

# ScotRail in the Community Awards 2023

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Adopter of the Year

# Welcome to the ScotRail in the Community Awards 2023 post-event booklet!

It has been four years since we were able to host the awards in person, and we were delighted that so many were able to join us at the voco Grand Central Hotel in Glasgow for this year's event. Much has changed since the last event in 2019; one global pandemic, two Monarchs, two First Ministers and four Prime Ministers, but still only one ScotRail Community team! As we continued adapting to new ways of working post-Covid, we also saw the move of ScotRail from a private franchise back into the public sector.

During this time all of the wonderful people involved with the Adopt-a-Station programme and Community Rail Partnerships didn't just wither away into the background. Instead, they stepped up community efforts in their towns, villages, and cities. They weren't going to allow a pandemic to dim their light or their passion for giving back to their communities, and once they could get back to stations they came back with a renewed energy and in some places, new volunteers.

You have been instrumental in promoting rail travel, and you have achieved this in so many ways, making stations feel more like places for the community rather than just a transport hub. This has encouraged a sense of safety while waiting for train and has brightened people's days across the country. You have delivered some magnificent projects such as artworks at stations, rail safety awareness, anniversary events and so much more.

We appreciate **YOU**; your hard work, dedication, enthusiasm, and support is truly remarkable. It's a privilege to be able to recognise your efforts. We'd like to thank each and every one of you as well as pass on our congratulations to the worthy winners and nominees mentioned in this booklet.

The ScotRail in the Community Team



# Adopt-a-Station of the Year Award





# Adopted Station of the Year



## Dumfries Station

Adopted by Dumfries Adoptive Railway Gardeners (DARG)



DARG realised that post-Covid, there was a lot of work to do to restore the previously cultivated formal gardens; to reclaim and reinvigorate the derelict woodland area adjacent to the formal gardens as a quiet place for the public and one where wildlife could flourish; make the main station approach much more attractive and reduce the regular dumping of rubbish in this area. They also wanted to make the gardens as sustainable as possible. After a long programme of works which they split into several phases, they have

successfully restored the gardens and taken on a wider area which required the volunteers to propagate their own plants to ensure they had enough for the area. Feedback on the group's Facebook page includes

***"Hard working team, well done, it makes for a lovely area to enjoy when waiting for the train."***

***"Well done, all your hard work will be appreciated by many passengers passing by."***

# Adopt-a-Station of the Year



**Silver**  
Award

## Cardross Station

Adopted by Cardross Community Organic Garden (COG)

In approximately 13 months the group has transformed unused neglected beds in the carpark, adjacent embankments. Christine Purdon, Scotrail staff at the station said

***“The dedicated volunteers of COG have given their time and knowledge to transform the grounds within Cardross Station. It has gone from unkempt and unloved to the beautiful display of flowers we see today. As well as making it beautiful with flowers, they have also provided the community with fruit, vegetables, and herbs. It brings so much pleasure to everyone, who not only use the station but just like to walk through it.”***



**Bronze**  
Award

## Fauldhouse Station

Adopted by the Rotary Club of Whitburn

Members spent countless hours clearing up weeds across the platforms, acquiring many new planters, filling these with new compost and topsoil and planting a wide range of largely perennial plants to provide all-year-round colour and an attractive, changing display. The Head Teacher at Longridge Primary School wanted to recognise how hard the group has worked to make the community a better place to live saying

***“Due to their hard work and commitment ... the station is now full of different planters filled with beautiful flowers and it is now such a lovely environment to be in”.***



Cardross Station



Cardross Station



Fauldhouse Station



Fauldhouse Station

**CRP Member of  
the Year**





# CRP Member of the Year



**Suzie McCheyne**

Rail 74

Suzie has been instrumental in the success of Rail 74 CRP since it was designated in early 2017. She has been a driving force behind many of the projects that the CRP has delivered over the years, including; the totem pole at Hamilton West, the mural at Rutherglen, the beeline in partnership with Grow 73 the station adopter at Rutherglen station and a free food handout with soup recipe to help tackle inequality and poverty in an area where social deprivation is being some of the early successful projects delivered. Suzie is nominated for the “hundreds of hours of her time” that she volunteers to help the CRP achieve their ambitions. Simply summed up in her nomination

**“None of the projects developed and completed by Rail 74 CRP would have been possible without the commitment, dedication and determination of Suzie.”**



# Adopters of the Year



# Adopter of the Year



## Winner

**Rotary Club of Whitburn**

Fauldhouse Station

The group of ten Rotary members and four spouses regularly visit the station to plant, water, weed and keep the station environment clear of litter. Volunteers have carried out a total revamp of both platforms following Covid. They spent countless hours clearing up weeds across platforms, acquiring many new planters and filling these with a wide range of plants. These provide all-year-round colour, and attractive, changing displays. Their platform train is richly planted and attracts much praise from commuters.

