

Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership

ANNUAL REVIEW 2017-18

Three Rivers



Community Rail Partnership

Welcome to the Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership 2017-18 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.



Bursledon Station adoption

Bursledon station, on the banks of the Hamble River, became the latest and tenth station to be adopted by its volunteers in our Partnership's area. In a formal adoption ceremony on 9 March, enthusiastic volunteers led by Diane Andrewes (*seated left*) presented SWR Rail Community Liaison Manager Richard Kempton (*seated right*) with a copy of "The Hamble River" - a local book by author Susannah Ritchie. Volunteers were joined by local pre-school children and their teachers who made use that morning of a "Try the Train for Free" promotion organised by **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership**.

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Visitors using the Heritage Open Day free shuttle bus from Bursledon station car park.

Heritage Event at Bursledon

On 9 September, as part of a national weekend of free visits to heritage attractions, **Bursledon** station provided a connection point for rail users to access free shuttle buses taking visitors to the recently refurbished Bursledon Brickworks and Bursledon Windmill. The event proved very popular - with over 700 passenger journeys made on the shuttle buses which were operated by the Southampton & District Transport Heritage Trust.

Station adopters, volunteers from other stations, and members of the local history group staffed stands in the station car park, giving out transport and tourist publicity, along with detailed historical information about Bursledon. Short walking tours of the village were provided between train and bus services.



Above: (Left) Volunteer Lin Essaye waters the carnations and pansies she has just planted in "Bursledon" - the wooden boat installed as a planter at the front of the station. (Centre) The poster for the Heritage Open Day. (Right) Members Mark Miller and volunteer Ted Pearce of the Partnership on our publicity stand. (Inset) "Bug Hotels" made by "R Community" clients for sale on the Partnership stand. "R Community" is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company based at St. Denys Community Centre offering opportunities to vulnerable adults with learning disabilities, mental health issues, or dementia.

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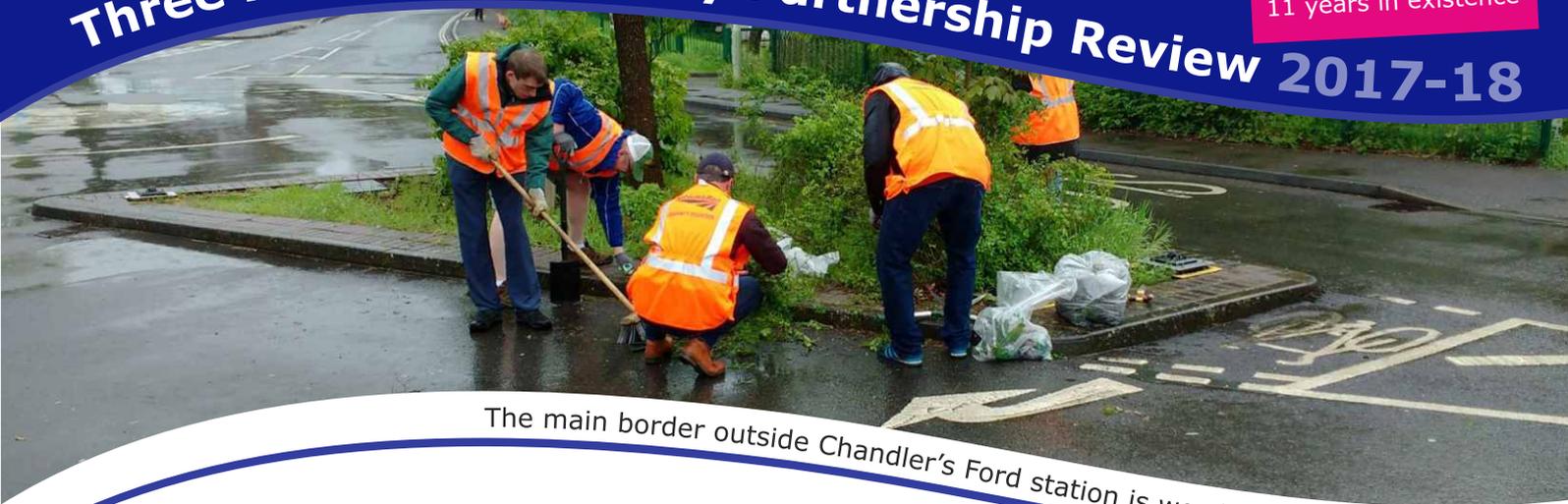
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11 years in existence



The main border outside Chandler's Ford station is weeded and smartened up.

Department for Transport volunteers help to spruce up Chandler's Ford

Six volunteers from the Department for Transport based in London spent an enjoyable day on 2 May helping tidy up around **Chandler's Ford** station.

