



ACoRP Community Rail Awards 2015



Closing date for entries:

Friday 19th June 2015

Closing date for dinner bookings:

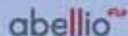
Friday 4th September 2015

Gala Dinner & Awards Presentation Evening

Thursday 1st October 2015

The Riviera International Centre
Torquay, Devon

Key Supporters:



The Community Rail Awards

2015 brings the 11th annual Community Rail Awards which were devised in 2005 so that the unsung heroes and heroines of the community rail world would have their hard work and dedication publicly recognised and rewarded. We have visited many wonderful locations around the UK and this year is no exception, as Thursday 1st October 2015 will see the community rail world visiting The English Riviera when take the awards to the Riviera International Centre in Torquay.

The emphasis of the awards is on rewarding excellence and promoting best practice in community rail development, recognising ordinary people doing extraordinary things on behalf of the railway and the community.

Some changes/additions have been made to the **Rules of Entry** and it is important that you adhere to them so please pay particular attention when reading through as these and the **Judging Criteria** will be applied very strictly, along with the deadline. Also ensure that you follow the guidelines laid out in the section **'How to Submit a Good entry'**

"We are delighted to announce that **Mark Hopwood** will be our guest presenter this year and it will in fact be Mark's second appearance on stage for us."

We are very grateful for the support that the Community Rail Awards receive throughout our industry via sponsorship and in-kind support, not least of which is through the judging process. The judges dedicate their time and expertise in support of the awards and ACoRP sincerely thanks them for their contribution to making this one of the most anticipated events of the railway world. This year we have decided to re-structure the way that the awards are judged and now have 4 panels of judges dealing with specific categories.

We look forward to seeing you in Torquay.

Hazel Bonner,
Community Rail Awards Manager, ACoRP

All images supplied by: Paul Bigland
paulbigland@hotmail.com



JUDGES PROFILES

People categories:

'Involving Young People'

'Outstanding Volunteer Contribution'

'Outstanding Teamwork'

David Sindall is Head of Disability & Inclusion for Rail Delivery Group. He has worked in this role since 2005. He is also the CER representative on the European Commission PRM TSI Advisory Body. David has extensive experience across the access and inclusion field.

Kulvinder Bassi MBE has been Community Rail Team Leader at The Department for Transport since 2010 with oversight of the government's community rail programme. Kul has responsibility for the delivery of the Department's Community Rail Strategy and is their stakeholder manager for community rail partnerships and station adoption groups.

Stuart Burgess is a board member for Passenger Focus and previously chaired the Commission for Rural Communities and served as the Rural Advocate to the Prime Minister for a number of years

Marja van Loef is a sustainable tourism consultant. She works on small and large European projects engaging Stakeholders in the areas of Sustainability and Resilience. She is particularly interested in Green travel/transport and community engagement as these are important in reducing our carbon footprint to and within a destination. Marja loves travelling by train herself and in particular on the many beautiful rail lines in this country.

Jan Garrill has been Chief Executive of Two Ridings Community Foundation since September 2014. She started her working life in transport with British Rail, Tyne & Wear Passenger Transport Authority and Stagecoach but then moved to a marketing role with Sage and for the last 10 years she has been Head of Communities at Newcastle City Council. She is originally from Sheffield, has a history degree from York University, a Masters in Marketing from Northumbria University and is a fellow of the RSA.

Projects categories

'Small Projects Award'

'Innovation in Community Rail'

'Best Marketing Campaign'

'Passengers Matter'

'Special Award - WW1 Commemoration Projects'

John Kitchen - sometime professional librarian. Lifetime rail enthusiast. Community Rail Officer for the Mid Cheshire Line 2003-2007. Rail Officer for Cumbria 2007-2013. ACoRP Board Member 2005 - 2012.

Barbara Saunders - is an independent Consumer Consultant and former Board member of Passenger Focus.

