



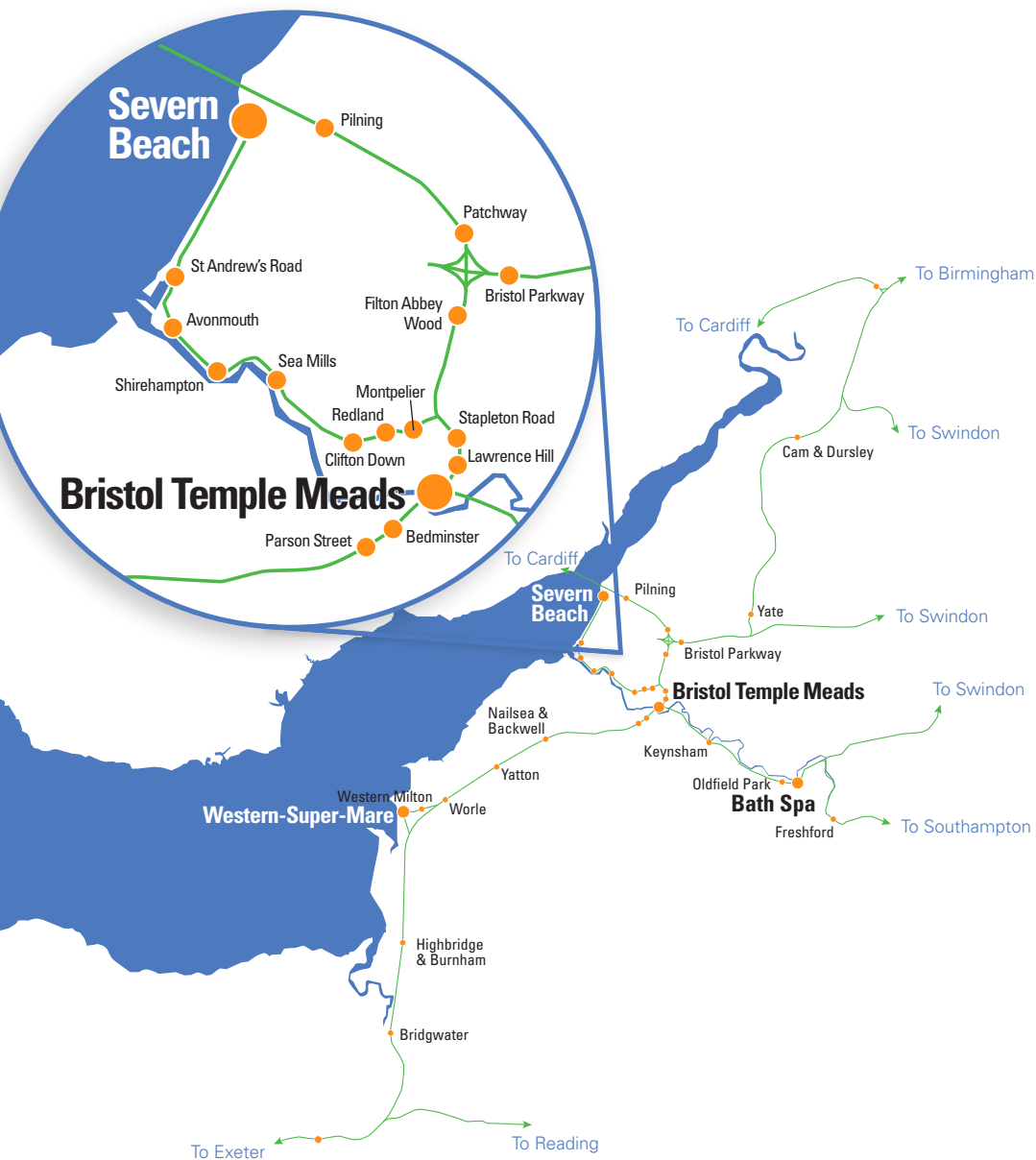
# Severnside Community Rail Partnership

Linking local communities with the rail industry



## PROGRESS REPORT

Published February 2018



# Welcome to the Severnside Community Rail Partnership's 2017 Progress Report

The Severnside Community Rail Partnership works with local communities to identify and implement measures to encourage the use of local trains and to ensure that access to local stations is easy and that stations provide a safe and welcoming environment. We cover the network of routes radiating from Bristol, bounded by Gloucester, Bath/Freshford, Weston-super-Mare, Taunton, and the Severn Estuary; this includes the branch line to Severn Beach.

