

## **Hope Valley 125**

### **125 Years of passenger Rail services in the Hope Valley**

This year saw the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of stopping passenger services in the Hope Valley. The first train, on 25 June 1894, took a group of schoolchildren from Hathersage to Edale amongst the other passengers.

The Hope Valley Friends of Stations Groups, at a meeting in November 2018, agreed that we would hold a sequence of events along the Hope Valley in celebration of this significant anniversary.

With generous funding from Northern Rail and the High Peak and Hope Valley Community Rail Partnership we set about planning an ambitious sequence of events during the summer of 2019.

So, running from East to West; here's a brief summary of what took place:

#### **Dore & Totley**

We held our 'over and under' walk on Saturday 29th June that had about 30 participants, more were put off by the very hot weather.

We had the station canopy opening on Friday July 19th when about 40 guests attended to see Sheffield City Region Mayor, Dan Jarvis, unveil a plaque and meet pre-school children and see their posters unveiled. It got press coverage.

On Tuesday 27 August Chris Morgan gave a talk about the railway to the Time Travellers archaeology group in Dore drawing a crowd of 40.

A second walk, delivered jointly with the Time Travellers, from Dore to Grindleford took place on 18 September including a visit to Padley Chapel, returning by train. This is the second part of the talk Chris gave on 27 August.

Ted Hancock's book is on display at Totley Library and can be bought for £30 during Library opening hours.

The station was well decorated with bunting, from 31 May until 29 September.

The anniversary and our events have been reported in Chris Morgan's full page articles in the Totley Independent, Dore to Door and the Bradway Bugle.

I don't suppose many have noticed our poster at the end of Platform 2C. It's a filthy frame but it was empty!

In doing these things we've discovered there's a market for children's tunnel tours!

#### **Grindleford**

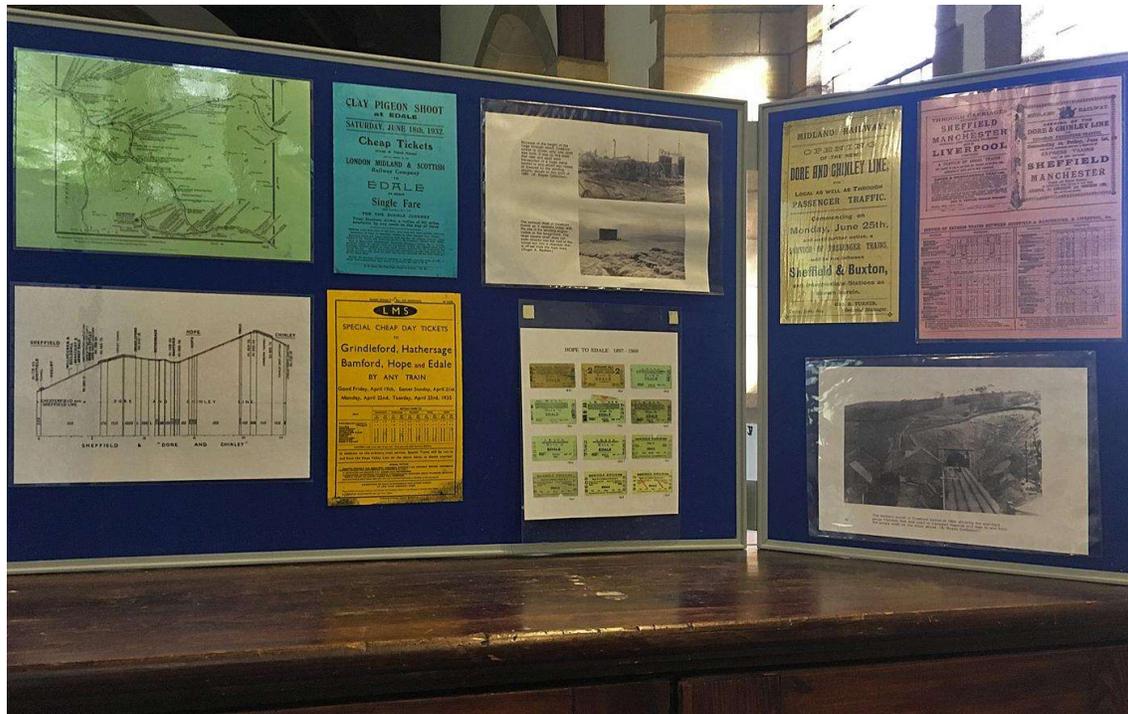
The station was decorated with bunting, from 31 May until 29 September. We planted a 125 display of begonias that bloomed splendidly.

