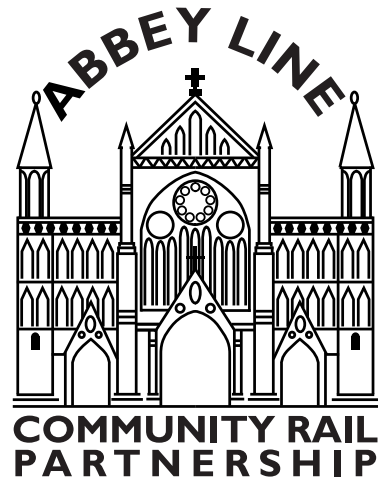


ABBHEY LINE

Community Partnership Newsletter

Issue Number 5 - April 2007



The Community Rail Partnership brings together the local community, businesses, local government and the railway to secure the long term future of the Abbey Line railway.

What's been going on?

Alissa Ede became the CRP Officer in mid-January. She would like to build on the great work that Maria Cutler has already done to facilitate more community involvement in the Abbey Line and to increase the number of passengers who travel along the line. She welcomes any suggestions or ideas. Feel free to contact her at **07770 993 162** or crp@hertscc.gov.uk.

Easter Eggspress - April 7th

The Easter Bunny joined us on the Abbey Line on Saturday, April 7th and great fun was had by all. He was joined by fabulous face painters and entertainers. The weather was fantastic and we were delighted to welcome over 500 passengers. In addition, there was a free vintage bus to transport passengers between St Albans City and St Albans Abbey Stations.



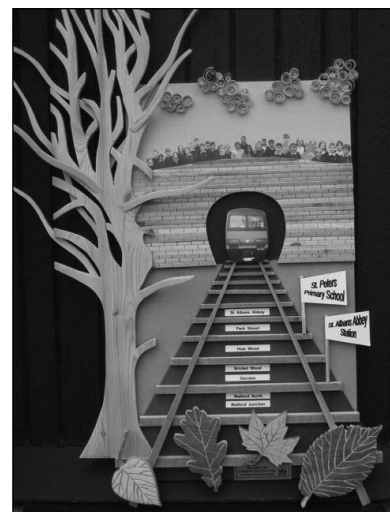
Wood Sculptor visits Abbey Line schools

The Community Rail Partnership sponsored a wood sculptor, John Spielman, to be artist-in-residence for the day at six schools along the Abbey Line. These were How Wood Primary School, Park Street CofE Primary School, Watling View School, West Herts College (Cassio Campus), St Peter's School, and Berrygrove Primary and Nursery School. Groups of pupils were invited to

participate in making a wood sculpture that depicts the Abbey Line. The sculptures will be displayed on the walls in the schools. The pupils got hands-on experience with woodcraft skills and both pupils and teachers



enjoyed the process of making the sculpture and seeing the end result. One pupil at How Wood said, "It was one of the best experiences I've ever had. We got the chance to do something to put in the school to show what we've done. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity."



School Visits

On 23rd February, we had a successful visit on the line from Cassio College. The students learned about how the train line is run and saw the control room where station announcements were made. One lucky student was allowed to make one of the station announcements about a train arriving at a platform. Thank you to Silverlink for making the trip possible.

New Shelters and Signs

The Abbey Line CRP has secured funding for a new waiting shelter to be installed at How Wood in the coming weeks. New signs should be in place along the roads by the end of the summer to direct people to How Wood, Bricket Wood and Park Street Stations. We aim to increase the signage all along the route so that more people can find us!



Network Rail Tree Cutting

Network Rail has started a programme of cutting down vegetation within 6 metres of the track on either side. This is a national programme that is being implemented on lines all over the country including the Abbey Line. The trees need to be removed to avoid delays in autumn from leaf fall.

If you would like to find out more about this, you may contact Network Rail at the following link <http://www.networkrail.co.uk/asp/1346.aspx> or telephone **08457 11 41 41**. The link for an information sheet about tree cutting and plants is <http://www.networkrail.co.uk/asp/1034.aspx>.

Future franchise situation

The next franchise that will take over the Abbey Line from Silverlink will be announced toward the end of the summer. The competition for the franchise has been narrowed down to two train operators: Serco NedRail and Govia. All of their bids have been submitted and it is down to the Department for Transportation to decide which company will win the bid. Watch this space!

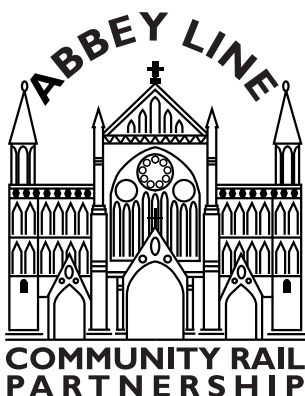
What's On?

Community Rail Week

May 19th - 26th 2007. We will be publicising events in the community during that week. If you have an event that will be happening along the Abbey Line, please contact Alissa on **07770 993 162**.

Abbey Line is very reliable

Train reliability is very high on the Abbey Line. Recently released figures show that the highest Public Performance Measure (PPM) for any particular period during the last year up to March 2007 was 99.4% and the moving average for the last year ending in March 2007 was 97.2%.



Landscaping and Station Adoption

We are looking for volunteers to "adopt" stations along the route. We need people to volunteer to be the eyes and ears for the stations. This helps the train operator to keep the station facilities maintained at a high standard. The adopters function as reporters: they are not responsible for fixing anything at the station. Once a week, a volunteer spends about 15 minutes checking the station facilities, working through a checklist that is then sent to the station manager who will then arrange for things to be fixed. There is currently a group at Watford North and groups are being formed at St Albans Abbey, Bricket Wood and Garston. We would also like to see a group formed at Park Street.

In addition to being the "eyes and ears" of the stations, we would also like to enhance the landscaping at the various stations. Two volunteers have come forward with ideas for Park Street and St Albans Abbey. If you have ideas for other stations or would like to get involved in any of these schemes, please contact Alissa Ede (CRP officer) at **0777 099 3162** or crp@hertscc.gov.uk.

Marketing Strategy

The Abbey Line CRP was recently one of three Community Rail Partnerships short-listed for a Department for Transportation award for the Marketing Strategy. The DfT awarded the CRP £1000 towards implementing the Marketing Strategy. The strategy will be implemented over the coming months and the overall winner will be announced in September at the Community Rail Awards.

If you have any questions about the CRP, want to get involved in any local project or have any ideas, please contact:

Alissa Ede, Community Rail Partnership Officer, Abbey Line

PO Box 489, Harpenden, Herts AL5 9DD

Tel : 0777 099 3162

crp@hertscc.gov.uk www.abbeyline.org.uk