Over the last few years the local stations have been transformed, considerably assisted – on a voluntary basis – by young people and local communities. Many local stations are regularly cared for by the community. Schools display their artwork on the platforms (and compete for available space!), and community groups tend the gardens.

## Highlights of the Partnership's work in 2017 included:-

- Sponsoring, and arranging a funding package for, the complete rebuild of platform 1 at Avonmouth station; the work has considerably improved the station environment and included a new shelter, lighting, seats, planters and screen fencing
- Helping to sponsor and fund a new canopy at Yate station to shelter passengers buying tickets
- An innovative, award winning, ticket scheme for pupils travelling by train to Cotham School
- Increased number of local stations achieving "outstanding" in the RHS It's Your Neighbourhood scheme
- A new website and resource pack for "Discovering the Severn Beach Line"
- Increased partnership working with local universities

The Partnership is a Community Interest Company. The running costs of the Partnership, including the post of Partnership Officer, receive significant funding by way of grants from Great Western Railway, Cross Country Trains and local authorities. Without their support and encouragement, we could not operate and deliver the considerable benefits which are being achieved. Under Great Western and Cross Country Franchise arrangements, there has been a much welcomed increase in funding for specific Community Rail projects, and this is supplemented by bids for specific grants from local authority and other sources.

**Keith Walton, Chairman**

Our principal funders and sponsors

Supported by





# Some of the Partnership's Achievements in 2017



## Schools

The Partnership has worked closely with Cotham School and GWR to improve fare collection and student behaviour on the Severn Beach line. An innovative and award winning school travel scheme was introduced, with the season ticket printed directly on to the students ID lanyard and worn as part of the uniform. The ticket purchase price is charged to parents via the school electronic payment system. The school appointed a "Rail Rep" from each year group, who devised a student code of conduct for rail travel; students must comply with this to remain eligible for the special ticket.

We continue to run a rail familiarisation programme for year-six primary school pupils building their confidence in using the railway as they progress to secondary school. Our arts schemes engage a range of primary and secondary school students, and in 2017 we welcomed for the first time a group of home-educated students who participated in a phase of the "City to Seaside" rail arts project; some of the images the students produced during the project were put on public display at Lawrence Hill station.



## Safer & More Welcoming Local Stations

We cover 25 local stations, most of which are unstaffed or staffed on a part-time basis. Most of these stations have been adopted by local community volunteers who tend planters and promote good environmental practices. We encourage station entries to the Royal Horticultural Society "It's Your Neighbourhood Awards" (IYN) scheme. The core pillars of IYN are community participation, environmental responsibility and gardening achievement – the perfect recipe for making a local station feel safer and more welcoming.



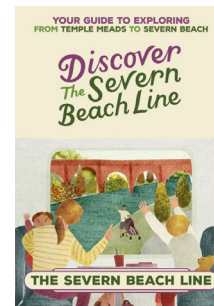
The Partnership is delighted that Oldfield Park, Keynsham, Bedminster and Yatton stations, as well as all the Severn Beach line stations received level 5 "Outstanding" assessments in 2017, while many more local stations are well on their way to "Outstanding", having achieved a level 4 in 2017. Keynsham station, which had over recent years suffered from a number of setbacks due to rail infrastructure works, received £6,000.00 of project funding from the Partnership and a "Greening Grey" grant from the Royal Horticultural Society.

With the support of Keynsham in Bloom, corporate volunteers from Network Rail and Bath & North East Somerset Council, the Community Payback team and the Time Out Youth Group, the station has seen considerable improvements; these were recognised by the station being awarded the Wheatley Trophy for Outstanding Landscaped Commercial Area.



## Discover the Severn Beach line

A new website [discoversevernbeachline.co.uk](http://discoversevernbeachline.co.uk) provides a set of resources for children of up to around 11 years old to enhance the experience of their journey along our unique local branch line. Designed in partnership with "A Forgotten Landscape" Heritage Lottery funded project and supported by the Association of Community Rail Partnerships, the beautifully illustrated activity packs encourage the exploration of local wildlife, places to play, stunning views and fascinating history



surrounding each station. Because of operational problems affecting the reliability of the service during the second half of 2017, the Partnership has decided to pause promotion of the website and resources pack until Easter 2018.

