Debbie Goldsmith to put on activities as part of the National “Big Draw”. Debbie ran a workshop for two days at Crewe Heritage Centre and visitors could take part in giant train themed colour by number and dot to dot activities.

The train themed activities were also then featured at an extra Big Draw session hosted by Debbie at the Northern Community Rail Conference.





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## CRN Awards

Both the Crewe to Manchester and the South East Manchester Community Rail Partnerships hosted tables at the awards which included places for representatives of Friends Groups to attend.

The Friends of Goostrey Station were shortlisted for two categories in the CRN awards and were joint winners of the prestigious Outstanding Contribution to Community Rail award, as well as winning the Most Enhanced Railway Spaces award. They also achieved second place in the photo category for 'Best Image Capturing the Essence of Community Rail'. The CRP funded the printing of the winners' brochures for the Friends of Goostrey Station as only digital copies were made available.

SEM CRP was shortlisted for the Tourism and Leisure Award category awards for the Glossop Line boards, which was a project coordinated by Neil Williams of the Friends of Glossop and support by the CRP.

The Friends of Reddish South Station were shortlisted for their 75th Anniversary of VE Day project and picture entry and the Friends of Romiley Station were also shortlisted for an award for their Queen's Platinum Jubilee Garden and Interpretive Board.



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## Brinnington

Following the installation of the Brinnington community maps on the Manchester platform, SEM CRP has worked with new station adopter, Helen Middleton, and Network Rail to bring together artwork that was part of an unfinished project to tackle antisocial behaviour at the station.

Helen designed three collages with the children's artworks, and these are now on display in the shelter. The installation was supported by Northern and ISS.

The station has had several other activities taking place over the last year and whilst these have not all had involvement from the CRP, they are worthy of mention as an example of how multiple groups working towards improving the station can bring significant improvements.

Dave Jepson, Brinnington's other station adopter, has brought together historic images of Brinnington and displayed these in the ticket office. He has also organised for new planters to be installed at the front of the station which really enhance the gateway to the station and are protected by the rollers to reduce the risk of damage by ASB.

Alongside this, the Northern booking office staff have taken their own initiative to open a swap shop which invites people to bring and take toys, clothing and books. It is reported that this has increased ticket sales as well as providing a valuable service for the community, connecting with residents through a Facebook page. A new window sign was designed to promote the Swap Shop and this was organised by the CRP.

The next project being planned is the installation of a bench in the booking office and the CRP is leading on funding this with support from TfGM, Northern and ISS.



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## CBKS Awards

Following the 2021 awards, the CRP officers have continued to support the CBKS awards by judging stations and actively participating in the planning and delivery of this year's event for the 2022 awards presentations, which took place at the Grange Theatre in Hartford on 16th March.

A number of Station Adoption groups were successful at this year's CBKS awards and the awards evening has generated a lot of publicity including this press release by Stockport Council: [www.stockport.gov.uk/news/six-stockport-stations-scoop-up-gongs-at-best-kept-station-awards-event](http://www.stockport.gov.uk/news/six-stockport-stations-scoop-up-gongs-at-best-kept-station-awards-event)



## *Ryder Brow*

The CRP has supported the new station group for Ryder Brow, organising a rail safety poster competition at the end of 2022. In January the Lord Mayor presented certificates to the children who have worked at the station and participated in the competition.

A new artwork has been produced by Eamonn Murphy of the Old Hall Academy which will be added to the Station Connections collection and displayed at the station.

The brightly coloured banner which was designed with school children's artwork and installed at the station in summer 2022 was sadly vandalised and this will be replaced with aluminum composite panels on the bridge in summer 2023.





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## Walkaday

The Stockport based volunteer led Walkaday group leads several walks each week which all connect with public transport, including many stations within the CRP areas.

When funding was no longer available to print the promotional leaflet, the CRP offered support to fund printing for the Spring 2023 programme. The brochures included a picture of Alderley Edge which was kindly donated by Kelvin Briggs of the Alderley Edge Station Volunteer Group.

1000 copies were printed with many being distributed at stations and in community centres. It is hoped that the printing of the brochure will encourage new participants to attend the walks as well as making the programme more easily accessible for those who already access the walking groups.



