



Between the Lines

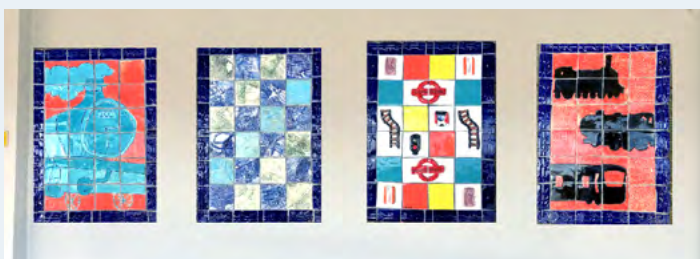
October 2025

October has been another productive month for our Community Rail family. It's been filled with art unveilings, station birthdays, and of course our annual conference with the prestigious SWR community awards.

One of our larger events this month was the unveiling of the Waterloo mural, a legacy project featuring images from South Western Railway, Network Rail, and several of our community partners. The ribbon cutting was performed by Stuart Meek, SWR Chief Operating Officer, Mike Lamport, Railway 200 and artist Patricio Forrester (pictured below).

We kicked off the month at Basingstoke station, where students from Queen Mary's College unveiled their Railway 200-themed permanent tiled artwork installation.

Commissioned by the Arts Society Basingstoke, the students poured countless hours into research, sketching, and perfecting their sgraffito and slip designs, which culminated in six colourful tiled panels.



Celebrations

We also had two smaller but still well-attended celebrations.

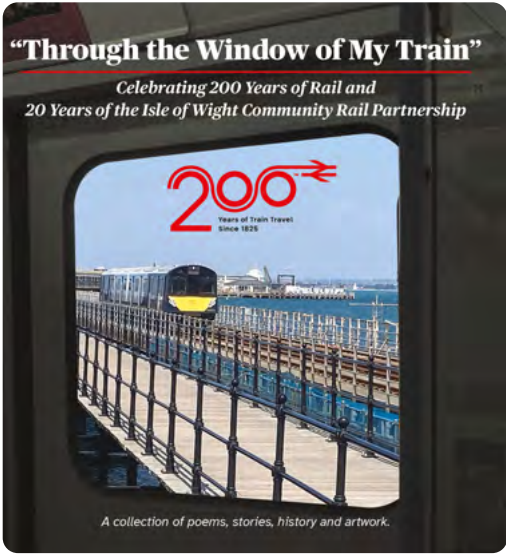
St Margarets station hosted a cheerful birthday gathering, with talk already turning to grand plans for their 150th anniversary next year and Pinhoe Station, complete with homemade cake and shared stories from local residents reminiscing about railway life.



Through the Window of My Train

Over on the Isle of Wight, Brading station was the perfect setting for the launch of Through the Window of My Train — a glossy, full-colour book celebrating both 200 years of railway heritage and 20 years of the Isle of Wight Community Rail Partnership.

The publication showcases poetry, artwork, and photography from local residents, all created through a series of creative workshops that capture the island’s deep connection to its railways.



Bloom Awards

We were also delighted to attend the South and Southeast in Bloom Awards at RHS Wisley, where we proudly presented the certificates for our sponsored Railway 200 category, “Celebration Stations.”

A huge congratulations to all entrants on their successes.



Community Rail Conference

Finally, our annual Community Rail Conference once again proved to be a highlight of the year. It was wonderful to come together, share ideas, and celebrate the people who make community rail so special, and with the below being recognised in the SWR community awards.

Category	Highly Commended	Winner
Best community creative award	Friend of New Milton	Friends of Ashurst Station
Outstanding volunteer contribution award	Friends of New Milton	Ziggy Woodward
Best project involving young people award	Thames Ditton in Bloom	Barnes Mural
Best Community engagement project award	Sheree Whetren, Friends of Hedge End	Friends of New Milton
Best Sustainable community initiative award	Bitterne – Arthouse Pop Up Community Pantry / Cafe	Friends of Raynes Park Station
Best Biodiversity project award	Friends of Fleet Station	Friends of Crewkerne Station
Best Railway200 project	Friends of Micheldever Station	Friends of Horsley Station

