



NEWSLETTER



At the time of writing this, we are progressing well on the 'road map' to recovery, when hospitality re-opens indoors, including cinemas. This will be great news for many of the small businesses that are local to the Penistone Line. For most of us, life has changed beyond what we might have predicted or expected over the past year.



Working in Community Rail and not being able to engage with the community in what would have been the normal tradition of face-to-face contact, was initially a challenge. We have focussed on new ways of working, and we are all familiar with Zoom and Teams for video communication, not only for meetings but also for training, networking, and engaging with communities and schools. It is much more time efficient to hold virtual meetings, especially if you are part-time. It looks like the future may hold more of a combination approach of virtual and face to face engagement. Our world has changed which creates some challenges for us in community rail: encouraging people to travel after being told 'Don't travel' though we

hope you are desperate to get away and use the train. Time spent away from large groups might make people anxious about rail travel. However, we have 28 years of engaging with the community and promoting the use of the train. We will be working with partners to promote days out to attractions and the great outdoors by train. Working with people who do not travel by train due to lack of confidence, lack of experience or hidden disability is something we have been engaged with previously, so we are looking forward to helping those individuals to go by rail. The countdown is now on for the end of June when we will be able to encourage people to use the train again, whether it be for work or leisure! We look forward to being able to say again: 'See you on the train!' - Rowena Chantler

TRAVEL WITH CONFIDENCE

The rail industry is ensuring there is a safe environment on the train. Northern Rail, operating on the Penistone Line are cleaning all their carriages and key stations every day. With a team of over 600 dedicated cleaners, they are paying extra attention to cleaning handrails and armrests, using an anti-viral sanitiser which stops the COVID-19 virus for longer. Northern staff are on hand to help and are working harder than ever to make your journey safe and enjoyable. The assisted travel scheme is operating for people with additional needs to travel. Try travelling at quieter times, stay safe and enjoy travelling along our beautiful line.



ALL CHANGE AT HUDDERSFIELD STATION SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

Network Rail want to create a better performing railway that passengers can depend on, with more seats, more trains, and faster journeys. By creating a better-connected North, this will provide people with more opportunities to travel to work, study or see family and friends.

The current network layout between Huddersfield and Dewsbury would not be able to hold the capacity for faster, or additional trains. Upgrading the section of railway between Huddersfield and Westtown – about half a mile south-west of Dewsbury Station – is key to delivering the benefits passengers want along the Transpennine railway. Stations would be upgraded to modern standards and would provide better accessibility facilities for passengers. The proposals include improvements at Huddersfield, Deighton, Mirfield and Ravensthorpe. Huddersfield Station would see a new footbridge and lift, an extension of the subway allowing for an entrance to the station from the St George's Warehouse side and a new island platform amongst other improvements. Electrification of the line would bring many improvements and would

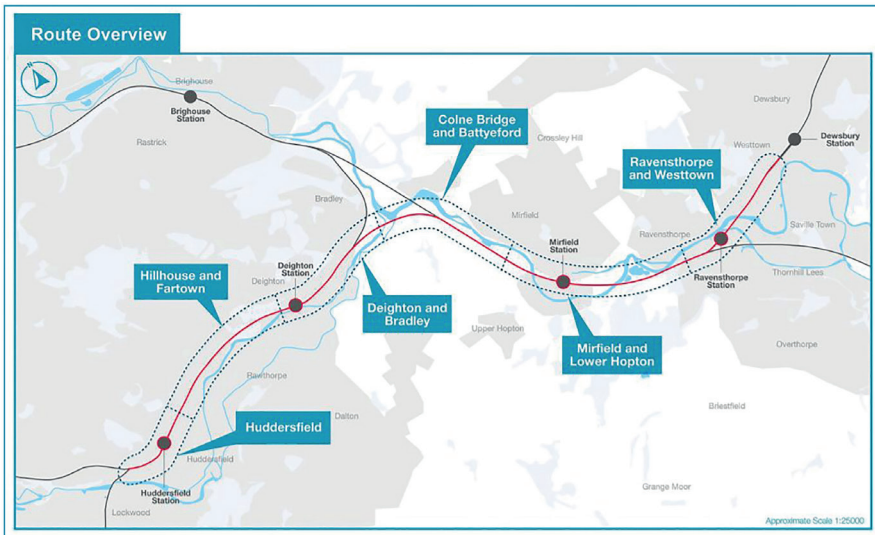


Image: networkrail.co.uk Huddersfield to Westtown (Dewsbury) map

allow better connectivity to Leeds and Manchester from the Penistone Line. For more information and details on the proposed changes visit networkrail.co.uk to view their update plans along the Transpennine railway.

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AND TRESPASS

During the lockdown periods, many areas of the country saw increased cases of trespass and anti-social behaviour, but particularly so in the Sheffield area. This Summer Rowena will be working with Element Society, based in Sheffield, to deliver part of the National Citizenship Service Programme, it will involve promoting rail safety and positive behaviour around the railway. Problem areas are often between stations, so Rowena has also been in touch with schools in between stations in those areas to promote rail safety talks. Backtrack returns this June, with another competition, this year there is no upper age limit, providing us with the scope to engage with a wider range of people. We are looking forward to using some of the entries to further develop our Rail Safety Engagement Programme.