Andy Milne

Andy Milne, editor of RailStaff for 18 years now, previously served as a BR press officer. Effectively he is still doing the same job - getting good news stories about railways and the people who work on them - in to print. The difference is, thanks to Rail Media, he runs RailStaff, a dynamic monthly magazine celebrating the heroism, bravery and achievements of everyone from drivers to station adopters and engineers to volunteers. Family man Andy lives in Herefordshire and is an established writer and media relations specialist.

Kulvinder Bassi MBE – Profile as per 'People' categories panel

JUDGES PROFILES

Nicola Forsdike - 5 years after completing her degree in music and looking fair set for a successful career in music publishing, Nicola joined British Rail! There followed 12 eventful years that saw the fledging of community rail partnerships, the development of the TransPennine Express network, jazz on trains, and privatisation – an unbelievable training ground for an entrepreneurial marketer (and for Nicola). In 2000 she crossed into consultancy, taking her curiosity and skills to four continents, developing business and marketing plans for railways as well as undertaking strategic consultancy assignments on various infrastructure markets.

Stations categories:

'Community Art Schemes – Permanent'

'Community Art Schemes – Renewable and smaller'

'Best Station Garden'

'Most Enhanced Station Buildings'

Mike Bishop, founder and Chair of multi - award winning Friends of Handforth Station that was formed in 1995 and was the first Friends Group in ACoRP. Mike was formerly Environmental Works Manager for British Rail, judge for BR Best Station Competition, promoter and Chair of the Anglo-Irish Best Station Competition and Board member of ACoRP.

Susan Miles MBE - ACoRP Community Stations Project Officer 2004 – 2013.

Susan has thirty-five years' experience in the management and restoration of community buildings and community development. Her work has included bringing to fruition a National Demonstration Project to bring rural services to one site and the development of the Community Stations Initiative. She was awarded an MBE in 2006.

Mike Franklin has worked with the railways for nearly 20 years. Having started with the Environment team at Railtrack Major Projects, he spent 7 years as Rail Officer at Hampshire County Council, playing a major role in re-opening Chandlers Ford station. He went on to be a Station Manager for South West Trains and a freelance consultant, before joining the Network Rail Community Rail team in 2006. During 8 years in the role he developed the Network Rail Community Scheme to total 100 schemes across the network. Mike now works for the Environment team on the Great Western Route Modernisation project.

Kulvinder Bassi MBE – Profile as per 'People' categories panel

Rod Fletcher is Managing Director of Landor LINKS, the UK's leading specialist in knowledge sharing and networking in the fields of transportation planning, passenger transport, highways, the life of urban areas and increasingly, the associated technological, service and policy fields. Rod is a founder director of *Local Transport Today* and *Parking Review* magazine and has developed deep information website resources including Transportxttra.com; and the sector leading recruitment website, jobs-in-transport.co.uk Rod is responsible for an annual programme of over 25 conference and exhibitions attracting anything between 40 – 650 delegates. These include Smarter Travel, Cycle City: Active City, Modelling World, Integration and Interchange. As programme manager for the annual Rail Stations and Property events Rod has a special interest in understanding and promoting the wider economic and social benefits of investment in rail stations.

'Photo Competition'

Paul Abbell

Lifelong railway enthusiast, especially after a round trip on the Liverpool Overhead Railway, and Editor of Today's Railways UK

Paul Bigland is a well-known photographer & writer whose career spans 16 years. Paul works for both the national & international media and companies within the rail industry

Rules of Entry

Entry is FREE. You may submit as many entries as you wish provided that you complete a separate nomination form and provide separate supporting evidence for each individual entry. You may submit the same entry in different categories and you may photocopy the nomination form for multiple entries. Please ensure that anybody you nominate is aware that you have entered them into the awards.