Despite starting off in pouring rain, spirits remained high as the forecourt was litter-picked, swept and tidied, before the footbridge was cleared. As the sun came out, work moved onto the disused platform with clearance of weeds, moss and winter debris. This left a much more pleasant view for passengers looking across from the opposite platform.

Department for
Transport

Thank you to all those who helped.



Above: The disused platform at Chandler's Ford station gets a tidy, thanks to the Department of Transport volunteers.

... and the Guides help to keep the station neat and tidy.

Around 30 Guides from Chandler's Ford helped tidy the station in a brilliant display of community spirit. As part of their work on 4 October, the station received a full litter-pick, the drainage holes on the footbridge were cleared, weeds were pulled up, leaves were collected and "Fordy" our wooden train planter finally had flowers planted in him for the winter!

Well done to all and many thanks! You made a huge difference!



Fun in the sun while promoting the Partnership

As last year, we took our stand to the Chandler's Ford "Fryern Funtasia" event in May. Many visitors had come by train to see the popular fun-packed community event, and many more local people now know more about the work we do at their station.

Left: Allison Symes - a regular reviewer of the show and the partnership - thought that it might have been 'the hottest Funtasia known to Chandler's Ford' and her photo here of the queue for ice creams certainly backs that up!

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Passengers alighting from the M1 bus for a fun day at Marwell Zoo.

Partnership Rail-Bus Links: Eastleigh Station to Marwell Zoo

The "M1" rail-bus link between **Eastleigh** station and Marwell Zoo ran again this year, with just over 4,000 passengers using the bus. The service was operated by First, between 30 March and 2 September on weekends and Bank Holidays, and every day during the school holidays. An added bonus this year was a discount on the bus fare for rail ticket holders. The new tropical house at Marwell Zoo proved a big attraction.

The bus will run again from Easter 2019. Please refer to our website for details closer to this date.



from 30 March to 2 September 2018

First M1

RAIL BUS LINK

Southampton - Eastleigh - Marwell Zoo

NEW DISCOUNT for rail ticket holders. See fares inside.

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

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Marwell Zoo

Test Valley Summer Bus

Our Romsey-Stockbridge FREE BUS service operated on Sundays and Bank Holidays between 6 May and 23 September in 2018. Now a well-established feature in the Test Valley, it was operated by Unity for Transport with paid drivers instead of the volunteers we have used in past years. Nearly 350 passengers used the service.

The bus will run again from May 2019. Please refer to our website for details closer to this date.

FREE RAIL-BUS LINK

Sundays and Bank Holidays 6 May to 23 September 2018

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

Connects at Stockbridge with Stagecoach **Route 77**

for:

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

Reinstating most of the Syrett and Winkler railway route between Romsey and Andover...by bus!

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unity for transport



Route 77

We again supported the operation of our Summer route 77 Sundays and Bank Holidays Andover-Stockbridge bus route. Stagecoach run the route for us, and it is timed to allow a guaranteed connection in Stockbridge with our FREE BUS. After a steady season in 2017, passenger numbers grew by 39% as the service has become more established, and better publicity was provided.

The bus will run again from May 2019. Please refer to our website for details closer to this date.

Right (clockwise): The M1 bus stop outside Eastleigh station, the M1 leaflet featuring the sloth from Marwell Zoo's new Tropical House attraction, a train pulling in at Romsey station, and the FREE BUS and Route 77 leaflet featuring a Burrowing Owl from the Hawk Conservancy Trust in Andover.

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The 12th Eastleigh Scouts Group get organised with Rail Officer Mark Miller at Eastleigh station.

Scouts lend a hand at Eastleigh

As part of the work towards their 'Community Scouting' badges, an eager group of boys and girls from the 12th Eastleigh Scouts Group have been helping to clean and litter-pick **Eastleigh** station. At the beginning of October they also helped with a project to install 4 wooden planters to brighten up the area just outside the main entrance. The planters were made by **Eastleigh Mens' Sheds**, the not-for-profit group who made "Fordy" at Chandler's Ford, and now make most of our station planters.



eastleighbensshed.co.uk

The Scouts have filled the planters with soil, and planted bulbs and winter flowers which we hope will be enjoyed by all. **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** will continue to work with the Scouts, and the station staff, to ensure the plants are regularly watered and maintained. We also have plans to install more planters and new artwork on the platforms, but this may take a little longer to achieve.



Above: Excellent work by the Scouts one and all! Watch for news on facebook as they continue their work at Eastleigh Station!

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100 volunteers



Work begins to bring plants and flowers to Millbrook station.

Enhancement ramps up at Millbrook

Millbrook's small, unstaffed station just west of Southampton Central serves the local community but has minimal infrastructure and limited options for enhancement. However, local volunteers are making a good effort to brighten it up. Litter-picks have been undertaken to clear rubbish from the forecourt that fronts onto a busy dual-carriageway, with a view to making the approach to the station more attractive and visible, and in October the volunteers received the first set of wooden planters - made for them by Eastleigh Mens' Sheds.