PACER SPACE

Our friends at Platform-1 mental health charity, which is situated behind Platform 2 Huddersfield Railway Station, won an old pacer train carriage, to use as additional space to accommodate an ever increasing membership. Unfortunately, the installation was postponed on 8 May as part of the platform for the crane to sit on was the wrong specification. We will be sure to share images of the lift into position, and how the pacer is used in the near future.



Taking part in the Backtrack can strengthen 5 key life skills:

1. Communication
2. Problem Solving
3. Self-belief
4. Self-management
5. Teamwork

Competition to reduce trespass on our railways

The Community Rail Education Network is a collective of community rail partnerships from across the UK who are working with train companies such as LNER, Trans Pennine Express, Northern and Great Western to run a national competition to reduce the high number of trespassing reports on

the railway. Backtrack aims to increase the awareness of the dangers of railway trespass in an engaging way for both young people and adults. This year's national competition starts on 1st June 2021, entries must be submitted by 30th September 2021.



Backtrack 2020 Song winner

Henry Plume

How to enter

We are asking individuals or groups to create a short film, storyboard, song or script to warn others of the dangers of trespassing on the railway. You can upload your entries to our website where you will find tips for creating your entry, railway facts and information about prizes. You can also see last years entries, including the winner Henry Plume. Please share your entries on social media to help spread the word!

How we can support you...

The Backtrack team will provide support to help you launch and run the competition with your school or youth group. You will receive:

- A short competition launch film which you can play to your group
- A live virtual session with one of the Backtrack team
- A website full of ideas, information and links to help create and upload your entries.
- Inspiring Facebook, Twitter and Instagram posts and updates throughout the competition.

Find out more at:

backtrackcompetition.co.uk

DELAY ON 3 CARRIAGE OPERATION

Northern had planned to start operating three car services along the Penistone Line this summer, but sadly it now seems likely that this will be delayed. The delay is down to a cascade of vehicles from at least 2 operators. The units that were hoped to be on our line from the summer are currently being used in East Lancashire but until their new units arrive, we will have to wait for our increased capacity. As soon as we find out more information on this, we will share on our new website, and social media.

BRaille SIGNAGE

We are happy to report that braille signage has been installed on railings at South Yorkshire stations and platforms along the Penistone Line. They are great way-markers in general to indicate the platform numbers where we have double track and 2 platforms.



Braille signage on railings along the Penistone Line (South Yorkshire).

WEBSITE CHANGES

We are in the process of co-creating a new website with a local Barnsley-based company, GoWeb. We hope to go live in the summer.

The new website will be user-friendly and easy to navigate. Our web address will remain the same www.penline.co.uk We will let you know when we go live via social media.

STRECHGATE RESURFACED

We have finally been able to see for ourselves the half-mile path linking Shepley and Shelley villages. The path through farmland is now accessible for all with low level lighting so that, cyclists, runners, walkers, pushchair and mobility scooter users can easily navigate between the two villages.



Shepley end of Strechgate adjacent to Shepley railway station

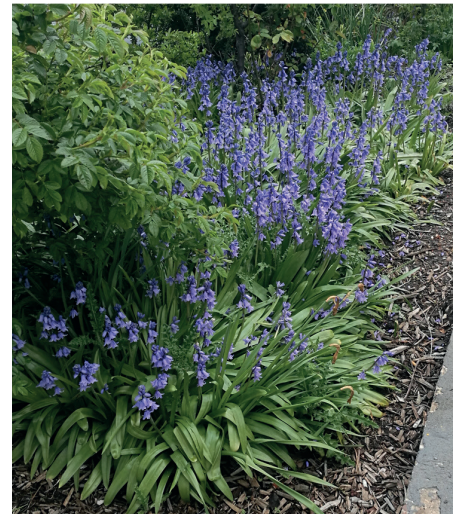
To see the before and after images follow the link.

<https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/west-yorkshire-news/revived-footpath-connecting-two-villages-19421753>

VOLUNTEERING CAN BOOST WELLBEING

Station adoption and friends of groups help to make sure the station is welcoming; keep an eye out for any unusual activity; report any faults and issues; and maintain planters and gardens. They make a huge difference to every single passenger. Thinking of starting a station adoption group? All it takes is a group of two or more,

Community Rail Network can advise on practicalities. Visit <https://communityrail.org.uk/join-us/station-adopters-small-groups/> for information.



Silkstone Care Group have become members of the Community Rail Network, making them eligible to apply for funding, support and guidance. Their station garden is currently blooming with beautiful bluebells.