## On Train Events

Train carriages can make great event space, and the Partnership was thrilled to host two "Fun Palace" events along the Severn Beach line during the world-wide weekend celebration of arts and science held in October. A photography workshop with Faye Joines was followed by a "Crowd on the Train" mental health awareness session, where passengers drew portraits and self-portraits on acetate which were displayed on the carriage windows to highlight the fact that in any crowd, or on any train, 1 in 4 people will have experienced mental health challenges. The year was rounded off with "Carols in the Carriage" between Avonmouth and Bristol Temple Meads, with fantastic music and singing led by members of the 2nd Wind All Stars Band.

## Community Payback

Local stations benefit from offenders spending their community payback hours improving the station environment. A qualified supervisor, employed by the Partnership, brings groups of offenders to local stations once a week. During 2017 the group's tasks included tending station gardens in North Somerset, assisted with painting of railings at Keynsham station, completing vegetation clearance at Avonmouth station and assisting with litter picking and moving tools and equipment at Stapleton Road station to a new portacabin, which will form a base for future Community Payback work. Plans are afoot for Community Payback assistance with projects at Yate and Patchway stations during the early part of 2018.



## Shelter for Passengers

The Partnership is keen to help provide more shelter for passengers at stations and in 2017, in association with South Gloucestershire Council, we helped sponsor and part-fund a modern canopy shelter covering the ticket vending machine and immediate waiting area at Yate station.



# Another Partnership Achievement in 2017

## Major Improvements completed at Avonmouth station

The Severn Beach bound platform at Avonmouth station presented a dismal impression for those either alighting from Severn Beach bound trains or waiting for trains to Bristol. Industrial dereliction dominated the view, and the anti-social use the derelict land at the rear of the platform caused anxiety to waiting passengers and was a deterrent to using the station. As the railhead for the Avonmouth-Severn Beach Enterprise Area, the station previously gave a very unfavourable impression to workers, visitors and potential developers.

With strong support from the local community, the Partnership put together proposals to achieve a much more welcoming, attractive and safer station which would encourage more passengers.

The improvements have included a new shelter (located to provide cover for arriving passengers waiting for the level crossing barriers to be raised), seating, lighting, planters and screen fencing. They have been funded and supported by Bristol City Council, the Association of Community Rail Partnerships, Severnside Community Rail Partnership, Great Western Railway and Network Rail, with considerable assistance

from the volunteer Champions of Avonmouth Station, Incredible Edible Bristol and Probation Service Community Payback.

Plans are afoot for more tree planting and a community raised bed garden during 2018.

To support employees working in the industrial areas of Avonmouth, the Partnership agreed with the SevernNet (which represents local employers) and GWR for a revision to the late evening train timetable to better fit with shift patterns.



BEFORE



AFTER

## The Severn Beach line

Is one of 39 rail routes with formal Community Rail Designation by the Department for Transport – this gives the Partnership an enhanced role and real involvement in the development of the line, and helps encourage innovation.

After many years of record passenger growth, operational challenges in the second half of 2017 have regrettably led to a downturn in number of passengers; the Partnership will be addressing this in 2018.

# Passenger Statistics

Passengers using West of England area local stations on weekdays

| Station  | 2007        | 2016         | 2017 |
|--|-------------|--------------|------|
| Yate   | 694         | 1446         |      |
| Patchway   | 139         | 344          |      |
| Filton Abbey Wood  | 1958        | 4764         |      |
| Bedminster   | 156         | 250          |      |
| Parson Street  | 108         | 528          |      |
| Nailsea and Backwell                                       | 1315        | 2015         | 1970 |
| Yatton   | 1192        | 1494         | 1797 |
| Worle  | 841         | 1650         | 1677 |
| Weston Milton  | 261         | 407          | *407 |
| Weston-s-Mare  | 2279        | 2828         | 3066 |
| Keynsham   | 839         | 1679         | 1654 |
| Oldfield Park  | 841         | 1457         | 1301 |
| Freshford  | 89          | 167          | 162  |
| Severn Beach   | 135         | 355          |      |
| St Andrews Road  | 30          | 79           |      |
| Avonmouth  | 218         | 728          |      |
| Shirehampton   | 86          | 481          |      |
| Sea Mills  | 121         | 371          |      |
| Clifton Down   | 500         | 2111         |      |
| Redland  | 264         | 661          |      |
| Montpelier   | 253         | 1138         |      |
| Stapleton Road sb  | 326         | 877          |      |
| Lawrence Hill sb   | 263         | 870          |      |
| Temple Meads sb  | 649         | 2589         |      |
| <b>Severn Beach line trains total</b>                      | <b>2845</b> | <b>10260</b> |      |
| Stapleton Road nsb   | 91          | 503          |      |
| Lawrence Hill nsb  | 49          | 608          |      |
| <b>Stations - Temple Meads - Severn Beach - all trains</b> | <b>2985</b> | <b>11371</b> |      |