The planters, located by the access ramp, have been filled with soil and will be planted with flowers and bulbs to create some colour over the coming months and into the Spring.

Right: Millbrook station's new access ramp - installed in July.



Community Rail in the City

Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership attended the "Community Rail in the City" Event in May this year. Our participation in this annual nationwide event again proved popular with the public. Waterloo station in London was our venue as it has been in previous years, and we were joined by several other Community Rail Groups from the south, including the North Downs line and East Hants amongst others.

To be able to have a presence on the concourse of London's busiest station is a real privilege, and it gives us a chance to talk to members of the travelling public about the work we do and the visitor attractions in our respective areas, and to possibly attract a few more volunteers too.



Above: Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership's Chair Nick Farthing (left) and South Western Railway's Phil Dominey (right) engaging with the public on the "Community Rail in the City" stand at Waterloo station.

Inset: Visitors to our stall were invited to 'Name the Hampshire pig' in order to enter a draw for tickets to the Vineyards of Hampshire event in July. This was part of the annual Hampshire Food Festival that we were promoting to encourage people to visit by train.



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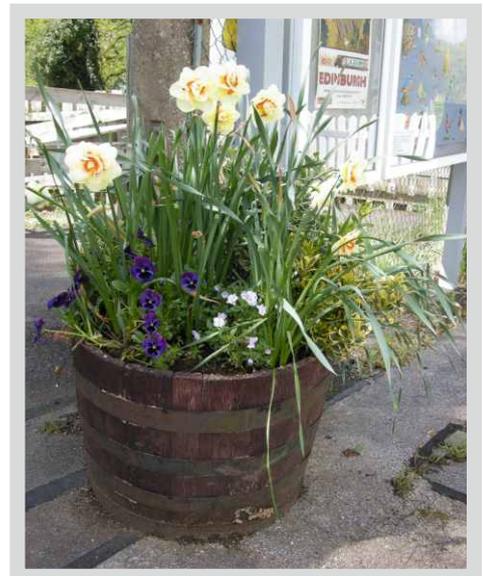
Educational artwork on display at Mottisfont & Dunbridge station.

Ornithological quiz at Mottisfont & Dunbridge

Mottisfont & Dunbridge volunteers Cathie and Gordon Wood continue to work wonders with flowers at the station (right), as well as keeping it tidy.

Gordon has created some superb artwork for the station over the last few years including wooden, painted sheep and colourful, wooden River Test fishes attached to the platform fence. This year, he created a beautiful and educational series of individual paintings of birds found near gardens, fields, woods and rivers, to display in the station's community poster case.

As well as promoting Mottisfont Art Group, Gordon challenges station users to identify all the birds that he has painted. Can you name them? (Answers below).



West Dean and Mottisfont fetes

Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership held busy information stalls at the West Dean Fete on 2 June and at the Mottisfont Village Fete on 12 August. A good time was had by all at both, despite heavy showers occurring at the latter!

(Birds: 1. Blue Tit 2. Tawny Owl 3. Kingfisher 4. Jay 5. Goldfinch 6. Bullfinch 7. Magpie 8. Robin 9. Blackbird 10. Hawfinch 11. Redwing 12. Long-eared Owl 13. Greater Spotted Woodpecker 14. Nuthatch 15. Pheasant 16. Mistle Thrush 17. Sparrow 18. Gulls 19. Barn Owl 20. Nuthatch 21. Mallard).

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Netley station planters looking a treat in July.

Netley keeps looking blooming good!



Thank you very much to our **Netley** volunteers, and to *all* the other volunteers around our stations, for watering station planters during this year's heatwave. While leaves fell off trees as if it was Autumn, and the grass turned to straw in gardens and parks, a stalwart special effort was made to keep our station plants alive!

All station planters will be having signs installed on them in 2019 to let the public know that they are maintained by Partnership volunteers.

Left: Planters outside Netley's Booking Hall looking good this Summer - brimming with grasses, verbena, geraniums, and ivy to set off the fuschias as red as the VR post box set into the station facade!



Christmas mince pie and mulled wine evenings

Our annual mince pie and mulled wine event at **Netley** station was held on 14 December between 1530 and 1830. Passengers and locals alike attended and were able to see the local history display in the community room, and purchase a few little gifts courtesy of "R Community", plus our own Station Walks books.

A similar event was held the previous Friday at **Romsey** station to coincide with the town's late night Christmas shopping celebrations. Raffles were held on both occasions with the Partnership providing a railcard as top prizes! *Thanks to all the volunteers who helped with our Christmas events.*

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250 stakeholders



At Southampton Central station, the 5th Sholing Brownies are shown how the ticket barriers work.

