



# 2018 Annual Review

**WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP**

connecting communities with places and opportunities

## CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

### Welcome to our Review of 2018

2018 has been an incredibly busy year for the Sussex Community Rail Partnership (SCRP), now in its 10th year as a Limited Company.

A new community line was launched between Hove and Angmering and the North Downs Line was extended to Reading. 18 new station partnerships were formed with local community support. Go-Learn reached over 3,200 children and Active Access supported over 70 young people. The SCRP worked closely with partners to deliver World War 1 commemorations at 16 stations and launched a new suite of Line Guides and promotional videos.

The SCRP works with many partners to deliver projects, including individuals, community groups, businesses, Network Rail and local authorities. We are grateful for the support we receive from Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) and Great Western Railway (GWR) and our stakeholders who provide advice and guidance, our talented and hard-working staff and the volunteer directors of SCRP Ltd.

Most of all we thank volunteers from local and national groups who contribute so much in and around local stations.

2019 will be an equally busy year as the SCRP applies for accreditation in line with the Department for Transport's Community Rail Strategy, moves towards becoming a Community Interest Company and begins to implement its new Business Plan.

Finally, if you are already a partner, volunteer or member of a line steering group, thank you for all your support in 2018. If you would like to be involved in 2019, do contact us.

Together we look forward to another exciting year.

#### **Patrick Warner**

Chairman of the SCRP Strategic Advisory Board



## SCRP IN 2018

### Partnership structure

Sussex Community Rail Partnership (SCRP) was formed in 2002 and has operated as a not for profit Limited Company since 2008. SCRP is managed by volunteer directors, who provide local, independent expertise. We employ eight staff who coordinate project work within their community area.

We work in partnership with train operators, Network Rail, community groups, local authorities and local businesses, helping them to achieve their objectives.

SCRP's Stakeholder Advisory Board meets twice a year and represents an opportunity to update members on developments, to seek guidance on future strategy and to hear guest speakers from the rail industry.

SCRP now has seven Community Rail Lines, and each has a Development Officer who arranges four steering group meetings a year to monitor progress on the annual action plan.



### Objectives for 2018

In 2018 SCRP updated its 5-year Business Plan which is now focused around the core themes of the Department for Transport's Community Rail Development Strategy, putting local communities at the heart of our work:

- ▶ Providing a voice for the community
- ▶ Promoting sustainable and healthy travel
- ▶ Bringing communities together, supporting diversity and inclusion
- ▶ Supporting social and economic development; and
- ▶ Strengthening the partnership

During 2018 we also worked with GTR to introduce Site Access Permits for station partners, to improve risk assessments and safety awareness for volunteers working at stations.

## A VOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY

### North Downs Line extension

In March 2018 Sussex CRP was invited by Great Western Railway (GWR) to extend their North Downs Line responsibility to include stations to the west of Guildford as far as Reading, bringing the total to 11.

Through SCRP, the community has become involved in two key projects, a Rail Crossings Study and the Guildford Rail Forum. The Crossings Study is a vital pre-cursor to the introduction of a third train per hour and the rail forum provides a community voice in and around Guildford where major rail developments are planned.

### Dorking Deepdene volunteers

A group of volunteers from the Department for Transport (DfT) worked on a project to build three planters at Dorking Deepdene using cut-down railway sleepers. The volunteers, led by SCRP line officer David Daniels, built the planters ready for seeding by volunteers from Patchwork Gardening Project in Dorking.



## A VOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY

### A new Partnership for the West Coastway

In April 2018, Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR) asked SCRP to set up a new Community Rail line on the West Coastway line from Angmering to Hove. Line Officers Catherine Simmons and Rowena Tyler took on the task of developing the Partnership, engaging existing partners and stakeholders and inviting community groups to a launch in July, kindly hosted by Shoreham Port.

There was an enthusiastic response from the community which had lacked representation previously. A Steering Group was formed and within a few months of the launch, the line has four station partners signed up, funded and working. Adur & Worthing Councils are very supportive, seeing the potential for increasing economic activity along the line.

The Station Management Team are also very supportive. At Hove station, staff decorated their Christmas tree with hand-knitted baubles which commuters could take home for a small donation to Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice. 2019 projects will include murals to brighten up station underpasses.