Notes; the figures above are taken from the November weekday count which is undertaken annually by the West of England local authorities, and is a one-day snap shot of the total number of passengers both boarding and alighting at the station on the day of the count.

The 2017 figures are provisional and subject to verification. Passenger numbers may be reduced because of cancellations.

nsb = not Severn Beach line passengers

sb = Severn Beach line passengers

\* = fault with camera - previous year figure used

Office of Rail and Road station usage statistics

| West of England                | 2016              | 2017              |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Avonmouth                      | 129,860           | 144,110           |
| Bath Spa                       | 6,134,318         | 6,432,334         |
| Bedminster                     | 92,868            | 93,744            |
| Bristol Parkway                | 2,511,016         | 2,499,246         |
| Bristol Temple Meads           | 10,711,464        | 11,336,806        |
| Clifton Down                   | 672,386           | 764,192           |
| Filton Abbey Wood              | 1,021,550         | 1,064,634         |
| Freshford                      | 43,160            | 45,468            |
| Keynsham                       | 424,032           | 472,630           |
| Lawrence Hill                  | 157,912           | 170,084           |
| Montpelier                     | 122,146           | 111,540           |
| Nailsea & Backwell             | 476,618           | 504,048           |
| Oldfield Park                  | 315,070           | 313,230           |
| Parson Street                  | 126,636           | 145,608           |
| Patchway                       | 98,296            | 88,008            |
| Pilning                        | 46                | 230               |
| Redland                        | 99,732            | 94,454            |
| Sea Mills                      | 61,696            | 62,162            |
| Severn Beach                   | 260,784           | 310,818           |
| Shirehampton                   | 56,756            | 55,762            |
| St Andrew's Road               | 7,374             | 11,184            |
| Stapleton Road                 | 179,872           | 183,780           |
| Weston Milton                  | 65,450            | 68,594            |
| Weston-Super-Mare              | 1,143,152         | 1,147,152         |
| Worle                          | 299,014           | 321,306           |
| Yate                           | 368,910           | 392,910           |
| Yatton                         | 426,246           | 443,806           |
| <b>Total - West of England</b> | <b>26,006,364</b> | <b>27,277,840</b> |

Note: The Severn Beach line has zonal fares, so individual station recorded figures may not be correct. Figures above are from ORR station usage, based on ticket sales allocated LENNON data.

| Wiltshire (selected)              | 2016      | 2017      |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Avoncliff                         | 19,948    | 21,016    |
| Bradford-On-Avon                  | 524,180   | 543,246   |
| Chippenham                        | 1,815,922 | 1,938,692 |
| Trowbridge                        | 902,966   | 983,704   |
| Westbury                          | 544,244   | 578,256   |
| <b>Somerset (selected)</b>        |           |           |
| Bridgwater                        | 312,292   | 344,290   |
| Highbridge & Burnham              | 193,462   | 200,196   |
| Taunton                           | 1,375,546 | 1,433,160 |
| <b>Gloucestershire (selected)</b> |           |           |
| Cam & Dursley                     | 193,640   | 201,188   |
| Cheltenham Spa                    | 2,178,472 | 2,352,712 |
| Gloucester                        | 1,435,698 | 1,479,538 |



# Some of the Partnership's Proposed Work for 2018

## Promoting Wellbeing - Railway Walking Hubs

Walking starting from local railway stations are one of the many wellbeing benefits of community rail. In collaboration with Active Aging (Bristol), the Partnership is designing material to promote three Walking Hubs at local stations along routes radiating from Bristol – Severn Beach, Bradford-on-Avon and Yatton. Each of these stations offers scenic walks and the opportunity to purchase refreshments within close proximity of the station.