Sholing Brownies try the train

A great evening was had by all on 21 November, when 28 of the 5th Sholing Brownies took advantage of our "Try the Train for Free" promotion, by travelling from **Sholing** station to **Southampton Central** station and back. These experiences are supported by South Western Railway as a means of introducing previously non-rail user groups or individuals to train travel; giving them the chance to find out how to use the trains in a safe, supervised and controlled environment.

Included in the trip was an introduction to station facilities, an on-board quiz, a chat with staff working at Southampton Central, a view behind the scenes in the control room and a chance to practice on a ticket machine or two.

Throughout, the activities were brilliantly assisted by SWR Ambassador Andrew Renton. The other frontline staff we met were also very friendly and took the time to talk to the youngsters and answer all their questions! Brown Owl Claire Haywood said, 'This was a wonderful opportunity for the girls'. Everyone enjoyed themselves, and the experience counted towards the Brownies' "World Traveller Badge"!

Thank you to all involved. We hope many of the Brownies continue to use our trains and even consider a career with the railways! Other groups that have tried the train with us are Bursledon Pre-School (see Page 1), Romsey Abbey Primary School, Braishfield Brownies and Lockerley Infants. If you would like to arrange one of these taster rail trips for a group of people, young or old, please get in touch with us at our email address info@threeriversrail.com



Above: (Left) 5th Sholing Brownies at their local station. (Centre) Brownies experiencing one of their first train journeys. (Right) Brownies being shown how to use one of the self-service ticket machines at Southampton Central.

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Local people gathering at Romsey Station Approach to pay their respects at the Poppy Memorial.

Romsey remembers the fallen...

This year, **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** felt that we should organise our own commemorative event to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of World War One. As we had installed the Poppy Memorial at Station Approach in 2016, we thought it appropriate to hold an Armistice Commemoration Ceremony there, and to 'plant' 100 ceramic poppies around it; one for each year that had passed since the end of the First World War. Shirley Rogers our lead-volunteer at **Romsey** station, along with local sculptor Caroline Dear, duly organised several ceramic workshop days at Choice Plants garden centre in Timsbury, where local people hand-made the ceramic poppies to be used at the event. On Saturday 10 November, the bright red, hand-painted poppies created a stunning show around the memorial at the front of **Romsey** station, and the event provided a fitting end to our four year project marking all of the 1914-1918 centenaries.

The funds raised by the making of these poppies were donated to the Combat Stress charity.



Top of page (inset): Cover of the event programme.

Left: Romsey volunteers Shirley Rogers and Simon Scott, Chris Mather, and memorial sculptor Caroline Dear pose for photographs after the wreath-laying at the Armistice Commemoration Ceremony on 10 November.

More photos of the ceremony follow on the next page...



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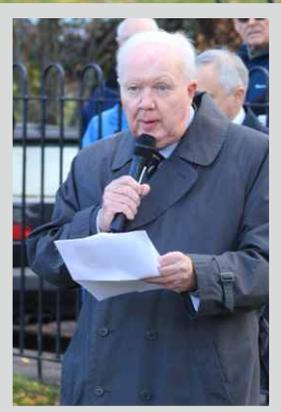
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Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership Chair Nick Farthing welcoming the public before hosting the proceedings.



Past County President of The Royal British Legion Brigadier David Harrison giving a short history of the foundation of The Royal British Legion.



Vicar of Romsey Abbey, the Reverend Thomas Wharton talking about the foundation of the "Combat Stress" charity, before leading those gathered in a prayer.



A pupil from The Romsey School reading the poem about a shell-shocked soldier - "Julian" by Paul Gardiner.



Author Jeremy Higgins making a speech before laying a wreath for the local railwaymen who lost their lives in the First World War.

The Armistice Commemoration Ceremony was sponsored by **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership**, Great Western Railway, South Western Railway, Romsey Town Council and Choice Plants. *Many thanks to them and to all who helped to organise and participate in the ceremony and the private reception later in Romsey Town Hall Council Chamber.*



Bears on parade... for charity at Romsey Show

Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership attended the annual Romsey Show on Saturday 8 September. Fortunately, the weather was on our side this year and we had a steady flow of visitors to our stand.

As well as providing rail information about our local routes, we held our final exhibition of the 100 years commemoration of World War One, which volunteers had been displaying in the Romsey Station Waiting Room.

Thank you to all the Romsey volunteers who have helped at the Show and put together the displays over the past 5 years, especially Shirley Rogers and Simon Scott who have left a wonderful legacy for Romsey for years to come.



Above: Volunteers Simon Scott and Shirley Rogers with the winner of a WW1 Pilot teddy bear in our raffle at Romsey Show. The raffle raised a large sum of money for the "Combat Stress" charity.

