

200TM

Railway 200

Be part of
the journey



L to R: Lesley Doyle (Widow of Paul Fishwick - former chair of Windsor-Reading Line CRP, who died in November), Nigel Hopkins, Wokingham Town Crier, Carol Jewell, Deputy Mayor Wokingham BC, David Green, Chair, Wokingham Parish Council, Clive Jones, MP for Wokingham, Steve Tyler, Programme and Planning Director, SWR and Sandy Mahon, Line Officer Windsor to Reading Line CRP

Between the Lines

January 2025

Welcome to 2025 and your new-look, edition of our wonderful newsletter.

We will be producing a monthly one-page edition to try to capture all our special **Railway 200** events across the network, plus any other exciting events that have also happened.

We were delighted to be first 'off the blocks' not only for SWR but across the whole of the UK – to host the inaugural **Railway 200** event. Wokingham station on the **Reading to Windsor CRP** event, which celebrated its 115th anniversary on the 10th January.

David Green, Chair of Wokingham Parish Council, Steve Tyler, Planning and Performance Director at SWR, and various other local community attendees, were treated to a plaque unveiling revealing the original name of the station in 1910 (Sindlesham and Hurst Holt), followed by refreshments in the local church with some historical highlights on heroes from the past from a local historian as part of the **Southeast Communities Rail Partnership Blue Plaque** project.

South Western
Railway

Happy Birthday Weymouth Station

On Monday 20th January, Weymouth celebrated its 168th birthday with a host of activities. Led by the Friends of Weymouth adopter group and supported by **South Wessex CRP**, the event kicked off with a medley of train-related songs from Weymouth Community Choir, followed by some speeches from the Mayor (Cllr Jon Orrell) and Lyndsey Robson-Malone, Service Delivery Director, SWR

Newly commissioned pottery planters (created by Dan Sandham from the Great Pottery Throw Down) were unveiled alongside a special wooden train, which stands pride of place on the forecourt. Attended by 50 local people the celebration was enjoyed by all present. What a great way to start **Railway 200** – we are looking forward to many more events throughout the year.



Cllr Jon Orrell and Dan Sandham with his specially commissioned Weymouth plant pot



Paula Aldridge – Community Rail Manager SWR and Chris Henley, Railway Chaplain

In other news

Lucy Lomax (**Reading to Basingstoke CRP**) and Sandy Mahon (**Reading to Windsor CRP**) held a fantastic Winter Warmer event at Reading station.

It was a real heart (and body) warming triumph, making a real difference in the local community by providing people with items of much needed winter clothing. Here is what they achieved:

- 335 coats donated
- More than 400 items of winter clothing shared
- Over the two days of the event, 267 people benefitted from the kindness of those who took the trouble to donate items.
- 114 hours volunteered by SWR, GWR and Network Rail colleagues.

Well done to all those involved.



Lucy Lomax and Sandy Mahon, at the Winter Warmer Giveaway event