Their vision to change a previously drab and somewhat depressing environment into a warm inviting welcome has been welcomed by the local community with the Fauldhouse and Breich Valley Community Development Trust writing

**“Thank you to everyone at the Whitburn Rotary Club for all your hard work and dedication from the Community of Fauldhouse, and from all those using the local train station!”**



# Adopter of the Year



Dumfries Adoptive Railway Gardeners DARG

This group of volunteers are all retirees, from a variety of backgrounds and ranging in ages from 60 to 77. Working as a team they visit the station every Monday morning and work away while enjoying a blether and a laugh together at break times.

The volunteers completely renovated and rejuvenated the existing gardens to make them as attractive as possible for the public and wildlife. Additionally, they have cultivated over 400 sqm of wooded wasteland, introduced sustainable planting schemes, propagating from existing plants as well as building a 1.2cubic metre compost bin from scrap wooden pallets. Their vision is to have a bright and environmentally friendly garden which can be used not only by rail passengers but the whole community.



# Community Project of the Year





# Community Project of the Year



## Winner

Prestonpans Mural



Fittingly for Scotland's mural town (with around forty murals distributed around the town), East Lothian CRP undertook a project to replace the existing badly weathered artwork at Prestonpans station with four large murals depicting local transport subjects.

This involved artwork being commissioned from three local artists/groups. The station wall was repanelled, replacing rotten wood, and then painted. The full-size murals were photographed professionally and digitised into posters, each mural being eight posters in size.

Subjects were selected for their local significance and include the Wagonway (arguably the oldest railway in Scotland using wooden track and horse drawn trucks transporting coals and salt), and Wiles Bus – a well-loved independent bus operator who ran services in the town until 1986.

The appearance of the station has improved and local historical scenes readily relating to the Prestonpans area has been welcomed by the local community. The fact this has been achieved using local talent and businesses is significant, strengthening the link with the community. The murals will prove to be long lived and being digitally produced, with copies held locally, can be replaced very quickly if required.

# Outstanding Contribution to Community Rail





# Outstanding Contribution to Community Rail



Jane Connelly – Cardross



Jane was one of a small group of local people with gardening interests who came together in September 2021 seeking a suitable site in Cardross on which to develop a Community Organic Garden. From that first meeting Jane, with her can-do attitude, knowledge, and expertise, demonstrated exceptional commitment to the project, encouraging the group to take on more and more ambitious projects.

Jane is a “people person” and her boundless energy and enthusiasm is infectious. She has skilfully encouraged less experienced volunteers to participate and grow their own gardening knowledge and skills which has created a positive attitude within the group.

Jane’s personal commitment to the project is evidenced by the many hours spent at the station garden each week, and she became lead volunteer in March 2023.

Her fellow adopters said

***“The transformation of the long-neglected garden areas at Cardross Station would not have been possible without the dedication and enthusiasm of lead volunteer Jane.”***

# Specially Commended



## Special Commendation

Anne Roberts - Dumfries Adoptive Railway Gardeners DARG

*The scoring for this category was so close that the judges thought it only fair that Ann, who has been volunteering at Dumfries station garden since 2018 as lead volunteer and also Secretary, should also be recognised. Ann has set out to make the volunteer group more inclusive, environmentally friendly and cost effective and to make the station garden a welcoming place for passengers and the public to use.*

*Ann has maintained the enthusiasm of the DARG volunteer group and grown its numbers by ensuring a friendly, collaborative ethos and introduced several initiatives to increase public awareness and use of the gardens. Ann is a great ambassador*

*for the gardens and the DARG team recognise that without Ann's leadership the group may well have ceased to exist immediately post-Covid and the 2021 – 2023 transformation of the Dumfries station gardens would never have taken place.*

# Meet the Judges



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*We would like to thank the judging panel who gave their time to select this year's winners. We had fantastic number of entries making the judging process tough for them, but they enjoyed learning more about the work going on across Scotland.*

## **Wullie Clark - Customer Experience & Community Engagement Officer, Scottish Rail Holdings**

Wullie's role involves monitoring and supporting the delivery of grant conditions for both ScotRail Trains Ltd (SRT) and Caledonian Sleeper Ltd (CSL). His responsibilities encompass various aspects such as customer engagement, passenger experience, community rail, and heritage. He also works in coordination with Transport Scotland officials and other Scottish Government policy officials. With nearly 30 years of experience in public transport, he brings a wealth of expertise to his role.