Inset: The bears' replica WW1 uniforms had been hand-made with great skill and amazing attention to detail by Jo Morgan. Thank you Jo!

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Lead volunteer Nigel Barnes-Evans with the rubbish collected from St Denys station car park in February.

"A good job jobbed" by the Busy Bees at St. Denys...

Over the past year, in snow and sun, Sam & Nigel Barnes-Evans have done what all **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** volunteers do; they've litter-picked, swept, pruned, planted, watered and kept an eye on their local station. In their opinion, looking after **St. Denys** is better than going to the gym, and although the amount of litter is sometimes disheartening - the comments and thanks from the locals and station users make it all worthwhile. The results speak for themselves.



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Bob Painton welcomes those gathered at Swaythling station for their guided nature walk.

Bob's Nature Walks from Swaythling

Volunteer Bob Painton's weekend nature walks from **Swaythling** were very popular again this year. For the Spring Walks, around 10 - 15 people visited from around the city and further afield from West End, Chandler's Ford and Warsash. The Summer and Autumn walks attracted similar numbers each day and good times were had by all. *Well done Bob, and thanks.*



Above: Swaythling station forecourt main border looking beautiful in April with its tulips, polyanthus and hellebores in bloom.

Future plans for Swaythling

Lots of exciting plans are being made for **Swaythling** station. There are plans for the recently donated new wooden shed, to refresh the Remount displays, and to open up one of the disused rooms in the station building for use by a local community group. *Keep an eye on facebook for our latest news.*

Right: Some of the wooden horses on the fence at Swaythling station that are part of our original Swaythling Remount Depot display - installed in 2015 to commemorate the 100,000 horses and mules that passed through the station in World War One. These, and the display on the metal fence of the Wildlife Garden, have suffered in the weather over time, and are due to get a 'make-over' in 2019.

Spring Walks 2018

FREE guided nature walks with local wildlife photographer **Bob Painton**

Sat 21 & Sun 22 April

Start times:
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

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 robert.painton@outlook.com

Above: The 2018 Spring Walks poster. Dates for the 2019 nature walks are **April 20 & 21, Aug 17 & 18, Oct 19 & 20.**



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Chair Nick Farthing, Rail Officer Mark Miller, and Bluestar driver Mike Rogers launch the South Downs Rambler bus at Winchester Station.

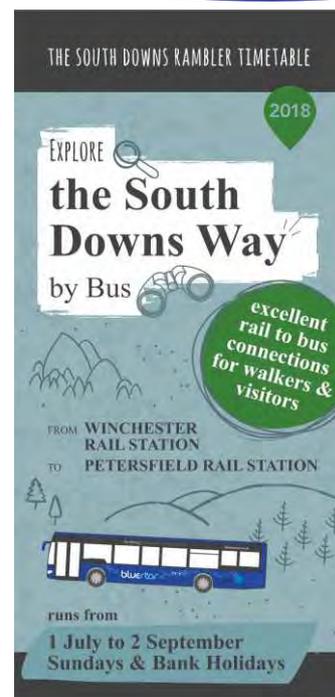
Winchester and Shawford join our CRP

Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership welcomed Shawford and Winchester stations into our Partnership this year, following constructive discussions with Winchester City Council.

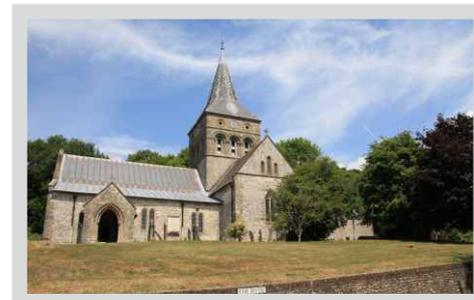
Shawford station serves the village, and nearby Twyford. Commuters are the majority of station users, and walkers have easy access to the Itchen Navigation Heritage Trail and Shawford Down. **Winchester** station serves the cathedral city, which is the administrative centre of the county, and a very popular tourist destination worldwide. Station users are mainly commuters, college and university students, and tourists - many attracted by the frequent CrossCountry and London services.

The South Downs Rambler Bus

In the Summer, **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** helped to arrange a new rail-bus service linking **Winchester** and Petersfield stations via an attractive rural route across the South Downs. The bus was primarily to enable ramblers or walkers access to locations not normally served by public transport, or places which are, but certainly not on Sundays! Operating on Sundays and Bank Holidays between 1 July and 2 September, the service was funded by Cross Country Trains. Bluestar provided the bus and regular driver Mike Rogers. Despite the seemingly endless scorching temperatures in July and August, passenger numbers increased steadily over the weeks, due in no small part to Mike's enthusiastic and friendly personality. *Thank you Mike!*



CrossCountry have kindly provided funding for this service for three years, and we have exciting plans for an improved offering and more services for 2019.



