

Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership

ANNUAL REVIEW

2016-17



Welcome to the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership 2016-17 Review, which is full of reports about our activities; what has happened at the stations along our routes and information about some forthcoming interesting projects.

The **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** has now been in existence for 10 years. During this period, passenger numbers over the entire partnership area have risen from 8.3m to 13.8m per annum up to March 2017. This is obviously not down to the Partnership alone, but it is felt that the Partnership has raised the profile of local stations and their train services over that time.

We currently have around 100 volunteers, 250 stakeholders, 18 Steering Group members, 442 Facebook 'Likes' and 231 Twitter followers. A notable addition to the Steering Group this year has been CrossCountry Trains, which comes with new ideas and funding streams for the future. A warm welcome to them, and we look forward to working alongside their community team, as well as with all our existing partners.

Success at annual ACORP awards

On 5 October 2017, officers and volunteers from the **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** attended the annual awards ceremony of the national Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP) in Derby. We had four entries for various station enhancement and marketing projects including the Zany Zebras Campaign of last year and the special train to promote the Fawley Line. All made the final short-listing, and on the day we won **1st place in the 'Most Enhanced Station Buildings and Surroundings' category.**

This award was given for station enhancements at **Romsey** station - The installation of the World War One memorial at the bottom of Station Approach, and the upgrading of the public footpath between Romsey station's lower car park and the Romsey Signal Box Working Museum in Brick Lane.

The memorial installation had been marked with a simple but respectful service on 10 November 2016, where representatives from the Partnership, Great Western Railway, The Royal British Legion, Romsey School, Romsey Abbey, Romsey Town Council, Test Valley Borough Council, Temple Ford Design and Avon Construction, along with many local residents, gathered together for the unveiling of the stone which had been carved by local sculptor Caroline Dear. The memorial will provide a lasting legacy for the town, remembering the many sacrifices made by local people during World War One.

The footpath improvement saw the old, narrow, and often muddy lane being replaced by a wider tarmac path with proper drainage. This has encouraged many more people to walk or cycle to and from the station as part of an ongoing station travel plan project initiated by the Partnership.

continues...



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The regenerated Signal Box Community Garden at Woolston station.

continues...

ACoRP also recognised our volunteers' efforts at **Woolston** by awarding them a Silver Level Certificate of Excellence in the 'It's Your Station' category.

Wonderful Woolston

Volunteers Bridget and Hugh O'Donnell, have done wonders planting and tending to the flower borders both on platform 1 and behind the self-service ticket machine.

A regular team of energetic volunteers continue to develop a community garden behind the signal box. The transformation from an overgrown, rubbish-strewn, neglected plot into a managed garden which is now growing fruit, vegetables and flowers, has rapidly taken place over the past year.

During regular monthly visits, the garden site has been cleared, weeded and litter-picked, seeds have been sown, raised beds created from scrap timber, and the fruits (... and vegetables) of the volunteers' labours have been grown, picked and consumed!

Everyone can be very proud of this national recognition of their efforts.

The garden lies in the shadow of the redundant signal box, which is itself the subject of a restoration plan by the **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership**. Discussions are ongoing with Network Rail and the Railway Heritage Trust regarding the possibility of leasing and renovating the old signal box for community use.

Our thanks go to all those involved with both projects.



Above: Ted Pearce, Rail Officer Mark Miller, Nigel Barnes-Evans, and Lucy and Nancy Tope in the Woolston Station Signal Box Community Garden, with their ACoRP certificate.

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The Partnership stand and volunteers at a busy 2017 Romsey Show.

Romsey Show

Our regular **Romsey** volunteers continue to maintain the planters and hanging baskets, in addition to regular litter-picks on and around the station environs. They have also been keen to promote the Partnership and attended the annual Romsey Show with the **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** stall.

Thank you to them for being such great ambassadors and for raising money through a raffle for the Combat Stress charity.

Romsey's Christmas spirit

The **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** held another of the now well-established annual mulled wine evenings at **Romsey** station waiting room in December 2017 to complement Romsey's late-night shopping event and Christmas celebrations. Volunteers handed out mince pies and mulled wine to passengers and shoppers alike. In addition, there was a second-hand book stall available and a raffle was held on behalf of the Combat Stress military charity, with the prize being a teddy bear dressed in replica World War One uniform. Volunteers continue to provide a monthly World War One commemoration exhibition in the waiting room.

Future plans for Romsey station

Building on **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** volunteers' initial total clearance of the space which now provides useful additional car parking for rail users, discussions are continuing with Test Valley Borough Council and Great Western Railway regarding possible further redevelopment of Romsey's other lower station car park.