Grindleford primary school children had a talk by Kath Aspinwall on 24 June, walks to Lawrence Field and Bolehill Quarry on 28 June and another from Longshaw to the air shaft on Topley Moss on 1 July. Thanks to Chris Morgan of Friends of Dore & Totley, Thelma Griffiths (National Trust, volunteer historian) in assisting Kay and Colleen with these walks. On 2 July the whole school went through the tunnel to Dore, were met by Chris for an enjoyable 20 minutes train spotting before going up to Edale for their picnic.

We held a jazz breakfast on 20 July with many diners enjoying a breakfast at Grindleford café accompanied by the John jazz trio and Grindleford Singers, enjoyable despite the rain!

On 27 July Ted Hancock gave a talk at the William Hotel on Grindleford and the coming of the railway and forward into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century to date.

The exhibition on the railway was on display at Grindleford Horticultural Show on 17 August.



## Hathersage

On 25 June, Hathersage primary school children from year 5 re-enacted the original journey by children to Edale. They were accompanied by a brass band up the road to join with Edale schoolchildren for a joint art session.



The station was well decorated with bunting, from 31 May until 29 September.

3 July – Ted Hancock gave a talk at the Memorial Hall, entitled 'Hathersage Station and the Hope Valley Railway Line'. 105 people attended

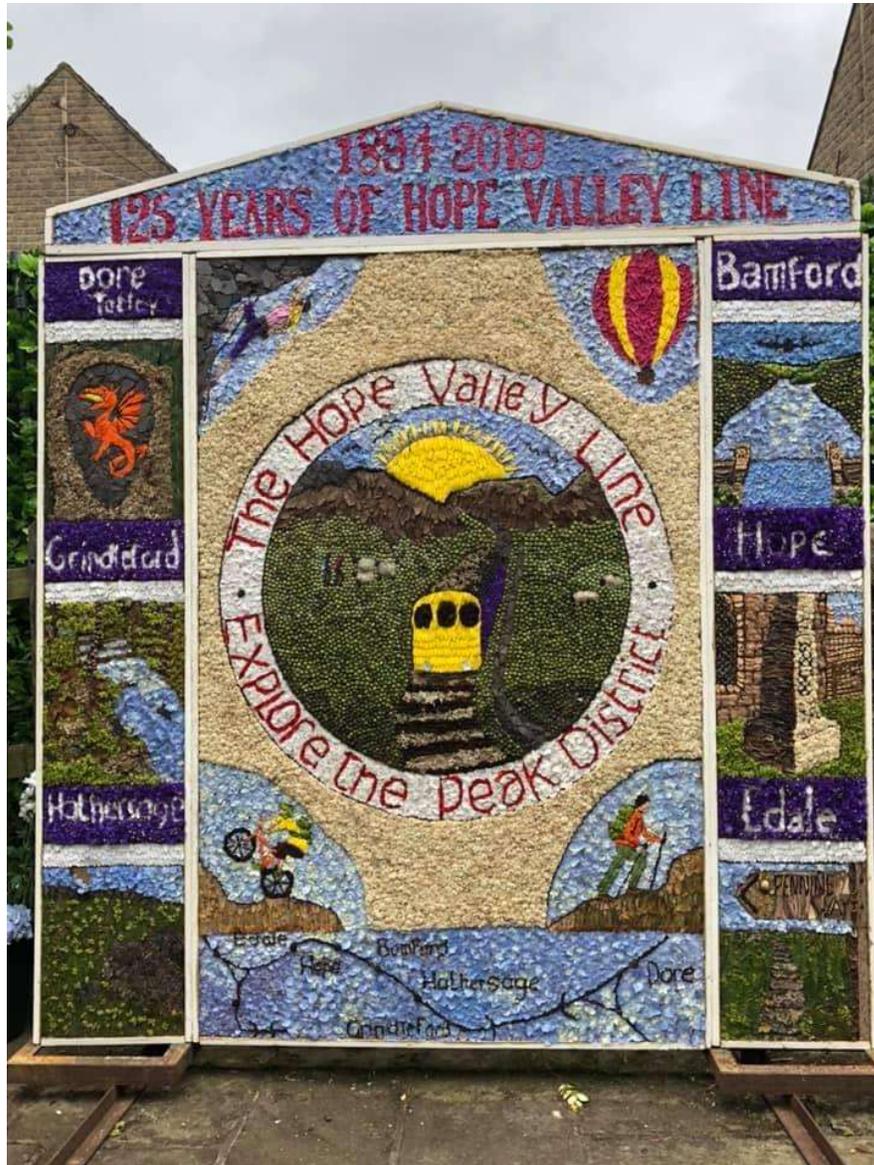
The 'travelling exhibition' was at Hathersage Gala on 13 July, viewed by many people before and after the parade.