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## Feel Good Field Trips

The Avanti funded Feel Good Field Trips finally got underway in 2022 with the recruitment of a new officer at Community Rail Lancashire, David Savage. David has organised the trips using funding which was previously issued to CRPs. We have worked with David to engage local schools with the Feel Good Field Trips as well as supporting with the delivery of some of the trips ourselves. This is a picture of children from Beechwood Primary School in Crewe who visited the Food Sorcery Cookery School in Easy Didsbury.



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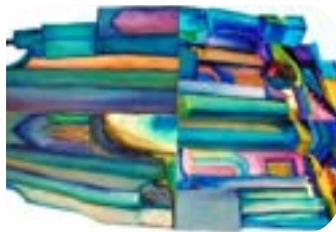
## *Edgeley Approach Art Project*

With support from Avanti grant funding, the CRP has funded multiple workshops at the ARC Centre for groups to prepare large artworks which will be installed at Stockport Station.

Together with individual entries, almost 30 entries were received with over 40 pieces of artwork.

Now Landlord's Consent has been obtained, the CRP is working with the installer and artist to plan the display layout and organise an installation date in the autumn.

Here are some of the entries received:



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## *Engagement with Accessibility Panels*

The CRPs are members and represented on the CrossCountry Trains Accessibility Panel. As well as ensuring that several Greater Manchester Disabled Peoples organisations have been made aware of the Panel, which has led to an increase in the membership of the Panel, the CRPs regular contribute to the work of the Panel.

Recently, initial information gathering has started to enable an accessibility map of Stockport Train Station with plans to develop a similar plan for Manchester Piccadilly.

Following on from a meeting with Chris Jeffrey, Accessibility & Transport Integration Manager at TransPennine Express, regarding the British Sign Language (BSL) information screens, used by TP Express, the CRP will be attending future meetings of the TransPennine Express Accessibility Panel.

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## *Station Adoption Groups*

Crewe to Manchester and South East Manchester CRP areas have a number of well-established Station Adoption Groups who are carrying out a variety projects throughout the year. New groups are also being established with the Hyde Loop Group completing an art project across its three stations over the last year, Wilmslow Station was formally adopted by it's In Bloom Station adopter and Styal is due to be adopted by the Styal Village Association, with projects already being planned.

The CRP has organised meetings with the Station Groups in each CRP on a quarterly basis and has also extended the invitation to the new group at Prestbury which does not come under a CRP area at the moment.

Grants have been offered by the CRP to all station groups within its areas and over the last year the CRPs have provided over £12,000 of grant funding, often match funding projects with Northern and TfGM where groups are completing larger projects.

The CRP has also offered practical guidance on projects and linked groups together to share ideas and experience.



Utilising the Council's print and design services, the CRP has also supported with printing leaflets, maps and aluminium composite pane pictures for station display at Brinnington and Ryder Brow.

For Cheshire Day, station groups were offered funding for Cheshire Day flags and some groups decided to purchase multiple flags to decorate their stations through the year for different events including Lancashire Day.

Well done to all the Station Adoption Groups across both CRPs for the many fantastic projects that have taken place through the last year.

Below are some pictures of a few of the projects by Station Friends groups across both CRP areas.

## ROSE HILL



Another Cheshire Best Kept Stations (CBKS) Award; this time for the Community Rail Network award for community engagement. The citation referred to the Santa event and to the Rose Hill Primary School trip (reception classes) which we helped the school to arrange in May, with Northern's support.

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## ROMILEY

Yet another busy year for the Friends of Romiley Station and one in which they have worked closely with many other Community Groups in the Romiley area as well as local schools.

The Platinum Jubilee Garden was finally completed and opened by pupils from the 4 local Primary Schools as part of a massive street party that saw the main road by the station closed for the afternoon.

The Friends were delighted that the new garden was not only short listed for a Community Rail Network Award but did win the Cheshire Best Kept Stations Platinum Jubilee Award.



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## REDDISH SOUTH

We were delighted to be presented with the John Hobbs Award at the Cheshire's Best Kept Stations ceremony in March 2023, for our continuing campaign to reintroduce regular passenger services from Stockport to Manchester Victoria via Reddish South & Denton Stations, which resulted in receiving funding from the Restoring Your Railways Government Scheme to make a business case for reopening the station, which is ongoing.





