

# Poacher Line



Annual Report 2023



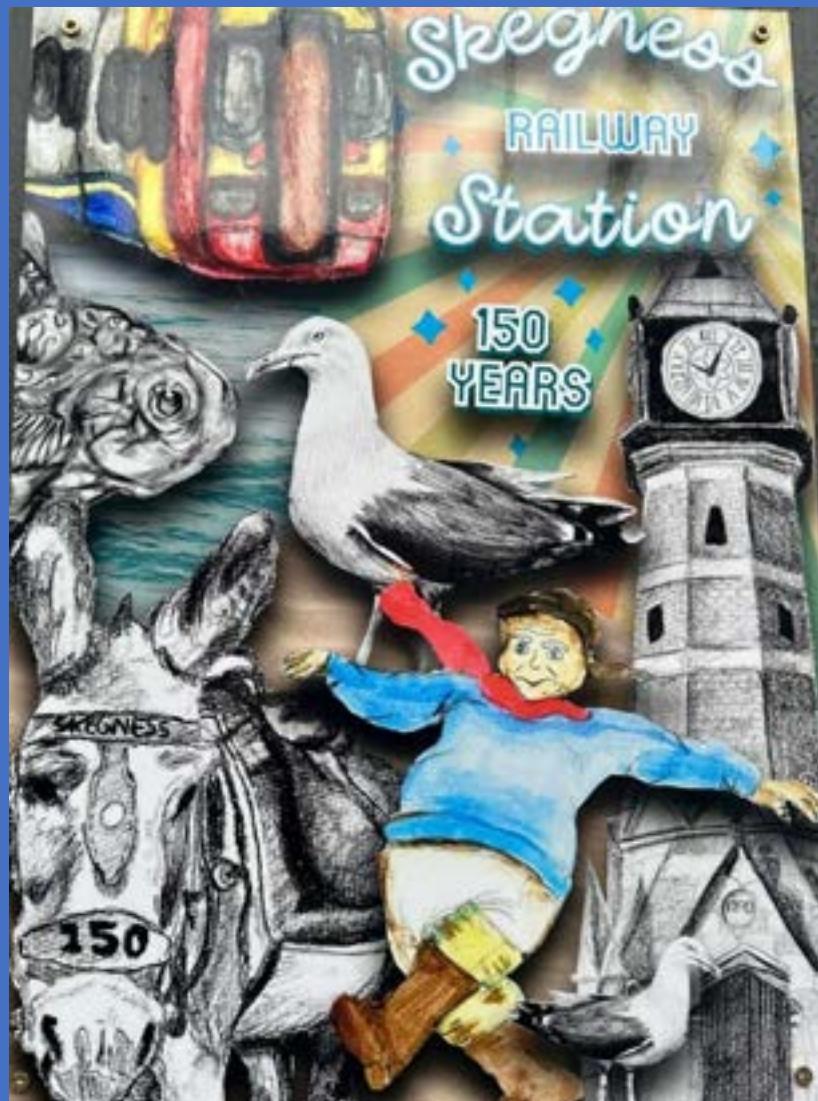


We have had what seems like an extremely busy year and here you will find out what we have been up to, the projects our Adopters have taken part in, our projects for the coming year and much more! During 2023 we saw some great events along the Poacher line.

Skegness station, the final stop on the Poacher Line was to celebrate its 150th anniversary of its opening in the summer of 2023, a group of year 10 students from Giles Academy were commissioned to produce a piece of artwork to commemorate the station and Skegness.

The students worked together to research the history of the station and the town to produce a collaborative piece. One of the most iconic railway posters designed was to advertise day trips from London to Skegness which helped to develop Skegness as one of the most prominent resorts in the UK, the artwork has encompassed this with a nod to the Jolly Fisherman.

EMR organised an unveiling event to celebrate the work produced by the students at Skegness station. The now permanent feature showcases not only the history of the town and the Station but the individuality of the students who produced the piece. This project showed the power and benefits of collaboration with local schools and the community and the Railway station, the piece has created a focal point for the local community which will be present at the station through the wider regeneration of the station.





The concept for the Boston Station Garden area was cultivated by the Boston station adopters, a well-established group who commit their spare time to maintaining the gardens, tidying up the station, and surrounding area. The adopters earmarked a heavily overgrown area on Platform 1 that was renowned for littering and antisocial behaviour, the initiative was to create a welcoming area to bring a wealth of colour, increase wildlife presence and improve the aesthetic satisfaction to passengers passing through. The aim was to create a mini eco-system to encourage pollination from bugs and bees and create a safer area for passengers by opening up the area.

Thus, the idea was born for the 'Boston Poacher' consisting of a Train barrel planter branded in EMR livery, planted with hardy plants, bulbs, and grasses and 'Buggingham Palace' a bug hotel to encourage bugs, bees and beetles increasing pollination.

The materials from the project were sourced from small businesses and local garden centres, supporting the local economy, the project has been shared widely on social media gaining positive feedback and has improved the aesthetics of the station creating a positive, safer and more inviting area for passengers and the local community.

The project was funded by EMR and the Poacher Line.