- 1. A completed nomination form must be submitted with every entry**
- 2. Closing Date: Entries must arrive at the ACoRP offices no later than 17:00 hours, Friday 19th June 2015** but we do encourage early submission! **NB: This closing date will be applied strictly and entries received after this date and time will automatically be disqualified.**
- 3. All submissions must be for projects that reached completion between 21st June 2014 and 19th June 2015**, except for category 3, where significant changes or development have taken place and the entry must clearly show this. NB: Previous first-place winning projects from 2014 will not be considered in the 2015 awards at all.
- 4. A written summary of the entry in no more than 100 words** (on the nomination form itself **AND** as a **WORD document on CD/data stick**). Remember, this is the first thing the judges read and as they may have no previous awareness of your project you must make sure that this summary gives a clear but concise description of the project. This is also the wording that will be used in a dedicated Train onLine edition for short listed entries.
- 5. A fuller written description of the entry – NO MORE than 2 x A4 sides.** Please send this as hard copy **AND** as a **WORD document on CD/data stick**. This is particularly important as this information will be used in the winners' booklet should you win an award and will save us great amount of time typing in from scratch.
- 6. Current Images** must be supplied with every entry (these will be used in the awards presentation and in the winners booklet if placed). 'Action' shots are preferred if possible and remember to include before and after views where appropriate. A minimum of one and a maximum of six photos with titles /captions please – on CD or data stick where possible, in **JPEG** or **TIFF** format only and of high resolution (minimum 300dpi). **NB: Only Jpeg or Tiff formats can be accepted as other formats are not compatible with our system.** Alternatively, printed copies can be submitted but must be of sufficient quality to be reproduced.
- 7. Any Images that show Health & Safety contraventions on the railway or station will result in the entire entry being disqualified.**
- 8. Other relevant supporting material - limited to a maximum of four items, including testimonials** (please do not send large reports, videos or DVDs unless they are specifically the entry). **NB: Entries with more than the specified amount of supporting material will automatically be disqualified so please ensure that you read the rules of entry very carefully and adhere to them!**

Rules of Entry

Prizes

For each category, the winner will be awarded a trophy, a cash prize and a certificate. All runners-up will receive a certificate.

NB: Every shortlisted entry will receive an electronic 'Shortlisting certificate' so please ensure that you supply a contact email address on the entry form.

Nomination form & Gala Dinner booking form

Both forms can be downloaded from our website or requested from the ACoRP office either via email to hazel@acorp.uk.com or by phone 01484 481052

NB: We are unable to return any entries or photographs. We reserve the right to use any images in future publications with appropriate credits (where known).

Important Information

- A) Please do not submit any entries in stages. Wait until you have all the information you need in order to submit a complete entry. If you have submitted an entry and decide that there is something to add then we will need a new, complete replacement entry before the closing date.
- B) We are unable to accept email entries under any circumstances! Full hard copy entries and CD/data sticks must be submitted by post or in person!
- C) Please ensure that you submit your 'Fuller written description' of the project and the 100 word summary in word doc format on CD or data stick, in addition to a printed copy
- D) Closing Date: Entries must arrive at the ACoRP offices no later than 17:00 hours, Friday 19th June 2015 but we do encourage early submission! **NB: This closing date will be applied strictly and entries received after this date and time will automatically be disqualified.**



How to submit a Good Entry

Primarily you need to ensure that you are entering an appropriate category so read the 'Rules of Entry' and 'Categories & Criteria' pages very carefully before you start writing your entry.

Concentrate your efforts on explaining the reason you are nominating this project or person and why it /they should be a winner. Take care to demonstrate any special criteria/requirements of the category you are entering. To help structure your entry, you may wish to pay particular attention to the following points:

1) Overview

- What is the name of the project /person/group you are nominating?
- Where did the project take place, person work/volunteer?
- Who was involved? TOC, Network Rail, CRP, community groups, funders etc?
- Why did you start this project /why are you nominating the person/garden etc?

NB: The above should form the basis of your 100 word summary.

2) For projects - What the project entailed

- What was your plan of action?
- What resources did you draw upon?
- What steps were taken to achieve your goal?
- What difficulties were involved and overcome?

3) For people and groups

- Who are you nominating?
- What effect have they had on your project(s) CRP, etc?
- Include a photo of the group/person - action shots are better.

4) Objectives - for projects

- What exactly did you want to achieve?
- How did you plan to measure your success?
- What would constitute real success?