Above: Stops along the picturesque South Downs Rambler bus route included (Left to right) Cheesefoot Head, the pretty village of Exton on the South Downs Way with its very popular pub "The Shoe", and the village of East Meon with its ancient All Saints Church.

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493 Facebook 'Likes'



Woolston station volunteers visit the Signal Box Community Garden as it wakes up from Winter.

Woolston's borders and garden "grow" from strength to strength!

Woolston has flower borders both on platform 1 and behind the self-service ticket machine, but what used to be the Station Master's garden is something of a hidden gem behind its wooden fence. So, on a bitterly cold February day, we installed a number of colourful poster boards around the station to raise awareness of the work being done, and to make passengers more aware of **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** in general.

Over the past year, our team of regular volunteers have made good progress in the station garden. More beds have been created and the process of planting, growing and harvesting produce has taken place. We also built a compost heap area using old pallets, after clearing a very overgrown corner for it. We have made better access around the perimeter of the garden by creating new pathways, and in doing this exposed areas of fencing from which we have removed invasive ivy. Consequently we have repaired and treated the fence.



Top of page: (Top to bottom) Ted Pearce, Bridget O'Donnell, Nancy and Lucy Tope, and Nigel Barnes-Evans in the Woolston Station Signal Box Community Garden. (Inset) Spring flowers bloom in planters made by Lucy. **Above:** (Left) Lucy harvesting parsnips in March. (Centre) Ted's ingenious design for a compost area takes shape in May. (Right) The garden getting a tidy in September.



The Partnership "greens up" Woolston's Booking Hall

Passengers and railway staff have commented on the improvement that a few plants have made to the booking hall at **Woolston**. This is the latest enhancement at the station provided by the **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** and it won't be the last!

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Woolston station volunteers welcome visitors to our Signal Box Community Garden Open Day in June.

Wonderful Woolston opens its garden to the public

We were very excited to hold our first public Open Day at **Woolston Station Signal Box Community Garden** on the morning of Saturday 23 June. We put up an information stand, bunting, tables, chairs and a sun shade, while providing a variety of drinks and home made cakes. The gates were opened, allowing local residents to see what we have been up to, and we had a steady stream of visitors. People brought along spare seeds, gardening tools and plants to swap, and lots of our information leaflets were picked up. Many were inspired by the flowers in the garden (*see just some of them below*), and asked the names of the plants so that they could enhance their own borders. The black and orange striped caterpillars of the Cinnabar moth were spotted chomping on some Ragwort, and this spectacle caused endless fascination. Some visitors just relaxed on our benches and took in the surroundings. It was very pleasing to see the pleasure people got from the garden, and it was also nice for the volunteers to hear the comments and appreciation of their efforts.

We intend to hold a similar Open Day event in 2019. Whilst the restoration of the signal box itself is still the subject of funding issues, we intend to remove the old shipping container on the site and replace it with a large bespoke wooden shed. We also aim to replace the large wooden gates with the original Victorian cast iron gates and railings which we salvaged from an earlier enhancement project at the station. The fundraising for all of this has already begun, so watch this space!



California Poppies
(*Eschscholzia californica*)



Purple Toadflax (*Linaria purpurea*)



Foxgloves (*Digitalis*)



Snapdragons (*Antirrhinum*)



Ornamental Onion (*Allium*)



Ox-Eye Daisies
(*Leucanthemum vulgare*)

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Strikes affect station usage

The 10 year rise in passenger numbers across our Partnership area came to a halt in 2017/18, which was a great shame. Trying to understand why this had occurred we concluded that a combination of strike actions on Southern Trains, infrastructure failures and general economic factors have played their part in this situation. We hope that the normal service will be resumed in 2019 and that there is a return to increased passenger numbers using our railways once again.