STATION WALKS

We look forward to re-starting our guided walks later this summer. In the meantime, Denby Dale Walkers Are Welcome group, has been busy updating and developing new self-guided walks. Penistone Line Partnership have printed and installed the maps at several stations along the Penistone Line. There is detailed information on the 16 different walks of differing ability, click QR

DENBY DALE WALKERS ARE WELCOME

The Penistone line runs through an area of outstanding natural beauty. Villages and small towns along its route are connected not only by rail but also by an intricate and ancient network of footpaths and bridleways. Denby Dale sits at the centre and its Walkers Are Welcome group have devised a series of 10 new walking routes. These trails connect villages and stations at points along the line from Dodworth to Berry Brow. The idea of Train Walks is to take an outward journey from a Denby Dale and walk back though this can be reversed to meet your needs. The network map shows the train walks as well as circular walks from Denby Dale. Visit our website to find out more about walks together with local information to plan your trip.

<https://www.denbydale-walkersarewelcome.co.uk/>

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The walk route leaflets can be obtained by visiting our website via the QR code above. The leaflets can be printed or downloaded for use offline. Alternatively printed copies are available at Skelmanthorpe and Denby Dale Community Libraries and at other local businesses that support our group.

Walk Name	Distance	Start/End	Direction
Dod-Den Trail	3 miles	Dodworth to Denby Dale	Inbound
Dod-Den 2 Trail	7.4 miles	Dodworth to Denby Dale	Inbound
Pen-Den Trail	7.7 miles	Penistone to Denby Dale	Inbound
Stock-Den Trail	7.7 miles	Stockmoor to Denby Dale	Inbound
Shep-Den Trail	7.7 miles	Shepley to Denby Dale	Inbound
Den-Den Trail	7.7 miles	Denby Dale to Denby Dale	Inbound
Silk-Den Trail	7.7 miles	Silkstone to Denby Dale	Inbound
Dod-Den 2 Trail	7.7 miles	Dodworth to Denby Dale	Inbound
Denby Dale Round Walk	7.7 miles	Denby Dale to Denby Dale	Inbound
Denby Dale Village Trail	7.7 miles	Denby Dale to Denby Dale	Inbound
Denby Dale and Cumborburn	7.7 miles	Denby Dale to Denby Dale	Inbound
Denby Dale Round Walk	7.7 miles	Denby Dale to Denby Dale	Inbound
Denby Dale Village Trail	7.7 miles	Denby Dale to Denby Dale	Inbound
Denby Dale and Cumborburn	7.7 miles	Denby Dale to Denby Dale	Inbound

Image: Self-guided walks from/inbetween Penistone Line stations by Walkers are Welcome

code to view the maps on your mobile or download and print. A great way to enjoy the scenery from the train and then on foot. We would like to thank, Denby Dale Walkers Are Welcome, Denby Dale Parish Countryside Project, Kirklees Council and Denby Dale Parish Council who have made it possible.

WOVEN IN KIRKLEES

There will be an impressive installation of 1000's of rainbow-coloured squares on the historic pillars in front of Huddersfield train station knitted by volunteer groups and individuals, locally, nationally and internationally. The festival will run from 5th to 27th June 2021. Keep an eye out on our social media channels for further information or visit the Woven website at <https://woveninkirklees.co.uk/> Knitted way markers and textile installations at our village stations will highlight the route to Huddersfield. Visit Huddersfield Railway Station, St George's Square, on 26th & 27th June (subject to Government restrictions). See scaled-up craft demonstrations,

music, stalls, and roaming theatrics. The Penistone Line Partnership are unable to run a themed event this year due to restrictions, however look out for Knit & Natter trains in the future. We are working with University of Huddersfield to create an installation of Woven Festival at Platform 2, Huddersfield Railway Station. We hope that the university textile department

will adopt a station in the future, and also help create visually stimulating environments along the line.

SUMMER TRAVEL

There are over 60 community rail lines in the UK, running through stunning scenery. In a period of uncertainty Penistone Line Partnership are running a joint promotion with Tyne Valley CRP, where each line will share their highlights. Why not consider a staycation or several days out. The Tyne Valley Line has some amazing walks and places to visit. Connect to the Tyne Valley by the Cross Country service to Newcastle from Sheffield. Look out for our posts on social media for more information between 5th and 12th July 2021.

RAIL SAFETY EDUCATION

Rowena has also been promoting Rail Safety sessions which follow the national curriculum, the sessions are free and suitable for school, SEN, and uniformed groups. Please get in touch with Rowena on 07912753817 to arrange a visit or online session.

Penistone Line Partnership

RAIL SAFETY EDUCATION
Early Years, KS1, KS2 & SEN

"Rowena at Penistone Line Partnership has increased the knowledge and understanding of many children from school about how to keep safe near railways.

This is especially important to our school community as many children live close to local railway stations on the Penistone Line.

Rowena has supported some of our most vulnerable children at various key stages with creative and engaging arts-based activities, which all our children have loved taking part in'.

V Pimm, Deputy Head
South Crosland C.E.(A) Junior School

To arrange your free session in school or online, contact Rowena at penistoneline@gmail.com or ring 07912 753817

Book your free Rail Safety Talk today!