



Railway 200
Be part of
the journey



Between the Lines

August 2025

Welcome to the August edition of all things Railway 200. It's been a comparatively quiet month, which has given us some much-needed breathing space to get ready for September (the big anniversary month for Railway 200) and gear up for the final three months of the year, which also includes our Community Rail Conference in October.

Walking and wheeling into Railway 200

Eastleigh Borough Council and **Hampshire County Council** have funded Sustrans, the walking and cycling charity, to deliver the Borough's first 30-day **Walking and Wheeling Festival** helping residents 'Walk, wheel and connect'. Local organisations, artists and volunteers are providing over 30 free led and self-led routes across the Borough over 30 days to explore by foot, wheelchair and mobility aid. They cover a range of themes, lengths, locations, and access needs over 17 locations - so **there is a route to suit everyone!**

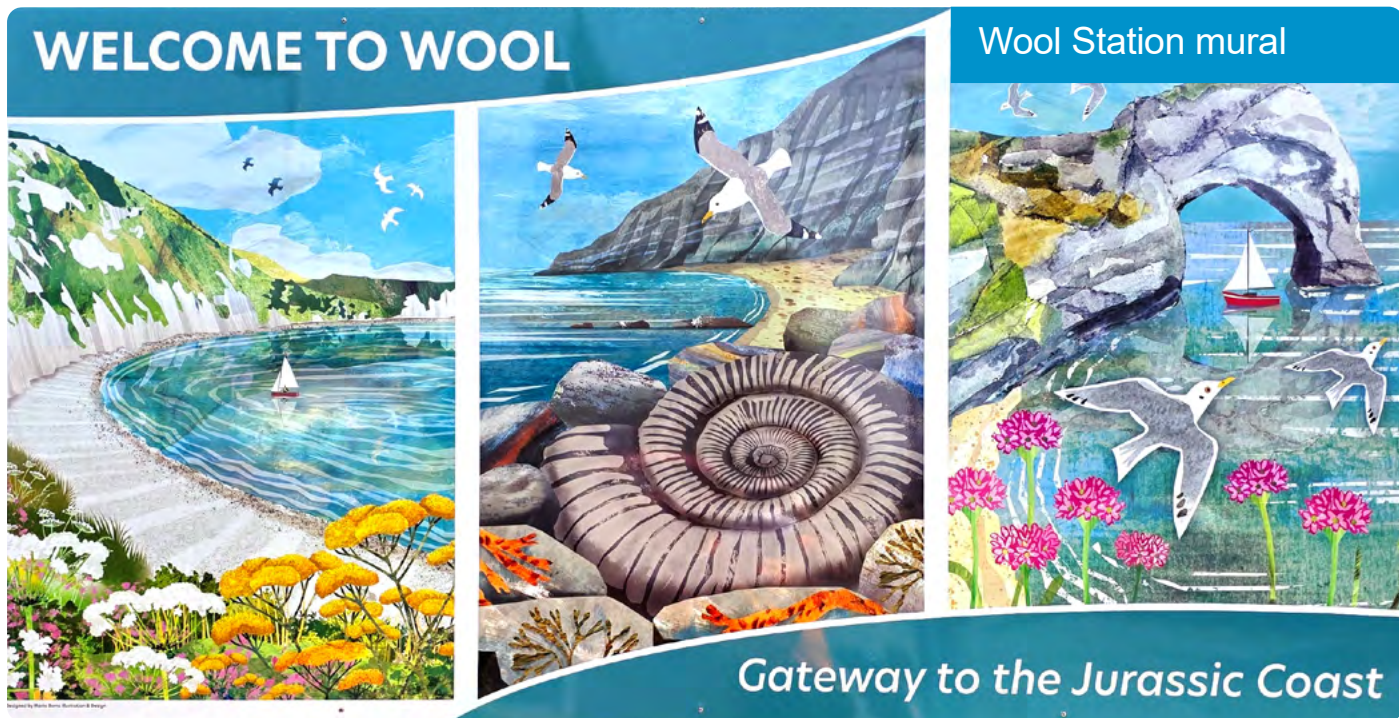
The festival launched on **Thursday 14 August** with a special event for families, '**Careering Through Time: A Solve-A-Long Railway Adventure Trail**'. The time travelling puzzle solving walking theatre adventure, created by The Point, took us on a quest to help fix the **National Fantastical Hamble Railway**. As part of **Railway 200**, this free activity celebrated the 200 years of public railways in Great Britain along the Hamble Rail Trail.

South Western
 **Railway**

Ash Vale celebrations

Ash Vale Station Gardeners hosted a special day to celebrate 200 years of the railway, by walking 2 miles along the Basingstoke Canal and to **Frimley Lodge Park** where everyone enjoyed free rides on the miniature railway.

The weather was perfect, sunny with a light breeze, and there was plenty of fun along the way. They finished the day with a litter pick along the canal, leaving it tidier than they found it. A lovely day out that brought the community together and celebrated our railway heritage.



Purbeck Community Rail Partnership teamed up with local artist and graphic designer **Maria Burns** to create something really special at Wool Station. They wanted to bring a splash of creativity to the station, so Maria designed a big, colourful mural on the west side of the station building. Now, everyone arriving at the main entrance gets a bright and welcoming first impression!

Station art is a great way to get the community involved and make stations feel warmer and more inviting. This mural also shines a spotlight on two of our area's most iconic spots—**Lulworth Cove** and **Durdle Door**—perfect for travellers heading out by train and connecting bus.

The mural ties in perfectly with the brand-new Wool Information Board—also designed by Maria.

Art has this great way of connecting people and leaving something lasting behind. With so many passengers passing through Wool, we know this mural will catch plenty of eyes and it feels like the perfect legacy for the **Railway 200 centenary celebrations**.

A huge thank you to **Community Rail Network** for helping in funding this project.



BBQ for Shawford

Finally, to mark the end of the month Platform 1 café at **Shawford station** held a summer Railway200 barbeque – around **100 people** attended to mark the occasion.