

Community Schemes Update: Spring 2010

Long-term schemes in place: 29 Registered volunteers: 230
One-off scheme days completed: 10 Volunteers: 139

March Station

One-Off



In January and March volunteers from March Street Pride finished clearing the old platforms at March station and began clearing out the former station offices which will eventually house a museum and heritage centre. Contractors Carillion facilitated access through their nearby depot for skips and assisted with removing re-usable materials to the Network Rail Maintenance depot across the road. The group will soon have a long-term lease of the area with Network Rail's Commercial Property department, enabling them to develop the old part of the station as a heritage centre.

Tisbury West Crossing-Keeper's Hut

Long-term



'Salisbury Signalling Heritage Group' are well advanced with restoring the former crossing-keeper's hut at Tisbury West in rural Wiltshire. The group includes local residents and railway employees, some who worked at the hut when it was operational. They have replaced windows and woodwork, painted the hut in Southern Railway colours, and produced an authentic name board using the original cast iron letters recovered when the hut was closed in the early 1980s. Plans include re-wiring and installing an original coke stove.

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Patchway station



Long-term



Established a year ago on the initiative of Severnside Rail Partnership's Sarah Collins, the Patchway scheme brings together the Partnership and Probation Service 'Community Payback' labour to clear and enhance a large area formerly occupied by sidings behind the west side platform. Network Rail's Sue Douglas organised safety fencing to separate the work area from the rest of the Lineside and works closely with Severnside to keep things running smoothly. Vegetation and rubbish has now been cleared, the area covered with bark chippings and bases prepared for tubs and planters which will be planted and looked after by Patchway's local 'Station Adoption' group.

West Rainton

Long-term



On Saturday 13th March, volunteers on the most northerly community scheme on the network were out clearing litter from the mothballed Leamside branch in County Durham. Under the watchful eye of Newcastle Maintenance Protection Coordinator Tom Brand, a dozen members of West Rainton Green Group collected 39 bags of rubbish along 1½ miles of the disused line, sorting the waste into bottles, cans etc for recycling. The scheme was set up a year ago following an approach to Community Relations by local man Richard Hockin, and the group has been out regularly since then, clearing litter and fly-tipped rubbish from the line near their village. Tom is the face of Network Rail for the group, providing safety briefings and guidance, supervising work days and generally taking care of his scheme.

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Sheringham

Long-term



This community scheme is certainly 'long-term', having been in existence for 25 years! Back in the 1980s British Rail allowed the Women's Institute at Sheringham to create flower beds behind the platform at the town's station, and have been looking after them ever since. Recently Maureen Cook, who led the garden team for many years, asked if they could become an 'official' Community Scheme and on 22nd January 13 members of the group received their safety briefings, gloves and 'high-vis' vests. Mrs Cook has now moved to Devon, but the group, now led by Debbie Nunn, is already building on the achievements of the last 25 years. Pictured are the volunteers after signing-up on 22nd January and a view of the garden on 17th March.

Chandlers Ford

Long-term



Chandlers Ford station re-opened in 2003, after closure in the 1970s. Now the station's redundant platform is emerging from obscurity, as the Three Rivers Rail Partnership clear 30 years of vegetation, revealing the old brick-edged platform in surprisingly good condition. Plants of horticultural and wildlife value have been kept in-situ following a survey by Chandlers Ford Gardening Group. Safe access to the old platform was possible through a gate provided when the station was rebuilt and a safety fence installed by Network Rail's Eastleigh 'Off-Track' team. The group, led by John Aplin, have already built a composter and once the platform is cleared, will begin installing planters and tubs.

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Long-Term Schemes in Place, 1st April 2010

Hither Green Triangle (London)	triangle between running lines (nature reserve)
Frome (Somerset)	Disused platform (enhancing station environment)
Burscough Junction (Lancashire)	Disused platform (enhancing station environment)
Abernant branch (south Wales)	Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen Junction to Abernant (preparation for heritage railway)
Gwendraeth Valley (west Wales)	Sections of the Coed Bach to Cwmmawr line (preparation for heritage railway)
Halesworth (Suffolk)	Areas behind former 'movable platforms' (heritage site)
Chandlers Ford (Hampshire)	Disused platform (enhancing station environment)
St Albans Abbey (Hertfordshire)	Unfenced area alongside station car park (enhanced green space)
West Rainton (County Durham)	Part of mothballed branch (litter clearance)
Chapel-en-le-Frith (Manchester)	Bank at rear of south side platform (garden)
Treherbert (south Wales)	Track bed in former bay, behind station platform. (enhanced green space)
Patchway (Bristol)	Area behind northbound platform (enhanced green space)
Barnstaple (Devon)	Disused platform (enhanced station environment)
Llanelli (south Wales)	Walled area near station entrance + area behind platforms on south side (enhanced green space)
Cantley Lamp room (Norfolk)	Former lamp store on upside platform at Cantley station (refurbished building)
Homerton (north London)	Embankments behind platforms + street-level area (wildflower garden)
Totnes Riverside (Devon)	Area at foot of embankment on main line north of Totnes station (nature area)
Brandon (Suffolk)	Fenced area alongside station car park (enhanced green space)
Clapham High St (London)	Fenced area next to station entrance (garden)
Hindley (Manchester)	Embankment behind platform (garden)
Tisbury West (Wiltshire)	Former crossing-keeper's hut (refurbished building)
Wateringbury (Kent)	Bank behind northbound platform (garden)
Springbank Road, Hither Green (London)	Embankment between station platform and public highway (enhanced green space)
Winchelsea (East Sussex)	Area behind platform (enhanced green space)
Dronfield (Derbyshire)	Triangle at the north side entrance to the station (garden)
Sheringham (Norfolk)	Area behind platform (station garden)

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Poulton-le-Fylde (Lancashire)	Short sections of disused line (enhanced green space)
Salt Hill Subway (Slough)	Underpass (enhanced pedestrian route to park)
Barton-on-Humber (Lincolnshire)	Area between car park and highway (sensory garden)

One-Off Schemes run to date

Causeland (Cornwall)	Canal behind station platform
St Budeaux Victoria Road (Plymouth)	Disused platform
St Albans Abbey (Hertfordshire)	Green area alongside station car park
March (Cambridgeshire)	Disused station buildings and platforms
Manea (Cambridgeshire)	Overgrown area behind platform

Schemes under development

Halling (Kent)	Area behind southbound platform (enhanced green space)
West Dulwich (London)	Embankments around station access paths (botanic garden)
Reddish South (Manchester)	Track bed in former bay behind station platform (garden)
St Johns (London)	Area above a cut-and-cover tunnel (nature area)
Reddish North (Manchester)	Open area at the station entrance (enhanced green space)
Manea (Cambridgeshire)	Areas behind platforms (enhanced station environment)
Beccles (Suffolk)	Disused platform and flower beds (enhanced station environment)
Hunmanby (Yorkshire)	Area behind platform (garden)
Argyle Street, Glasgow	Paved area alongside cutting (garden)
Winchelsea station house	Disused platform (enhanced station environment)
Brithdir (South Wales)	Disused platform (garden and nature area)
Tackley (Oxfordshire)	Area behind station platform (garden)
Parson Street (Bristol)	Disused track bed behind westbound platform (litter clearance)