

Ecclesbourne Valley Railway Trust

Annual Review 2023-24



Welcome to the 2023-2024 Annual Review of the work of the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway Trust

The Trust is 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 2023 to 30th April 2024

Progress during the year



Works kindly funded by East Midlands Railway and the Trust, in co-operation with Wyvernrail, to provide a new water supply for Duffield Station.

Image showing Chapel Street on the 29th June 2023. Milwards were the contractors for this project.

Much progress has been achieved by the Trust during the past year and it is the strategy of the Trust to take on modest works that contribute to one or more of the following strategic aims:

1. The development or support for projects which may improve passenger growth and have positive outcomes for our local communities and volunteers.
2. The improvement or re-establishment of passenger facilities including access, stations and the environment, as well as the understanding and use of the railway for our visitors and communities.
3. An interest in projects or activities which will have a positive effect on passenger revenue or operational improvements or a reduction of operating costs.

The Trust has limited resources and this being the case, it is normally the policy of the Trust to only take on any new project once an existing project has been finished, it is not our policy to operate with an encumbrance of unfinished activities.



Class 47 Locomotive D1842 running around its train at Duffield

Duffield Station

During early 2023 a major problem developed with the water supply to Duffield Station, which had formerly run off a lead pipe under the main line station car park, the pipe had fractured and was judged to be impossibly expensive to repair. For this reason a new water supply was put in from the water main at Chapel Street and it now supplies water for Duffield Station, the toilets and the gardens on both the EVR and EMR Stations. A spur of this supply has been put in on the down side of the station near the main gate, which could ultimately be available as a locomotive supply. The Trust and Wyvernrail are most grateful for a grant which was given by East Midlands Railways towards the cost of putting in the new water supply.

For some time the Trust's officers have been occupied, at the request of the Wyvernrail Board, to provide the new entrance to Duffield Station from Chapel Street. Looking forward, work including the improvement of the entrance, gate and associated walling will take place during 2024 and a contractor has been appointed, to undertake those elements of the work which cannot be done by the railway's own staff and volunteers.

The Trust continues to support the Duffield Community Association 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, held in Eyes Meadow, attracts several thousand people to the village in a normal year and this brings attention and income to the village, its shops, pubs and cafes, helping to support the community: a key policy role of our Railway.

Weedkilling Machinery

One of the perennial problems which the railway has to deal with is that of weeds, each year the entire line has to be weedkilled to keep the formation clear and in good order, free of contamination and visible for track inspections. During 2023 it became clear that an improvement was needed in our weedkilling ability and that key to this was the provision of a new sprayer module to enable the distribution of weedkiller to be better managed. This being the case the Trust made one of its occasional grants, in this case to the Plant Department of Wyvernrail, of £275 for a new module. The picture below shows the new module attached to the Road-Rail Landrover, being tested at Wirksworth.



New sprayer module being tested (Joe Marsden)

Shottle Station

The Trust has, over a period of years, been renewing the signage, interpretation and poster boards at a number of our stations to comply with a standard laid down by the Wyvernrail Board many years ago.



Shottle Station on the 27th May 2024



New signage paid for by the Trust around Shottle Station

This signage standard gives the railway a unity of design and appearance, along with the Burgundy Wine and Denby Cream colour scheme used for our buildings and stations, as well as the maroon uniforms with the Wyvern logo which give us a professional appearance to the public and ensure our staff are recognisable by the public for routine needs or in emergencies.

At Shottle the signage had been life-expired for some time and an almost complete renewal took place around the whole station including the provision of a new Signal Box nameboard. Shottle Station is not busy but does have potential for walkers and ramblers, particularly those using the Ecclesbourne Way, which runs in a field to the west of the station and for which a better access is needed: the subject of upcoming work by the Trust next year.

Sources and uses of funds

At the start of the Trust's year, which runs from the 1st May 2023, the Trust held £4,041.96 and expenditure has been related to payments for the new water supply at Duffield; a grant towards new weedkilling equipment; publicity (website); small items (keys/batteries) for Duffield Station and membership of the Duffield Community Association.

