

High Peak and Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership

Annual Report 2012



Highlights for 2012

- Glossop Station Redevelopment wins First Place at the Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP) Community Rail Awards.
- Glossop Station is Highly Commended at the Rail Heritage Awards.
- Buxton Station Redevelopment completed.
- Announcement of Dore redoubling and Hope Valley improvements.
- Whaley Bridge station which is now fully accessible.
- Friends groups growing and delivering great results.
- Improvements to Buxton line services.

Objectives and Action Plan

Awards

Glossop Station Redevelopment wins First Place at ACoRP Community Rail Award

The redevelopment of Glossop Station, with its refurbished ticket office, waiting room and toilets, and the way it has opened up the core area of the station, has won first prize in the Station Development category at the ACoRP Community Rail Awards. This is an imaginative and empathetic scheme that has provided much improved passenger facilities by bringing back into use derelict parts of the station that last saw use 50 years ago.



Not to be outdone, Network Rail made a huge contribution by renewing the canopy, roof lights and platform surface. The station is now a gateway the community can be proud of.

The prize was awarded to the High Peak and Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership, Northern Rail, Network Rail, the Friends of Glossop Station and the Railway Heritage Trust. ACoRP is the Association of Community Rail Partnerships.

Neil Williams of the Friends of Glossop Station won third place in the Outstanding Volunteer Contribution category.

Altogether Derbyshire Partnerships and station groups won nine awards.

Rail Heritage Awards

Glossop Station was shortlisted for the Rail Heritage Awards. Although it failed to win, it was awarded "Highly Commended" status.

Participation

During the year the Partnership welcomed High Peak Borough Council as a core Funding Partner. Two new Station Friends Groups, at Dinting and Hadfield, were formed with Partnership support, and joined the Partnership. The Partnership meetings are well attended there were 33 people at the November meeting.

Friends Groups

The “Friends of stations” groups at Glossop, Chinley, Chapel and Whaley Bridge remain particularly active, with the Glossop, Chinley and Whaley Bridge groups being closely involved in the design and progress of the recent capital schemes.

It is hoped to start a Friends group at Disley station in the near future.

We would like to extend an enormous thank you to all the volunteers who help to keep the Partnership and the friends groups running.

Volunteering

Volunteers worked 3,917 hours for the Partnership and the friends groups during the period. This is an underestimate, as not all the volunteer hours were recorded.

Strategic Issues

The Partnership has been lobbying for the track at Dore on the Hope Valley line to be doubled. This point on the Hope Valley line was singled some years ago as an economy measure. With rising levels of passengers and freight on the Hope Valley line, this single track stretch prevents the running of an hourly stopping service on the Hope Valley line on weekdays.

In October 2011, the Partnership Officer and several members of Friends Groups attend the House of Commons to lobby for improvements to lines and services, and particularly the redoubling at Dore.

The Chancellor announced, in his budget on 21st March, that the line at Dore would be redoubled, along with loops and line speed improvements in the Hope Valley. The Partnership feels that its lobbying helped to achieve this result.

The Government High Level Output Specification statement (HLOS) in July announced funding for additional Northern Hub projects, including extra platforms at Manchester Piccadilly station.

Stations

Buxton

During the year, the works at Buxton station were completed. The works were funded by Northern Rail, The National Stations Improvement Programme and Derbyshire County Council. The Partnership played a key role in specifying the works, and the Partnership Officer was one of those who signed off the completed works. These works followed a major refurbishment of the station by Network Rail. The combined cost of the works was almost £1 Million.

There was a launch event for the refurbished station on 20th July, when the plaque was unveiled by Andrew Bingham MP, with Neil Buxton, General Manager of ACoRP.

Hope

The footbridge at Hope station was in very poor condition. The paint was coming off and the metalwork was rusting. The wooden footway felt unsafe to walk on. Following a complaint to Network Rail from the Partnership about the state of the footbridge, work started in late 2012, with a temporary footbridge being installed and the existing bridge being removed for refurbishment.

We are waiting for the refurbished bridge to be installed. While we would have preferred a bridge with ramps to provide access for all, we welcome the refurbishment of this bridge.

Whaley Bridge



The track at Whaley Bridge had been relayed some time ago and was higher than the previous track, so that passengers had a large step up to the train. The platforms and the original station buildings were in poor condition.

Network Rail expertly refurbished the station buildings during 2011, and during 2012, Network Rail raised the platform and refurbished the footbridge. The Partnership made a small contribution to the cost of the works. The Partnership installed an Easy Access Area (Harrington Hump) on the Manchester bound platform during 2011. As a result, the station is now fully accessible.

