

Jools
Townsend
Chief executive

Rail Scotland
conference
March 2023



Community rail is...

- A growing grassroots movement
- 76 community rail partnerships + 1,200 station groups, with 10k volunteers across UK
- Helping communities get the most from their railways
- Helping rail to be community-focused
- Creating local connections, ownership and positivity



6VT, a youth-led community rail partnership in Edinburgh



Highland Mainline CRP

Community rail in Scotland



- + 260 stations adopted by >1,200 volunteers
- + Support from six train operators
- + Support from us on promoting rail & green travel, funded by Paths for All

Vision for Scotland's transport:

We will have a sustainable, inclusive, safe and accessible transport system, helping deliver a healthier, fairer and more prosperous Scotland for communities, businesses and visitors.

Community Rail Network's vision:

A flourishing community rail movement connecting people and their railways, making the maximum contribution to inclusive, empowered, sustainable and healthy communities.



1. Reducing inequality

- Breaking down perceived and physical travel/access barriers
- Providing rail confidence, skills and familiarity for disadvantaged & disenfranchised groups
- Empowering communities to have a voice and shape transport

Rail 74 activities with a local school group in Community Rail Week



2. Taking climate action



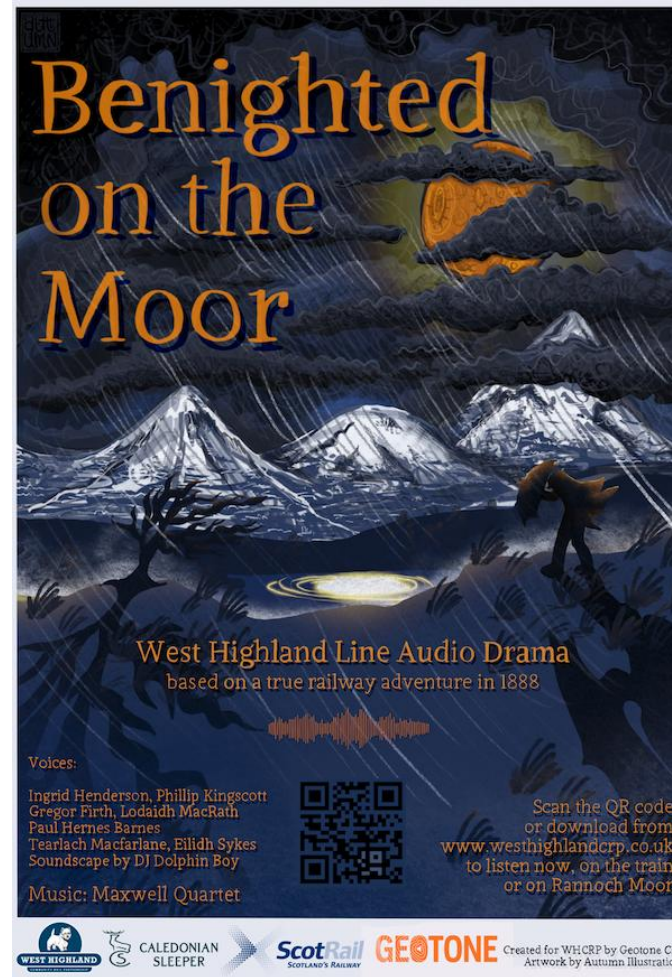
- Empowering communities to make positive change together, from the grassroots (in line with research evidence)
- Building a vision of a greener transport future that works for all
- Building better connectivity with active travel and buses



