



# NEWSLETTER



Welcome to our late Summer/Autumn newsletter, as I write this we are experiencing a lovely balmy day, you wouldn't guess we are heading towards Autumn! The end to restrictions in the Covid pandemic has seen the railways welcoming passengers back on-board. With constant changes regarding 'safe countries' to travel to, many people have been enjoying escapes in this country, and days out. We hope to see you soon taking a trip on the Penistone Line - Rowena Chantler, Community Rail Officer.

## NOTICEBOARDS

As we stagger out of pandemic restrictions the Penistone Line Partnership will be cleaning and updating the noticeboards along the line and in village centres.

We are now pleased to accept notices from community groups along the line. Please send your notice to the partnership c/o Brian Barnsley 1, Hallgate, Penistone, South Yorkshire S36 6BP and we will get them distributed into the noticeboards.(By Brian Barnsley)

## FASTEST WAY TO LONDON

For many years the connections off the Penistone Line onto the Midland Mainline have not been great both South and North bound. However, with the new timetable, East Midlands Railway now has a departure to London with only stops at Chesterfield, Derby and Leicester, at 37 minutes past the hour from Sheffield most of the day, a nice simple eight-minute connection off the Penistone Line. The service to

London has been speeded up considerably, so in 2 hours and 2 minutes you will be arriving in London St Pancras! In fact, the day we travelled we had to wait outside St P' as we were early! North bound you leave St Pancras at two minutes past the hour, this service makes the same stops which gives a relaxed 35-minute connection into the Penistone Line back at Sheffield. The Covid safety was good, frankly I have never seen such clean trains on the rail network, the conductors are doing a great job advising and re-assuring passengers and sometimes a catering trolley makes a reappearance as well. Fares are good, check them at East Midlands Railway. Remember, to get the best fare you might have to book in advance and be flexible in timings. So, if you fancy a post Covid trip to the capital, from the Penistone Line this is an easy and quick way to do it.(By Brian Barnsley)



Image: East Midlands Rail boosts London links with new timetable.

## MOSAIC TO GO UP IN BARNSELY INTERCHANGE

It is now a couple of years since Brownies and Guides in Penistone created beautiful mosaics. Initially they were planned to be installed at Penistone, but due to installation issues, then Covid delays, they will

finally be installed at Barnsley Interchange. The mosaic will promote Penistone as a destination. Since the Covid pandemic we are promoting local journeys, and what better place to visit than Penistone?

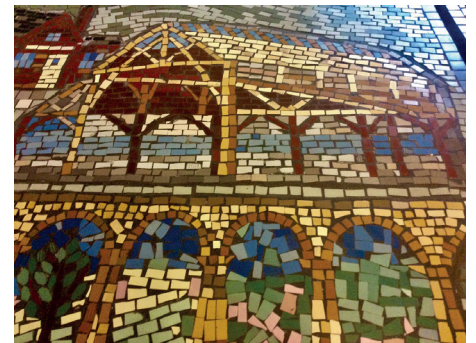


Image: Community mosaic for installation at Barnsley Interchange.

## COMMUNITY RAIL AWARDS

We were thrilled to find out that one of our projects has been shortlisted for the awards. Two painted murals were started a couple of years ago, but due to Covid, they were installed at the end of last year! The murals were created by local young people, to improve the station environment. Since the artwork has been sited inside both waiting shelters at Penistone station, we have seen a reduction of vandalism. We were also pleased to find out that Silkstone Common Station



Image: Children from Penistone painting murals led by Rosie Pearsall.

Station Adoption Group (CARE) have been shortlisted for their pallet planters. The group are very new to station adoption, and have made huge improvements at the station. Do look out for the planters when you next go through on the train, up-cycled pallets are a great idea for stations where space is tight! The Community Rail Awards are being held in Southampton in December 2021, we are hoping to attend in person! Do have a look on the Community Rail Network website for information on the awards.



Image: Blooming pallet planters shortlisted for CRN award by CARE Group at Silkstone Common station

### RAIL SAFETY

On the week commencing 23rd August, a Rail Safety Week was held at Sheffield Station, which involved rail industry partners and support services, including British Transport Police, Network Rail, Northern, East Midlands Railway, Cross Country, Samaritans and National Citizen Service. . Hugh Everson and David Wilkinson went along to promote the Penistone Line. One of our recent projects Dwell Time were present too supporting the event. They used their time to work with others raising awareness regarding mental health and wellbeing.



Image: Rail Safety Week, Sheffield Station - Groups come together to share the rail safety message, promote Backtrack anti-trespass campaign and work with young people on rail safety projects.

Over the summer, Rowena Chantler has been working with Elements Society, a non-profit organisation based in Sheffield that support young people to achieve the unbelievable. They do this by delivering programmes and workshops designed to empower young people to make a positive change in their communities, raise their aspirations and become role models to their peers. They help young people feel a valuable part of the community, encouraging young people to try something new to give young people better prospects for the future. Rowena delivered the Rail Safety message to the young people involved in the National Citizenship Service (NCS) programme, and Rosie Pearsall worked with a smaller group called Gen Z. A campaigning project run in partnership with Chilypep and Element Society. A group of 12 year olds spent two days working on an art piece from concept to creation, promoting rail safety, keep an eye out on Platform 1 at Sheffield for the young people's artwork.