Angmering Station partners Sidetracked were nominated for the 2018 ACoRP Awards

## A VOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY

### Strengthening partnerships

As a small community organisation, SCRCP relies on partnerships to achieve objectives and further develop community rail.

SCRCP consulted extensively with stakeholders during the revision of our Business Plan, and as a result the new Plan reflects partners' priorities and objectives, giving us a strong basis for future action.

We ensured that Community Rail has a place in the Transport for the South East Forum which is developing an influential regional transport strategy. We forged stronger links with CRPs across the South East region which culminated in a lively shared learning day.

SCRCP plays an important role in coordinating community responses to industry consultations. In 2018 responses were made to seven major consultations including the DfT's Community Rail Strategy and improving physical accessibility at stations.

At the Marshlink AGM, John Spencer, a volunteer on the Marshlink Steering Group, received a certificate of thanks for his efforts in representing Winchelsea station, and successfully campaigning to bring back the Sunday service. The line's local MP, the Rt Hon Amber Rudd, presented the certificate and said, "I would like to assure the SCRCP that I continue to be fully committed to working with the SCRCP and other interested parties in ensuring that we are able to further improve rail services both in Hastings and Rye, and across East Sussex".

*Kent County Council has continued to support the Marshlink CRP, and we're especially pleased to see the benefits of the May 2018 timetable change being realised for passengers connecting at Ashford into High Speed services to London.*

*Stephen Gasche, Principal Transport Planner – Rail, Kent County Council*



*Volunteer John Spencer receives a certificate of achievement from Amber Rudd MP*

## A VOICE FOR THE COMMUNITY

### Bishopstone Remembers and looks to the future

In November, Bishopstone station saw a culmination of community efforts with a creative display marking the centenary of WW1 and the official station adoption signing by The Friends of Bishopstone Station. The day was attended by many from the local community including the Mayor of Seaford Linda Wallraven, MP Maria Caulfield and BBC presenter Natalie Graham.

After a year of hard work, community volunteers, railway staff, the Railway Heritage Trust, the planning officer and support from ACoRP have started us on the road to restore this forgotten Grade II listed Art Deco station into a community hub. SCRCP built momentum, interest and engagement through a schools exhibition of pinhole photography and platform clearance days with Network Rail. The Friends of Bishopstone are now creating a plan to take this challenging project forward.



*Community members gather at Bishopstone to commemorate the First World War*

# SUSTAINABLE & HEALTHY TRAVEL

## Go Learn

Go Learn helps Year 6 children (age 10-11) develop confidence and skills for independent travel on public transport. SCRP's Education Officer Maddy Mills does this in conjunction with the Southern Rail Enforcement Officers who deliver Rail Safety sessions, particularly track safety, to Year 6 children at Safety in Action and Junior Citizen events across the Southern area.

Go Learn has three modules:

### 1. Safety on the Railways

For the indoor Junior Citizen events there is a floor mat which depicts the layout of the platform and tracks at a Railway Station.

### 2. Classroom workshop

Includes planning journeys using maps and timetables

### 3. Station visit and train ride

*"Lots of useful information for children to become more independent in preparation for secondary school. Just the right level."*

*Carole Meadows – Hilltop School, Crawley Jan 2019*



Southern promoted Go Learn on Facebook with this cartoon

# SUSTAINABLE & HEALTHY TRAVEL

We run a Leaflet Competition with rail travel voucher prizes, to extend the learning from the workshop and see how much the pupils have retained.

Numbers participating in Go Learn are increasing year on year. In the nine months from April – December 2018, over 2,200 children received Safety in Action or Junior Citizen training. Over 1,200 children had classroom workshops (up 38% on 2017-18). Ten station visits were carried out with 200 children. The total number of children receiving the training from SCRP was 3,700.

Maddy Mills is SCRP's new Education Officer, replacing Angie Lowen. One of her first visits representing SCRP was at Crawley College Freshers' Fair in September. We talked to students about the Young Person's Railcard and handed out the British Transport Police's card advertising their 61016 text number to report crimes or incidents on the train.



