

NEWSLETTER

FROM YOUR COMMUNITY RAIL OFFICER - ROWENA CHANTLER

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter! After a couple of years of uncertainty, we are flying through the year and how great it is to be busy, and seeing people out and about again! A few things have changed due to the pandemic, but we are returning to a more normal pace of life! Visiting schools and delivering assemblies is a little different as children are no longer used to sitting still for a while, and of course some of the younger ones have never had to! It is great to be able to take children out on the train (and adults too!). This has been the first time on a school trip for some children, so it is particularly special for us to be involved. There has been a lot going on, and we have been engaging with a wide range of people. We will be partnering up with Support 2 Recovery again, to encourage people to Try the Train, and we also have a few special events coming up, including Train to a Taste of Thailand, more on that later in the newsletter. If you or your community would like to work with us on a project, please get in touch! Finally, we are always looking for volunteers from the local communities along the line who could help keep our stations well-kept and welcoming. Get in touch at <https://penline.co.uk/contact-us/> or ring on 07912753817. National and local news has reported planned strike action by the RMT in June. Details of cancellations can be found on our website here penline.co.uk/strike-action/

PENISTONE LINE HISTORY PADDOCK VIADUCT

The major viaducts on the Penistone Line are Lockwood, Denby Dale and Penistone, which are traditional stone arched structures (although the viaduct at Denby Dale was built originally of timber). The Paddock viaduct, in contrast, is similarly built of stone arches at either end but has four large central spans formed of lattice steel girders. The reason for this design is thought to be that when constructed in the late 1840's it had to cross what was by then already a heavily built-up area containing two roads, the river, the canal, and various industrial premises. There was insufficient land available on which to construct the larger number of piers which a conventional viaduct would require. Learn more about the line's history on our website.



Image: Paddock Viaduct.

DEMENIA ACTION WEEK (KIRKLEES) 16-22 MAY

We partnered with Kirklees Council and local support groups on plans for Dementia Action Week Kirklees. In May Penistone Line Partnership hosted a day out to Barnsley on the train, accompanied by We Can Survive Singers, and what

a success it was! At Huddersfield station we met care home staff, and support group leaders, people living with dementia, their partners/carers, for their journey down to Barnsley. We Can Survive Singers, based in Barnsley, are a singing for wellbeing group, set up for people affected by cancer at all stages and ages. Our guests had a lovely time on the train, joining in with the songs.



Image: We Can Survive Singers in green singing upbeat songs on the way to Barnsley

On arrival in Barnsley, we walked the short walk up to St Mary's Church, where we enjoyed a light lunch, prepared by local business Citizen Coffee (located at Barnsley Interchange, and also have run Café Crème in Penistone). After lunch, we were entertained by Uplift Choir, who are a cheery group of people from Barnsley who sing for wellbeing. Our guests had a great time and sang their hearts out to the likes of Dancing Queen.

Before our return train we managed to squeeze in a visit to the Cooper Gallery where a few fancy dress items were tried on! Our guests were all given a goodie bag which contained a twiddle mitt (a sensory aid made by volunteers over the lockdown period for Penistone Line Partnership), a few treats, a sunflower lanyard and details of Northern's priority seat scheme.



Image: Enjoying the sun with a gifted twiddle mit

It was an absolute pleasure to accompany this group on the train for the DAW special day out. It is so important that we support people living with dementia to enjoy their 'in the moment' time with their partners and carers. We look forward to arranging more dementia-friendly days out on the train. If you would like to be involved, please contact Rowena on 07912 753817. We would like to offer a big thank you to Northern for supporting us with the train travel.

COMMUNITY RAIL WEEK

In May, Foundation Learning students on the Personal Skills and Adult Skills course enjoyed a rail confidence session and a train trip to Barnsley with Rowena.

Students looked at key features at Huddersfield Station, where they can buy tickets, information available, rail & safety guidance to build the students' confidence around the station. It was a pleasure to see all the students enjoying their journey on the train, some of which completed our I-Spy resource.



Image: Adult Skills students 'Try the Train' with Rowena Chantler



Image: Kirklees College students

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The groups enjoyed attractions in Barnsley's regenerated centre, The Glassworks new shopping complex and market area, the groundbreaking Library @ the Lightbox, and a tour of Barnsley Experience, a museum holding the secrets of Barnsley's past and present. Read more about our Rail Safety and learning sessions with Kirklees College in the linked article here.

