

Passenger figures

The latest Office of Rail and Road use figures from April 2023 - March 2024 show terrific progress for all Hereward Line Stations.

	22/23	23/24	Passenger increase	%
Ely	1,894,014	2,052,282	158,268	+8.36
Manea	21,038	24,904	3,866	+18.38
March	305,354	340,976	35,622	+11.67
Whittlesea	33,738	43,364	9,626	+28.53
Peterborough	4,519,016	4,720,686	210,670	+4.46

Hereward CRP Management Board Meeting

A special Management board meeting was held in Whittlesey. A regular meeting was followed by discussion about the relationship between the CRP and FDC Transport Team. A visit to the Whittlesey Heritage Walk followed and board members were able to interact with the town's Augmented Reality Straw Bear! Scan the QR code for details on the Whittlesey Heritage Walk.



Events

Meet the Manager

Meet the Manager events were held in Ely, Whittlesea, Manea and March. These sessions provide a valuable opportunity for the public and the community to meet with the CRP and railway industry representatives.



Community Rail Day

In June 2024, we even ventured "out of territory" to Stamford Station for our first community rail day. This was an opportunity to promote the CRP at a station with easy access to the Hereward Line.

It was also a good way to enable users of that station to meet railway company representatives.

Visit Ely / Fixing the Link Day

Following a taster day we held in June 2024 (working in partnership with Visit Ely), we developed a three-year action plan to take the promotion of Ely forward, whether this be for leisure visits, short breaks, or events. The CRP will develop new walking and cycling maps and we are promoting events and activities through our social media pages. Community Rail Network has been writing blogs for the Scenic Rail Britain website. The Visit Ely 2025 Brochure contains a whole section on travel by train and Railway 200 and the train companies have also been using social media to promote visits to Ely by using their trains.



Rail Safety Week

The CRP hosted community group visits at March Station to celebrate Rail Safety Week. During their visits the groups learned all about the importance of staying safe near the railway and the hazards around the station.



At Peterborough Station on a busy Saturday morning, we joined customers to hand out over 300 goodie bags with railway safety information, activity books and colouring pencils.

Station Adopters



All of the adopters have had another busy year - the stations all look fabulous and very well cared for! In Whittlesea, a colourful array of planters can be found on the platforms. Station adopters also litter pick and support events in the community.



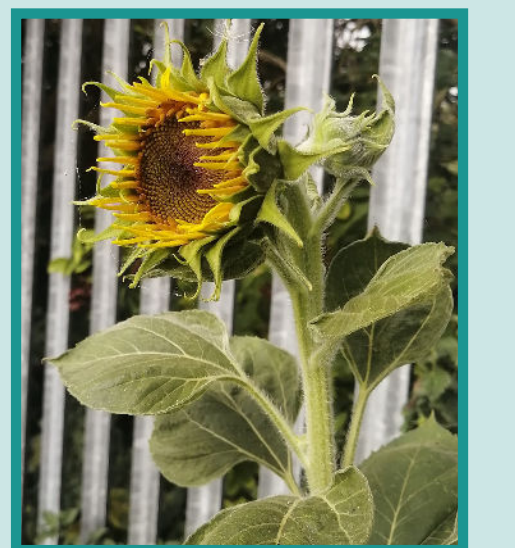
At March station, adopters have installed new hand-built planters at the front of the car park. Efforts continue in the wildflower area with all sorts of creatures visiting.

A very generous donation of new hanging baskets brightened up the platforms over the summer.



In Manea, the wooden tubs continue to look lovely and notice boards are kept well stocked and up to date, providing a useful resource for passengers.

At Ely, the Plant Spotters have continued to maintain their lovely planters. Work on the wild area also included a new totem adding an eye-catching splash of colour. The volunteer day was very successful, and two new adopters joined the team.



The sunflower battle between March and Ely stations was tightly fought until the bitter end! We think March just pipped Ely, peaking at 148cm in the end!

Thank you to all our adopters for an amazing year and for supporting our CRP events.

Try a Train programme



Our Try a Train programme packed a lot into the year!

Doddington Girl Guides participated in a careers morning at March Station. They then took the train to Ely and enjoyed a guided tour and walk by the river.

At Ely Station they completed the "red hare trail" quiz which station staff had designed.

In June, we took two groups of students from FACET to Peterborough. They enjoyed visiting Peterborough Museum, walking around the Cathedral grounds, having lunch out and buying doughnuts before the return journey home!