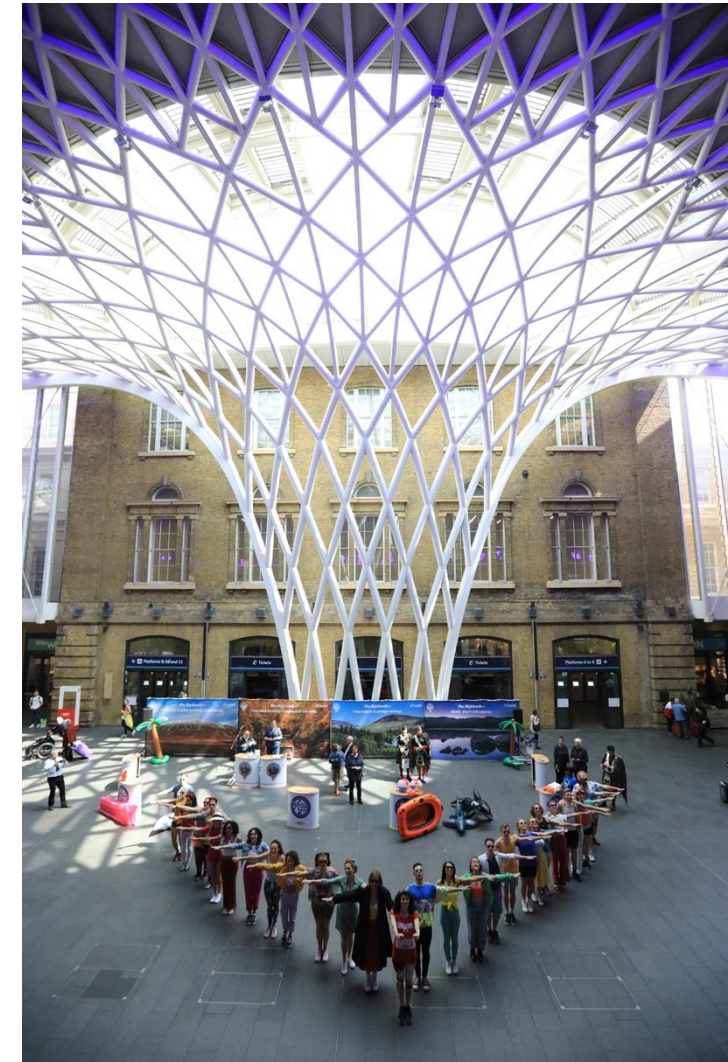
6VT (and me)
boarding the
Hydroflex at
COP26

3. Inclusive economic development

- Supporting rail recovery, especially championing leisure travel
- Working with local businesses, arts & attractions
- Spurring local regeneration and opportunity through station development



West Highland Line's Benighted on the Moor audio drama project



Highland Mainline CRP's highland fling at King's Cross

4. Improving health and wellbeing

- Volunteering and community gardening
- Building local pride, cohesion and confidence
- Enabling active travel and healthy leisure opportunities
- Bringing people together

Fiona Horne, 6VT: *“Just being a part of the CRP improves our young people’s emotional wellbeing. It gives them a focus and something to work on, and improves their personal development.”*