## On-Train Events

Following the successful Fun Palaces on the train events, the Partnership is planning to facilitate other on-train workshops. Requests have already been received to host a human library, a food train and a lantern making workshop as part of a community lantern parade. Keep an eye on our Twitter [@sevensidecrp](https://twitter.com/sevensidecrp) for further details.



## Reducing Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

The Partnership has traditionally supported Police and Communities Together Meetings organised by the British Transport Police for local rail lines and stations. Regrettably, these valuable forums were suspended during 2017 because of pressure on British Transport Police resources. The Partnership has recently joined West Country Crimestoppers and is exploring ways of publicising, at local stations, their anonymous crime reporting service.

## Community Artwork at Montpelier Station

Graffiti is a long running challenge at many of our local stations; experience tells us that where a credible piece of artwork is commissioned, it is respected by graffiti artists and no further tags occur. Montpelier in Bristol was the first station to have street art across the station building and the now iconic piece received a refresh during 2017. However a long wall on the approach to the station continues to provide a blank canvas for unsightly graffiti tagging, so a specially commissioned mural will be painted across this wall during March 2018. The local community is being consulted over the content of the new mural, and this will be complemented by a planting scheme.



## Local Universities Partnership

The Partnership continues our association with the University of the West of England (UWE) and we look forward to collaborating on a new scheme to enable participants from disadvantaged backgrounds to experience rail travel. Student Rail Ambassadors are being recruited and trained to support participants during their visits. We have also linked with the University of Bristol and have recently been discussing areas of possible research for both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

## Three Year Celebration with Incredible Edible



In April 2018 we will be celebrating the third birthday of our successful partnership with Incredible Edible Bristol. On the first Friday of each month, volunteers travel the Severn Beach line hopping on and off trains to tend the edible "cycle planters". Produce from these special planters is readily available to be picked and enjoyed. Look out for details of the Birthday Party where home grown produce will be served.

## Improving Parson Street Station

The Partnership has proposed an improvement package, including new shelters, screen fencing and planters for the platform areas at Parson Street station. We are in the process of securing funds with the intention of this being delivered early in 2018.

## Opportunities for Young People

Cross Country trains recently launched a new partnership with the Scout Association to encourage young people to be safe on the railway. Support material is available to help cub scouts complete the requirements of their personal safety badge. Cross Country trains also encourages Cub and Scout packs to engage with their local community rail partnership or station adoption group. The Severnside Community Rail Partnership is keen to extend the scheme to the Girl Guiding Association and can offer a number of ways for young people to safely assist with enhancing stations. A Scouts and Guides Association scarecrow trail is planned for 2018, where scarecrows will be displayed at local stations with prizes for the best dressed!



# Accounts and Financial statement

Year ended 31 March 2017 -  
Balance Sheet

|  | £             | £             |
|--|---------------|---------------|
|  | 2017          | 2016          |
| <b>Fixed Assets</b>                          |               |               |
| <b>Current assets</b>                        |               |               |
| Cash at bank and in hand                     | 37,904        | 33,979        |
|  | <b>37,904</b> | <b>33,979</b> |
| <b>Creditors:</b>                            |               |               |
| Amounts falling due within one year          | (719)         | (719)         |
| <b>Net Assets</b>                            | <b>37,185</b> | <b>33,260</b> |
| <b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b> | <b>37,185</b> | <b>33,260</b> |
| Represented By:                              |               |               |
| Restricted Reserves                          | 585           | (2,486)       |
| Unrestricted Reserves                        | 36,600        | 35,746        |
|  | <b>37,185</b> | <b>33,260</b> |

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities: The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime of the Companies Act 2006.

## Passengers using local/regional trains in the West of England

| Calendar year  | 2016              | 2017              |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|
| Cardiff - Bristol - Westbury - Portsmouth/Weymouth   | 9,128,000         | 9,324,000         |
| Bristol - Severn Beach                               | 1,368,000         | 1,364,000         |
| Bristol - Weston-super-Mare - Taunton                | 2,068,000         | 2,129,000         |
| Bristol - Gloucester - Great Malvern                 | 1,540,000         | 1,558,000         |
| <b>Total West of England Local/regional journeys</b> | <b>14,104,000</b> | <b>14,375,000</b> |

These figures are from GWR ticket sales allocated LENNON data and include only GWR journeys. Some journeys made for example on Rover tickets or employee passes, or on substitute buses, may not have been recorded. So the figures may underscore the total journeys, but this is unlikely to be significant.

