



Annual Review 2021-2022

Ecclesbourne Valley Railway Trust

Image: by kind permission of John Stokes

Welcome to the 2021/2022 Annual Review of the work of the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway Trust

The Trust was formed as a body whose purpose is to assist the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway by supporting the railway's activities along the line and at its stations, as well as supporting local economic and social initiatives in Wirksworth, Duffield and the valley's constituent communities.

Secretary's Report from 1st May 2021 to 30th April 2022

Coronavirus

This year the work of the Trust has been less affected by the Coronavirus epidemic and some work has been undertaken following the removal of lockdown requirements after the 19th July 2021. Safety work continued on the Ravenstor approach path, built in 2005 by EVRA, because the surface had been partly washed away in heavy rain. It has also proved possible to advance some activities at Duffield Station in particular the successful granting of planning permission for the new gates, after considerable work by Eric Boulton.

Duffield Station

For some time the Trust's officers had been engaged in discussion with the planning authority to provide the new gated entrance to Duffield Station from the end of Chapel Street. This process had been considerably slowed by the Coronavirus epidemic. However, it was important to move the scheme forward, which was not without costs, in order to make the entrance to Duffield EVR Station more presentable and safer to use.



Chapel Street: location of the proposed new gate

After some delay, planning permission for application 2020 0279 was finally granted (to Wyvernrail Plc) for the entrance on the 5th March 2021 but for a different design of gates than had been envisaged. This has resulted in a re-work of the design and by the end of the Trust's year Milwards had been approached to undertake the work and the project is being taken forward by Wyvernrail with £4,000 committed funding from the Trust towards it.



Duffield Station looking towards Wirksworth

The Trust continues to support the Duffield Community Association (DCA) who undertake good works around the village and who are responsible both for the village's annual carnival and for its Christmas lights and decorations. The carnival attracts several thousand people to the village in a normal year. It is held in Eye's Meadow and this brings considerable attention and income to the village, its shops, pubs and cafes, helping to support the community. The Carnival took place between the 19th and 26th June 2022, with a theme of "Transport" including the Carnival Express, a special train put on by the EVR in the evening of the 26th June running from Duffield to Wirksworth and back.

Ravenstor Station

Work took place during 2021 to make repairs to some of the special display features around the station and at the top of the incline including repainting of the standard gauge display wagon; restoration of the limekilns track display; repair of the station running-in board; the construction of a new station bench; repair of the boundary fences; vegetation clearance along the approach path and reconstruction of the path where it had been washed away. It is planned, in co-operation with EVRA, to repair and restore the series of interpretation boards for the former Rail

and Quarry Walk during the summer of 2022. This activity will complete the restoration of the historic and interpretative features which were constructed when Ravenstor Station was opened in 2005, some of which were in a derelict state, with access being unsafe for the public.



Ravenstor Station looking south in 2020



Ravenstor Station looking south in 2022



Ravenstor Station looking north in 2020



Ravenstor Station looking north in 2022

Sources and uses of funds

At the start of the Trust's year, which runs from the 1st May, the Trust held £3,578.05 and primary expenditure has been related to the obtaining of planning permission and membership of the DCA. (2021 figure updated from last year's report).

Historically, income was mainly generated from talks given by the Trust's officers to a large range of organisations ranging from the Derbyshire Masons to the Wirksworth Probus Club. In addition, Trust income is generated from the sale of "A History of Wirksworth" by Anton Shone, other book sales and collection type items. At the end of the year the Trust's funds stood at £5,462.67. Kind assistance towards the gate works was received from the estate of Mr D. Hancock.

Looking forward

Our plans for the forthcoming year will continue to focus on the development of the lines' lesser stations and where improvements have a useful impact. These activities will continue to involve matters in and around Ravenstor and Duffield and it is hoped that some minor access improvements will take place at Shottle following survey and de-vegetation work around the station. Shottle has been open 10 years and is tired, with an expanding maintenance backlog, peeling paint and needing a general refresh.

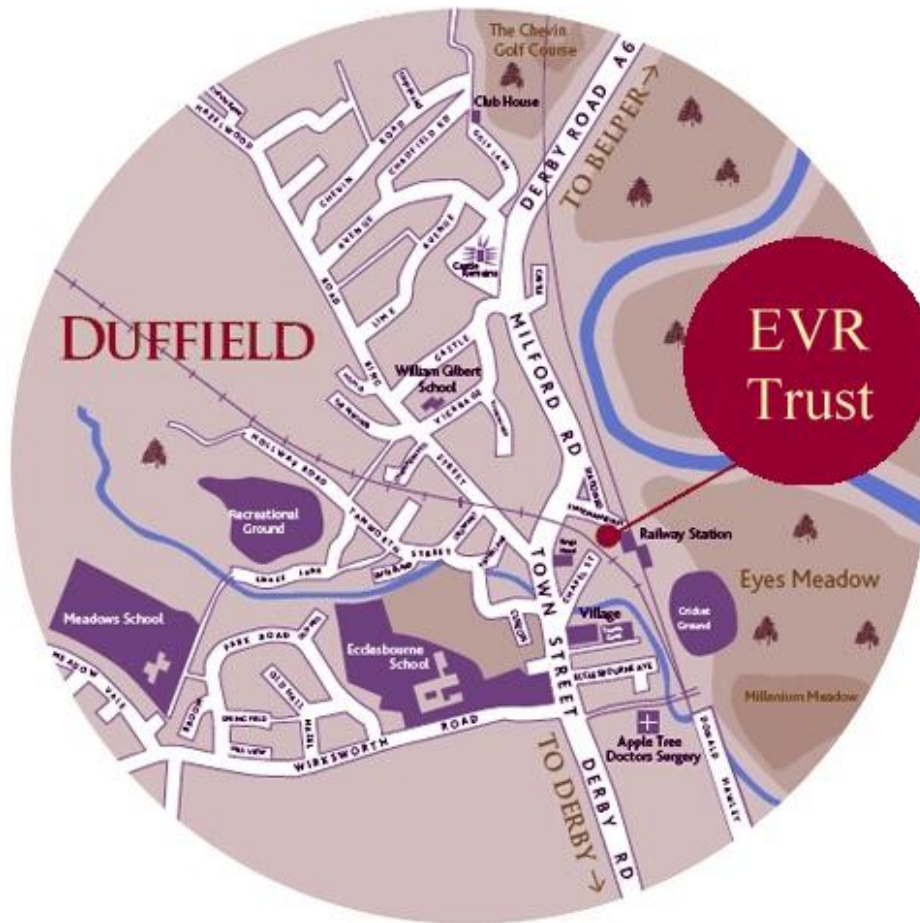
In addition to this the Trust intends once again to support one or two small worthy projects and is happy to receive applications for grant-in-aid amounts of up to £200 which fall within our purposes. The application forms for grants can be found on our website and we would look favourably on needs which are of mutual benefit for both the community and the railway.

A word of thanks

The Trust wishes to thank the following people and organisations for their work and engagement this year: Volunteers notably Mick Kingsley and the VCT, John Stokes and Oscar Jenkins; Wyvernrail Plc for their engagement with progressing Duffield gate; Trustees of the National Stone Centre in relation to access at Ravenstor from the High Peak Trail; EVRA for their kind and active co-operation with the Trust.

Anton Shone, Secretary, EVR Trust.

Location of the Trust



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The Ecclesbourne Valley Railway Trust

Supporting the work of the EVR in the community

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