**"It was truly delightful to review the wide variety of award proposals submitted from all corners of Scotland, representing different generations and backgrounds. I want to extend my best wishes to everyone and eagerly anticipate the upcoming awards luncheon and ceremony."**



# Meet the Judges

## Nicola Hutchinson – Programme Manager, Scotland Loves Local.

*Scotland Loves Local is the campaign putting localism at the heart of a stronger, greener, fairer Scotland.*

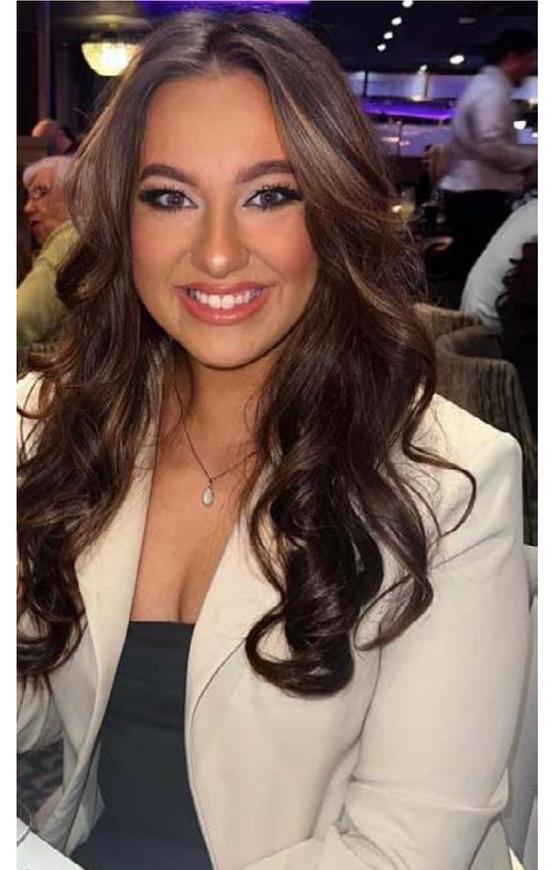
**“It’s great to see a good range of winners, runners-up, etc.**

**It was an absolute pleasure to be involved with this, and it was such a treat to spend time reading about the wonderful initiatives to support individuals, communities, and the railway.”**



## Megan Moore – External Relations Assistant, ScotRail

**“I was truly impressed by the dedication and passion of the volunteers across Scotland. As a member of the ScotRail in the Community awards panel, I am delighted to be a part of this inspiring community that tirelessly promotes and celebrates the invaluable contributions of rail volunteers.”**



# Meet the Judges

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**Drew Burbidge - Area Manager,  
Express, Stirling & Perth, ScotRail**

*"I was delighted to be invited to join the judging panel for the ScotRail in the Community awards. Reading the entries and seeing the pictures provided proves how much time and dedication is given from the volunteers. The volunteers do a great job of brightening up the stations, their pride and passion for this is lovely to see. Everyone who entered should be extremely proud of themselves, and their respective volunteer groups, as it was very difficult to pick a winner in all of the categories. Congratulations to the winners, and thank you to everyone who contributes to volunteering, giving up their own time in doing so."*



**Nicole Tyson - Sustainability  
Manager, ScotRail**

*"It was great to see the variety of projects included and the dedication shown by our volunteers. It was a pleasure reading all of the submissions and not an easy task choosing winners! Good to see sustainable practices being built in where possible too."*





## And finally...

**The ScotRail in The Community team have many people to thank, without whom this event could not have been possible.**

We'd like to thank Judith Ralston for being the host of the day; the team at voco Grand Central; our award presenters; and the judging panel for their scrupulous efforts in choosing the winners of this year's awards. We would also like to thank Nature Scot, Highland Spring and Cauldres Garden Centres for the items they donated for the volunteer goody bags. We would also like to thank Edmiston Brown for their gift for the winning nominees and Clydesdale Community Initiatives (CCI) for making the fabulous winner trophies again this year.

A special thank you to Aberdeen Chorus of Sweet Adelines for bring such

beautiful harmonies to the event. They brought a smile to everyone's faces. Thanks, are also due to the wider ScotRail team for their input to the awards and support throughout the year.

Last, but most definitely not least, thank you to the magnificent volunteers who are the reason for the success of the ScotRail in the Community programme. **We couldn't do it without you.**

## An Ode to Community Rail Volunteers (in the style of WH Auden's Night Mail)

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You come from all over

From all walks of life

All ages, all stages

From Thurso, through Fife

To Dunbar and Dumfries,

And stops in between

Your complete dedication

Is often unseen

Some started last month

Some doing it for years

No matter how long

We wish to say cheers

To those with spare time

with commitment and yearning

your knowledge to share

So everyone's learning

The seasoned, the new

The groups and individuals

Working at stations,

To improve platform visuals

With artworks and flowers

Displays and more

The planting and weeding

There's always a chore!

There's projects and events,

A travelling classroom, a mural

You take on the challenges

With ne'er a refusal

So this is for you

Our helpers so willing

All over Scotland

Results so fulfilling

We value your input

We want to say thanks

For all that you do

In gardens, on banks,

On platforms, at stations,

Huge art installations

Whether you work on your own

Or in a group of a few

We just want to send

The biggest Thank You!

Ros Houldsworth  
Community Liason Executive, ScotRail



# Thank you.