Manea Guides took a train trip to Peterborough and had a fun-filled day exploring the city. They returned home to pick up CRP goodie bags!

Pupils from The Shade School in Soham visited us at Ely where they enjoyed a railway station safety trail and the popular red hare trail.

Station visits

Students from FACET learned about the history of the station and railway safety. They were delighted to meet officers from the British Transport Police and especially enjoyed getting into the police van and sounding the sirens!



The CRP enjoyed visiting students at the FACET town centre base at Christmas (and collecting the most wonderful Christmas card).

We had a further visit to FACET's main hub with Cllr Nick Meekins, the Chairman of Fenland District Council, who was keen to find out more about their work.



Groups of Beavers, Cubs and Brownies enjoyed evening meetings learning about the heritage of the station and railway safety. The Beavers helped March Station Adopters plant some new planters at the front of the station. Sunflower seeds were also planted for them to grow at home!

In addition, the CRP along with The Friends of March Station volunteers, facilitated four visits from 140 primary school (year 5) pupils. During the visits, the children learned about the heritage of the railway and March Station, and this linked in with their curriculum work about the Industrial Revolution.

Greater Anglia Station Adopters Awards 2024

Ely Station Plant Spotters and adopters at Whittlesea and Manea stations were all recognised with awards.



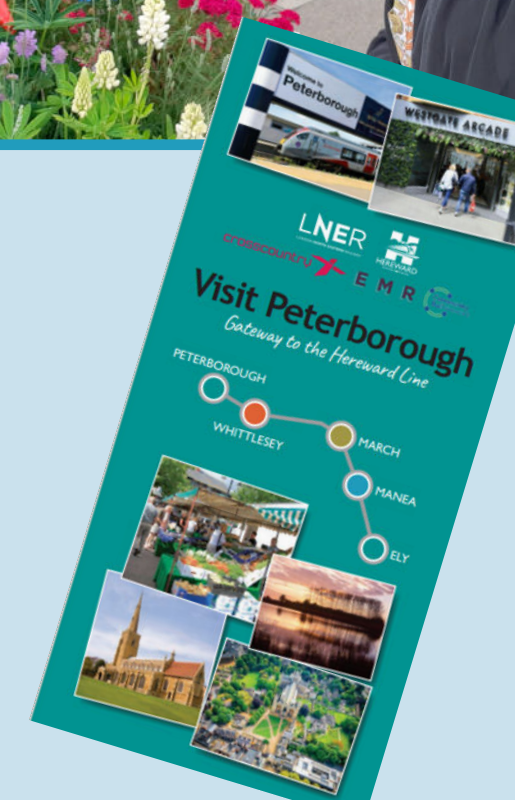
Congratulations to you all!

Peterborough Station / LNER

At Peterborough station two self-watering planters were installed on platforms 6/7 to provide colour and encourage wildlife. New poster boards and posters were added along the footbridge stairwells to show Peterborough throughout the seasons. The CRP published a gateway brochure about the city and the Hereward Line. It can be found in new brochure racks installed around the station.

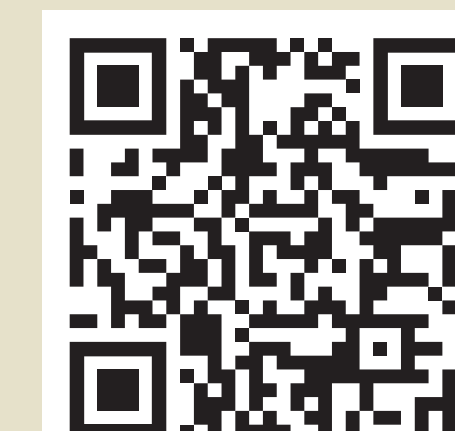


Scan the QR code to view the brochure.



Peterborough walking and cycling maps

Peterborough and the surrounding area has now joined our existing portfolio of walking and cycling maps. With support from Peterborough Positive and The Peterborough Civic Society, we have now created two lovely new maps - one for the city centre and one for the surrounding areas, which takes in The John Clare Countryside, Burghley House, and Stamford.



All our maps can be viewed by scanning the QR code.

Community Rail Week



The theme of Community Rail Week 2024 - 'More than a Railway' - highlighted the vital role railways play in connecting communities. We hosted information stands at Sheffield and Nottingham stations to promote easy access to the Hereward Line and encourage tourism by train.