Glossop

Following the major works at Glossop station during 2011, small improvements continue, such as the improved tannoy system which was installed in 2012 with funding from the Partnership.

Station Information

Following pressure from the Partnership, there has been a marked improvement in the reliability of station help points and Public Address announcements at stations.

Train Services

The Partnership has been working closely with Northern and Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM) to achieve improvements to train services on the Buxton line.

From December 2012, trains from Buxton to Manchester will cease to call at Heaton Chapel and Levenshulme stations. This will speed up the services and give a more pleasant passenger experience, as well as avoiding overcrowding.

One train in each direction will cease to call at Furness Vale, and the stops at Dove Holes and Middlewood have been managed so as to achieve more consistent journey times and standardised departure times. These changes will encourage more travel by rail to and from Buxton.

Surveys

Following the line surveys carried out by the Partnership during 2011, residents surveys have been carried out in the Hope Valley area, Chinley and Middlewood, with the support of the Partnership. Altogether these surveys give a useful picture of travel patterns and attitudes to rail use in the area, and have helped to identify issues and possible actions to encourage more passengers to use rail services.

Small Projects Fund

The Partnership's Small Projects Fund continues to be available to organisations and authorities within the Partnership's area for almost any activity or project that would enhance the use of the railway. Signing, cycle facilities, planters and information boards feature prominently.

The Partnership is considering funding a further study, also partly financed by the Small Projects Fund, which will examine rolling stock and staffing requirements, and the possible removal of line speed restrictions, especially near Barmoor and Eaves tunnels.



Promoting Rail



Folk Trains and Guided Walks Programme

The Partnership's programme of folk trains and guided walks has continued. Three trains per month are now being operated. Despite the recession, average attendance is still up on 2008 when records began.

The guided walks are run, on the Partnership's behalf, by TransPeak Walks. All these walks start from railway stations and are pre-booked. Patronage varies, but each walk regularly has more than 12 participants.

There is at least one walk per month, with more in the Summer period. All three lines in the Partnership's area feature in the guided walks programme.

The Partnership continues to produce a quarterly leaflet advertising the folk trains and guided walks programme and this is distributed widely throughout the Partnership's area by Northern Rail and individuals, and within Greater Manchester by TfGM and South Yorkshire by South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive (SYPTe). 7,000 leaflets are distributed and we maintain a large electronic mailing list.



Hadfield and Padfield Heritage Trail

The Partnership contributed £975 to a sign at Hadfield station, as part of the Hadfield and Padfield Heritage Trail. This is intended to encourage those who wish to follow the trail to travel by rail. The trail has been developed to a very high standard, and the Partnership is proud to be involved.

Santa Specials

On 8th December, the Christmas lights were turned on at Glossop Station by Ian Bevan, the Managing Director of Northern Rail. The local Station Friends groups organised this and their Santa Special on the same day. The Friends groups on the Buxton line also held successful Santa Specials on that date. The Santa Specials on both lines in previous years have been most successful.

Teddy Bear's Picnic

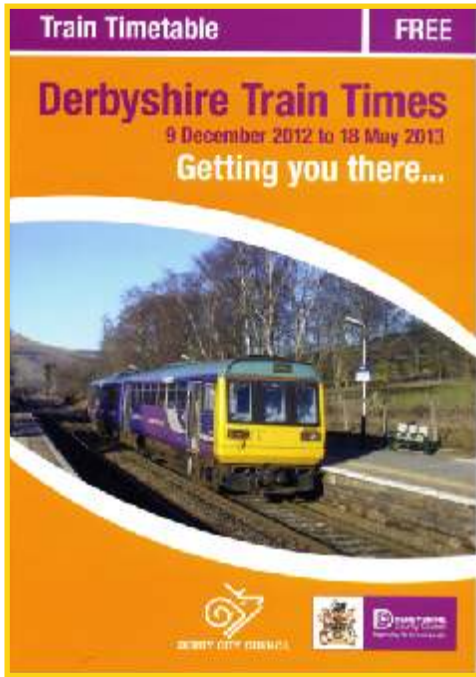
In May, the Friends of Glossop Station organised a Teddy Bear's picnic. Any family group with a teddy got a free ride between Glossop and Broadbottom. This is an excellent way of introducing children to rail travel.

Derbyshire Wayfarer Tickets

The Partnership arranged for two new outlets for the sale of Derbyshire Wayfarer tickets in Chinley and Glossop.