There is also hope that after many years of campaigning, plans to refurbish and put to use part of the former station master's house at **Romsey** station are getting nearer. A structural survey has been undertaken with a view to leasing part of the building for community use. Avenues are now being explored to fund much needed repairs to the building.



Above: Volunteers Shirley Rogers, Simon Scott, Bob Ormiston and winners of the raffle on the Partnership stand at Romsey Show.



Above: Romsey's south side lower station car park.



Above: The former station master's house at Romsey.

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Service M1 drops off passengers at Marwell.

Rail-Bus Link: Eastleigh to Marwell

2017 was another successful year for the **Marwell M1** rail-bus link between Southampton, **Eastleigh** station and Marwell Zoo. Around 3,700 bus journeys were made on the service run by First Southampton.

The service has come a long way since it was first conceived by the **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership**, when it was operated by volunteer-driven community transport vehicles based in Eastleigh. For the 2017 season, a First bus was branded in a special livery to promote Marwell's 'Lemur Loop' and this branding was retained throughout the winter, providing excellent publicity for the Zoological Park.

from 8 April to 4 September 2017

First M1

RAIL BUS LINK

Southampton - Eastleigh - Marwell Zoo

NEW **LEMUR LOOP** SUMMER

Bus runs on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays... and every day during School Holidays!

Marwell Wildlife

Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership

Romsey FREE BUS service connects to Andover

The annual FREE BUS rail-bus link sponsored by the **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** between **Romsey** station and Stockbridge operated again during 2017. Around 500 people used the bus service which operated on Sundays and Bank Holidays during the summer.

For the first time the FREE BUS was supplemented by a new bus route, numbered 77 - funded by the Partnership and operated by Stagecoach at Andover. This service offered onward connections from Stockbridge to the Museum of Army Flying, the Hawk Conservancy Trust, Andover railway station and Andover town centre - thereby roughly recreating the old Sprat and Winkle Rail line, which was closed in 1967. The two routes were timed to meet in Stockbridge to allow passengers the option to change buses, if so desired.

Thanks must go to the National Trust, Sir Harold Hillier Gardens, Stockbridge Parish Council, the Museum of Army Flying and the Hawk Conservancy Trust who part fund the service. We look forward to another successful year of operation in 2018.

Right, bottom: Just one of the Test Valley Community Services volunteer FREE BUS mini-bus drivers who kindly gave up their time to drive during the 2017 season. The bus itself is co-funded by the Romsey Disability Forum, and all the volunteer drivers are trained to help those passengers who may need assistance.

FREE RAIL-BUS LINK

Sundays and Bank Holidays 30 April to 17 September 2017

Explore the Test Valley...

The **FREE BUS** calls at:

- Romsey Station ⇄ • Romsey Abbey
- Sir Harold Hillier Gardens
- Mottisfont & Dunbridge Station ⇄
- Mottisfont ⇄ • Horsebridge
- Houghton Lodge and Gardens
- Stockbridge
- Longstock Park Nursery/Water Garden*

* Certain dates only

NEW for 2017

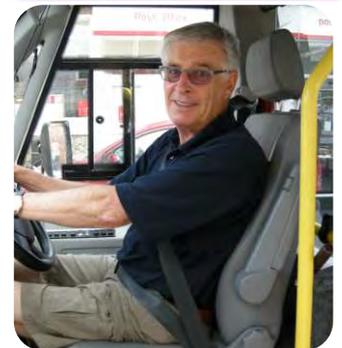
Connections at Stockbridge onto Stagecoach

Route 77 for:

- Danebury Hill Fort
- Museum of Army Flying, Middle Wallop
- Grateley ⇄
- Hawk Conservancy Trust, Weyhill
- Andover ⇄

Reinstating most of the 'Sprat and Winkle' railway route between Romsey and Andover 50 years after closure... by bus!