### BACKTRACK IS BACK!

Penistone Line Partnership has been one of the partners involved in the Backtrack campaign and competition. Backtrack aims to

reduce the amount of trespass on the UK's railways. Launched in 2020 and now back for its second year, we have been asking anyone aged seven or over to create a simple but powerful message, created at home or at school. This summer Rowena has been promoting the competition with all the young people she has come into contact with at National Citizen Service (NCS), and Gen Z. Rowena visited Doncaster Station and York Railway Museum to promote the competition with Karen Bennett. Community rail groups and education network members have come together to deliver this.



Image: Backtrack promotion at Doncaster station. Karen Bennett left, Rowena Chantler, right.



Win a GoPro Bundle at [backtrackcompetition.co.uk](http://backtrackcompetition.co.uk) this year there are 7-11,12-17 and 18+ categories to submit anti-trespass messages through songs/raps, films, storyboards/ scripts. Enter by 11.59pm on 30 September 2021 entry details [HERE!](#)



Image: Backtrack promotion at York Railway Museum.

### COMMUNITY RAIL WEEK 2021

For this First Community Rail Week, organised by Community Rail Network, we will be at Sheffield Station (exact date to be confirmed) promoting the Penistone Line. Keep a look on our Facebook Page for the date and come along and say hello! With the run up to COP 26, we will be focussing on promoting sustainable travel. One of the 4 pillars of the Community Rail Development Strategy is 'Promoting sustainable, healthy and accessible travel' see Community Rail Network Rail Development Strategy online.



### WOVEN IN KIRKLEES

After 9 months of planning, via online meetings and thousands of crafty participants, The Big Knit installation was an amazing sight at Huddersfield Railway Station. Stuart Hillard star of BBC2's The Great British Sewing Bee opened the festival on the steps of

Huddersfield Railway Station, St George's Square for the start of a month-long celebration of textiles across Kirklees. Rowena Chantler and Sarah Wells joined a steering group behind Woven in Kirklees back in 2020 during lockdown, along with Woven curators to help plan and develop ideas for the festival within the Penistone Line communities. Huddersfield, and Batley railway stations, were decorated with rainbow rays, together with community-led yarn bombing across Kirklees.

Villages along the Penistone Line were yarn-bombed with textile heritage themes and local tales, and knitted arrows on station platforms pointed the way to The Big Knit. We want to thank everyone involved in crafting for the festival, there was a fantastic response and great community spirit as we emerged from lockdown. Rowena, Sarah, and David Wilkinson (from PLP) held a stall on 26 - 27 June for The Big Knit Weekend. A welcome opportunity to meet up with the public and promote the Penistone Line.



Image: Over 15,000 squares were knit and crocheted by people all over the world to yarn bomb Huddersfield Railway Station, for The Big Knit, part of the bi-annual Woven in Kirklees Festival.



Image: Promotion stall St George's Square, Huddersfield at Big Knit Weekend.



Image: Read all about the escaped lion! at Shepley Station for Woven in Kirklees.



## TRY THE TRAIN

We love to create opportunity and show how to get the best out of train travel. Penistone Line Partnership have sessions planned for Autumn 2021 with Kirklees College. The day out on the Penistone Line will help with rail confidence for students with additional needs and learning difficulties. The young people currently attend courses in Adult Life Skills. We will also arrange a try the train session for learners studying English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL). If your group could benefit from a Try the Train session please contact us at [info@penline.co.uk](mailto:info@penline.co.uk)



Image: Train taster sessions for young adults.

## SAFETY RANGERS

Penistone Line Partnership is planning to work with the Safety Rangers project led by Yorkshire Children's Centre and part of the Thriving Kirklees Partnership. Safety Rangers is a multi-agency, interactive, accident prevention scheme aimed at Year 5 pupils that live in Kirklees. The aim of Safety Rangers is to help reduce and prevent accidents to children through a variety of fun teaching methods and scenarios. Currently, pupils learn about road safety, personal safety, mental wellbeing, and fire safety. We are excited to be able to add rail safety to their programme.



Image: British Transport Police

## A PARK & RIDE AT PENISTONE?

On 25 August ruling cabinet members met and agreed to back a plan to acquire a site at Lairds Way, Penistone, to then sell on to the South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPT). This could pave the way to create a park and ride facility at Penistone railway station. This would provide a parking solution and push plans to improve and utilize services, enabling more commuters to use the line and boost the local economy.



Image: Penistone railway station with Huddersfield bound train.

## OUR SURVEY SAID?

In June we conducted a survey outside Huddersfield station and online. We asked 73 people how they felt about rail travel after the pandemic. 57% of people surveyed had used the train with the majority travelling with Northern and TransPennine Express. The reasons for travel were 3% travelled for interviews and

appointments, 14% commuting only, 34% both commuting and leisure, and 49% for leisure travel. Great! As Northern are saying 'Go do your Thing' with their campaign and really handy DAY TRIPPER tool. Type in your chosen station and the tool will give you inspiration for a day out in under 60 minutes of travel on the train! We typed in Berry Brow and got Penistone for walking with beautiful countryside, Honley suggested Meadowhall with its 270 retail outlets, 11 screen cinema and 37 restaurants. People travelling from Stockmoor can explore Leeds in 58 minutes with stunning architecture and world-class culture and art. We love Elsecar Heritage Centre and their craft & gift fairs start again on Sunday 31 October. So take a train trip, enjoy the Autumn views and have a great day out!

## GUIDED WALKS FROM THE TRAIN

Our fantastic walks leaders are now able to bring you a new programme of walks from the Penistone Line and beyond! Scan **the QR code** for our events page on our website, or visit us at [penline.co.uk](http://penline.co.uk) We will publish a seasonal newsletter soon with details of our 2021 Christmas events. Stay Safe!