5) End results

- Did the project fulfil its objectives?
- What evidence do you have to support the success of the project?
- What has been the response of the community/users/media?
- Did the project deliver any knock-on/unexpected results?

6) Other points to remember

- Only send in complete entries!
- Ensure that you send in your 2 x A4 description and the 100 word summary in Word doc format on a CD or data stick as well as printed copy! These will be used for the Winners' Booklet for successful entries and Train onLine Community Rail Awards shortlist edition.
- Send in ONLY JPEG or TIFF format images – We need to be able to copy images and some other formats do not allow this function on our system (e.g. Kodak Picture CDs or similar)
- Do not send in any images that show health & safety contraventions on the railway or station. The judges will disqualify an entire entry (no matter how brilliant the rest of it might be) on these grounds alone!
- We are unable to accept email entries under any circumstances! All entries must be submitted by post or in person!
- Only submit the number of items asked for within the category i.e. 6 images not 15 or 2 x A4 sides not 10, or your entry will be disqualified
- Ensure that your entries reach the ACoRP office by the deadline date and time (and preferably sooner).

No extensions will be given under any circumstances and any entries received after the deadline will be disqualified.

Categories & Criteria *(Sponsors in blue italics)*

Nomination Guidance Notes

It is essential that your entry meets the judging criteria for each category entered so please read that section carefully. When writing your entry, please be clear about who you are nominating, especially for projects that have many partners. **NB: This is the name(s) or group whose name will be printed on the certificate and to whom the certificate will be presented at the gala dinner.**

1. Involving Young People - *Network Rail*

Community Rail has a long history of working with young people on all manner of projects including station environmental schemes, safety and educational projects. We want to see the best of these.

Method of Entry: Nominations may be made by a train operator, community rail partnership, school or group that has taken part in or organised the project.
See Nomination Guidance Notes

Judging Criteria: Successful entries will have demonstrated engagement with young people to deliver a project that benefits: the community; the young people taking part and the railway.

2A. Community Art Schemes - *Permanent Art Projects First TransPennine Express*

Public art can enhance the station environment, provide a link between communities and the railway and above all be good fun! This category is for permanent art projects such as previous winners, The Vauxhall Bridge mural, Pokesdown and 'The Running Man' mural at Heaton Chapel.

Method of Entry: Entries in this category can be from the artists, project organisers or companies sponsoring the project. See Nomination Guidance Notes

Judging Criteria: This award will be judged equally on artistic content and the extent of the community involvement element of the project.

NB: You must include photographs with your entry that clearly show the artwork installed in the railway/station context.

2B. Community Art Schemes - *Renewable and smaller projects Stagecoach*

This category is for renewable and smaller art projects such as replaceable artwork in poster cases, small one off pieces of other types of artwork etc.

Method of Entry: Entries in this category can be from the artists, project organisers or companies sponsoring the project. See Nomination Guidance Notes

Judging Criteria: This award will be judged equally on artistic content and the extent of the community involvement element of the project.

NB: You must include photographs with your entry that clearly show the artwork installed in the railway/station context.

Categories & Criteria *(Sponsors in blue italics)*

3. Best Station Garden and Large Floral Displays - *Northern Rail*

This category is aimed at rewarding the green-fingered, hard-working people who maintain station gardens and floral displays across the network. This is the chance for those individuals or groups to step forward and receive the credit they deserve as they go beyond the call of duty, dedicating many hours to creating and maintaining a pleasant and colourful environment for the travelling public to enjoy.

Method of Entry: Entries may be submitted by individuals, teams, groups or companies. See Nomination Guidance Notes

Judging Criteria: We are looking for gardens or large displays that enhance the station environment by adding splashes of colour and greenery. Entries must describe the work you have done or are doing to improve the surroundings of your station.

You must include before and after photographs with your entry that clearly show the garden or display in the railway station context and judges will particularly be looking for projects that also demonstrate environmental benefits. The judges may arrange for anonymous visits to be made to entries in this category.

NB: Smaller floral displays can be entered into category No 5, 'Small Projects Award under £500', they will not be considered in this category.