## HANDFORTH

Friends of Handforth station was founded in 1996. Over the last year we've displayed art work from local schools, held several competitions, and continued our on-going project to have lifts installed. We recently had a visit from the charity Barnies, who's members made us some bird boxes for the trees aligning the platforms. We regularly host work parties, open to the whole community, to litter pick, maintain flower beds, and keep the station tidy.



## WILMSLOW

For the Friends of Wilmslow Station, last year was very busy and we developed the Front 3 planters and 7 hanging baskets all in a red, white and blue theme for the Jubilee celebrations. We added decorations and laminated sheets with the logos. We designed an E LL R logo in marigolds in a frame. Our biggest challenge was keeping up with the watering transporting about 200 litres a week from the salt store platform 4 to the water barrel at the top of the steps leading to the car park.

As well as the tomatoes, potatoes, herb garden, fennel, peas fruit bushes and apple trees, we did a homage to our friends in Ukraine.



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## SANDBACH

New seating was installed around the planters at Sandbach station, funded by C2M CRP.





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## STYAL

The Styal Villae Association has adopted the station in the last year and have plans for art projects which will be funded by the CRP



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## HOLMES CHAPEL

For Holmes Chapel, C2M CRP supported the purchase of new self-watering planters from Amberol.





# HEATON CHAPEL

C2M CRP supported the Friends of Heaton Chapel with funding for an eye-catching poetry display.

HEATON CHAPEL | PAGE 18 | ISSUE 107 | FEB 2020

## FRIENDS OF HEATON CHAPEL STATION



The winning poets are: Maeve Bremner, Nick Berry, Keith Burrows, John Calvert, John Delaney-Willis, Peter Devonald, Tony Enticknap, Andrew Evans, Giselle Gantry, Clyde Raine, Christine Steinegger, and Mary Webster.

*'For technical reasons this excellent poem by John Delaney-Willis was also a winner but couldn't be printed.'*

### #Reverend Jackson's Journey

With the blessing of St Thomas and a cheering congregation, the auspicious day had finally arrived.

Furnished in their finery, the ladies looked resplendent, while the gentleman politely doffed their caps.

With hurling draped askew and the sound of laughing children, they came to view the one thing they all prized.

Decked in full regalia, the brass band played it's heart out, proud to put the district on the map.

Amid the noise and steam stood the dignitaries and merchants, making more connections far and wide.

Beyond the shrilled whistle, as proceedings were unfolding, carriage horses jostled by a wall.

While in the cold crisp air, hung the scented smell of cooked meats, drawing out the stragglers from inside.

And quietly watching on, stood the genteel Reverend Jackson, the man who brought the railway to us all.

In the 1840s Rev. Edward Jackson was the vicar of St Thomas's church nearby and he used his influence to put Heaton Chapel on the map with a new railway station.

<p>If you visit a quiet place with some significance Through the air, into the heat, find the Heaton Chapel Station We know, it's quiet, it's quiet, it's the only destination Where friends have gathered before, to be a Queen The pleasure, power and relevance are a right to be seen They were here a place of peace in the middle of the day That brings us closer to each other in the time of day And it is here, it is here, it is here, it is here</p> <p>Christine Steinegger</p>	<p>Heaton Chapel &amp; Heaton Chapel There and there you have to go Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel There you're on the right platform, all That if you want, Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel There you must go quickly to Heaton Chapel There you will find, Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel There Heaton Chapel &amp; Heaton Chapel</p> <p>John Calvert</p>	<p>Heaton Chapel &amp; Heaton Chapel There and there you have to go Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel There you're on the right platform, all That if you want, Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel There you must go quickly to Heaton Chapel There you will find, Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel There Heaton Chapel &amp; Heaton Chapel</p> <p>John Calvert</p>
<p>Spoke something said a visit To Heaton Chapel Station The arrival here was to get there Doing our destination We would hardly be a visit As the train came thundering through Here a friend of Heaton Chapel And a friend of Heaton Chapel</p> <p>The Chapel, Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel</p>	<p>While you're waiting for your train To see or meet or visit and visit This station is the place to be To look around and visit and visit And there, Heaton Chapel There is many to go to The Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel And don't forget the Heaton Chapel</p> <p>John Calvert</p>	<p>As a young boy, my Christmas Eve I've climbed to the Heaton Chapel Through the air and the rails, to the platform of peace I've climbed to the Heaton Chapel Through the air and the rails, to the platform of peace I've climbed to the Heaton Chapel Through the air and the rails, to the platform of peace I've climbed to the Heaton Chapel Through the air and the rails, to the platform of peace</p> <p>John Calvert</p>
<p>There and there you have to go To see or meet or visit and visit This station is the place to be To look around and visit and visit And there, Heaton Chapel There is many to go to The Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel And don't forget the Heaton Chapel</p> <p>John Calvert</p>	<p>I remember when it was cold and rain A dark, dark, dark of rain, rain, rain All that time ago it seems like a dream A time very dark when it was going back A time very dark when it was going back A time very dark when it was going back A time very dark when it was going back A time very dark when it was going back A time very dark when it was going back</p> <p>John Calvert</p>	<p>I've just seen the late Queen Waiting for a train She said it was due on platform time It had been delayed by the rails The Heaton Chapel said it was a ghost And made someone of my train On a train's sight, a train of the light The Heaton Chapel said it was a train</p> <p>John Calvert</p>
<p>While waiting here, you must agree The Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel With friends and friends and friends And to much more for all to see The Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel And to much more for all to see The Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel And to much more for all to see</p> <p>John Calvert</p>	<p>The doors here open, we don't believe Find a good one, and see around The doors here open, we don't believe Find a good one, and see around The doors here open, we don't believe Find a good one, and see around The doors here open, we don't believe Find a good one, and see around</p> <p>John Calvert</p>	<p>Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel There and there you have to go Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel There you're on the right platform, all That if you want, Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel There you must go quickly to Heaton Chapel There you will find, Heaton Chapel, Heaton Chapel There Heaton Chapel &amp; Heaton Chapel</p> <p>John Calvert</p>