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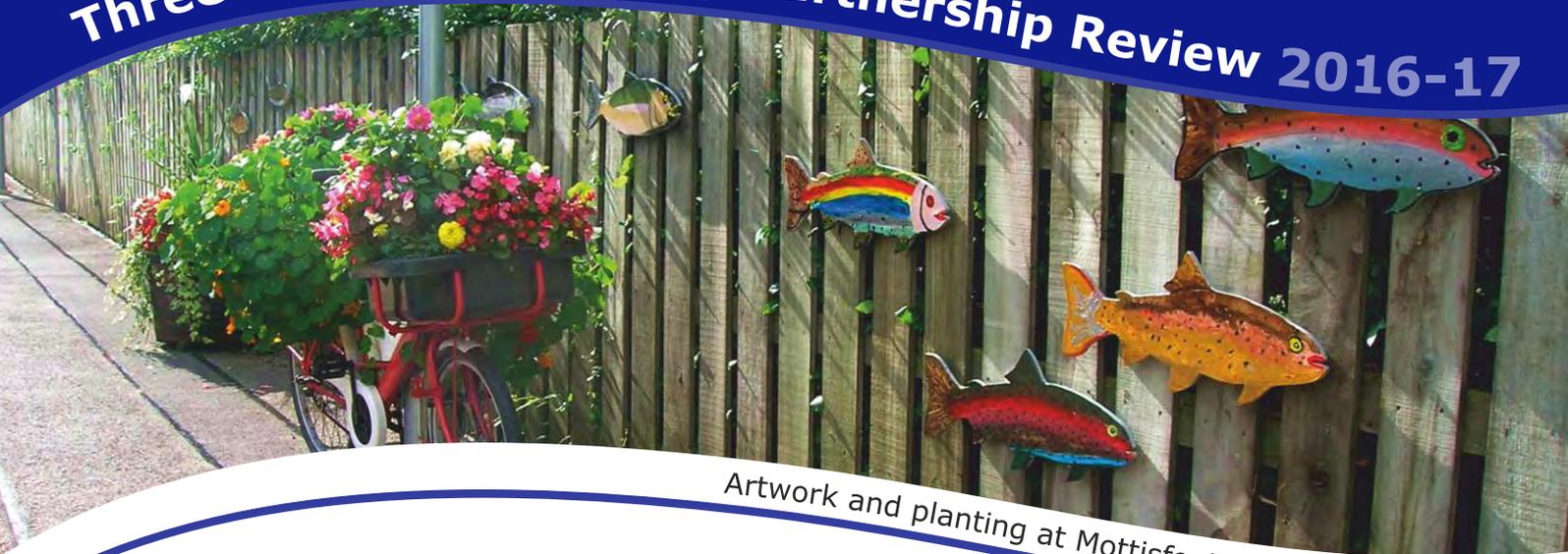
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Artwork and planting at Mottisfont & Dunbridge station.

'River Test fish' fence at Mottisfont & Dunbridge

Volunteers Gordon and Cathie Wood continue to litter-pick and create superb planting schemes at **Mottisfont & Dunbridge** station. They now have an additional water butt to help store more water for this location which has no external tap.

After several years on display, during which time it has brought delight to many passengers, the series of 'Shaun the Sheep' characters on the fence on Platform 2 were sent out to pasture in August 2017. In their place, new colourful images of various species of fish which can be found in the nearby River Test have been designed, painted and produced by children of Lockerley Primary School under Gordon's watchful eye.

Well done to all the pupils involved and many thanks to Gordon for his work on this attractive project.

Potentially life-saving community project

The **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** is delighted to have part-funded two community defibrillators last year. One has been installed at the Mill Arms pub opposite **Mottisfont & Dunbridge** station, and the other at Mottisfont Social Club. They will provide some much-needed emergency medical intervention facilities for residents and rail users in this rural area, although naturally we hope there will not be many instances when they will be needed.



GWR are on the case...

New and substantial freestanding external publicity poster cases have kindly been provided for both **Mottisfont & Dunbridge** and **Dean** stations by Great Western Railway through a recent Customer and Communities Improvement Funding stream.

Many thanks to them for these!

Millbrook ramp refurbishment

Volunteer Paul Gosling continues to monitor **Millbrook** station on a monthly basis. *Thank you Paul!* and Network Rail have given the concrete pedestrian ramp up from the main road a bit of TLC. Over time, the concrete has decayed in places, and it has been replaced for the safety of those accessing the station and the footbridge over the line.



Bursledon begins...

There has been slow progress in developing a volunteers group at the station, however a nascent 'Friends of **Bursledon** Station' has now been formed with some limited planting and vegetation clearance work being undertaken. A local volunteering meeting was held in late October 2017 and pledges of support have been very encouraging. Tourism links have been established with Bursledon Brickworks, Bursledon Windmill and the local Parish Council and a plan of action for 2018 is currently being developed by the group.

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Lots of festive fun at the "Community Rail in the City" stand at Waterloo station.

The Partnership stands out...

Throughout the 2016-17 season, the Partnership has attended many events including West Dean and Mottisfont Fetes, Sholing Valleys Spring Fayre, 'Fryern Funtasia' in Chandler's Ford and the annual Romsey Show. Leaflets publicising the work of the Partnership, rail-bus links and general rail information were distributed to the public, and attractions you can reach by train were promoted.

On 13 December 2016, representatives from the **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership**, East Hampshire CRP, Blackmore Vale CRP, and the Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP) held a joint promotional stall on Waterloo station concourse, as part of a South West Trains Christmas programme of events. Mince pies and chocolates a-plenty were handed out, along with a large amount of information to encourage people to visit our local lines.