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

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	% change in the last year	%
Bitterne	83,608	86,720	96,668	104,568	104,102	97,946	89,798	95,832		6.7
Bursledon	60,264	59,294	59,614	65,206	63,560	64,756	60,092	54,012		-10.1
Chandler's Ford	225,622	241,514	238,502	244,338	231,912	224,034	230,174	220,264		-4.3
Dean	26,710	26,794	24,616	26,118	25,808	25,550	25,220	28,520		13.1
Eastleigh	1,504,090	1,497,042	1,532,168	1,559,710	1,643,476	1,677,878	1,673,974	1,630,160		-2.6
Hamble	92,008	111,288	126,072	122,082	118,606	111,634	114,982	108,194		-5.9
Millbrook	33,418	31,362	31,850	39,340	40,524	38,596	40,170	36,826		-8.3
Mott. & Dun.	26,950	26,846	25,986	28,854	27,366	29,792	29,778	31,662		6.3
Netley	96,608	106,018	102,072	110,256	113,958	116,830	105,740	97,892		-7.4
Redbridge	25,568	30,456	33,010	34,598	38,750	46,066	43,148	42,856		-1.3
Romsey	428,430	449,674	458,714	477,146	494,982	492,074	503,008	516,578		2.7
Salisbury	1,824,320	1,872,520	1,856,882	1,943,654	1,963,292	2,028,148	2,075,866	2,016,038		-2.9
Shawford	-	-	-	-	-	-	203,952	197,458		-3.2
Sholing	85,310	90,848	103,748	108,140	120,302	120,880	116,240	104,666		-10.5
Soton Airport	1,408,684	1,507,644	1,539,766	1,604,488	1,651,626	1,819,432	1,842,710	1,671,522		-9.3
Soton Central	5,799,996	5,947,616	6,106,856	6,278,910	6,433,514	6,359,692	6,361,392	6,538,356		2.8
St Denys	235,356	247,418	262,794	288,956	298,364	318,044	306,040	293,400		-4.1
Swaythling	89,816	103,746	114,594	130,228	138,090	132,472	132,288	125,950		-4.8
Winchester	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,083,264	5,091,580		-0.2
Woolston	138,466	140,468	138,432	162,532	165,408	171,778	162,586	154,960		-4.7
Total	12,041,352	12,577,268	12,852,344	13,329,104	13,673,640	13,875,602	19,200,422	19,056,726		-0.75

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Three Rivers



Community Rail Partnership

Three Rivers Community Partnership Review 2017-18



Surprise gifts for some of our stalwart volunteers at the Annual Stakeholder Group Meeting in November.

New Partnership structure

Behind the scenes, the **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** has been addressing some structural and administrative matters relating to our legal status. Taking guidance from ACoRP and neighbouring CRPs, we have now formed a new legal entity, which will give us more stability and authority going forward. Nothing will change in public or for our volunteers, but we have become a **Community Interest Company**. We will now be able to encourage new station adoptions outside of our existing area, assist volunteers across a wider geographical area, and generate additional funding with our new status.

Looking ahead, this new structure means we can plan further into the future, knowing that Community Rail has a more formalised, sustainable and enduring basis for many years to come.

Annual Stakeholder Group Meeting

Our Annual Stakeholder Group Meeting was held on 26th November at Southampton's Mayflower Theatre near **Southampton Central** station. It was a well attended, convivial and positive meeting as always. There was the annual Rail Officer Report by Mark Miller, then updates from Dan Oakey of GWR, Faye Lambert of CrossCountry Trains and Dan Wright of ACoRP, then a Question and Answers session and a Networking Workshop.

The highlight of the meeting was a special surprise presentation of gifts to three of our stalwart volunteers in recognition of their long term, consistent and outstanding contributions - particularly concerning our 100 year Commemorations of the First World War at **Swaything** and **Romsey** stations. The meeting was an opportunity for the Partnership to give something back to those who have given such a lot over the years. *Thank you to them, and to all the speakers, stakeholders and volunteers who attended this very constructive meeting.*



Above: GWR's Dan Oakey giving us his annual report.



Above: Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership stakeholders were all ears...