4. Most Enhanced Station Buildings - *Railway Heritage Trust*

Stations are the shop window of the railway and many on community rail lines have been improved or restored. In this category we are looking for buildings that have been significantly enhanced in a way that has a positive impact upon the passenger experience and the entry must clearly demonstrate this.

Method of Entry: Entries may be submitted by individuals, teams, groups or companies.

Judging Criteria: The judges will be looking for projects that have improved the station building and facilities either as a whole or in part. The judges may arrange for anonymous visits to be made to entries in this category.

NB: A statement must be included in the entry to confirm that the work at the station is either within the TOC lease area, or that it is within the Network Rail area (in which case confirmation should be given that a Licence has been obtained from Network Rail) or if it is outside both the TOC and NR areas (eg, on an approach path owned by the local authority) then a statement should be included as to who gave permission for the work.

Before and after images must also be submitted along with any other evidence of how the project was developed and delivered.

Categories & Criteria *(Sponsors in blue italics)*

5. Small Projects Award - under £500 - *Community Rail Lancashire*

This category allows smaller, low cost projects to be judged against each other rather than unfairly competing against larger funded projects. Any project which cost £500 or less can be submitted, whether it is new garden tubs/planters etc, a piece of station artwork, a tidy up project or even running an event. We will be looking for projects that made the best use of resources or delivered great value for money, whilst enhancing the station environment or passenger experience. Evidence of the budget (excluding volunteer hours) for the project is required. In kind support is allowed, however evidence is required that it does not exceed the £500 limit.

Method of Entry: Entries for this award can be nominated by anyone involved with the project, including volunteers, community rail partnerships, station adoption groups, friends groups or train operators.

Judging Criteria: Judges will require clear evidence that the project has only cost £500 or less (excluding volunteer hours) to deliver so a budget must be submitted. In kind support is allowed, however evidence is required that it does not exceed the £500 limit. The entry must also demonstrate project sustainability and benefits.

6. Innovation in Community Rail (Not covered in any other category) *Network Rail*

This category has been devised to encompass all shapes and forms of projects that are not covered elsewhere within the awards. The term "innovation" will be interpreted broadly and the category will include projects that reflect new and/or different ways of working.

Method of Entry: Entries may be submitted by individuals, teams, groups or companies.

Judging Criteria: The judges will be looking for projects that have had a positive effect on the community and on the railway. Entries should clearly demonstrate this.

7. Photo Competition – 'The Essence of Community Rail' Image *Abellio Greater Anglia*

We want to see your best six photos, which really capture the essence of community rail. Entries may be digital or prints but all images must be clearly within a community rail setting and only photos taken since June 2014 may be entered.

Method of Entry: Entries can be submitted either in digital format or hard copy, see below for specific requirements of these. ***Open to nominations from any source but the following must be adhered to:***

- A maximum of six images per person / group. (If more than six images are submitted to this category then your entry will automatically be disqualified).
- Digital images must be in TIFF or JPEG format ONLY, maximum file size 5MB burnt onto CD or on a data stick. Other formats are not compatible with our system.
- Colour and mono prints maximum size 10" x 8" but must be of sufficient quality to be reproduced.
- Please supply a title or caption for each image.

NB: Photos cannot be returned and may be used in publicity (with appropriate credit given to the photographer, where known). If you wish to retain copies of images, please ensure you have made duplicates prior to posting.

Judging Criteria: Images will be shortlisted according to the category title and those that are captured creatively, humorously and pertinently will be favoured by the judges.

NB: Any images that show Health & Safety contraventions on the railway or station will be disqualified.

Categories & Criteria *(Sponsors in blue italics)*

8. Best Marketing Campaign - *Rail Media*

The way in which information reaches a customer has changed dramatically since the Community Rail Awards was first launched and whilst traditional methods are still preferred by many people we must also acknowledge that technology based methods are becoming more and more effective as marketing tools. So this category aims to reward the best overall Marketing Campaign. This could be a purely traditional campaign or a technological one but those that embrace both traditional and technological methods in a combined package will be given extra credit by the judges.