At this event we had the good fortune to be joined by a Christmas elf, courtesy of South West Trains, who really helped to create the right festive spirit on the stand!

A national "Community Rail in the City" event was also held in May 2017 across the country. In the south of England, 7 Community Rail Partnerships joined forces to staff promotional stands at Waterloo station, which was a tremendous success.

Station bookworms are happy!

The sale of second-hand books from the permanent stalls at **Eastleigh, Chandler's Ford, Romsey, St. Denys, Netley, Swaythling** and **Woolston** stations continued to return funds to the Partnership throughout the year. Donations of books from local groups and individuals remain strong.

Thank you to those who have donated books and to those who have purchased them.



Above: A birds eye view of one of the events the Partnership attended on Waterloo concourse.



Above: The "Community Rail in the City" event held at Waterloo in May 2017 had a Jane Austen theme marking the 200th anniversary of the author's death, and celebrating her life's work.

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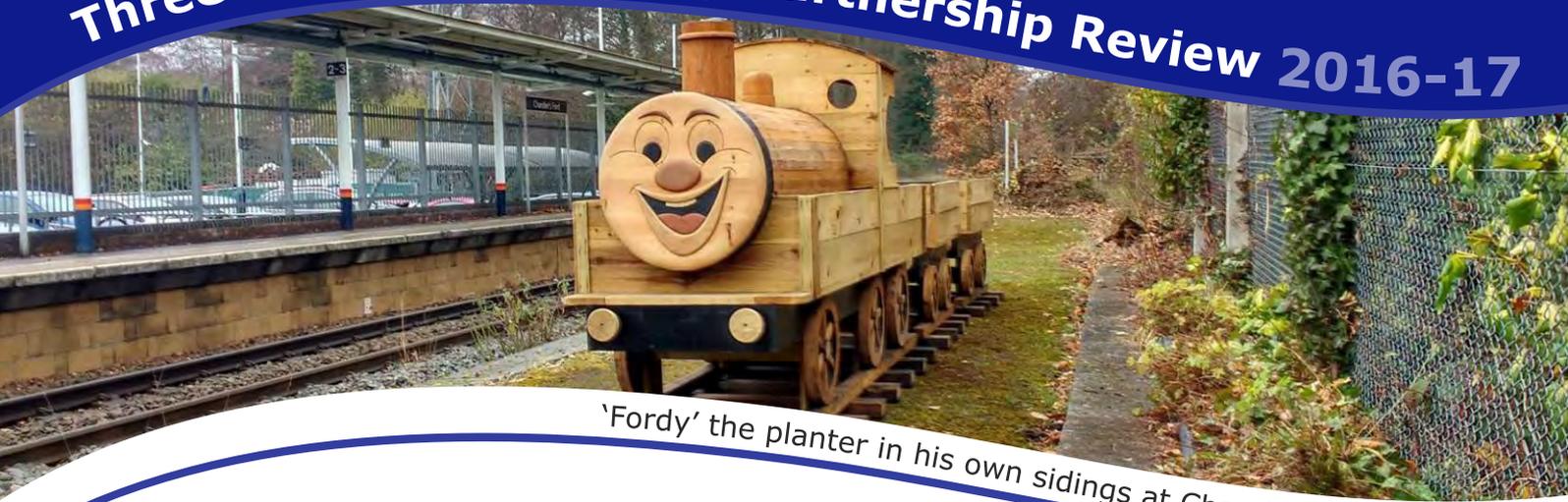
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'Fordy' the planter in his own sidings at Chandlers Ford station!

Eastleigh Men's Sheds

Eastleigh Mens' Sheds, a not-for-profit group currently based in Hamble, have enabled one of our more creative projects to come to fruition by skilfully constructing a five metre long, steam locomotive-shaped wooden planter to be displayed on the disused platform at **Chandler's Ford** station.

The planter installation was celebrated at a special launch event on 8 December 2016. There were stalls in the station building, and mulled wine, mince pies and chocolates were handed out to guests and passengers by our volunteers.

A competition was run to name the new locomotive flower planter, with the name 'Fordy' picked at random from a suggestions box. *Well done to local volunteer Julie, who received a prize for coming up with this fitting name, and thank you to the marvellous 'Men' who made him!*



Above: All aboard! The men outside of their shed, sitting proudly on 'Fordy'. **Inset:** Festive 'Fordy'!
For more information about Eastleigh Men's Sheds look at www.eastleighmensshed.co.uk

Hammerson tidy

Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership volunteers have continued platform clearances and gardening at **Chandler's Ford**, and last year we got some extra help. As part of their Corporate Social Responsibilities, a team of 15 energetic Hammerson staff from West Quay shopping centre and Head Office helped to brighten the station.

