

# Poacher Line



## Annual Report 2024



**Poacher Line Community Rail Partnership**

**2024 showed some real improvement along the Poacher Line, from awards, music trains and station projects all culminating into a positive and productive year for all of our stations**

**This report will highlight what an excellent year we have had with our collaborative projects, group gatherings and how our volunteers have helped us to deliver the four pillars set out by the DfT. Particular highlights were our Poacher Line awards to celebrate all of our amazing station adopters and their groups, working in partnership with the Rail Safe Friendly programme to deliver Rail safety awareness across 11 schools along the line, teaming up with Platforms for change program at Bottesford station with a young group of scouts and last but certainly not least the return of the infamous Music Train at Batemans brewery. We have worked hard on bringing our stations back to the beauty and glory they deserve to be.**

**I am more than grateful for the dedication, support and passion from our station adopters at each and every station. The man hours, love and effort they put in each week is beyond sensational. This year Radcliffe, Bottesford, Boston were shortlisted for 3 silver awards at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Community Rail Awards, which in my humble opinion is phenomenal. I would personally like to say to all of our dedicated adopters from Nottingham through to Skegness a massive heartfelt thankyou for everything you do to maintain, improve and love our stations, especially during my 3 months of absence, without you these achievements and projects wouldn't be possible.**



Gin Fidlin

Community Rail Officer

## Poacher Line

The Poacher Line is a Community Rail Partnership which runs from the bustling city of Nottingham to the traditional seaside resort of Skegness. It is an accredited line supported by the Department for Transport working with East Midlands Railway (EMR) as the main train operating company and other partners. The CRP follows the Community Rail Development Strategy working on the four pillars as follows: 1. Provide a voice for the community

## Engaging with Young People

It has been wonderful to engage with the younger members in our communities and work with them to complete some super projects, educating them with some important Rail Safety presentations and programs to expand their awareness of the Railway.

Poacher Line and EMR engaged in a Try the Train trip to Skegness with Base51 as a Thank you for the mural Artwork the young learners contributed to at Nottingham station.

## East Midlands Railway

East Midlands Railway (EMR), owned by Transport UK Group as of 2023, is the main train operating company in our region.

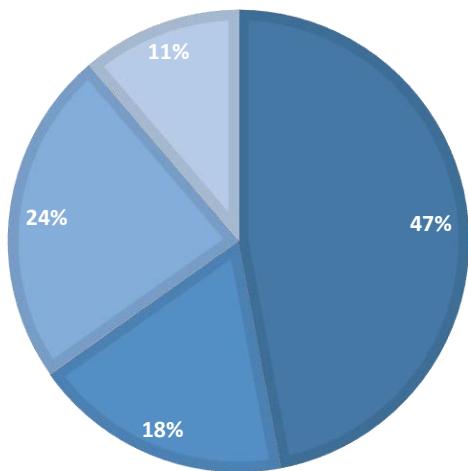
EMR is committed to working closely with Community Rail lines across their network; with nine CRPs. As part of their committed obligation to the Department for Transport there are several funding options for CRPs and station adoption groups to bid in to, to supporting projects along their lines.



# Financial Statement 2024/25

## INCOME

- East Midlands Railway - £27290
- LNER - £10540
- Cross Country Trains - £13678.57
- Funding Grants - £6512.50

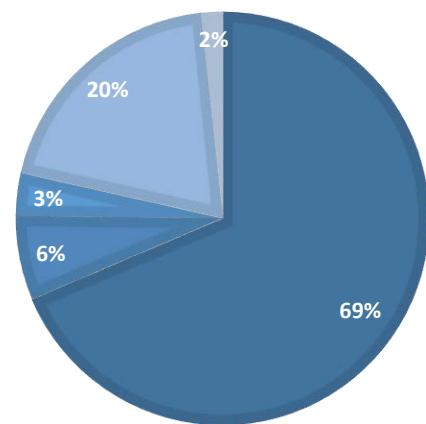


**Total - £58,021.07**

**Carry forward 23/24 - £103944.69**

## EXPENDITURE

- Officer salary - £33335.13
- Pensions & NI - £3184.66
- Staff/adopter Travel - £1631.02
- Projects outlay - £9637.15
- Grants - £795



**Total - £48,582.96**

**Carry forward 25/26 - £110571.64**

Throughout each year aside from project funding we provide each station with Garden vouchers for their upkeep with flowers, plants and essentials for the station. This year we have issued xxx vouchers to our adopters.