*"Children really enjoyed the session – love how 'hands on' it is. They love the activities they have to complete."*

*Jessica Keyworth – Hilltop School, Crawley Jan 2019*



Maddy Mills, SCRP's education officer, at Crawley College

## SUSTAINABLE & HEALTHY TRAVEL

### Uckfield bus surgery

The Uckfield Bus Surgery is organised by the Wealden Bus Alliance's Chairman and Wealden District councillor Barry Marlowe. Cllr Marlowe is also a member of the SCRCP Uckfield & East Grinstead lines Steering Group.

The Bus Surgery is held at Uckfield station car-park by kind permission of Southern. Whilst primarily to inform about local bus services, it gives Southern staff and SCRCP the opportunity to meet the public and hear any concerns. Local people can ask questions and make suggestions about transport that serves the town.

- ▶ Do the routes available work for local communities?
- ▶ Does the timetable get people to work/school/college on time?
- ▶ Are the public taking advantage of best tickets available?

A great local event which is well attended by the community, local MP Nus Ghani, Brighton & Hove Buses, Buses UK, SCRCP, Southern, the Town Mayor and Councillors, local radio and Wealden voluntary services.



**A GREAT LOCAL  
EVENT WHICH IS  
WELL ATTENDED**

*Nus Ghani MP met Uckfield councillors, bus companies and SCRCP at the Uckfield Bus Surgery*

## SUSTAINABLE & HEALTHY TRAVEL

### Christmas at East Grinstead

This event was organised by the Station Partner, Andrew Morris. A spectacular display of 12 sparkingly decorated Christmas trees brought life and colour to East Grinstead's station platform over the Christmas period.

Andrew approached local businesses asking them to sponsor a Christmas tree, he further asked the local Montessori nursery school to help by making decorations for the trees (we think the parents and staff helped!). The beautifully decorated trees were then put on display in the platform planters.

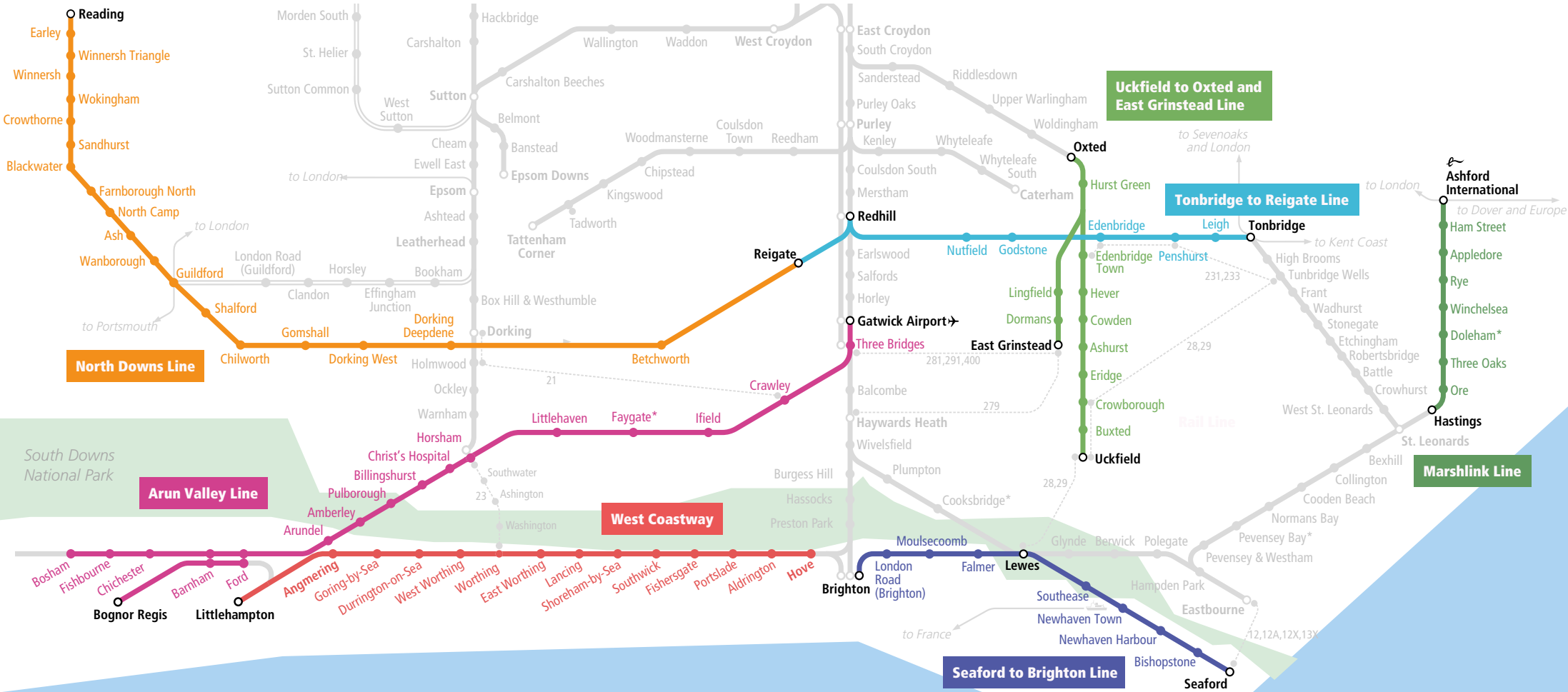
This was a real local initiative that involved input from the community. Help was offered to prepare the pots for planting, the trees had to be installed, a poster was designed by Southern staff thanking local businesses, a carol singing event was organised by a local charity, and the town action group helped by removing the trees and decorations to be stored away for next year.