Despite intermittent rain, the group managed to tidy the car park, clean the footbridge, clear the disused platform, paint the tea stall *and* make-over the planting area in the station forecourt!

The Partnership is really appreciative of the time given by these busy people who travelled from as far away as London, Southampton and Reading to help with this local community project. We are sure their efforts will be noticed and appreciated by many people using the station and we thank them enormously.

Coffee machine installed

The Partnership-run tea stall at **Chandler's Ford** continues to serve commuters in the mornings. At other times of the day during booking office hours, a range of hot drinks are now available with the provision by the Partnership of a new 'bean to coffee' machine.



Below: Hammerson staff volunteers pruning and weeding the island bed in the station car park, and sweeping the steps on the overbridge.

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Netley station is formally adopted.

Netley goes from strength to strength

Netley station has now been formally adopted with the train operator which provides full insurance for volunteers working on site. Adoption means a higher status within the rail industry and the potential to seek additional funding through the new franchise.

Volunteers continue to maintain the flower planters outside the front of the station and along the platforms. They have also done a grand job planting new trees and re-establishing the Old Station Master's Garden as a Wild Flower and Wildlife area.

New comfortable seating has been sourced by the Partnership and installed in the restored waiting room and plans are being resurrected with the new train operator to re-open the original waiting room on the Fareham-bound platform.

There has been slow progress with establishing one of the recently refurbished rooms as a Local History Exhibition Centre, but this remains a live project, ready for opening to the public in 2018.

Robins, puddings and elves...

On 16 December 2016 the **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** held its first mulled wine and mince pie evening at **Netley** station in the recently refurbished waiting room. There was a steady stream of visitors and our volunteers and railway staff greeted passengers off the trains with traditional festive fayre. Train crew were presented with mince pies and these were greatly appreciated.

There were also two second-hand book stalls, some live music and a fully grown Robin and giant Christmas Pudding... the latter features kindly provided courtesy of *Express Yourself Costumes* who have a shop on the first floor of the station building. A good evening was had by everyone.

The Christmas celebrations in 2017 were just as much fun...with volunteer Maureen Queen wearing a superb Elf outfit to meet and greet the public!



Top of page: Rail Officer Mark Miller (standing), and Customer Ambassador Ian Edwards, witness the adoption of Netley station by volunteer Richard Woollett.

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The 'Fawley Forester' Rail Tour travelling from Southampton Central station through to Fawley.

The Fawley Forester Rail Tour

It is not every day that a vintage diesel train is chartered by a Community Rail Partnership to give local residents a glimpse of what the future may hold, but that is exactly what happened on 13 May 2017, with the 'Fawley Forester' Rail Tour. The train was formed of a six-coach diesel unit which was built at Eastleigh Works in 1957 for use on the London-Hastings route. It has been beautifully preserved by Hastings Diesels Ltd. and regularly operates tours to various places around the country, as it is permitted to operate on Network Rail lines.

Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership Chair Nick Farthing and Rail Officer Mark Miller had long wanted a way to highlight the potential of the freight-only Totton to Fawley railway line as a passenger route once again, following the ending of oil movements by rail from the Exxon refinery at Fawley in September 2016. Passenger services along the line ceased way back in February 1966 and since then the line has seen regular use by freight trains serving either the military port at Marchwood, or the refinery at Fawley. On occasions, rail enthusiast passenger trains have also visited the line.

The green-liveried diesel unit came over to Southampton as a rail tour charter from Hastings, setting out early in the day. It then performed three return trips to Fawley from **Southampton Central** station along the branch line.

During the day, hundreds of people took the chance to ride along the line, while others took photographs or watched from the lineside. The Partnership had a publicity stall located on Platform 4 at **Southampton Central** station. This was busy all day dealing with enquiries and ticket sales for the trips and the whole event proved to be a great success. In addition to raising the Partnership's profile, the suitability of the line for passenger trains was proved beyond doubt and the business case would seem equally strong.

The Partnership is closely following the recently unveiled plans for a large housing development around the former Fawley power station. Plans have been made public which suggest a new town of around 1500 homes could be built and the former power station and its tall chimney could become a visitor attraction featuring a circular café and viewing platform at the top. Transport access is a key element of the plans and, given that the congested A326 road is the only main road in and out of the Waterside, access by new ferry links and the upgraded railway line are all vital factors in the scheme becoming reality. Residents of the existing settlements along the line have been calling for a passenger service to be re-instated for many years and with the reduction in freight trains using the line, now is an ideal time to make this happen.



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'Bennett's Community Crew' with the rubbish they collected at Swaythling.