Method of Entry: We invite entries from community rail partnerships, train operating companies, groups or individuals.

Judging Criteria: The judges will be looking for methods that are easy to use or access, attractive and informative. In your entry you should tell us the rationale behind the choice of media and extra credit will be given where a measure of the effectiveness is included.

9. Outstanding Volunteer Contribution - *Grand Central Railway*

In community rail development it is people who count most. We want to hear about 'individuals' who have made a long term (minimum 12 months) outstanding contribution to community rail as a volunteer, whether they are a member of the local community, community rail partnership, station adoption group or rail user group.

Method of Entry: Entries for this award can be nominated by train operating companies, community rail partnerships, station adoption groups, or individuals. SELF NOMINATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. See Nomination Guidance Notes.

Judging Criteria: Judges are looking for nominations which clearly show that the individual has made an exceptional contribution to their line, station, partnership etc as a volunteer. Extra credit will be given where independent testimonials are available (a maximum of 4 can be submitted but must be contained within your supporting material allowance).

10. Outstanding Teamwork Award - *Network Rail*

This category recognises motivated teams that have had a dramatic and positive effect on their community rail line/s. This category can be entered by teams of just two people right through to teams of hundreds if appropriate. The team must include members from different sectors working in co-operation.

Method of Entry: Entries may be submitted by team members, team leaders, managers or customers and will need to clearly demonstrate how, working together as a cohesive unit, the team has made a real difference.

Judging Criteria: Has the team made a difference that is noticed by the customer? Has the team set new standards that can be used as an example to others and have they demonstrated that, by working as a team, they have become more powerful and effective than individuals working alone?

Categories & Criteria *(Sponsors in blue italics)*

11. Passengers Matter - *Abellio*

The "Passengers Matter" award acknowledges excellence, best practice and innovation in customer service within community rail. Examples could be a new initiative that has improved the journey experience for passengers such as improved information; easier access especially for those with reduced mobility; better seating and waiting areas or other projects that have contributed to the improved passenger experience.

Method of Entry: Entries for this award can be nominated by user groups, train operating companies, community rail partnerships, local authorities or station adoption groups.

Judging Criteria: Judges will require clear evidence that an organisation, team or individual has provided outstanding service and has made a significant difference to the community rail passenger experience.

12. WW1 Commemoration Projects - *Special Award*

First Great Western

In 2014 we saw the nation come together to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of 'The Great War'. Communities throughout the UK marked this momentous occasion in a variety of different ways, many of which were supported or led by community rail partnerships. This category recognises those projects and how they brought the railway and its communities together.

Method of Entry: Nominations may be made by a train operator, community rail partnership, local authority, station adoption group, school or group that have taken part in or organised the project. **See *Nomination Guidance Notes***

Judging Criteria: The judges will be looking for projects that commemorate The Great War, demonstrating local engagement, initiative and a focus on the railway.

NB: You must include photographs with your entry that clearly show the project installed or taking part within the community/station context.

Overall Winner Award - Rail Executive - Passenger Services

A special prize will be awarded to the organisation, group or individual that the judges feel has contributed most to the Community Rail Development Strategy in the past 12 months. Winners will receive a trophy, cash prize and a certificate. This winner is chosen by the judges from all the entries.

Messages from Sponsors

Network Rail

Britain's railways matter to people and we are pleased to continue to work in collaboration with you all to make the very best of all parts of the Network. Network Rail is delighted to continue its support for the Community Rail Awards, celebrating all that is great in community railways and the people they serve.

Angel Trains

Angel Trains are pleased to support the 2015 ACoRP Awards. Angel Trains has a strong commitment to building the future of rail and recognises the importance of local people and communities in doing this. Community Rail Partnerships are a vital element of the success of the overall rail industry in Britain and Angel Trains is proud to support them.

Abellio

As Overall Winner in 2013 and now as the new operator of ScotRail (Overall Winner in 2014), Abellio is delighted to sponsor the Community Rail Awards.