## Marketing

This year we have created our Walk Booklets, 8 stations, 8 loop walks from the station all in 1 booklet. We tried to focus on making accessible walks for everyone to enjoy. We worked alongside The Energy Cell to create this wonderful media which can be found in paperback version aswell as on our website. We were fortunate enough to team up with Visit Lincolnshire and the walks are also featured on their website.



## Station Projects

### Nottingham



Our devoted Nottingham Station adopters have worked tirelessly this past year to clear an area close by platform 7. Starting as a waste piece of ground they have cleared the area, weeding, raking and transforming the area to create a wonderful space for all to enjoy.

We currently have 3 regular adopters who help us to make sure our bustling station is clean and tidy and well maintained, having created a bond on a weekly basis they meet up to ensure the station is progressing towards one we can be proud of.

### Netherfield

It was acknowledged that there was an increase in anti-social behaviour at Netherfield station, an art project to boost the area was suggested to brighten up the station and bring a little colour to the surroundings. Working with artist Alastair Flindell from Neck of the woods studios, this piece was inspired by the local community and also incorporates Railway 200.



## Radcliffe

Our ever evolving Radcliffe station has welcomed a large project this year transforming the approach to the station. The large adopter group who dedicate many man hours have transformed a somewhat unused overgrown piece of land into a beautiful, wildflower bed creating a more welcoming and inviting entrance.

The Poacher Line officer applied to the Community Rail Network and East Midland Railway for the funding and was successful ensuring the group could install posts to protect the land ensuring not only the ever growing flowers were protected but the evolving habitats made by local wildlife.

The station won the Best Station Photograph in our 2024 Poacher Line awards and came runner up in Best Floral Display. The group were also shortlisted for a silver award in the 2025 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Community Rail Awards in the 'It's your Station' category.



## Bottesford



Bottesford invited the Borrowby Scouts group as part of the platforms for change program to help improve and enrich the Friendly garden at the station. The volunteers helped to weed, bark and water the plants. They were taken on a tour of the station and platform and spoken to about Rail Safety. The Adopters and myself were joined by 8 Scouts aged between 11 and 14 and their leaders.

Bottesford won the best creative station in our Poacher Line Awards and The group were also shortlisted for a silver award in the 2025 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Community Rail Awards in the 'It's your Station' category.

## Ancaster

Together with EMR and LCC we held an Action day at Ancaster Station – with the previous work having been carried out to create a beautiful garden and wildlife area it needed some TLC to bring it back to life.

We donned our gloves grabbed our forks and shears and got to work. From painting the fences to replacing and planting the planters the station started coming back to life.

We were able to revive the wildlife area at the station and uncover some hidden gems. With great support from Network Rail and additional volunteers we were able to give Ancaster the kiss of life it needed to bring it back to glory.



## Sleaford

Sleaford saw Kim join the world of adoption and make a fantastic difference to platform 1, ensuring each event is celebrated and colour is brought to the station. Kim came second in the Poacher Line awards category for Best Creative Station with her avid efforts to bring a once overgrown patch into a beautiful garden area.



## Rainbow Stars



Rainbow stars are an inclusive and friendly community group providing support for parents, carers, siblings, and individuals with disabilities or those seeking a diagnosis. They work hard on Poacher Patch on platform one to make an inviting safe space to enjoy and wait for your train. Sam and the team take their young people to the station to plant, weed and have hands on experience. This year raised beds have been installed on the patch to promote inclusiveness and accessibility for all who attend the sessions. The garden flourishes in beautiful colour and is regularly decorated to celebrate key events.

## Boston



Our award winning Boston Poacher barrels have been flourishing this past year with our adopters working hard to add extra reclaimed planters to accentuate the already beautiful area on platform one. Our adopters have seasonally decorated the station to depict various events throughout the year.

