



spring newsletter

Fresh air for fresh ideas

Want to get out more and enjoy our beautiful countryside by foot or bike? Pick up a copy of one of our line guides from your nearest station or download one from our website

Issue 5 February—May

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter with news from all four Community Rail Partnership Line Officers and an article from the Community Rail Education Officer on the work she is doing with local schools

Between October 2014 and January 2015, twenty schools in the Chichester area and Horsham District have taken part in the Rail Travel workshop delivered by SCRP Education Officer, Angie Lowen. This has involved 25 workshops to 678 Year 6 children.

This project is funded by the West Sussex Sustainable Travel Towns Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) and is now in its last phase. The focus of the project is to change travel behaviour for the biggest and most car dominant journey generators; the journeys to work and to education, in and around Chichester and Horsham. The aim is to promote sustainable travel, reduce congestion and create a more efficient transport network that supports businesses and fosters economic growth, while reducing carbon emissions. One element of the bid program includes a “school rail education initiative”, which will increase awareness of and confidence in rail travel amongst young people and promote modal shift to sustainable travel modes.

Six station visits have taken place, three at Horsham Station and three at Pulborough and Billingshurst Stations, and there is one more booked. For six of these visits the children were able to travel by train and engage in the full experience of travelling by train. These train rides were provided by Southern Rail as part of their commitment to supporting Sussex Community Rail Partnership (SCRP), and were a real highlight of the station visits.

As a spin off from the station visits some of the schools have extended their input and we are running a leaflet competition using images the children have sketched as part of their visit. The leaflet is to advertise the SCRP and its promotion of sustainable travel.

The children were all surveyed about their travel habits before the first workshop and will be surveyed again after the second workshops. The project findings will then be reported at the end of April.



Uckfield & East Grinstead Line

The Lines went crazy for Christmas with Christmas trees at as many stations as possible, beautiful decorations at Eridge thanks to the efforts of the Spa Valley Railway team and Christmas events at East Grinstead, Edenbridge and on 19th December around 65 young people, adults and children gathered together at Hurst Green Station to sing carols. Mulled wine, hot chocolate and mince pies were provided by local churches which kept everyone warm and in good voice. It was a 'Creative Community' event organised in partnership with Oxted Band and Mighty Oaks Youth Club.



Tonbridge & Redhill Line

Southern and Sussex CRP have embarked on a programme of projects to enhance facilities along the line. Coming soon: artwork which has been donated by a number of local primary schools for display, also a programme of walks is being organized in partnership with Action Kent.

Marshlink

Rye Station and Hamstreet Station have had a January makeover with newly installed art-work and hanging baskets and planters on the platforms. The planting has been done by Friary Gardeners, a charity who work with young adults with learning difficulties. Pictured below are some of the group with one of Rye's volunteers Keith Buckland. Paintings from The Creative School in Rye have been hung in the reception area showcasing the skills of local students.

In February a mosaic of Steam Trains will go on display and will certainly attract the attention of local residents and visitors.



For ten years Sussex CRP has been working with communities in Sussex and more recently Kent and Surrey to improve the environment of their local stations, promote sustainable travel, encourage rural tourism and in turn bring tourism £'s to our rural economies. We also work with schools throughout the counties to promote rail safety.

Arun Valley Line Poems written by students at St Philip Howard School and Barnham Primary school are displayed at stations along the Line, Bognor and Barnham being the first, with more to follow at Gatwick. Keep a look out for more poetry at our other stations in the near future.

Arundel free Mosaic workshop at Arundel Museum April 8th 10 - 5. This is a post anniversary event to commemorate the celebrations of 2013. Come along and make your mark in history by taking part in the making of this mosaic which will be put up in the booking hall of Arundel station. All welcome!

A free walk 27th March 10 - 12. This is a gentle 2 hour walk around the countryside surrounding the village of Hassocks. We will be touching on South Downs National Park and the golf course on this lovely and attractive walk. Starts and ends at Hassocks station. Regular trains along the Brighton mainline. Keep looking on the website for the dates of our next free Arundel walks which leave from Arundel station, walk around Swanbourne lake and finish with a guided tour of historic Arundel.

Children from Barnham primary decorated two trees for Barnham waiting rooms. Within half hour of completion a passenger asked a member of staff to take her photo by the tree because she liked it so much

The design of the Arundel Mosaic
celebrating 150 years of the
Arun Valley Line



Seaford to Brighton Line Seaford Station Community Scheme Wild Flower Garden had a brilliant first day back on Saturday 24 January. The scheme has been going from strength to strength with continued gardening support from volunteers and donations of plants, bulbs, and seeds from the community, come spring the garden will be an array of colour. Sylvia Dunn and Jenny Thornton (organisers) would like to say a big thank you to all the volunteers who gave their time on the day. A very big thank you goes to Mark Epsom Area manager of Southern Rail and Michael Bradford of Network Rail who arranged the massive clean-up operation on the opposite side. If you would like to support the station's Wild Flower Scheme, please donate plants, bulbs, and seeds. All donations can be left at the station with Jenny. If you would like to help out at the station, the next volunteer's day is on 7 March at 10am meet at the back of the car park. Following rules apply: suitable footwear must be worn, not trainers or wellies, volunteers must be 18 or over.



Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACORP) REPORT INTO THE VALUE OF COMMUNITY RAIL

A new report by ACoRP shows that Community Rail Partnerships (CRPs) and station adopters are making rail travel a vastly improved experience for local people in the UK. The report shows that local routes with CRPs are seeing a higher growth in passengers than other local routes whilst volunteer station adopters are making a real difference by transforming local stations into a pleasing environment.

Commenting on the report Baroness Kramer Minister of State for Transport said: *"Community Rail Partnerships have a vital role to play in building a stronger economy and a fairer society, as demonstrated powerfully by this research. By encouraging more people to travel by train, they bring real economic, social and environmental benefits to their areas, and support the record investment we are making in the rail network. I hope this inspires more people to set up partnerships and develop their own community railways."*

To give up owning a car to rely on public transport and an occasional hire car would be considered by most of us a brave decision, *Luke Taylor from Croydon* did just that and is happy to share the experience with us. What started as an experiment has become a lifestyle choice



WERE YOU A COMMITTED CAR OWNER AND DID YOU ENJOY DRIVING? *Yes, I was very proud of my car and I still enjoy driving when I get the opportunity. It helps that with the industry I work in sometimes I get to drive a bus (which is much more fun than driving a car!).*

WHEN AND WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO GIVE UP BEING A CAR OWNER? *The cost of running a car had worried me for some time - Particularly at the height of the recession where fuel prices were soaring and wages weren't. My car was getting on a bit and sadly the cost to pass the MOT was a four figure sum - which I couldn't justify. Faced with the decision as to whether to buy a new car or not, I decided to sit down and work out how much it would cost. I was quite shocked by the figures!*

I HAVE YOUR WORKED OUT THE ACTUAL SAVINGS? *It took some time, but yes I did. I did some research on costs, and the one big one everyone misses is "Depreciation" so I would have had to take finance for a new car (at around £200 a month) and to avoid having to borrow money again when I needed to replace the car, I would need to save the same amount again on top of that. At £400 a month, it worked out at £4800 a year. Add fuel (around £850 a year), MOT/Service (around £500 a year), insurance (around £600 a year) and Road Tax (around £45 a year), I was looking at a figure of over £7000.00. Compare that to the cost of an annual season ticket (around £3000) which I could use for both work and leisure, it was a no brainer for me. I would be £4000 a year better off without a car.*

HAS IT BEEN EASY? *It has, believe it or not. I thought it would be hard, but where I live we have such good public transport connections, it's not really caused any bother at all other than the odd couple of moments where I think "I wish I still had a car"... .. That's probably once or twice a year though, if that!*

WHAT HAVE THE ADVANTAGES BEEN? *So many - too many to mention. Obviously the financial saving, but also if I'm not driving, I can do other things; catch up on e-mails, work, or even look at the latest gossip on social media. And I can do all this without the stress of driving.*

WHAT HAVE THE DIFFICULTIES BEEN? *I can't really say there have been any. I think the only time I miss the car is when I need to take my cat to the vet, as that can be a bit testing on public transport. But if need be I'll get a taxi. I also thought I would struggle with supermarket shopping, but I switched to online shopping which I now prefer as you don't have the hassle of crowds, queues or trying to find a parking space near to the entrance when it's pouring with rain. Plus when I shop online I don't get distracted by all the special offers and buy things I don't need! It's probably saved me even more money in the long run.*



PLEASE MENTION YOUR TIP FOR SEASONAL CAR-HIRE *Think outside the box—, a convertible in the winter and a four-wheel drive in the Summer. On the occasions when I've needed a car, a wedding in a rural area without public transport. I can pick up a rental on a Friday afternoon, for around £60 for the whole weekend if I look for a good offer. The only added extra is for fuel, but the cost of depreciation, tax, insurance and maintenance is covered by the rental company. In total I think I spent around £650 on driving last year, which doesn't dent the saving I have made by not owning my own car.*

DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF (by location or any other reason) TO BE ESPECIALLY ABLE TO DO THIS? *the option is easier than one might think. Granted in some rural areas it may not be possible to have the flexibility of getting a bus or train when you need it, but in a lot of places it is. Take Crawley for example - It has one of the most comprehensive bus and train networks in the country but yet only around 20% of residents regularly use the bus for their travel. Imagine how much less congested the roads would be if more people switched their transport mode. Plus it would save so much money. People think cars are more convenient, but in my experience I have no regrets at all, and financially I am quid's in. I would urge anyone thinking about their travel mode to*

Want to know more about the work we do?

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