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## GUIDE BRIDGE

SEM CRP supported the Friends of Guide Bridge to install and refurbish an old wagon which is in the memorial garden. The group as also hosted CRP Friends group meetings.



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## HYDE LOOP

The Friends of Hyde Loop have used SEM CRP funding to install artwork at their three stations.



## DAVENPORT

Davenport received funding from SEM CRP for a new planter which was provided for the Girl Guides to take care of and was installed with support from the Highways and Transportation Team at Stockport Council. Davenport has also welcomed a new volunteer over the last year who has supported with station gardening and decorations in the ticket office.



## CHELFORD

C2M CRP provided funding for a new planter at Chelford which was designed and built by the Station Adoption group.





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## ASHBURYS

With support from SEM CRP, Neil Williams from the Friends of Glossop Station arranged for a blue plaque to be installed at Ashburys in memory of FoGs group member Paul Abell, who sadly passed away in 2021.

Paul was a key player in the project to install heritage boards on each station along the Glossop line, writing the information for Gorton and Ashburys himself, having grown up in the area.

Paul was also editor of Today's Railways UK magazine and vice president of advocacy group, Railfuture.



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## ALDERLEY EDGE

The Alderley Edge Volunteer Group has completed several projects this year including displaying a fantastic, illustrated map by Dave Draws and an Invisible Worlds poster, with funding support from C2M CRP.



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## WOODSMOOR

This year the Friends of Woodsmoor have completed the Trees art project and have also used the station owls to celebrate events throughout the year. We are starting to think Woodsmoor has its own microclimate and these owls are becoming celebrities in their own right, now featuring on Pokemon Go!



## MAULDETH ROAD

The Friends continue to develop a patch of land, The Triangle, opposite the ticket office which has been laid with gravel by volunteers from Siemens' Engineering and decorated by willow-work dragonflies made by local residents on a course organised by the Friends and funded by Buzz, the Manchester Health and Wellbeing Service.

In June, planting undertaken by the Friends around the station was recognised with a 2022 Royal Horticultural Society North West in Bloom, It's Your Neighbourhood Award at Level 3 (Advancing).



Two Line Art posters, printed onto aluminium board, have very recently been installed at the station.

The posters show landmarks from both communities immediately served by Mauldeth Road Station. Ladybarn is represented by Poplar Walk in Ladybarn Park and Burnage by St. Margaret's Church on Burnage Lane.

Before their installation at either side of the Mauldeth Road bridge they toured four local community venues in the two districts.

The Friends now plan to develop neglected land on the Burnage side of the bridge into a pocket park with a bench and wildflowers.