Adding to their current success, from becoming winners in the Poacher Line awards for Best Floral Display, being shortlisted for a silver award in the 20<sup>th</sup> Community Rail Awards to presenting a speech at our annual Station Adopters conference, the achievements have been phenomenal. I'm sure a highlight was joining Alexie Sayle on a train ride to Skegness to be interviewed for a segment on BBC Radio 4 programme 'Strangers on a Train' as well as representing the Poacher Line alongside fellow Skegness adopters on Remembrance day laying a wreath. The sheer dedication, passion and commitment shown by the adopters here is above and beyond.

## Collaborative Projects

Boston saw some fantastic additions this year, from working collaboratively with EMR and transportedart to deliver the flyway Trail artworks- our amazing artist Imogen Joyce providing a fun free experience for residents and visitors at the station. This gives the public and passengers the opportunity to take a selfie with different wildlife wings behind to encourage exploration of Lincolnshire and discovering local towns and the nature that belongs there.



We teamed up with Sleaford Climate Action Network in Sleaford to promote the benefit of greener travel. Spending the day speaking to the public and giving out our promotional items to encourage patrons of all ages to consider the use to public transport. We were also joined by LCC and Hill holt wood who also encouraged locals to get out and about by bus or take a leisurely stroll across the hundreds of walking routes available across the county.

## Rail Safe Friendly

We had the amazing opportunity to team up with the Rail Safe Friendly program. Their primary aim was to raise awareness about the hazards associated with railways, particularly the issue of trespassing. Schools located near railway lines that had experienced a significant number of trespassing incidents were targeted, hoping to educate students about the potential dangers they faced in these areas.

Poacher Line with the support from Cross Country Trains and East Midlands Railways to fund this project allowed us to sponsor 20 schools along the Poacher Line delivering essential awareness of the dangers of the Railway and to promote safety within young people.

Over the Past year we have successfully reached **7,623** young people at **11** school, who have achieved Bronze to Gold, we are continually in support of the programme and working towards reaching more young people within our community to ensure Rail Safety is a high priorities across our schools.



## 1<sup>st</sup> Poacher Line Awards

2024 saw the 1<sup>st</sup> Poacher Line awards to celebrate the work of our volunteers. The awards were held in September in the grounds of the unique eight sailed windmill adjoining Heckington station.

After a few showers we were able to enjoy a beautiful afternoon buffet accompanied by live music from Hey Dude.

Bottesford adopters were the winners in the Best Creative section, Boston adopters won the Best Floral award and Radcliffe station volunteers were the winners with the Best Photo.

The winners were awarded with Garden vouchers and a hand turned yew clock made by Ian Flack of the Lincolnshire Wolds Woodturning Association.

We are more than grateful for the hard work and commitment showed by each and every one of our adopters as without them our stations would not be as glorious as they are today. So on behalf of myself, Peter Roberts ( Poacher Line chairman) and our stakeholders I would like to say a huge Thank-you for everything you do.



## Music Train

The return of the long awaited Music Train saw a dramatic reappearance in November 2024 to Batemans Brewery. We were joined by Mark Hickman from Identity Crisis who played some feel good songs on the train to Wainfleet. He gave us a fantastic set whilst at brewery enjoying some home brewed ales and lovely food while we sang along. We were joined by many enthusiastic music lovers and real ale aficionados. Supported by EMR and LCC we were successful in teaming up with Batemans to bring a knees up and long awaited tradition back to the line celebrating with all ages.



# Coming up in 2025

Railway 200 Projects

Wainfleet Station improvements

Interactions with Schools

Poacher Line Awards 2025



**Want to get involved with the Poacher Line or learn more?**

We'd love to hear from you...

-  [Poacherline@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:Poacherline@lincolnshire.gov.uk)
-  [Poacherline.org.uk](http://Poacherline.org.uk)
-  Poacher Line Community Rail Partnership
-  @PoacherLine
-  @PoacherLine

**Thankyou for the continued support from our Partners**

**E M R**



Department  
for Transport