Planters at Rutherglen Station by Grow 73

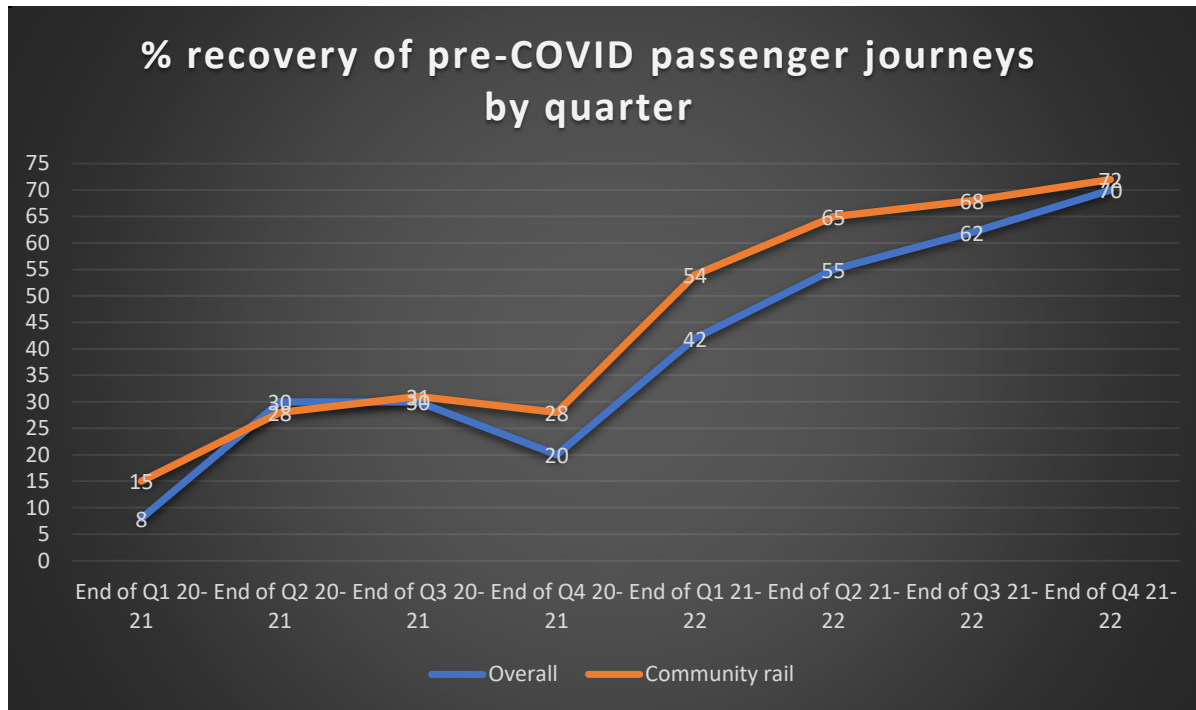


West Highland Line’s ‘Brief Encounters’ community event

Community rail's growing impact



...on the numbers



Provisional Community Rail Network analysis using Lennon data (awaiting verification)

...on people's lives



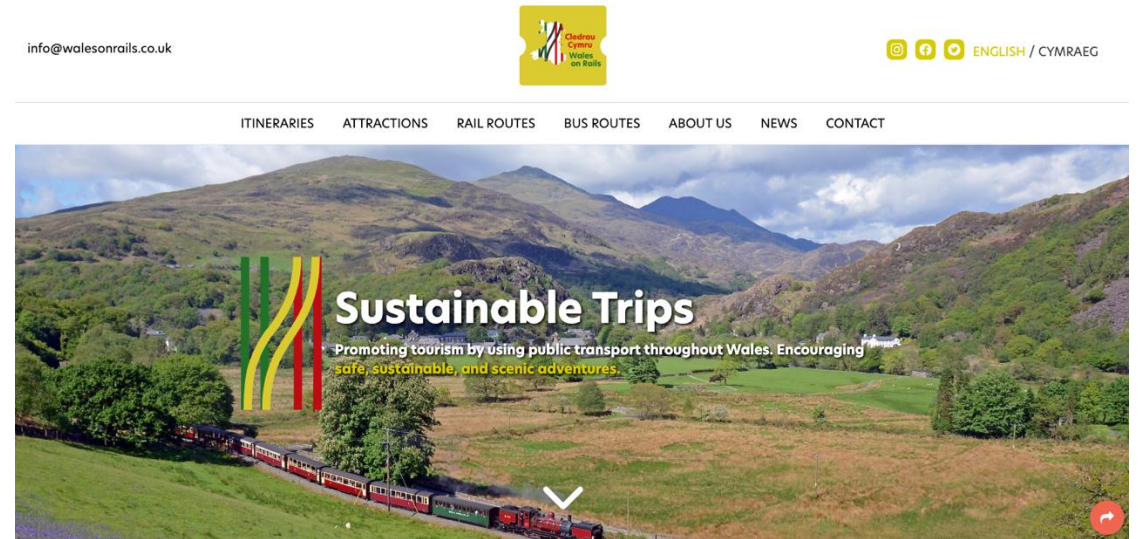
People coming together at Kilmarnock, supported by Kilmarnock Station Trust

(See our [Value of Community Rail Report](#))

Sharing good practice across our movement



Platform Rail community education scheme (Severnside, Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, and Transwits Community Rail Partnerships)



Wales on Rails sustainable tourism promotion (Wales & Borders CRPs working with Great Little Trains of Wales)

Sharing good practice across our movement



Gloucestershire CRP's Getaway project



St Germans & Area Public Transport Group consultation on travel needs



Friends of Goostrey Station carry out biodiversity monitoring and inclusive, wildlife-friendly gardening

Work with us to unlock community rail's greater potential in Scotland:

- Contact CRPs to discuss locally-focused projects
- Community Rail Week 22-28 May
- Volunteering, in-kind support, collaboration & sponsorship
- Community Rail Network corporate partnership
- Chat & pics at our stand



Let's go for **1** in **5**

Help Scotland cut car use by 20%
for a **greener**, healthier future



Thanks for listening

**We're keen to
explore how we can
work together**

Visit our stand!

Visit communityrail.org.uk

Email caroline@communityrail.org.uk