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## MARPLE

Friends of Marple Station have had another busy year. We've looked after our dozen large planters and they are looking great. We have added a superb new triple train one created by 'Men in Sheds' which is now fully planted and includes a drivers' seat you can sit on to have your photo taken. We have also created both new artwork and informative displays. One explains the sustainable community-owned hydro-electric plant in Marple. We have also added a display to celebrate the centenary of the railway grouping which joins ones as diverse as 'Women in Marple', 'conscientious objectors in WW1' (Marple was a centre of the movement), and an explanation of 'Agatha Christie in the north'.

The main waiting room has hosted a wonderful display on bees from Mellor Primary School, an Art Trail created by three other local schools, a celebration of National Squirrel Day and an exhibition of local poetry. We also publicise local events on our noticeboard. Our book swap continues to be popular and we have distributed another 2,000 booklets of walks from Marple Station.

We have also hosted visits from three other Friends groups to talk to them about our work, and visited several other stations to learn about theirs.



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## *Plans for the coming year*

We have set out our new plans within the 2023-2024 Activity Plans which will be made available on the CRP websites.

The plans include work towards the South East Manchester canal rail walks with the High Peak Hope Valley CRP as well as a rail walk guide for Crewe to Manchester CRP.

We are currently working on a Cheshire rail promotion with Mid Cheshire and North Cheshire CRPs to promote sustainable travel through the new Marketing Cheshire 'Ultimate Map', which will have 100,000 copied printed and be widely distributed.

We have enjoyed developing our relationships with community organisations over the last year and will continue to work on projects in partnership with town and parish councils as well as other community organisations with shared objectives, including offering community funding more widely.

We have also offered support to new station groups outside of the CRP area and plan to continue to offer support to these local groups which are not covered by other Community Rail Partnerships.

We will continue to engage through our Twitter accounts with increasing numbers of followers and look forward to getting our websites redesigned to be more modern and accessible, as well as easier for us to update.



## Finance Reports

<b>Finance Report for Crewe to Manchester Community Rail Partnership</b>	
<b>Receipts and Payments 2022-2023</b>	
<b>Balance brought forward</b>	<b>152,552.89</b>
<b>Core funding receipts</b>	
Xcountry contribution	10,932.54
SMBC contribution	1,000.00
TPE Contribution	1,136.00
Northern contribution	31,003.00
CEC contribution	4,500.00
Avanti contribution	14,318.69
<b>Additional funding</b>	
CrossCountry funding for CBKS awards	500.00
Avanti Edgeley Art project grant funding	2,484.00
TfGM - funding for Bramhall art project via CRP	1,044.00
TPE extra contribution	791.67
Engineers fees	77.48
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>67,787.38</b>
<b>Payments</b>	
Staff costs	32,759.62
Books and publications	20.00
Mobile phones	142.00
Computer licences	413.95
Social media promotion	300.00
Hospitality - meetings and CRN awards	474.21
CRN Membership	150.00
Storage costs	343.02
CRP project costs (inc Bramhall art project)	6,550.82
Station group grants	8,327.11
Feel Good Field Trips	4,000.00
Professional fees	2,995.00
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>56,475.73</b>
<b>Closing balance (estimated*)</b>	<b>163,864.54</b>
<b>*subject to final amendments by SMBC</b>	



<b>Finance Report for South East Manchester Community Rail Partnership</b>		
<b>Balance brought forward</b>		<b>112,533.42</b>
<b>Core funding receipts</b>		
SMBC Contribution	3,000.00	
Xcountry contribution	10,932.54	
TPE Contribution	1,250.00	
Northern contribution	31,003.00	
Avanti West Coast contribution	7,159.35	
<b>Additional receipts</b>		
TPE additional contribution	791.67	
Bramhall Cycle Storage (s106 funding)	15,222.53	
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>69,359.09</b>
<b>Payments</b>		
Staff costs	32,751.47	
Artists fees	1,750.00	
Mobile phone	142.00	
CRP Project costs	4,831.85	
Bramhall Cycle storage	15,222.53	
Engineers fees	5,720.56	
Computer licences	413.95	
Storage	141.16	
Hospitality	469.86	
Social media promotion	300.00	
Station group grants	4,409.10	
Printing	731.58	
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>66,884.06</b>
<b>Closing balance (estimated*)</b>	-	<b>115,008.45</b>
<b>*subject to final amendments by SMBC</b>		

*Get in touch*

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The CRP would like to thank all its partners for their continued support: -