'Bennett's Community Crew' clear up Swaythling

On 15 November 2016 and again in Summer 2017, volunteers from local firm Bennett Restaurants Ltd., which operates several McDonald's restaurant franchises in the area, joined forces with the **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** to give **Swaythling** station a major tidy.

'Bennett's Community Crew', as the team is known, aim to make a difference in their local area. As well as undertaking litter patrols on a daily basis, they hold bigger events at least four times a year. On these occasions it was the turn of Swaythling station, as it is only a short distance from the 24-hour McDonald's restaurant nearby. A large group of staff volunteers, gathered from as far away as Basingstoke, Winchester, Eastleigh, Ower and Bournemouth, helped to jet-wash the station forecourt, pick up litter, build new flower planters, prune back vegetation and much more besides. The difference they made after a few hours of hard effort was amazing and gave the usual station volunteers a great boost in preparing for the forthcoming winter and spring.

Many thanks to Bennett's Community Crew for their great contribution to our local station. We look forward to working with them again. Well done to all!

Helping 'R Community'

A new charity gift shop was opened by volunteers at **Swaythling** station in July 2017 in association with 'R Community' Day Centre. 'R Community' is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company based at St. Denys Community Centre that offers opportunities to vulnerable adults with learning disabilities, mental health issues, or dementia.

Over several months 'R Community' worked with South West Trains and the **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** to set up an outlet from which to sell their work. One of the spare rooms at the station which had been repaired and repainted is now being put to good use. Every Tuesday from 07.00 until 10.00 volunteers from St. Denys Community Centre sell hand-made goods and a selection of bric-a-brac, to passengers and local residents. The idea has three main aims: To utilise spare space at the station and make it more of a lively community hub for Swaythling and Mansbridge, to provide an ongoing project in which clients of 'R Community' can fully participate, and to raise funds for them. Over Christmas, their hand-made festive goods were sold at all of the Partnership's mulled wine evenings. A permanent sales area has now also been established at **Chandler's Ford** station. See rcommunity.co.uk for more information.

Bob's nature walks

Local nature photographer and **Swaythling** station adopter Bob Painton hosted his regular Spring, Summer and Autumn nature walks once again during the year. These attracted groups of up to 20 participants each time and have become a popular event in the area. *Well done Bob, and thanks.*

Dates for the 2018 walks will shortly be available.

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Above: The 'R Community' Gift Shop at Swaythling station, selling attractive gifts for charity.

Autumn Walks 2017

FREE guided nature walks with local wildlife photographer Bob Painton

Sat 11:00 Sun 11:30

Starts & finishes at: Swaythling Railway Station (car park)

Route includes: St. Mary's Church at South Stoneham, The Grange, Monks Brook Greenway and Monks Brook Meadow (Village Green)

Walk duration: Approx. 2 hours

Sat 18 & Sun 19 November




Please wear suitable footwear and clothing for walking. Unfortunately, owing to the uneven nature of the terrain, these walks are not suitable for buggies, pushchairs or wheelchairs.

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For more information, please e-mail Bob at bobpicturebox@live.co.uk

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St. Denys station is formally adopted.

St. Denys is being well looked after

Along with Netley, **St. Denys** station has now been formally adopted with the train operator. After several years of keeping the station neat and tidy, local volunteers Nigel and Samantha Barnes-Evans, will continue to undertake litter-picks, sweep and clear drainage holes in the disability ramp and to stock and maintain the station planters.

The welcome provision of a new cycle storage shelter on the small Network Rail-owned space alongside platform 1 in the Autumn of 2016, prompted a move of the three planters previously located there. Over the Christmas period they were emptied of soil, taken to a more visible location with better light for the plants, and restocked. The three planters now have much more light and are more visible; facing the railway line at the London end of platform 1 level with where the trains stop.

'R Community' has also kindly agreed to keep the bookcase in the waiting room on the island platform stocked with second-hand books, which is greatly appreciated.

Top of page: Rail Officer Mark Miller (on the left), and SWR (then SWT) Rail Community Liaison Manager Richard Kempton (on the right), witness the adoption of St. Denys station by 'R Community's Gill Lewis-Lee (with furry friend), and Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership volunteers Sam (signing) and Nigel (taking photo) Barnes-Evans. The work done by the St. Denys volunteers, supplements the grand job that Customer Ambassador Sharon (inset) does to keep the station smart and tidy.

Right: As part of their Corporate Social Responsibility duties, Department for Transport volunteers from London undertook a station car park clearance at St. Denys. They made a huge difference. Thank you to them all!



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Unit 158 887 in new SWR livery at Mount Pleasant in October 2017, approaching St. Denys.

