

# Community Schemes Update: Autumn 2012

**Long-term schemes in place: 72** Registered volunteers: 507  
**One-off scheme days completed: 19** Volunteers: 233

## Camley Street: East Midlands Route



Not all community schemes are at small stations: Camley Street is just ¼ mile from St Pancras International. The site has a history of use by rough sleepers, sex workers and drug-users – in one year alone over 500 needles were cleared from the site. All that is changing now, thanks to emergency funding from Network Rail's Community Relations and London Borough of Camden, enabling the site to be 'bio-cleansed' and provided with a security fence. With the fence in place it was possible for London Wildlife Trust, who run nearby Camley Street Nature Reserve, to begin developing the site as a wildlife garden, a part of their 'Eco-enterprise' training scheme, with particular emphasis on bee-friendly habitats. Watch this space!

## Frome: Western Route



In what is becoming an annual event, the 15-strong Heart of Wessex Rail Partnership 'task force' descended on Frome's disused platform in September. In several decades since closure the weeds had become established in the many cracks in the old platform and the task force set out to dig out the plants so they can be controlled by the regulars of the Station Friends. Meanwhile, a dozen staff from Network Rail's Westbury Maintenance Unit cleared the former track bed in front of the platform, led by Track section Manager Dan Smith. In just a few hours the volunteers and Network Rail filled two trucks with vegetation and the platform was cleared ready for the planters and flower beds that are planned.

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## Cotteridge Park: London North Western Route



Cotteridge Park is one of a number of parks in Birmingham with an active volunteer supporters' group. They have achieved a lot within the park itself but were frustrated by the graffiti that appeared on Network Rail's bridge parapet which forms the entrance to the park, despite regular efforts to clean it off. So, the Friends of Cotteridge Park, led by Emma Woolf, managed to get funding for a professional artist to paint a mural on the bridge parapets. With the usual community licence in place and risk assessment and safety briefings complete, work started on the mural at the start of October. The results are striking and the Friends group have high hopes it will deter the graffiti.

## Dronfield: London North Eastern Route



Friends of Dronfield Station (FoDS) have received two accolades in recognition of their transformation of Dronfield Station from a neglected eyesore into an award-winning garden oasis welcoming residents and visitors alike to the centre of the town. For some years FoDS had been improving the public parts of the station and in December 2008 took on an adjoining triangle of land managed by Network Rail. Four years on the triangle is an award-winning wild flower garden, topping off the station's repaired fences, new flower borders, tended lawns and a restored 'pit tub'. In September FoDS were awarded first prize in the "Best Station Garden" category at the 2012 ACoRP Awards beating off intense competition from all around the country. This was followed up in October with the award of first prize in the "Community" category at the annual Sheffield Telegraph Environment Awards topped by a second award as overall winner of the whole competition. *Peter Hayward, FoDS*



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## Reddish South: London North Western Route



On 28<sup>th</sup> September the final panels were added to the 'Second Chances' mural at Reddish South station. Produced by 'Arts for Recovery in the Community' (ARC), the mural had suffered in the very wet Summer, necessitating some major refurbishment of the panels already in place. Undaunted, ARC had the original panels refurbished, the additional ones in place and the whole structure treated with several layers of varnish, all in time for the opening ceremony. As if this wasn't enough, Friends of Reddish South combined the ceremony with a coffee morning which raised £250 for the Macmillan Cancer Support Fund. A few days later the station group were named 'Volunteers of the Year' at the 'Pride of Heaton and Reddish' Awards, presented by Stockport Councillor Paul Moss.

## Lytham: London North Western Route



A partnership has been formed in Lytham to bring some colour to the station's disused platform. Neglected since closure, the rubbish and weed strewn platform has been cleared by Network Rail and a the partnership between Lytham in Bloom, the local prison service at Kirkham and the South Fylde Community Rail Partnership has come together to transform the old platform by constructing planters and filling them with colourful flower displays. Network Rail Maintenance Protection Coordinator Alan Bibby has obtained equipment for the group and Alan is pictured here at the hand over meeting at the station on 26th October 2012. We can look forward to a very colourful display next spring and summer and hope that the station will be entered into the 2013 Station of the Year competition.

*Lancashire County Council 'Reading Between the Lines' newsletter*



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## Belper: East Midlands Route



Volunteers from eco-group Transition Belper have transformed overgrown vegetated areas at Belper station into manicured garden beds with the help of offenders from Derbyshire's Probation Trust. Wendy Bell from Derby delivery unit has been instrumental in the success of this project. The hard work of volunteers was acknowledged in October when it was announced by Britain in Bloom that Belper won first prize in the Large Town category. Spurred on by this success, the group have planned more volunteer planting days in November which the East Midlands CRE team are supporting.