### **Bamford**

The main event in Bamford was the 125 rail exhibition and Ted talk on Saturday 20 July at the Bamford Institute. This was attended by approximately 60 people and was well received.

Additionally the Bamford Well Dressing (see below) featured the anniversary. It was an excellent dressing, on display one week from 13 July and again well received.

In addition to the bunting decorating all the station, we had a photo display of the station through the years in both shelters and art work from the infant classes at Bamford School depicting rail travel and fashion.



### The wonderful Bamford well dressing – July 2019

#### Hope

The exhibition of 125 years of rail services in the Hope Valley was at St Peter's Church, Hope from 23 to 30 June

On 27 June, Hope school children travelled from Hope to Dore & Totley. The same trip was undertaken by Bradwell school children on 2 July

Ted Hancock gave a talk at Loxley Hall, called 'Hope Station and the Hope Valley Railway Line' on 4 July. 36 people attended

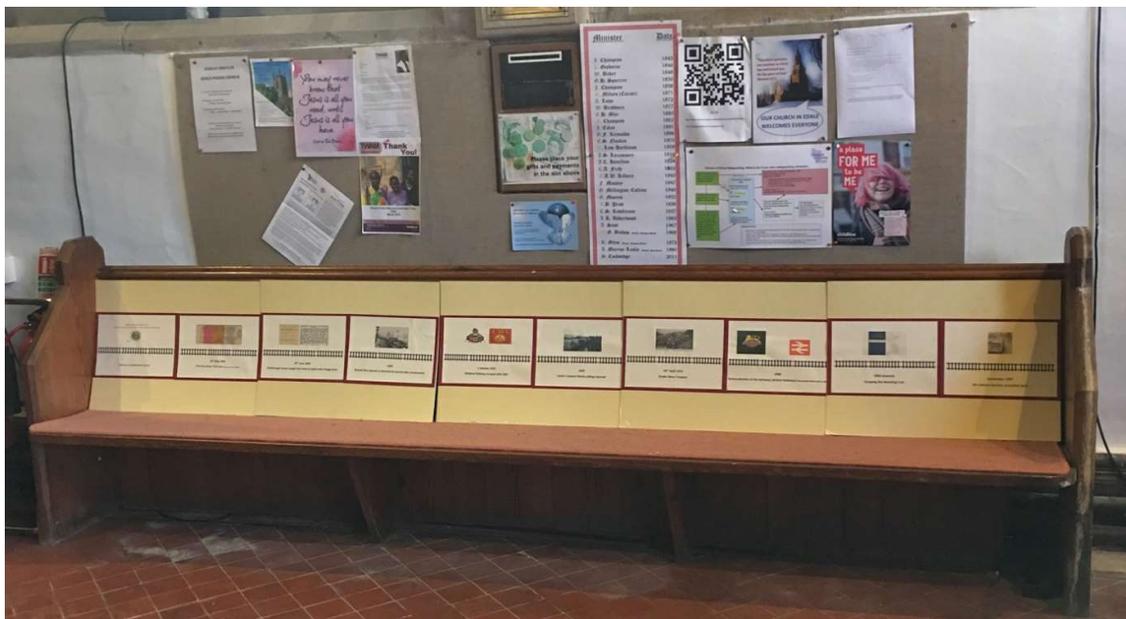
## Edale

The exhibition of 125 years was launched at Edale Country Day on 7 June, where a stall was situated in the marquee with a large screen and rolling photographic sequence.

We held a Folk n Fizz event on 7 September. Some 47 adults and four children had a delicious afternoon tea at the Penny Pot Café accompanied by award winning folk singer Bella Hardy.



The exhibition was then on display in the Church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity in Edale until Friday 13 September.



