



Penistone Line Partnership Annual Report 2020/21

The Penistone Line passes from the large West Yorkshire town of Huddersfield, through scenic villages down to Barnsley, and then across a more industrial area to Sheffield.

Key markets for the line are school pupils and students travelling between Huddersfield and Barnsley, commuters, day visitors from within the area, families, the elderly population and BaME groups.

Key highlights of 2020/21: The past year has been a strange one for Penistone Line Partnership as it has for all of Community Rail. The year began with a variety of projects planned, but all changed with Lockdown#1 which set the scene for the remainder of the year. Yet, despite the difficulties, PLP continued to deliver and complete projects over the year. Although some had to change slightly to fit in with the change of circumstances, we found ourselves in.

The award-winning completed, with the in the year, however distribution (although all a copy and they have charge). Pull up panels currently on display at available to promote we are able to), there have also been a number of submissions from the project that have been made into station art. Following a year in considerable isolation, the panels and publication will likely have relevance to a lot more people.



Dwell Time project of last year was publication available for distribution early Covid restrictions have delayed those with their work included did receive been made available with a postage were designed and made and are Huddersfield Station (these will be the project to the wider rail network when we are able to), there have also been a number of submissions from the project that have been made into station art. Following a year in considerable isolation, the panels and publication will likely have relevance to a lot more people.

Platform extensions work on the line enable us to access additional funding to work with schools along the line. Due to national restrictions, the project had to be carried out virtually. This work also linked in with Rowena's involvement with the Virtual Education Network, in which work packs for schools were created. Penistone Line Partnership launched a competition to design an eco-friendly station for the future. We received a number of entries, and the winners and runners up received vouchers and their images were used as part of the new information boards that can now be seen at Honley Station. Funding also enables us to rework the existing artwork that was at the station, which now looks bright and welcoming.



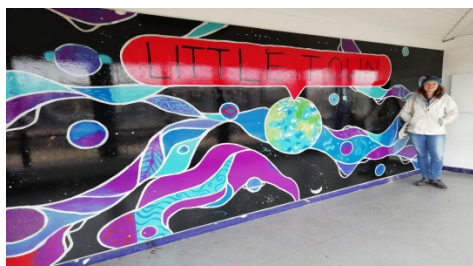
Over the past couple of years, Penistone Line Partnership have been planning ways to work with people with hidden disabilities to promote the use of the train and build their confidence in using the train. Although there were some considerable changes, we have been able to make some headway. Rowena took the opportunity to undertake an Autism Awareness Training, and both Rowena and Sarah undertook some rail industry training on Disability and Equality as well as Mental Health First Aid Training. Unable to work face to face with individuals, we worked with TPE to distribute Sunflower lanyards to those requiring them; we also created craft packs for individuals to make 'twiddle muffs' for us to handout to people living with dementia once we are able to start running group trips again. These will help to ease the anxiety of these individuals.



Last year, PLP worked with Support 2 Recovery(S2R), a local organisation that promote mental wellbeing. A number of individuals accompanied us on train trips for mindful walks, since then these walks have been made into panels that are displayed at Brockholes, Berry Brow, Mirfield and Dewsbury Stations. A group of individuals over the summer worked with S2R to repair planters at Denby Dale and create new planters at Shepley Station. The planters at Denby Dale were planted up by Denby Dale and District Rotary, and the Shepley's were planted by Friends of Shepley.

Unlike many years, PLP were only able to take one group out on the train before the pandemic took hold. A small group of parents and children from a Crosland Moor and Newsome based community group, 'Time for You' to Barnsley. Everyone enjoyed the trip to the Experience Barnsley Museum, the Cooper Gallery, and a wander around the shops. This trip enabled families that are isolated to enjoy company and a trip out that would often be beyond their means. We look forward to being able to help groups like this again in the near future.

At Penistone Station, 2 murals were installed (albeit several months apart due to Lockdowns!). The murals were designed by Rosie Pearsall who worked with local young people to try and deter them from antisocial behaviour. The colourful murals along with new CCTV have seen a reduced occurrence of antisocial behaviour. New planters have also been made for Penistone Station and are currently in storage ready to be installed when we are able.



Despite the many restrictions put upon Station volunteers, we have managed to gain a new Station Friends Common, they have planting between plans ahead!



This last year, and the us, especially at move to a more digital communication. This several

consistently shared news. The website has also been reviewed and changes are being made, due to be completed later in 2021.

restrictions put upon so many of stations, have forced the PLP to focussed method of past year we have produced e-newsletters and have the Rail Industry's messages and

When schools returned in September, Sarah helped Northern count and supervise Honley High pupils at Huddersfield. Lockwood, Berry Brow and Honley.

This past year also enabled Penistone Line Partnership to restructure changing from a membership-based model to a Foundation based model of governance. This also saw some changes in the Committee, with a couple of longstanding members standing down.

Priorities / Plans for the future

The next 12 months is going to be very much focussed on getting people back on the train. Not only will we be trying to boost the confidence of those with general anxieties about using the train, but we will be trying to boost the confidence post-covid of those who have for the past 12 months been deterred from using the train. Fortunately for the PLP, having been around 28 years, we have a wealth of experience in giving people reasons to use the train. So, it is very much 'back to basics' and once able to we will be promoting our guided walks programme, and we also have an increased number of self-guided walks that we are able to also promote. The Penistone Line is privileged to have beautiful scenery surrounding our line and promoting the great outdoors will be one of our key messages. We will also be updating our website, so it is attractive, modern, up to date and appealing and producing some new marketing materials.

Over the past 12 months trespass and anti-social behaviour has become increasingly common on the railway, and we are keen to tackle some of this, particularly around the urban areas of the Penistone Line. Whilst these situations are incredibly dangerous for the people involved, there is also a knock-on effect on services. To be able to build individuals' confidence on using the railways again, the service must be reliable, and by tackling trespass, we will be helping to address that. We will also be continuing to share the rail safety message with schools and community groups. We will also be promoting the Backtrack Competition which Rowena has been busy working behind the scenes with.

The Woven Festival 2021 is due to be held in June, and one of the headlines on the event is a giant yarnbombing at Huddersfield Station. We will be encouraging community groups to join in at their local stations (subject to national covid guidelines) and encouraging people to use the train to attend some of the events that will be held in June as part of the festival.

Sustainability is a key issue in these current times, and we will be encouraging people to use the train over the car where possible.

Whilst building on passenger numbers, we are eager to continue our work in engaging with people with hidden disabilities. There are also wider issues, such as access to some stations, and walking routes to stations which we are keen to address (this also links into the sustainability agenda).

We would like the Penistone Line stations to continue to improve aesthetically and hope to be able to do that through our work with local communities and the promotion of station adoption.