The Trust is not a charity, but a support organisation. Historically, income is mainly generated from talks given by the Trust's officers to a range of organisations from the Derbyshire Masons to the Wirksworth Probus. 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 on 30th April 2024 the Trust's unrestricted funds stood at £5,711.91.

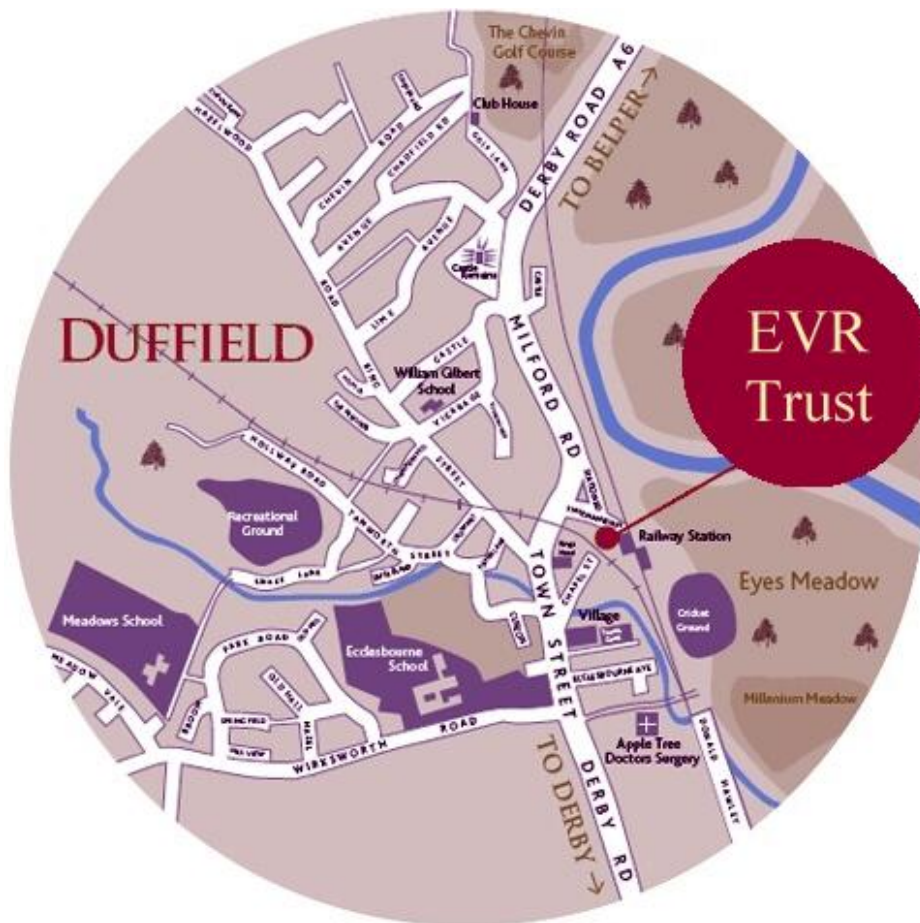
Looking forward

Our work for the forthcoming year will initially focus on the improvement of the Chapel Street entrance to the EVR station car park. This will enable the station car park at Duffield to be easier to access not only for passengers but will also improve the approach for vehicles using the road-rail access point at the south end of Duffield Station, as well as providing at least a part-time parking facility for the Duffield community, in a village which otherwise has very little parking indeed and where this has the benefit of good community relations. The Trust has a tendency to focus on Duffield (but not exclusively so) as this reduces the burden both on EVRA and Wyvernrail to find resources and money to cover Duffield's maintenance, upkeep and works needs.

A word of thanks

The Trust wishes to thank the following people for their work and engagement this year: East Midlands Railway, Wyvernrail and Milwards for water supply works at Duffield. Volunteers, notably Nigel Evans for organising work at Idridgehay and Ken Underhill and Nick Allen for their contributions to maintaining Duffield in good order.

Location of the Trust



All photographs are by kind permission of members of the Trust unless otherwise credited.

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The Ecclesbourne Valley Railway Trust

Supporting the work of the EVR in the community

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