*"The Sussex CRP does a great job, the enthusiasm of the staff and volunteers is obvious in all that they do"*

*Kevin Boorman, Marketing & Major Projects Manager,  
Hastings Borough Council*



# SUSSEX COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP LINES



- SCRP Lines**
- SCRP Lines**
- SCRP Lines**
- SCRP Lines**
- Bus routes and numbers**

**For more information**  
 Metrobus routes: [www.metrobus.co.uk/area-maps](http://www.metrobus.co.uk/area-maps)  
 Brighton & Hove buses: [www.buses.co.uk](http://www.buses.co.uk)  
 Trains: [www.networkrail.co.uk](http://www.networkrail.co.uk)  
 What to see and do: [www.sussexcrp.org/discover-the-lines](http://www.sussexcrp.org/discover-the-lines)

## BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER,

### Independent Travel Training with Active Access

Active Access for Growth (AAfG) is a joint venture with East Sussex County Council. SCRCP offers Independent Train Travel Training (ITTT) to people experiencing barriers to travelling confidently and independently by train.

This year, SCRCP actively promoted the training at events for young people thinking about their futures, such as freshers' fairs at the University of Brighton and Sussex, The Big Futures Show, 'I Can', and Bexhill jobs fair. The training offer has been very well received, particularly by colleges for students with additional needs.

We carried out intensive training with Further Education Departments, Secondary and Primary schools and unemployed groups (through Eastbourne Job Centre). 70 clients benefited from intensive training, with clients and partners alike 100% satisfied. SCRCP produced 15 case studies based on individual workshops and 'Try a Train' experiences.

### CASE STUDY - BOWDEN HOUSE SCHOOL VISITS BRIGHTON

*Bowden House School is a residential Tower Hamlets school for boys aged 11-18 who face learning or behaviour barriers. They transition to local colleges and places of work at 16, so learning safe independent travel is a must.*

*In October, SCRCP carried out classroom workshops on travelling independently. Then a group visited Hampden Park and Brighton putting theory into practice with a surprise visit to The Brighton Toy and Model Museum.*

*Completing the ITTT workbook on the train*



## SUPPORTING DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Attendance at rail industry events, including the Department for Transport's Leading Diversity Day, ACoRP conferences, and station information events, has given many opportunities to promote ITTT, with over 40 community groups contacted.

SCRCP has developed new school workshop materials including an ITTT work booklet based on a BTEC qualification in Skills for Independence and Work (Using Public Transport). The training is supported through Southern's 'Try a Train' scheme which provides a free accompanied train trip to disadvantaged groups. The partnership between SCRCP, AAfG partners and Southern has been very successful and we look forward to building on this in future project proposals.