This annual event is an opportunity not only to celebrate the achievements of Community Rail across the country, but also to encourage the exchange of best practice. We look forward to another year of working with the individuals and organisations who are so important to sustaining the bond between the rail industry and the local communities that it serves.

First Great Western

With all the famous Devon and Cornwall Branches; the highly scenic 'Heart of Wessex' line, the urban Severn Beach route, a share of the 'Three Rivers' lines and the rolling Wiltshire hills. FGW has always been a huge supporter of Community Rail, it connects us closely to what our customers and supporters really want from their local railway and the resultant record breaking growth in passenger numbers underlines all the hard work that goes on. We are delighted to see the Community Rail Awards return to our patch and to be a proud sponsor of the awards again this year. We wish everyone the best of luck.

Cross Country

CrossCountry is delighted to be supporting the 2015 ACoRP Awards. Our inter-city and regional services connect to many CRPs across Britain, bringing the railways and the communities they serve closer together. By helping to recognise and promote their achievements the community rail movement will continue to flourish.

Arriva UK Trains

Arriva UK Trains is proud to be a sponsor of the ACoRP Community Rail Awards. Our rail businesses work closely with CRPs in their areas, helping them bring the railways and the communities they serve closer and to grow together. We are delighted to help celebrate their achievements and to recognise community rail's contribution to growing Britain's railways.

Department for Transport

As the core funder of local and rural services in England, the Department for Transport is a keen supporter of community rail. We recognise that one of the most positive ways of sharing best practice and celebrating success is through the annual ACoRP Community Rail Awards. We are therefore delighted to be associated with these awards.

Messages from Sponsors

Govia

As the UK's busiest rail franchise, we are delighted to once again be supporting the Community Rail Awards. We believe it is important to recognise and reward success, whilst seeking to improve these crucial community services for future generations.

Virgin Trains

Virgin Trains is proud to sponsor the 2015 Community Rail Awards. Our high-speed Pendolino and Voyager trains serve several mainline stations that act as gateways to Community Railways. We look forward to working with supporters of these vital economic lifelines; to grow inbound traffic and enhance the range of journey opportunities available to the people of the communities they serve.

Merseyrail

Merseyrail is among the highest performing rail operators in the UK and is committed to serving the communities in which we operate. We are delighted to be associated with these awards that celebrate the value of individuals in society who otherwise may not be recognised.

Grand Central Railway

At Grand Central, we understand and appreciate the fantastic contribution made by dedicated and committed volunteers. Recognising their work to improve local communities and make a difference is so important and we are very pleased to sponsor ACoRP's Community Rail Awards in 2015. We wish very best of luck to all the nominees.

Railway Heritage Trust

The Railway Heritage Trust is pleased to continue its sponsorship of the Community Rail Awards through the 'Most Enhanced Station Buildings' Award. Our work around Great Britain has shown how old station buildings that are no longer directly relevant to the needs of the railway can be altered for business, entertainment or community use. We are delighted to sponsor this award to recognise the work done by the various groups that have found new uses for disused and underutilised stations on the Network.

Rail Media

Rail Media specialises in good news stories about railways from every part of the industry. ACoRP is a fund of such stories and we are delighted to be supporting the Community Rail Awards, recognising the many people who make a dynamic and selfless contribution to the railway. Rail Media strives to push the value of good communications which the 'Best Marketing Campaign' award highlights

First TransPennine Express

We are delighted to support the Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP) and their annual awards. The Community Rail Awards highlight the excellent work carried out across the country to further improve the local railway, which is becoming ever more important as more people choose to travel by rail.

Community Rail Lancashire

Community Rail Lancashire is once again delighted to sponsor the Small Projects Award. It is true to say that a lot can often be done with a little and CRPs are generally very good at coming up with low value high impact schemes often with some help from the small grants fund looked after by ACoRP. This award has attracted some very exciting projects in the past and with an ever tightening financial position facing many CRPs doing a lot with a little will become ever more important. We look forward to high quality entries, to exciting and innovative projects and for the winners to share those good ideas with the rest of the community rail world.

