

News from the Poacher Line



Welcome to 2022 and our latest newsletter. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and wish you all a happy and peaceful New Year. We have managed to achieve much during the last six months and we are looking forward to 2022 and the hopeful return of our events, including our popular Music Train. All of the events are subject to the current Covid-19 situation and authority from East Midlands Railway (EMR), but I am forever hopeful we can return to some sense of normality in 2022! The events page on our website (poacherline.org.uk) will be updated and I will be sending out marketing emails when confirmed. Watch this space!! All our projects can be seen in more detail on our website.

Jo Andrews
Community Rail Officer

Community Rail Awards

We were excited to be shortlisted in 5 categories for this year's awards, which were held in Southampton on 9th December. We were thrilled to be placed 3rd for Poacher's Patch, 2nd for the VCS action day at Sleaford & 1st in the Photo competition for "Roll out the Barrows!" Congratulations to all of our shortlisted and winning entries!



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Netherfield Station Bridge

After successful engagement with the schools and communities of Netherfield and Colwick we were thrilled to be able to start work to address the graffiti problem on Netherfield station bridge. The project was jointly funded by Network Rail, EMR & the Poacher Line. With the help of a working party from Network Rail and EMR we spent a day removing loose masonry and vegetation from both sides of the bridge before painting the entire bridge ready for Urban Artist, Lionel Stanhope, to create his artwork. The response from the public was phenomenal and the Mayor of Gedling attended to view the finished piece. Well done to all involved!



NKDC Walking Festival

We partnered with the Ramblers Association and Hill HoltWood to take part in the annual walking festival and completed the Poacher Line Ancaster to Sleaford linear walk. We took the train to Ancaster then walked back.



Routes of Remembrance



We were delighted to partner with the Veterans Charity and EMR to send a special train to Nottingham station the 11th November. The Poacher Line had created a virtual wreath relay in the run up to Armistice day, where a story was told from each station, from Skegness at Nottingham stations in time for a service of Remembrance at the stations War Memorial. Wreaths were collected from communities along our line and our station adopters created beautiful poppy displays at some of our stations. We proudly placed wreaths on behalf of RAF Cranwell, St Georges Academy cadet force, Skegness Rotary, Boston College, St. Andrews Primary school, Rainbow stars Charity, Boston in Bloom & Archbishop Cranmer primary school. The partnership chair, Peter Roberts, MBE laid a wreath on behalf of the Poacher Line. #lestweforget



poacherline.org.uk



poacherline@lincolnshire.gov.uk



[@poacherline](https://www.instagram.com/poacherline)

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National Citizen Service - Sleaford Subway

We were approached by the NCS & Notts County Foundation to design a volunteering opportunity for 16 students from Nottingham College. The students were aged 16-18 and from the English Speakers of Other Languages course. We designed a three day programme which included rail safety presentation, a train trip to Skegness & rail safety workbook. On the final day, working with Urban artist James from Imageskool, they completed an art project to brighten up a neglected subway at Sleaford with a mural which depicted the local area and its aviation heritage. The project was jointly funded by EMR and the Poacher Line and included Fish & Chips at the seaside and a Goody bag for the students. They all had a fantastic time and a dark and dreary subway was transformed. The local community have made positive comments.



Network Rail Action Day

In September we were lucky to have a working party from Network Rail come to Ancaster station to get the community garden back under control. On a lovely sunny day we spent our time cutting back vegetation, painting fences, weeding the platforms and removing old and rotten planters. New planters have been ordered and ready for installation, thanks to grants from Community Rail Network and EMR! Thank you Network Rail for your much needed help!

Station Adopter news

Station adoption numbers are remained steady at around the 100 mark.

Bottesford designed and built a pergola over the summer and this has really enhanced the garden.

Boston has had an area cleared on Platform 1 and the adopters have big plans!

We managed to all get together at EMRs Station Adopters conference in October in Derby.

Coming up.....

- Walks booklet
- Sleaford Community Room
- Sleaford Garden of Remembrance

This is where we would love to hear from you with any news. Please send us your stories from the station along with some pic's. poacherline@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Don't forget to follow us on social media:



Community Rail
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The Poacherline is supported by