Year ended 31 March 2017 -  
Profit and Loss Account

|   | £             | £               |
|---|---------------|-----------------|
|   | 2017          | 2016            |
| <b>Turnover</b>   | 106,840       | 65,193          |
| Administration Expense  | (102,918)     | (79,821)        |
| <b>Operating Profit / (Loss)</b>                              | <b>3,922</b>  | <b>(14,628)</b> |
| Interest Receivable   | 3             | 3               |
| <b>Profit / (Loss) on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation</b> | <b>3,925</b>  | <b>(14,625)</b> |
| <b>Corporation Tax</b>  | <b>-</b>      | <b>-</b>        |
| <b>Retained Profit Brought Forward</b>                        | <b>33,260</b> | <b>47,885</b>   |
| <b>Balance Carried Forward</b>                                | <b>37,185</b> | <b>33,260</b>   |

The Company has no recognised gains or losses other than the profit/loss for the above financial period. None of the Company's activities were acquired or discontinued during the above financial period.

# Sevenside Community Rail Partnership

Year ended 31 March 2017 - Income and Expenditure information

|                                     | £                 | £                   | £              | £              |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                     | 2016-17           | 2016-17             | 2016-17        | 2015-16        |
| <b>Income</b>                       | <b>Restricted</b> | <b>Unrestricted</b> | <b>Total</b>   | <b>Total</b>   |
| Contributions from partners         | -                 | 50,000              | 50,000         | 50,000         |
| Miscellaneous                       | 10,000            | 250                 | 10,250         | 100            |
| Bristol                             |                   |                     |                | 3,390          |
| Avonmouth DCRDF Grant               | 20,000            | -                   | 20,000         |                |
| Severn Beach Heritage Arts Project  | 3250              | -                   | 3250           |                |
| Arts Council City to Seaside        | 640               | -                   | 640            |                |
| GWR                                 | 21,200            | -                   | 21,200         | 10,203         |
| Somerset                            | 1,500             | -                   | 1,500          | 1,500          |
| Bank Interest                       |                   | 3                   | 3              | 3              |
|                                     | <b>56,590</b>     | <b>50,253</b>       | <b>106,843</b> | <b>65,196</b>  |
| <b>Expenditure</b>                  |                   |                     |                |                |
| Travel & Subsistence                |                   | 965                 | 965            | 919            |
| Salary and payroll costs            |                   | 35,927              | 35,927         | 34,133         |
| Miscellaneous                       | 3,831             | 801                 | 4,632          | 2,051          |
| Telephone/IT                        |                   | 2,908               | 2,908          | 2,517          |
| Postage/stationery/printing         |                   | 77                  | 77             | 275            |
| Meetings/Events                     |                   | 550                 | 550            | 373            |
| Accommodation                       |                   | 6,912               | 6,912          | 4,988          |
| Accountancy/Audit/Insurance         |                   | 1,259               | 1,259          | 1,227          |
| Station improvement work            | 39,164            |                     | 39,164         | 29,170         |
| Research                            | 8,700             |                     | 8,700          |                |
| Community Placement                 | 137               |                     | 137            |                |
| School visits                       | 1,687             |                     | 1,687          | 4,168          |
|                                     | <b>53,519</b>     | <b>49,399</b>       | <b>102,918</b> | <b>79,821</b>  |
| <b>Surplus/Deficit For The Year</b> | <b>3,071</b>      | <b>854</b>          | <b>3,925</b>   | <b>-14,625</b> |
| Transfer between funds              |                   |                     | -              | -              |
| Balance brought forward             | -2,486            | 35,746              | 33,260         | 47,885         |
| <b>Balance at 31 March 2017</b>     | <b>585</b>        | <b>36,600</b>       | <b>37,185</b>  | <b>33,260</b>  |

Contributions in kind: we are grateful for travel passes provided by First Great Western and Cross Country Trains, which are not included above.