*Trying out the ticket machine at Seaford station*

### ACHIEVEMENTS



100% satisfaction with travel training



80% achieved the target for successful ITTT receiving three step certificates



100% felt more confident to travel alone independently



## BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER,

### Community Rail Remembers - Centenary of the Armistice

During November, many station partners created displays, exhibitions and held events as part of the nationwide Remembrance initiative. 'Silent Soldier' silhouettes of First World War soldiers, airmen, nurses and suffragettes, made by the Royal British Legion and kindly provided by Southern, appeared at stations along the Lines.



*Funtington Primary children's poppy display at Bosham station*

From schoolchildren singing medleys of songs from the First World War era, to the Queen's Regiment laying wreaths at Chichester, buglers playing 'The Last Post' on station footbridges, and artwork depicting 'waves of poppies', 16 station partners and community groups paid their respects to the 20,000 railway staff who died in the Great War.

Kevin Boorman, volunteer Director of SCRPP, said, "SCRPP is proud to remember the contribution of our communities and railways to the First World War. It is very fitting that railway stations can be the focus for community commemorations. We are very pleased that we could help to make this happen, together with Southern."

## SUPPORTING DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

### Supporting people with disabilities

SCRPP works with several charitable trusts which support young people with physical and learning disabilities. We work together to provide opportunities for developing skills in a commercial environment and gaining confidence in travelling independently.

Canterbury Oast Trust (COT) has been a station partner at Rye and Ham Street for nearly two years. They are based in Woodchurch near Ham Street, and support young adults with learning difficulties. They have residential accommodation on site, a 28 acre woodland, a working farm, restaurant and craft shop. The Plants and Produce team grow flowers for the planters at Rye and Ham Street.

In April COT took part in GTR's Try the Train programme. Ten clients and three supervisors travelled from Ham Street to Brighton, with Southern staff on the train and at stations helping to make it a very successful day.

SCRPP also works with Aldingbourne Trust Adopt A Station team on the West Coastway and Arun Valley Line. County Care, who support young people with autism, are station partners at Reigate and Horley stations.



**THIS PROJECT PROVIDES A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR ADULTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES TO FEEL PART OF THE WIDER COMMUNITY AND GIVES THEM A REAL SENSE OF PRIDE IN THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS.**

*Roland Leask, Adopt A Station, Aldingbourne Trust*

*Canterbury Oast Trust's Art on the Farm team created SCRPP's 2018 Christmas card*

## SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Signposting the North Downs Way

Signs and maps were installed at five stations on the North Downs Line to encourage rail travel, describing walking routes from the station to the North Downs Way which runs parallel to the railway line, and local attractions within a short distance. There are many opportunities to start at one station, walk to the next and catch the train back.

The signs were designed in collaboration with Surrey Hills AONB and The North Downs Way long-distance trail, local communities provided the connections to local attractions. Funding for the signs came from Natural England, GWR, ACoRP and Surrey Hills. The signs were launched with a walk from Shalford to Chilworth in October 2018.

*Unveiling the North Downs Way sign at Chilworth station*



*"We value the excellent work that SCRP undertakes in promoting rail travel amongst the local community and to visitors."*

*Jamie Dallen, Transport Planning and Policy Senior Planner, West Sussex County Council*

**GWR IS REALLY PLEASED WITH THE PROGRESS MADE IN ESTABLISHING THE NORTH DOWNS LINE CRP OVER THE LAST 18 MONTHS. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING TO WORK WITH SUSSEX CRP TO DELIVER REAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE COMMUNITIES THAT WE SERVE.**

*Tom Pierpoint, Regional Development Manager, GWR*

## SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Promoting rail travel

SCRPs popular line guides were updated in 2018. These guides are distributed to local stations, partners and destinations to promote the scenic rail journeys along our lines.

With funding from CrossCountry, we worked with Ooh-AR to produce videos for each of our community rail lines, highlighting rail travel to leisure destinations and walks. People can access the videos via their mobile phones or on SCRPs website.

We held 20 roadshows during the year at stations, careers fairs, freshers' fairs, and other local community events. The highlight was Community Rail in the City at London Bridge and Waterloo stations where we engaged with around 1,000 rail passengers and even ran a "Guess the weight of the cheese" competition!