On 26 May volunteers helped launch our Family Days Out by Train campaign at Sheffield Station. On the way there,



Image: Volunteers at the promotional stand, Sheffield Station.



Image: Children from Busy Bees, Penistone, during Community Rail Week at Penistone Station with Rowena Chantler.

we stopped at Penistone Station to meet local nursery children from Busy Bees Penistone, where Stay Safe with Thomas was read to them. Each child was given a copy of the book and our new Family Days Out by Train leaflet to share inspirational activities with parents, and use the 50 Things to do before you're 5 app. The nursery is community focused, and the children love train trips which develop their learning. We are planning a trip out to engage

the children with '50 Things' and activities along the line shortly. At Sheffield Station our volunteers welcomed travellers to our promotional stand, where they could learn about our Family Days Out campaign, and the enjoyment that travelling on the Penistone Line can offer. Uplift Choir, Barnsley (Thank you!) joined us in the afternoon to sing at the station's concourse, and bring a smile, delight, and even sing the odd 'Happy Birthday' to travellers. We also supported other rail partnership projects, 'Backtrack', and pledges to 'Give the Train a Try!'



Image: Uplift Choir, Barnsley, singing contemporary songs to passengers at Sheffield Station during Community Rail Week.

Thank you to our Network Rail volunteers who helped us to promote the Backtrack competition during Community Rail Week at Sheffield Station.



Image: Backtrack Competition, anti-trespass campaign promoted to young people and children.



Image: Volunteer promotes Backtrack at Sheffield Station.

BACKTRACK

Trespassing on the railway network is a serious problem. Research indicates that people fail to understand the danger, and reasons for trespassing include, anti-social behaviour, stepping on the track to take short cuts and fare-evasion. In 2020/21 the number of recorded trespass events exceeded 13,000 and sadly 11 people lost their life (RSSB's Annual Health and Safety Report 2020/21.) The Backtrack competition aims to reduce the amount of trespass on UK railways. This award-winning competition launched in 2020, is now back for its third year. This year we are especially focused on challenging people who trespass on our railway for likes and shares on social media. It's dangerous and can cause death or serious injury.

TAKE PART

Backtrack 2022

We are asking entrants to create a simple but powerful message, to make others aware of the dangers of trespassing and to encourage them to stop.

There are 2 options:

- Film yourself saying why you would not trespass on the railway (also known as a pledge) using the pledge card on the website.
- Design a small graphic/picture sharing 1 rail safety message, this should be about the size of a postcard so that it can be shared on social media.

<https://backtrackcompetition.co.uk/>

The Backtrack team are community rail officers from Community Rail Lancashire

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Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership, Bishop Line CRP, Southeast Communities Rail Partnership and Penistone Line Partnership. The competition is promoted in schools and colleges (within Rowena's Rail Safety sessions.) The school holidays are fast approaching, so please encourage young people you know to take part at <https://backtrackcompetition.co.uk/>

RAIL SAFETY WEEK

Rowena has been busy visiting schools and promoting the rail safety message in schools in Kirklees, Barnsley and Sheffield areas. It is important that children understand how to safely use the railway. Now that we have some additional resources, we hope to visit some nurseries and playgroups too! Book your visit now! Rail Safety Week, was unfortunately during strike action, so we were not be as busy as we hoped. Groups are booked in though and will be promoting resources through social media.



Image: Walking in Pye Flatts

GUIDED WALKS

Our guided walks continue to run successfully, but due to engineering works, by Network Rail, in June amendments had to be made to our walks programme. Please visit our website's Guided Walks page for up to date details or contact Stuart Parker on 07908 450444. We also advise that you check train running times due to industrial action by viewing information on Network Rail's Service Disruptions Page which also links to regional train operators.

JUBILEE DECORATIONS

In the spirit of the Platinum Jubilee, CARE (Community Action in the Rural Environment) volunteers repainted their pallet planters a fabulous purple colour, and added a flag to the fence too. The planters were replanted, and the group now have plans to design a new planter for passengers to enjoy at Silkstone Common.



Image: Jubilee Planters at Silkstone Common Station.

Students on Personal Skills, Adult Skills, courses, along with those attending a Community Crafting evening course from Kirklees College, created pieces of artwork for the Jubilee that were displayed at Platform 2 Huddersfield Station.



Image: Jubilee decorations Huddersfield Station by Kirklees College students.

INSTALLATIONS

Planters were made and delivered by Jon Simpson, South Elmsall, for Penistone Station prior to the first lockdown.