## Fotheringay Lane, Glasgow: Scotland Route



Fotheringay Lane, Glasgow, overlooking the railway cutting at Maxwell Park station, has an active residents association. In fact it has three – one for each large block of houses. All three residents groups were keen to do something about the undergrowth and litter along the top of the cutting facing their homes and duly contacted Network Rail. As the work could be done without leaving the public highway there were no special safety issues and the community licence was soon in place, with the help of Nichola McParland from Network Rail's Glasgow Maintenance Unit, who is local contact for the group. Although the work is well away from the track, the main risk is from road traffic passing by the narrow pavements, so Network Rail provided the usual 'Community Volunteer' high-vis. Fotheringay Lane is only the fourth Community Scheme in Scotland, but there are lots more in the pipeline.

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## Hither Green Triangle: Kent Route



The Triangle nature reserve at Hither Green, established back in 2008, was the very first Network Rail community scheme. For the first few years access was only possible through the railway depot, requiring Network Rail supervision, which restricted the occasions when the volunteers could work on the site. But now that is changing, with the construction of a set of wooden steps down from a gate onto one of the station platforms. Now the group just need to sign out a key from Southeastern Railway's Station Supervisor and they can work at whatever times suit them best. With help from Southeastern and other funding bodies the reserve now has an interpretation board facing the platform and is currently working on a bid for funding to manage trees and enhance the pond which forms a major feature of the site.

## Long-Term Schemes in Place, 31<sup>st</sup> October 2012

Location	Network Rail Route	About the Scheme
Enfield Lock (London)	<b>Anglia</b>	Painting a subway and creating gardens in fenced areas around a level crossing
Halesworth (Suffolk)	<b>Anglia</b>	Maintaining a heritage site on gravelled areas behind former 'movable platforms'
Homerton (London)	<b>Anglia</b>	Wildflower garden on embankments behind platforms and a street-level area
Pedley St, Shoreditch (London)	<b>Anglia</b>	Hedge planting to reduce graffiti on a paved area outside the railway boundary fence
March-Wisbech (Cambridgeshire)	<b>Anglia</b>	Preparing the disused March-Wisbech line for a heritage railway
Belper (Derbyshire)	<b>East Midlands</b>	Gardens behind station platforms
Camley Street (St Pancras)	<b>East Midlands</b>	Wildlife garden and 'eco-enterprise' site in newly-fenced area between the road and the railway
Maiden Lane, Camden (London)	<b>East Midlands</b>	Garden and compost storage in unfenced area between railway and housing estate
Chartham (Kent)	<b>Kent</b>	Youth and community garden in former allotment
Foord Road, Folkestone (Kent)	<b>Kent</b>	Graffiti removal on a viaduct arches crossing a public park
Halling (Kent)	<b>Kent</b>	Improved green space in the area behind southbound platform.

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Hither Green Triangle (London)	<b>Kent</b>	Nature reserve in the triangle between running lines and railway depot
Hither Green, Springbank Road	<b>Kent</b>	Improved green space on the embankment between station and highway
Maidstone West (Kent)	<b>Kent</b>	Rail Partnership office in disused railway building
Thornville St, Deptford (London)	<b>Kent</b>	Wild life meadow above a 'cut and cover' tunnel
Wateringbury (Kent)	<b>Kent</b>	Bulb garden behind the station platform
West Dulwich (London)	<b>Kent</b>	Botanic garden and on the embankment surrounding the station access path
Barton-on-Humber (Lincolnshire)	<b>London North Eastern</b>	Tree planting and vegetation management in a fenced area between track and railway boundary
Battersby (Yorkshire)	<b>London North Eastern</b>	Woodland and nature area behind the platform
Cleethorpes (Lincolnshire)	<b>London North Eastern</b>	Artwork on the disused platform facing Cleethorpes promenade
Dronfield (Derbyshire)	<b>London North Eastern</b>	Wild flower garden in a triangle by the station entrance
Leeds Waterfront	<b>London North Eastern</b>	Wildlife garden in an unfenced area between the railway boundary and a canal
Newton Aycliffe (County Durham)	<b>London North Eastern</b>	Vegetation and litter clearing between station approach and platforms
West Rainton (County Durham)	<b>London North Eastern</b>	Periodic litter clearing on part of a mothballed branch line
Wylam (Northumberland)	<b>London North Eastern</b>	Restoration of former station house garden
Burscough Junction (Lancashire)	<b>London North Western</b>	Garden on a disused platform
Chapel-en-le-Frith (Derbyshire)	<b>London North Western</b>	Garden and heritage area on embankment behind south side platform
Cotteridge Park (Birmingham)	<b>London North Western</b>	Mural on a bridge parapet at the entrance to a municipal park
Croston (Lancashire)	<b>London North Western</b>	Garden/wildlife garden on a disused platform
Fenny Stratford (Bedfordshire)	<b>London North Western</b>	Garden on the embankment behind the station platform
Glossop (Derbyshire)	<b>London North Western</b>	Garden on the embankment opposite the station platform
Hindley (Manchester)	<b>London North Western</b>	Garden and restoration of historic features behind station platforms and on a disused track bed
Lidlington (Bedfordshire)	<b>London North Western</b>	Garden and litter clearing in fenced areas behind the station platforms
Lytham (Lancashire)	<b>London North Western</b>	Tubs and raised-bed garden on a disused platform
Reddish South (Manchester)	<b>London North Western</b>	Mural and garden on boundary wall and in-filled track bed behind the station platform
Settle (Yorkshire)	<b>London North Western</b>	Garden and wildlife area in open area under viaduct
St Albans Abbey (Hertfordshire)	<b>London North Western</b>	Vegetation management and litter clearing in unfenced area alongside station car park