*Filming the famous coastal view at Seaford Head*



*Perusing the 2018 Line Guides*



*SCRPs joins Kent CRP and Southeastern at a pop-up info event at Tonbridge station.*

*We have continued to work closely with SCRP to promote visits by rail to the South Downs National Park.*

*Allison Thorpe, Strategy Lead Access and Recreation, South Downs National Park Authority*

## SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Model partnership at Brighton

Since signing Brighton Station's official adoption in March 2018 the Toy and Model Museum's partnership has gone from strength to strength. Displays of Brighton-based model engines and Pullman carriages appeared in the Travel Centre and Passenger Lounge and a permanent sign directing travellers to the museum is now at the front of the station. The museum had a record-breaking summer attendance with a new demographic of visitors enticed under the station's arches to the extensive toy and model railway collections.

Jan Etches, Manager, said, "Brighton Toy and Model Museum is delighted to become Brighton Station's first Community Rail Partner. It has given us a fantastic opportunity to forge a relationship with station staff, giving them free admission to the museum, but also to improve the rail traveller experience by adding cabinets and posters to add interest in areas where people queue or wait".



*"Thanks to our partnership, drawing attention to the Museum, we exceeded our Visitor Admissions income target for the first time in 2018!"*

*Jan Etches, Manager, Brighton Toy and Model Museum*

*Jan demonstrates the toy collection at the Brighton Toy & Model Museum*

## SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### Collaborating with Horsham DC

During 2018, Arun Valley Line Officer Rowena Tyler and Horsham District Council (HDC) Economic Development Department worked on several projects together.

The idea of collaborative working began in 2017. The first venture was a short film, showcasing Horsham's seasonal ice-rink and promoting travelling to the town using public transport.

In March 2018, HDC kindly offered the services of its Design Department to design the new Arun Valley Line Guide. The leaflet was distributed to outlets such as tourist offices, mainline and local stations, and libraries.

A coloured panel indicates the seven stations in the Horsham District, with an invitation to 'Explore the Market Towns and beyond' using trains and buses.

In May, HDC officers joined SCRIP at London Bridge Station for 'Community Rail in the City' handing out literature to visitors and commuters. SCRIP and the Arun Valley Line Group look forward to exciting collaborations in 2019, HDC's Year of Culture.



*The Arun Valley line guide highlights Horsham District market towns*

*The Council is committed to encouraging residents and visitors to travel by sustainable means, and working closely with the Arun Valley Community Rail Partnership is an important part of realising that aim. We appreciate all the work that the Partnership does throughout Horsham District and look forward to more successful collaborations in 2019.*

*Lynda Spain, Economic Development Officer, Horsham DC*

## GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

### Strengthening the organisation

Our work is carried out under the umbrella of SCRCP Ltd, a not-for-profit company, which will change to a Community Interest Company in 2019. SCRCP will seek Accreditation from the Department for Transport in early 2019.

SCRCP's increased size and turnover has led the Board to strengthen our fundraising and finance capability by appointing a specialist officer and introducing an on-line personnel and financial system. This will equip us for the future and deliver statutory and management information requirements. We also aim to diversify our income by attracting alternative grant funding.



Community Rail in the City at London Bridge.

### Financing the work of SCRCP

SCRCP's income in 2017-18 came to a total of £144,000 and costs were £136,000. The balance was carried forward to fund on-going projects in 2018-19.

79% of our income derived from Train Operating Companies, reflecting our engagement with Great Western Railway as well as Govia Thameslink Railway this year. 8% came from Gatwick Airport Ltd and the balance from local authorities, businesses and other local organisations. 80% of our costs covered salaries and associated office, travel and line group costs with the balance covering communications and event costs, again reflecting our wider geographical area.



A blue plaque commemorates the British West Indies Regiment's stay at Seaford in 1915.

## GET INVOLVED

Whether you are a group of people, a local organisation, business or individual, we offer a range of opportunities for getting involved. We would like to hear from you, so do please get in touch.

### Sussex Community Rail Partnership

Lewes Station, Station Road, Lewes BN7 2UP

[www.sussexcrp.org](http://www.sussexcrp.org)

@SussexCRP

@Sussexcrp

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# SCRP WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP



SCRP also works in partnership with local councils, community groups, tourism bodies, Universities and Rail User Groups across South East England

SCRP is very grateful to all those who have supplied photographs especially SCRП staff.

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