Collaboratively Poacher Line alongside Cross Country, CRN, Robin Hood Line CRP and EMR came together to create a large-scale Mural at Nottingham station to work alongside the Railway Children charity, Base51 and ImageSkool to commission a cartoon strip to depict the journey of a young person's life. Progressing over the course of a week the artwork has attracted many of our partners to visit during its progress on the exterior wall at Nottingham station with focus on integrating one's journey through the opportunities of rail. The artwork enables the public to not only feel welcomed to the station but to also challenge people's minds into how life progresses with the influence the rail industry has on each milestone of a person's life.





To commemorate Routes of Remembrance this year, Poacher Line CRP along with EMR, Station adopters and other partnerships came together to create a poem to reflect the role the Rail industry took in supporting soldiers during the war. Workshops took place where we gathered to bring our ideas together alongside the very talented Olivia McNab who constructed the poem for us, we looked into the meaning of war, how not only soldiers but their families felt and the impact it had on the world. The poem 'It Took Every Soldier' was published on posters which appeared at every EMR station in the week before Remembrance Sunday and permanent copies have been put up at several stations, including Nottingham and Derby. A video of the poem being read by EMR staff was also made. On November 10<sup>th</sup> we gathered at Nottingham station for the unveiling and alongside EMR staff we took wreaths to remember those who had fallen.

During the ceremony, an EMR staff member read out poem as well as having a bugle player playing the last post followed by a minute's silence.

To watch the moving reading of the poem visit the EMR website  
[: Routes of Remembrance Poem](#)  
[| EMR](#)  
[\(eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk\)](#)





In September Poacher Line and EMR were approached by the Radcliffe adopters to suggest a Dementia train trip. A group who attends the memory café in Radcliffe took the train to Sleaford waiting room to enjoy an afternoon of live music and afternoon tea. Songs were played from the 50s and 60s and many cakes were eaten. It was a fantastic opportunity for both individuals living with Dementia and their carers to enjoy an afternoon of light-hearted conversation, a blast from the past and a welcoming warm environment to take the weight of their feet, we all sang along to the songs played by Charlie and indulged in many varied conversations.

This opportunity opened up our eyes to see that it benefitted not only those who live with Dementia but myself and Nancy alongside the family members/carers alike, it gave everyone an uplifting and invigorating experience as well as putting that well needed smile on everyone's faces.



In light of our enjoyable afternoon and the amazing people we got to meet it was approaching World Alzheimer's Day, to commemorate this I wrote a short poem from the perspective of someone living with Dementia which can be found on the following page. Going forward we are aiming to make the Poacher Line a more Dementia Friendly line.



21st September 2023

**I know your face but not your name,  
Time passes so slowly, frame by frame,  
Wanting to remember, but it's just not there,  
My brain may be different, but know, in my heart  
I still care.**

**Everyday is so different, some good, some bad.  
This journey is hard, tiring, scary and sad.  
I will smile, cry, laugh, shout or swear,  
My life may be different, but know, in my heart I  
still care.**

**Each day I cherish the things that we do,  
Our life together and how much I love you.  
In 5 minutes I may have forgotten and appear  
unaware,  
But just remember I am still me and in my heart I  
still care.**

*Gin Fidlin*



## Poacher Line Media

Over the course of 2023 the Poacher Line has produced up to date media to support the line and promote the different adventures you can have using our fantastic line.

We have produced a walk booklet that spans across 8 stations and incorporates local memorials and monuments with supporting facts. The walks span between 1-2.5 miles and encourage the public to get out and explore not only our stations but the fantastic scenery surrounding them.



Our line Guide is also now live, this spans the entirely on the line giving an overview of different places you can visit using our stations for inspirational, historical and exciting days out.



These can be found on the Poacher Line website; they can be downloaded and are also available in paper form which will soon be distributed at manned stations and surrounding businesses. Please get in touch if you would like me to send you any.



## Walking Festival 2023

PoacherLine teamed up with NK Walking Festival in June to take part in a 6-mile station to station walk. We started off in Sleaford and caught the train to Ancaster where we began our journey. We navigated fields, styles, country roads and some lovely sheep eventually ending up taking a lovely stroll beside the river Slea and back to Sleaford station. The 6-mile journey took us 3.5 hours with a cheeky stop for some lunch. Take a look at some of the views we had and the sights we saw!

Hopefully, we can join another in 2024!



## Upcoming Projects

**As we head into the new year there are many exciting projects that the Poacher Line are getting their teeth stuck into for 2024.**

- We have many stations along the line where we are working on sprucing up the platforms with new planters and seasonal/annual plants as well as larger projects where we are going to be working with Charities and schools on Rail Safety with the intention of producing some wonderful artwork to display.
- We are working towards restoring the running in board at Rauceby due to deterioration and hopefully give it a new lease of life and take it back to its original 1920's beauty.
- Boston Station redevelopment has begun as Phase 1 to convert all vacant spaces into a community café and two small start-up business spaces.
- Skegness Station renovations are also underway with Phase 1 bringing back the unused building at the front of the station being transformed into new customer areas and new retail units.
- We have Entered and been short-listed for 'It's your Station' Silver Award in the Community Rail Network Awards for our Boston Station project.

**These are just a handful of the exciting projects/events we have going on this year, if you have any other ideas or projects/days out or events please do get in touch, and we can work towards making them happen.**

To gain access to our website and social media please scan the QR code below.