Ted Hancock was at the Church in Edale and the Penny Pot Café for book signing events on 7 and 8 September respectively – his new book ‘The Hope Valley Line, Dore to Chinley – Volume One’

The station was also decorated with bunting all summer and Edale school children have had several displays in the shelters over the period.

The ‘Be Kinder’ walk event started at Edale with a launch on 7 July and the installations were removed on 15 September. No doubt in due course the National Trust will report of estimated walker numbers.

There is a live feed in the Penny Pot Café which is the first one in the valley, provided by the café owner, Chris Reid. It’s really useful and is positioned so it can be seen easily through the window should the café be closed.

## **General**

The events have all been advertised, then summarised in parish magazines in villages along the line.

<https://www.derbyshiretimes.co.uk/retro/historic-derbyshire-railway-line-which-connects-sheffield-and-manchester-celebrates-landmark-125th-anniversary-1-9860271>

<https://www.buxtonadvertiser.co.uk/lifestyle/historic-derbyshire-railway-line-which-connects-sheffield-and-manchester-celebrates-landmark-125th-anniversary-1-9860271>

Also see screenshots at end of document for Buxton Advertiser series article.

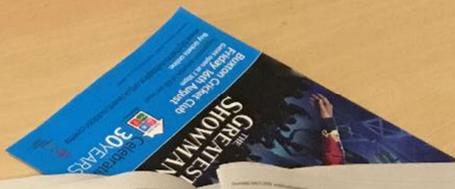
All stations had information about the anniversary on their Facebook and websites.

Northern Rail have provided tickets for 40 asylum seekers associated with the City of Sanctuary in Sheffield, and 50 WAST (Women Asylum Seekers Together) to travel to Bridlington and Edale respectively. Everyone had a really good time and both groups met with Northern Rail representatives to express their thanks.

Folk train events took place on 25 June, 23 July, 27 August from Sheffield to Edale and then in the Rambler.

Thanks to all who worked so hard to make these events take place.

We are all so very sad at the sudden death of Kath Aspinwall, who was proactive in the Hope Valley Rail in every way, and was proactive in getting the 125 events up and running, and helping schoolchildren all along the valley with artwork and specific talks on how the railway changed life along the valley. Kath you will be sadly missed by us all.



### SPECIAL FEATURE

## All aboard historic railway's anniversary celebrations

The Hope Valley Line, which connects Manchester with Sheffield via the Peak District, is celebrating its 150th anniversary.

It was built to transport coal, with some of the largest locomotives passing through the valley.

**Chris Morgan**

For the 150th anniversary of the railway, the Hope Valley Line is celebrating its 150th anniversary. The railway was built to transport coal, with some of the largest locomotives passing through the valley.

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## anniversary celebrations



A steam locomotive pulling a train through a tunnel.

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 the Dales**  
 SEE PAGE 21



## Ambitious plans to reinvent high street

By Ben McVay  
 ben@buxtonadvertiser.co.uk  
 @Buxton\_Advertiser

Town leaders have revealed a package of 'ambitious ideas' for its bid as part of its bid for government cash.  
 High Streets Minister Jake Berry MP has named Buxton as one of 50 towns to reach the second round of bids for a share of the £675m Future High Streets Fund.

Buxton will now receive up to £150,000 to set out detailed project proposals for its bid - which could be worth up to £2m.  
 Councillor Damien Greenhalgh, High Peak Borough Council's member for regeneration, tourism and leisure, said the authority's bid includes:  
 ■ Improve the pedestrian route to and from the railway station  
 ■ Increase residential and office use in the town centre - especially on the upper floors of buildings  
 ■ Increase leisure, food and drink uses, pop-ups and shared spaces  
 ■ Modernise infrastructure to include smart parking, electric vehicle charging and cycle interchange  
 Coun Greenhalgh said: "This is an exciting next stage in the evolution of our high streets and town centres and we're thrilled Buxton will be at the heart of this re-invention."  
**FULL STORY: PAGE 3**



## Lucy crowned by royal appointment

A former member of Buxton's royalty was on hand to crown this year's well dressing festival queen. Twenty-one years after her own crowning glory, Leanne Haskins was given the honour of installing the new 2019 queen Lucy Higton, during a service at St John's Church on Sunday. See pages 2, 3, 4 & 5 for coverage of this year's Buxton Well Dressing Festival.



**Bucks boss:  
 'we'll be  
 fighting  
 fit'**  
 SEE  
 PAGE  
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**Many happy returns**  
 125 years of Peak rail line: P14 & 15

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