Image: One of two planters newly installed at Penistone Station.

After Covid restrictions and a wall collapse we FINALLY have them installed by ISS. Thanks to David Wilkinson and Brian Barnsley for transporting them to-and-fro. Thanks, David, for painting them and liaising with Lavender International and Springvale Community Garden, who have very kindly stored the planters, and Springvale planted them up. They are a great addition to Platform 2 Penistone Station, and really highlight the War Memorial area.

Repointing a wall at Sheffield Station is now complete. Last summer local artist Rosie Pearsall, worked with Rowena and Element Society, promoting rail safety to NCS students and then to Gen Z that runs within Element Society for young people. Rosie helped the groups to develop their creative talents by working on canvas to display in Element Society HQ. The artwork was digitised for Platform 1 Sheffield Station. Have a look for it on your next trip to Sheffield.



Image: L to R, Rachel Sprigg (former Sheffield Station Manager, who now works for South Yorkshire Combined Authority) Rosie Pearsall, Artist and Rowena Chantler.

THANKS

FOR THE GOOD TIME PHIL!

Back in April we celebrated the life of Philip Jenkinson (formerly a director on the Penistone Line Partnership Committee), at Huddersfield Crematorium followed by a few beers after at The Rat & Ratchet. Phil was a key figure in the Penistone Line Partnership, from playing with 'The Good Egg Folk Band' on our music trains, to producing the Penistone Line Express newsletter. Phil held a wealth of knowledge on steam trains particularly, but his heart was really in the trolleybuses of Huddersfield. Phil wrote countless articles over the years but also wrote 2 books, one on Trolleybuses, and just managed to complete his most recent book on trainspotting In the Last Few Years of Steam. Phil was involved in Community Rail from its onset and went on to be Company Secretary of the Association of Community Rail Partnerships (now known as Community Rail Network). Phil's send-off was totally unique to him, we enjoyed music of his choice, including The End by The Beatles link here to listen on YouTube. Thanks Phil, for the music, the words, and your vast array of knowledge!

RETURN OF THE MUSIC TRAIN!

The Penistone Line has come to be known for its music trains, so it was great to get back to normal after a couple of 'covid years' without any events. We restarted our music trains on 9 May when we were entertained by Nettle Wine, an acoustic group of folk musicians and singers. Rowena was delighted when the group played Fisherman's Blues by The Waterboys! Unlike previous music trains, there was no bar on the train due to logistics, so music was played on the train and in The Station Inn at Silkstone Common. Mark and Julie who run the pub kindly opened for us (it is usually



Image: Philip Jenkinson Playing on a Penistone Line music train, in purple attire and playing guitar seated in front of trolleybuses.

closed on a Monday evening). A couple of pints were welcomed whilst enjoying more music, before the return trip. 'Thank you' for coming along, to play Nettle Wine, even after you had just received sad news.



Image: Nettle Wine after the music train with Rowena Chantler.

On 6 June we were lucky to have Dead Man's Uke' entertain us on the train and at the Station Inn



Image: Tim & Jake (father & son) duo known as Dead Man's Uke' playing on the train.

Silkstone Common, after they flew in from a gig in Poland the same day! Thanks guys, we appreciate your very long day! Your acoustic set on the train, and plugged in 'as if by magic' set in the pub! Our next music & food event is on Monday 11 July 2022 see page 6 for details. If travelling from Sheffield see our website for information.

Penistone Line
Partnership
along with

The Royal Oak, Rotherham

Tum's Street Food

Thurlstone Band

Monday 11 July 2022

present

train to a taste of thailand

The Royal Oak and Tum's Street Food will be serving complimentary taster pots for guests to sample. Immerse yourself in all things Thai inside, or listen to the band outside. There will be full size delicious Thai dishes available to purchase. Penistone Line Partnership look forward to bringing people together for a taste of Thai culture and a fun and friendly evening.

Our train leaves Huddersfield, Platform 2 at 17.51, but you can join us from any station along the Penistone Line.

The train arrives at Meadowhall Interchange at 19.07, then meet at 19.15 at the end of platform 2, by the bicycle shelter in the car park, for the beginning of the Trans Pennine Trail (which is wheelchair accessible.) Follow the band playing along the tree-lined trail, (less than a mile, dance if you like!) to the Royal Oak.

Return along the trail around 22.00 to Meadowhall for the return train at 22.38 to Huddersfield.