Press Coverage

We have managed to find 18 press articles relating to the Partnership. This is an underestimate, not least because the reports of the Rail Heritage Awards are not included, as they were not available at the time of this report going to press.



Derbyshire Rail Timetable

During the year, the Partnership, in conjunction with the Derwent Valley Rail Partnership, has taken over production of the Derbyshire Train Times booklet. This has saved a useful publication which would otherwise have closed.



Traffic Figures

Station	2004/5	2005/6	Actual growth	2006/7	Actual growth	2007/8	Actual growth	2008/9	Actual growth	2009/10	Actual growth	2010/11	Actual growth	5 year growth
Dore and Totley	55176	60217	9.14%	61600	2.30%	70024	13.68%	82802	18.25%	85626	3.41	92828	8.41%	54.16%
Grindleford	30900	32789	6.11%	37191	13.43%	43180	16.10%	47730	10.54%	53768	12.65	53162	-1.13%	62.13%
Hathersage	35850	38902	8.51%	39814	2.34%	43536	9.35%	45960	5.57%	48778	6.13	51202	4.97%	31.62%
Bamford	16618	18621	12.05%	19547	4.97%	22836	16.83%	23836	4.38%	24442	2.54	25656	4.97%	37.78%
Hope	33823	37861	11.94%	38814	2.52%	36692	-5.47%	44416	21.05%	48210	8.54	45990	-4.60%	21.47%
Edale	44109	46396	5.18%	50228	8.26%	58531	16.53%	58430	-0.17%	63754	9.11	68042	6.73%	46.65%
Chinley	66169	67213	1.58%	75127	11.77%	75885	1.01%	86002	13.33%	91434	6.32	100458	9.87%	49.46%
New Mills Central	81551	77614	-4.83%	81078	4.46%	83717	3.25%	133004	58.87%	140558	5.68	146018	3.88%	88.13%
Strines	4798	5606	16.84%	6284	12.09%	7247	15.32%	8292	14.42%	9476	14.28	10604	11.90%	89.15%
Buxton	225000	261000	16.00%	264000	1.15%	283681	7.45%	301320	6.22%	301432	0.04	308856	2.46%	18.34%
Dove Holes	5110	5794	13.39%	6232	7.56%	5517	-11.47%	5866	6.33%	5246	-10.57	5446	3.81%	-6.01%
Chapel en le Frith	35154	39023	11.01%	40691	4.27%	49172	20.84%	48148	-2.08%	45532	-5.43	44630	-1.98%	14.37%
Whaley Bridge	78496	88733	13.04%	84971	-4.24%	92706	9.10%	89476	-3.48%	87214	-2.53	92650	6.23%	4.41%
Furness Vale	11969	13946	16.52%	12978	-6.94%	14982	15.44%	16372	9.28%	16946	3.51	18384	8.49%	31.82%
New Mills Newtown	104039	118102	13.52%	113928	-3.53%	123365	8.28%	190402	54.34%	180210	-5.35	190478	5.70%	61.28%
Disley	45507	55509	21.98%	61605	10.98%	68437	11.09%	115552	68.84%	113256	-1.99	123608	9.14%	122.68%
Middlewood	9414	10462	11.13%	13898	32.84%	17134	23.28%	21770	27.06%	19028	-12.6	19304	1.45%	84.52%
Glossop	430000	466000	8.37%	465000	-0.21%	487957	4.94%	693046	42.03%	701694	1.25	740182	5.49%	58.84%
Dinting	57846	63993	10.63%	72267	12.93%	70030	-3.10%	102864	46.89%	102098	-0.74	111172	8.89%	73.73%
Hadfield	208000	212000	1.92%	213000	0.47%	218852	2.75%	306480	40.04%	315338	2.89	330116	4.69%	55.72%
Broadbottom	97743	107315	9.79%	96795	-9.80%	98055	1.30%	121858	24.28%	119014	-2.33	126480	6.27%	17.86%
Totals	1677272	1827096	8.93%	1855048	1.53%	1971536	6.28%	2543626	29.02%	2573054	1.16	2705266	5.14%	48.06%
Hope Valley Line	368994	385219	4.40%	409683	6.35%	441648	7.80%	530472	20.11%	566046	6.71	593960	4.93%	54.19%
Buxton Line	514689	592569	15.13%	598303	0.97%	654994	9.48%	788906	20.44%	768864	-2.54	803356	4.49%	35.57%
Glossop Line	793589	849308	7.02%	847062	-0.26%	874894	3.29%	1224248	39.93%	1238144	1.14	1307950	5.64%	54.00%

Passenger Growth over 2005/6