25 Romsey to Salisbury
via Eastleigh and
Southampton Central



TRAIN TIMES
29 August to 9 December
2017

**South Western
Railway**

Change of train operator at our Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership stations

Most of the stations covered by the **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** and its sister organisation East Hampshire Community Rail Partnership, have seen a change of train operator for the first time in twenty years.

Stagecoach had operated services as South West Trains since rail privatisation commenced in 1997. In 2017, the franchise was awarded to First Group/MTR, a joint bid between one of the UK's largest transport groups and Hong Kong based MTR. The new name chosen for the franchise is **South Western Railway** (SWR).

All community rail partnerships across the country work closely with the Train Operating Companies (TOCs) which serve their stations. Many of the regular faces with whom both our Community Rail Partnerships have built strong relationships will still be doing the same job for the new company, so continuity of our projects and plans will be maintained. See southwesternrailway.com for full details.

Have your say... through us!

The Partnership continues to attend the Parliamentary All Party Rail Group at the Houses of Parliament, and has responded in depth to the South Western Railway timetable consultation process. Initial perusal of the proposals for the December 2018 timetable shows that many of our ideas raised in the initial franchise consultation have been taken into account, but there are some concerns over the details affecting certain stations and interchanges.

The Partnership also attends meetings of the Solent Transport area forum, together with seminars held by the Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP) throughout the year. We have been closely involved with inputting material into the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership's long-term transport strategy development.

We also continue to participate in workplace Travel Planning projects within Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh and Southampton, and have active members lobbying for transport improvements through the Hampshire Chamber of Commerce.

Plans to assist Eastleigh Borough Council to revamp some of the cycling and seating arrangements at stations will be revisited with the new train operator now that their franchise is in place.

We hold an annual Stakeholder Event, which last year was held at Southampton's Mayflower Theatre. *Thank you to all the speakers, stakeholders and volunteers who attended this very constructive meeting.*



Above: CrossCountry's Chris Leach giving a presentation at last year's annual Stakeholder Event.

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Passengers boarding at St. Denys station.

Station usage

The latest national rail station usage figures have been released by the Department for Transport, covering the period April 2016 to March 2017.

After many years of overall growth in the **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** area it is disappointing to note that passenger numbers have stagnated during this period. On closer analysis it is clear that the major detrimental effect on figures were the Southern Rail strikes, which have particularly hit passenger numbers on the coastal route from **Southampton Central** via **St. Denys, Bitterne, Woolston, Sholing, Netley** and **Bursledon**. Only **Hamble** saw an increase on this line owing to changes in demand primarily from Hamble School. By contrast, most stations off this route have seen increases in footfall, which is to be celebrated.

Expect figures for 2017-18 to be hit by industrial action on both Southern and South Western Railways, which is a great shame as without this we would continue to enjoy growth in our rail network and attract much needed rail investment.

Despite this, please feel confident that our railways continue to positively contribute towards our economy and environment and our support for their development should be undiminished.

Number of passengers using stations within the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership area by year

	2002/3	2003/4	2004/5	2005/6	2006/7	2007/8	2008/9	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	%
Bitterne	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	83,608	86,720	96,668	104,568	104,102	97,946	89,798	-9.0
Bursledon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60,264	59,294	59,614	65,206	63,560	64,756	60,092	-7.7
Chandler's Ford	0	93,462	155,477	180,281	198,588	212,987	236,221	218,640	225,622	241,514	238,502	244,338	231,912	224,034	230,174	2.7
Dean	8,810	10,180	12,087	12,697	12,103	11,487	16,690	22,713	26,710	26,794	24,616	26,118	25,808	25,550	25,220	-1.3
Eastleigh	1,010,324	1,119,305	1,163,309	1,169,084	1,248,089	1,364,488	1,446,829	1,435,640	1,504,090	1,497,042	1,532,168	1,559,710	1,643,476	1,677,878	1,673,974	-0.2
Hamble	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	92,008	111,288	126,072	122,082	118,606	111,634	114,982	3.0
Millbrook	11,007	20,937	20,975	21,122	21,992	29,265	27,446	29,936	33,418	31,362	31,850	39,340	40,524	38,596	40,170	4.0
Mott. & Dun.	10,640	9,758	10,611	13,261	14,028	12,941	17,344	21,616	26,950	26,846	25,986	28,854	27,366	29,792	29,778	0.0
Netley	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	96,608	106,018	102,072	110,256	113,958	116,830	105,740	-10.0
Redbridge	12,163	18,059	21,343	17,953	16,155	20,238	27,318	24,992	25,568	30,456	33,010	34,598	38,750	46,066	43,148	-6.7
Romsey	305,054	292,395	339,174	348,858	371,186	398,418	415,716	413,132	428,430	449,674	458,714	477,146	494,982	492,074	503,008	2.2
Salisbury	1,436,654	-	1,560,337	1,603,255	1,620,677	1,681,413	1,757,216	1,758,400	1,824,320	1,872,520	1,856,882	1,943,654	1,963,292	2,028,148	2,075,866	2.3
Sholing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85,310	90,848	103,748	108,140	120,302	120,880	116,240	-3.9
Soton Airport	990,880	1,115,963	1,190,497	1,421,305	1,322,387	1,403,733	1,445,823	1,411,294	1,408,684	1,507,644	1,539,766	1,604,488	1,651,626	1,819,432	1,842,710	1.3
Soton Central	4,376,749	4,542,479	4,655,895	4,844,998	5,084,065	5,486,701	5,751,523	5,596,448	5,799,996	5,947,616	6,106,856	6,278,910	6,433,514	6,359,692	6,361,392	0.1
St Denys	164,685	189,878	190,919	195,289	202,254	207,128	218,933	213,904	235,356	247,418	262,794	288,956	298,364	318,044	306,040	-3.9
Swaythling	69,168	78,788	73,682	77,802	85,292	88,684	90,105	83,600	89,816	103,746	114,594	130,228	138,090	132,472	132,288	0.0
Woolston	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	138,466	140,468	138,432	162,532	165,408	171,778	162,586	-5.6
	8,396,134	7,491,204	9,394,306	9,905,905	10,196,816	10,917,483	11,451,163	11,230,315	12,041,352	12,577,268	12,852,344	13,329,104	13,673,640	13,875,602	13,913,206	0.0