Messages from Sponsors

Northern Rail

Northern Rail is again delighted to sponsor ACoRP in what is the eleventh annual Community Rail Awards. We remain very proud to support 18 community rail partnerships across our network and each year they work tirelessly alongside the volunteer groups to connect local communities with the railway. Thanks to the continued efforts of ACoRP, the value of this work is increasingly recognised across the industry and this is a night to celebrate the very best achievements from across the country. We wish all the entrants the best of luck.

Abellio Greater Anglia

Abellio Greater Anglia is passionate about the benefits that community railways bring for communities and their railways. We have more than doubled the financial support we provide, as the train operator, to our Community Rail Partnerships (CRPs) - illustrating the commitment of our parent company, Abellio, to the community rail approach. Already we have seen the benefits, raising the profile of the CRPs across our region in Essex, Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire and helping to improve train services and station facilities for customers and communities alike. In addition, we have increased our extensive network of wonderful station adopters, who help us make our stations proud gateways to the communities they serve. We know just what a difference they can make and celebrate their achievements at our annual Station Adopters Awards and reception. We are therefore delighted to sponsor the "Essence of Community Rail Image" Photography Competition at the 2015 Community Rail Awards, which will celebrate and highlight the best efforts of CRPs and volunteers on community rail lines across the national rail network.

Stagecoach Group

Stagecoach is proud to sponsor this year's Community Rail Awards. These awards are a well deserved endorsement of the dedication and commitment of our Community Rail Partnerships and our valued station volunteers to create a better train service for our passengers. The Community Rail Partnerships and our army of station adopters do a fantastic job in helping us attract more people onto the rail network and at the same time deliver some very worthwhile practical improvements to station facilities. We wish the very best of luck to this year's nominees.

Eversholt Rail Group

Eversholt Rail Group is delighted once again to be a sponsor of the ACoRP Community Rail Awards. We recognise and applaud both the phenomenal growth in passenger demand and the wider-ranging benefits to local economies and quality of life that Community Rail schemes and initiatives continue to deliver. Eversholt Rail Group greatly values its excellent working relationship with the ACoRP team, which is fundamental to ensuring that we understand stakeholders' needs and provide cost-effective rolling stock solutions optimised to meet them.

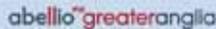
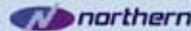
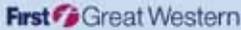
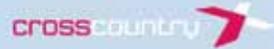
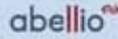
Rail Delivery Group

Britain has a railway to be proud of and community rail is playing an important part in this success. As the organisation which brings together the industry's leaders to drive improvements to services and a better value for money railway, we are delighted to support the Community Rail Awards. These awards are a great way of highlighting best practice to help ensure the community rail success story continues to go from strength to strength.

Hitachi Rail Europe

Hitachi Rail Europe is proud to support the 2015 Community Rail Awards, highlighting the importance of local railways across the country. As a train manufacturer with our train factory opening shortly in County Durham, we hope that our products will touch upon many rail communities in the future. For now, we wish all nominees the best of success in their projects.

Sponsors of the Community Rail Awards 2015



Community Rail Festival - Friday 2 October 2015 Hosted by First Great Western

First Great Western is delighted to be hosting the Community Rail Festival 2015 in Torquay on Friday 2 October. It promises to be a great day for guests and the local community.

The festival includes a station gala, attractions and information promoting Community Rail Partnerships throughout the UK.

Visitors to the festival will also have the opportunity to take a journey on a special First Great Western charter train travelling on routes not normally open to passenger trains, from Torquay through Newton Abbot - Exeter St Davids - Okehampton - Meldon - Okehampton - Exeter St Davids - Plymouth - Bere Alston - Plymouth - Lipson Junction - Mount Gould - Plymouth Friary - Laira Speedway - Totnes - Newton Abbot - Heathfield and finishing at Exeter St Davids.

Routes will be subject to final confirmation and spaces will be limited. Further information will be available in May/June via a link from the ACoRP website: www.acorp.uk.com.

We look forward to seeing you in Torquay in October.



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