

“Operation Stickleback” Rose Grove Revived



Rail history and safety sessions with Brian Haworth, CRL



The newly improved station

Why Rose Grove station?

Rose Grove is on the Preston to Colne line, served by an hourly diesel service.

The station facilities required a major overhaul in light of the new service to Manchester via the newly re-opened Todmorden West Curve. It was to become an interchange hub between the existing Colne to Blackpool South Service and the new Manchester service.

Our inspiration; Sticklebacks

The inspiration came when the local school children learned that sticklebacks could be found in steam train water tanks from Rose Grove. This was because the water was drawn from the Leeds-Liverpool canal, sucking the fish up as the tanks filled. The art at the station was all themed around this, alongside a special story named “Operation Stickleback”, written and illustrated by the children. It tells the story of a young stickleback named Small Fry who travels to Manchester via the Todmorden Curve.

What were the outcomes?

The project involved two local schools; Padiham Green and Lowerhouse Junior School. The schools worked together to produce the story, book, DVD and a vast range of wonderful artwork.

A wide variety of outcomes were achieved, including;

- A large, colourful mural
- Two artistic running-in boards
- A steel sculpture
- The book, “Operation Stickleback”
- A DVD for “Operation Stickleback”
- A foot and cycle path “Z Card”
- A 3 x double royal notice board
- New waiting shelter
- New seating area
- New ticket vending machine
- A customer information system
- CCTV

The benefits to our partners

The project had positive outcomes for the schools involved, including;

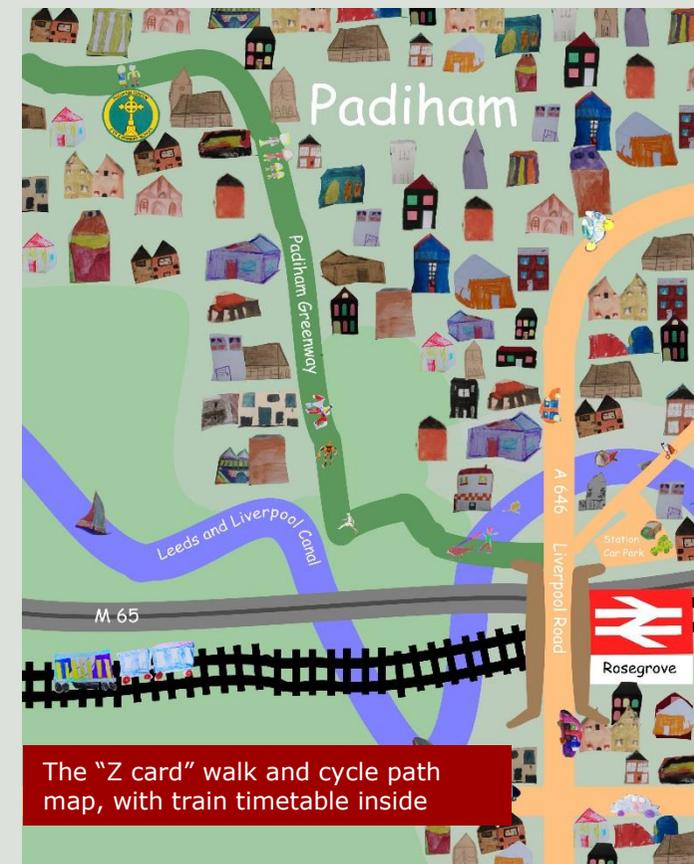
- Facilitating local pride and a feeling of ownership in the station
- Local schools participated in the art project and children developed associated art skills
- Displays of local art talent
- A greater understanding of rail safety and train use for the local children



Brian, the children and Small Fry visit Manchester



The launch of the “Z card”



The “Z card” walk and cycle path map, with train timetable inside

Legacy

The project's value to CRL and to the railway cannot be overstated.

The project resulted in;

- Collaboration between local schools
- A continuation of work with these schools beyond the project
- Reduced vandalism
- Reduced anti-social behaviour
- A pleasant, safer station environment
- Increased ridership
- Raised the local profile of the station
- Raised awareness of the new Manchester service
- Established links with the local Canal Trust via "Operation Stickleback", enhancing this and future projects

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Want to know more?

Go to: www.communityraillancashire.co.uk/projects



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ROSEGROVE

An eye-catching running-in board!

With special thanks to;

- Alastair Nicholson
- The children and staff of Padiham Green School
- The children and staff of Lowerhouse Junior School
- Northern Rail
- Lancashire County Council
- Burnley Council
- The Canal Trust



School children have a session with artist Alastair Nicholson

Operation Stickleback



The cover of "Operation Stickleback"

..... the story of an adventurous stickleback who chooses to explore East Lancashire via the rail gateway.



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