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Three Rivers



Community Rail Partnership

Three Rivers Community Partnership Review 2016-17



The River Itchen is featured in a new forthcoming Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership travel guide.

'Station Walks' guides are selling well

The **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** continues to produce a variety of publications to encourage greater usage of local railways, stations and places of interest. Our high-quality *Station Walks* guide continues to sell well with over 1,200 copies now sold. This has returned funds into the Partnership for re-investment on other schemes. The £5 guide is stocked in various local outlets including visitor centres, bookshops and railway stations. It is profusely illustrated with photographs and provides details of over 35 walks from stations in the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership area. *Call us for a copy!*

Right: The 'Station Walks' guide at No.1 of the Top Twenty Bestsellers in the window of October Books in Portwood High Street.



CrossCountry's 10th birthday

In November 2017 we held a promotion at **Southampton Central Station** to celebrate CrossCountry's 10th birthday. Volunteers from the **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** handed out promotional leaflets and free chocolate brownies to passengers throughout the day, much to the delight of the recipients. Happy Birthday CrossCountry!

Right: The Partnership promoting train travel at CrossCountry's 10th Anniversary event at Southampton Central station.



New guide to accessing one of our Three Rivers!



In association with our new partners CrossCountry Trains, and complementing our aim of improving integrated transport, the Partnership has been working on a travel guide showing walkers how to access the River Itchen and the former Itchen Navigation waterway between Woodmill and Winchester by train and bus. The leaflet which is based on the Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail also features a map, information about other walks, and history and nature notes. The guide will be launched in the Spring of 2018.



Above: Bee Orchid, Compton Lock and Itchen Navigation way finding post.

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Bob Painton at Swaythling station - just one of our many hard working volunteers.

Christmas raffles encourage train travel



An innovation in Christmas 2017 was that we held raffles at each **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** mulled wine event and have now distributed 3 top prizes of Railcards or Travel Vouchers to the winners to encourage further travel by train in the future. Maya at **Netley** chose a Network Rail Card, Joy at **Romsey** vouchers towards a trip to the west country in Summer 2018, and Mrs. May at **Chandler's Ford** a new Senior Railcard. We hope to repeat this promotion in 2018 at various events.

Rail passenger surveys

One member of our 18-strong Steering Group is the University of Southampton. Three passenger surveys are undertaken each year on our behalf by the University. By the end of March 2018 it is planned that **Netley**, **Hamble** and **Bursledon** stations will have had those surveys carried out back in 2013 updated. The findings will be distributed to the Steering Group to determine how we can implement service, facility and infrastructure improvement ideas raised during the surveys. *If you have any views as to what we might be able to do at your station, please let us know.*

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Southampton



A huge **THANK YOU**
to all our...
**hard-working
volunteers, all our
community helpers
and all our sponsors**

We have all had
so much fun while
doing so much!

Want to get involved?

The **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** exists to promote the use of the rail service in your area. Involvement from local businesses and individuals is most welcome to help us in our aims.

If you have any ideas or comments on the items covered in this e-newsletter, or on how we can further fulfil our role, or if you wish to volunteer some of your time to help with other projects, please contact

Mark Miller: info@threeriversrail.com or Nick Farthing: nick.farthing@dial.pipex.com

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