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Thornton (Lancashire)	<b>London North Western</b>	Railway heritage area and green space on disused branch line and station
Burnside (Glasgow)	<b>Scotland</b>	Litter clearing, vegetation management and planting on embankment alongside public road
Fotheringay Road, Glasgow	<b>Scotland</b>	Litter clearing and vegetation management on a verge at the edge of the railway boundary
Norwood Junction (London)	<b>Sussex</b>	Community garden in part of a disused depot
Uckfield (Sussex)	<b>Sussex</b>	Garden behind the station platform
Winchelsea (Sussex)	<b>Sussex</b>	Vegetation management behind the station platform
Winchelsea station house (Sussex)	<b>Sussex</b>	Tubs and raised-bed garden on a disused platform
Abernant (Carmarthenshire)	<b>Wales</b>	Preparation for a heritage railway on the disused branch to Abernant
Amlwch Branch (Anglesey)	<b>Wales</b>	Preparation for a heritage railway on the disused Amlwch-Llangefni branch
Brithdir (South Wales)	<b>Wales</b>	Garden/wildlife area on a disused platform
Bucknell (Shropshire)	<b>Wales</b>	Garden/wildlife area on a disused platform
Criccieth (Gwynedd)	<b>Wales</b>	Tubs and raised-bed garden on a disused platform
Dolau (Powys)	<b>Wales</b>	Garden on disused platform and lineside areas
Gwendraeth (Carmarthenshire)	<b>Wales</b>	Preparation for a heritage railway on part of the Coed Bach to Cwmawr branch line
Llandovery (Powys)	<b>Wales</b>	Gardens in areas behind platforms
Llandrindod (Powys)	<b>Wales</b>	Garden on the site of a former signal box
Llanelli (Carmarthenshire)	<b>Wales</b>	Litter and vegetation clearance in walled and fenced areas behind station platforms
Pen-y-bont (Powys)	<b>Wales</b>	Garden on a disused station platform
Sudbrook (South Wales)	<b>Wales</b>	Garden on a disused line through the village
Tywyn, (Gynedd)	<b>Wales</b>	Garden in a fenced area behind a station platform
Chandlers Ford (Hampshire)	<b>Wessex</b>	Tubs and raised-bed garden on a disused platform
Dorchester (Dorset)	<b>Wessex</b>	Orchard and wildlife garden in a former allotment
Romsey (Hampshire)	<b>Wessex</b>	Garden and informal parking by station approach
Swaythling (Southampton)	<b>Wessex</b>	Woodland garden in fenced area behind platform
Tisbury West (Wiltshire)	<b>Wessex</b>	Refurbishing former crossing-keeper's hut
Ascott-under-Wychwood (Glos)	<b>Western</b>	Shrub planting and maintenance in a road verge
Barnstaple (Devon)	<b>Western</b>	Tubs and raised-bed gardens on a disused platform