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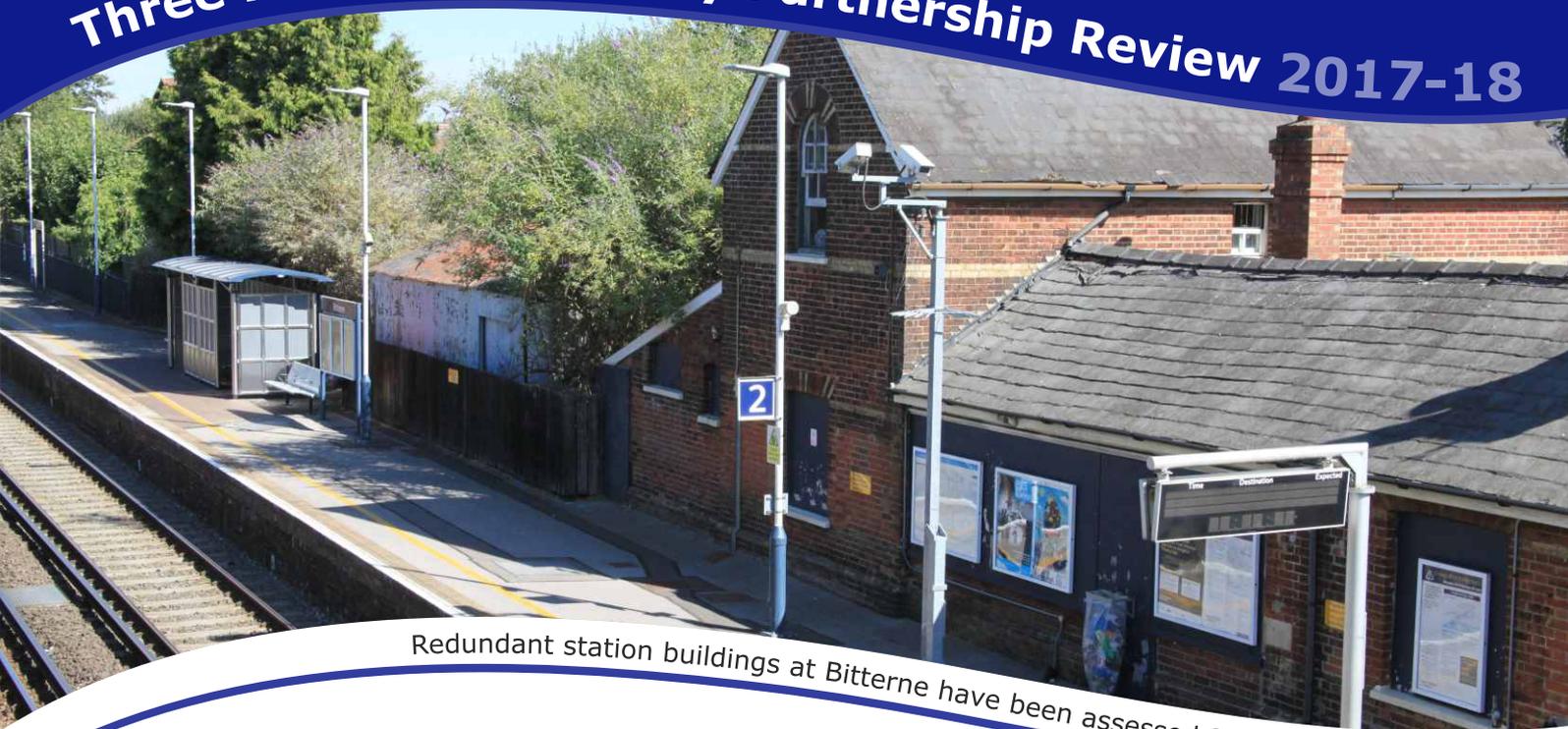
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Three Rivers Community Partnership Review 2017-18



Redundant station buildings at Bitterne have been assessed for possible future uses.

New ACoRP and SWR colleagues for our area

Two recent appointments will be working closely with **Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership** to develop ideas and assist us in our work.

Joining SWR as their Community Rail Manager is **Andy Harrowell** (*below*). Andy has come from a similar position at another TOC and will be looking at the way in which SWR works with the Partnership and the station adopters. This will include guiding volunteers with regard to safe working practices and ways to develop ideas and projects which benefit both the passengers and SWR itself.



Locations where the Partnership can return redundant space for community use include: **Shawford, Bitterne, Swaythling, St. Denys, Woolston, Redbridge and Netley.**



Above: Some of the windows in Swaythling station have been boarded and painted to cleverly conceal the redundant rooms behind them



ACoRP

The second person recently appointed is **Daniel Wright**, the new Community Rail Support Officer employed by ACoRP to work closely with ourselves and SWR. Daniel (*above*) has experience in the field of buildings and building regulations, and one of his main objectives is to open up redundant space located in our station buildings for community rail or wider local community uses.

This year, as part of an initiative supported by both ACoRP and SWR, we have been helping to assess a number of currently redundant station buildings and rooms.

Plans are in motion to further assess the condition of the rooms with a view to clearing out any items stored in them at present, and then undertaking minor repairs and redecoration prior to allowing various local groups to make use of them. *Keep an eye on facebook for our latest news.*

South Western Railway

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Three Rivers Community Partnership Review 2017-18



Passengers about to board their train at Hamble station on a hot day in July.

Uni steers the way with passenger surveys

Three passenger surveys are undertaken each year on our behalf by the University of Southampton - a member of our Steering Group. **Netley, Hamble** (above) and **Bursledon** stations were surveyed in 2018. Findings are distributed to the other members of the Steering Group to determine how we can implement service, facility and infrastructure improvement ideas raised by passengers during the surveys.

If you have any views as to what we might be able to do at your station, please let us know.

Inn Line Guide updated and coming soon...

A new edition of the guide to pubs withing walking distance of Partnership stations has now been compiled, and is due to be published in early 2019. Since the last edition, we have expanded the number of stations that we cover, so there are plenty of new entries included between St. Denys and Bursledon, and in both Shawford and Winchester.

Right: The Bridge Inn could not be closer to Shawford station as the pub is right next to the railway bridge.

UNIVERSITY OF
Southampton



Looking back...

Once again, a huge **THANK YOU** to all our hard-working volunteers, all our community helpers and all our sponsors

We're looking forward to a great 2019 with the Partnership!

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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