

**Railway 200**  
Be part of  
the journey



# Between the Lines

September 2025

September the month we've all been waiting for has finally arrived, marking the official 200th anniversary of the modern railway. It's been a month full of creativity, community spirit, and legacy projects across the network.



Volunteers in uniform from the Watercress line and SWR

We started with something truly unique. The **Community Brain** helped us celebrate 200 years of travellers' outfits with a vibrant catwalk that took place both on one of our new Arterio trains and on the concourse at Waterloo. The outfits were modelled perfectly by our colleagues from Network Rail and South Western Railway, as well as our wonderful station adopters **from Cosham, Creating Chaos**. It was a joyful nod to how travel and fashion has changed through the ages.



**South Western  
Railway**



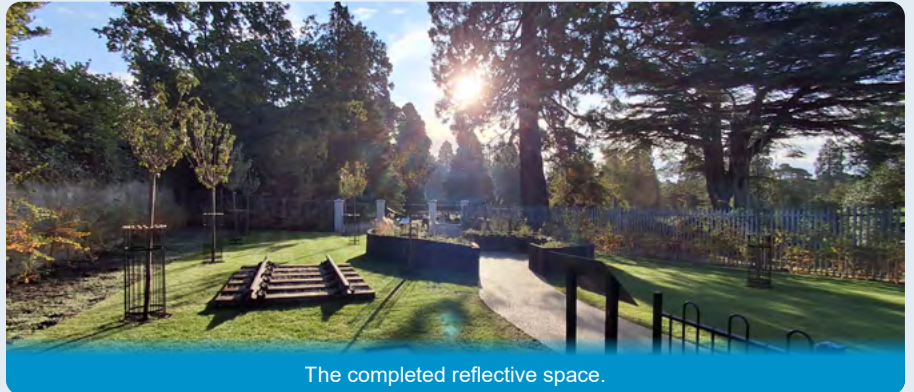
## Brockwood Reflective Garden

Over in Brookwood we have unveiled one of our flagship 'legacy' projects – a special reflective garden in the historic Brookwood Cemetery – the largest cemetery in the world when it opened in 1854.

Set on disused land behind the station that leads directly into the cemetery, the garden has been lovingly created with the help of our contractors, volunteers from Network Rail and South Western Railway, and the unwavering support of the cemetery team. The space now offers a peaceful spot for reflection, complete with information boards about the historic Necropolis Railway. It will also in time provide a place for memorial plaques dedicated to railway colleagues who have died. The launch was a truly special occasion, with a blessing from Railway Chaplain Christopher Henley, a short performance from a new play 'A Train to Woking' by the Fleur de Lis Classical Theatre Company, and a fascinating historical walk led by railway historian John Clarke.



Volunteers from Network Rail and SWR planting and painting in the garden.



The completed reflective space.

## New Malden Sound of Music

Meanwhile, New Malden marked the Railway 200 celebrations in a more musical way. In honour of the 60th anniversary of Decca Records producing The Sound of Music soundtrack, we were treated to an entertaining spectacle featuring many excitable "nuns" singing four of the most iconic songs — a fun and fitting tribute to a classic film moment.

A big tuneup thanks to the **Friends of New Malden** for organising



Sir Ed Davey MP, for Kingston and Surbiton, celebrating at New Malden

## Haslemere Event

Down in Haslemere, the community came together for a fantastic family fun day that showcased local talent, live music, vintage buses, and even some good old-fashioned tabletop games. A huge thank you to all the South Western Railway colleagues who rallied together to make the day such a success — it was truly a celebration of community spirit and connection.



SWR colleagues dressing for the occasion with Chris Ashdown, Town Crier for Haslemere.