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Finstock (Oxfordshire)	<b>Western</b>	Preserving and monitoring rare flowers in a fenced area above a cutting
Fox Park (Bristol)	<b>Western</b>	Garden and wildlife area in open area under viaduct
Frome (Somerset)	<b>Western</b>	Tubs and raised-bed garden on a disused platform
Patchway (Bristol)	<b>Western</b>	Area behind northbound platform (Improved station environment)
Salt Hill Subway (Slough)	<b>Western</b>	Mural and improvement to pedestrian underpass
Totnes Riverside (Devon)	<b>Western</b>	Wildlife area in a hollow at foot of embankment on main line Totnes station
Yate (Gloucestershire)	<b>Western</b>	Garden in a former track bed behind the station platform
Yatton (Somerset)	<b>Western</b>	Station garden on the embankment around the station entrance

## One-Off Schemes to Date

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Network Rail Route</b>	<b>About the Scheme</b>
Manea (Cambridgeshire)	<b>Anglia</b>	Clearing rubbish and vegetation behind a station platform
March (Cambridgeshire)	<b>Anglia</b>	Clearing rubbish and vegetation on disused track bed and platforms, preparing for a heritage centre
Whittlesea (Cambridgeshire)	<b>Anglia</b>	Clearing rubbish around a disused loading dock
Snodland (Kent)	<b>Kent</b>	Clearing rubbish and undergrowth on a former bay track bed for raised-bed food growing
Lidlington (Bedfordshire)	<b>London North Western</b>	Clearing rubbish and vegetation behind a station platform
St Albans Abbey (Hertfordshire)	<b>London North Western</b>	Tidying up green area by the station car park
Levenmouth (Fife)	<b>Scotland</b>	Painting a footbridge over a disused branch line
Hever (Kent)	<b>Sussex</b>	Clearing litter and vegetation in an area behind a station platform
Eynham Road (West London)	<b>Sussex</b>	Clearing litter in a gated area next to embankment
Causeland (Cornwall)	<b>Western</b>	Clearing out a canal behind the station platform (2 work days)
Gloucester	<b>Western</b>	Staging a film show in railway arches between public car parks
Hungerford (Berkshire)	<b>Western</b>	Painting a refurbishing wrought iron railings between railway and a public footpath
St Austell (Cornwall)	<b>Western</b>	Weatherproofing a disused signal box in preparation for a heritage scheme
St Budeaux Victoria Road (Plymouth)	<b>Western</b>	Clearing vegetation on a disused platform

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## Schemes being developed

Scheme	Network Rail Route	About the Scheme
Whittlesea (Cambridgeshire)	<b>Anglia</b>	Garden surrounding a disused freight dock
Snodland (Kent)	<b>Kent</b>	Food-growing in raised beds
Fernbrook Rd, Hither Green, London	<b>Kent</b>	Wildlife area on an embankment between station and highway
Filey (Yorkshire)	<b>London North Eastern</b>	Garden around station access path
Nafferton (Yorkshire)	<b>London North Eastern</b>	Garden in an area around a level crossing
Beverley (Yorkshire)	<b>London North Eastern</b>	Wildlife
Darton (Yorkshire)	<b>London North Eastern</b>	Wild flower garden on an embankment
Shildon (County Durham)	<b>London North Eastern</b>	Garden on embankment behind a station platform
Bentham (Lancashire)	<b>London North Eastern</b>	Wildlife garden on embankment in station approach
Windbourne Road, Liverpool	<b>London North Western</b>	Food-growing site and wildlife garden
Ormskirk (Lancashire)	<b>London North Western</b>	Garden on part of a disused platform
Aspley Guise	<b>London North Western</b>	Creating a garden behind one platform
New Cumnock	<b>Scotland</b>	Garden in compound next to platform
Kilmaurs	<b>Scotland</b>	'Jubilee Garden' next to bridge under the line
East Worthing (Sussex)	<b>Sussex</b>	Garden behind a station platform
Tal-y-Cafn (Gwynedd)	<b>Wales</b>	Garden on a disused station platform
Cynghordy	<b>Wales</b>	Creating a garden around station the entrance
Hereford	<b>Wales</b>	Tree-planting along boundary fence
Crewkerne (Somerset)	<b>Wessex</b>	Garden on a disused station platforms
Crediton (Devon)	<b>Western</b>	Former 'cattle dock' (garden and heritage area)
Newton Abbot (Devon)	<b>Western</b>	Artwork on approach to a bridge over the railway
Newton St Cyres (Devon)	<b>Western</b>	Garden on a disused station platform
Tackley (Oxfordshire)	<b>Western</b>	Garden between station platform and farmland
Weston-super-Mare	<b>Western</b>	Vegetation management on a road verge

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