



Ecclesbourne Valley Railway Trust

Annual Review 2025-26

Welcome to the 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. The Trust undertakes small works and projects and supports larger activities, with small grants or contributions, aimed at the encouragement of worthy activities.

Secretary's Report 1st May 2025 - 30th April 2026

The Trust has had a more modest year than in 2024-25, partly due to the heavy expenditures involved last year in completing the project to reconstruct the main gates at Duffield, work which had taken seven years to achieve at a total cost of £16,634 (excluding volunteer hours) and resulted in a step change in the appearance of the entrance to Duffield Station; associated work which has been completed during 2025-26 by Amber Valley Borough Council included resurfacing the whole of Chapel Street and re-marking the lining. The whole approach is a great improvement and a credit to the Trust who have worked so hard over such a long timescale to complete the project, to East Midlands Railway who contributed a significant grant from their Community Fund towards it and to the Council who have improved Chapel Street in a material way which contributes to the betterment of the whole.

In terms of the generalities of the 2025-26 year, the Trust has had to face the increased costs of the operation of the Trust's website and of the "Stripe" donation function which is embedded in it. These are necessary running costs and are covered by routine fund raising. The Trust has worked hard during the past year to improve its financial position and while the Trust is not a large body, the general position is very much improved, a measure of the Trust's careful control of costs and close attention to its income.

Duffield

The Trust's main activities at Duffield this year have related to maintenance, with the state of the station plumbing having been a cause for concern for some time, which issue was resolved in August 2025 with a grant from Duffield Community Association of £370 for the plumbing renewal project. We are most grateful for the work done by Harvey Scothern in providing the station with facilities which no longer leak and now enable us to open the booking hall doors without finding water everywhere.

In addition we wish to express our most sincere gratitude to the management and staff of East Midlands Railway who came for a volunteering day at Duffield on the 14th of July and who delightfully repainted and stained our picnic tables and the whole length of the station fence, to the satisfaction of everyone involved (see cover picture and below). In addition a number of the station benches were repainted in July by the Trust, in order to give the platform a general lift in appearance.



East Midlands Railway Volunteering Day Fence Painting

Shottle and Idridgehay Stations

The Trust has, over a period of years, been carrying out renewals of signage and other features at Shottle and Idridgehay in compliance with the Wyvernrail signage standards laid down long ago by George Watson, former Deputy Chair of the Wyvernrail Board. At Shottle all the station benches were repaired and the burgundy benches repainted on platform one, in August. New tenants have occupied number 2 Station Approach and have at last cut back the overgrown hedge on the maintenance path, which is also used as an unofficial public entrance to the station. The main station entrance has also had gate and fencing repairs due to its age and condition.



Shottle Platform 1 benches repaired and repainted in burgundy

At Idridgehay, the solar platform lighting, installed in 2012, was repaired and renewed. The Trust gratefully notes that Idridgehay has also received painting and other improvements by a small group of volunteers who have made the station and the crossing so presentable.

Wirksworth

The Trust is not currently working at Wirksworth, which has its own paid staff who should be tidying up after themselves.

Nevertheless, the Trust made a modest contribution of £50 for paint and materials to the 8F Society who are working on the refurbishment and repainting of the Sneinton signal box.

The Trust has also made a similar contribution of £100 for consumables and repair materials to the Class 108 Working Group, whose efforts to restore the Class 108 vehicle to an operational condition were regarded by the Trust as an important step to providing affordable traction in the face of ever rising costs.

Ravenstor

Work to spring clean at Ravenstor takes place each year and in April this took in the removal of a fallen tree from the station approach path and clearing of the path from Old Lane to the station; routine but necessary litter picking as far as Cromford Road Bridge; detailed repainting of fencing and facilities; clearance of overgrown vegetation and path repairs. Someone had the gnome away and its a well-known fact that stolen gnomes rot your Petunias, but we are naturally looking for a new one, in the spirit of adornment, for our station.



Ravenstor Station with Railcar 55006

Community Support

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. The Trust also notes that the Wirksworth Farmers and Artisans Market is extremely successful and the provision of a market train in conjunction with it, from Duffield, is a notable success.

Sources and uses of funds

At the start of the Trust's year, which ran from 1st May 2025, the Trust held £1,457 and annual expenditure of £874 has been related to payments for plumbing; painting; repairs; publicity (website) and membership of the Duffield Community Association. Contributions of £50 and £100 have been made towards the projects noted above.

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 Probud. In addition, Trust income is generated from the sale of "A History of Wirksworth" by Anton Shone, other book sales, donations and collection type items. At the end of the year on 30th April 2026 the Trust's funds stood at £5,145.

Looking forward

Our work for the forthcoming year will continue to focus on critical maintenance issues, due to the limitations of the Company's finances and EVRAs commitments to the new station at Wirksworth, a process, given the known rate of fund raising, expected to take at least another 4 years. This does put the Trust under some pressure, which it was not intended to bear, towards the range of maintenance and project work around the railway needing financial support.

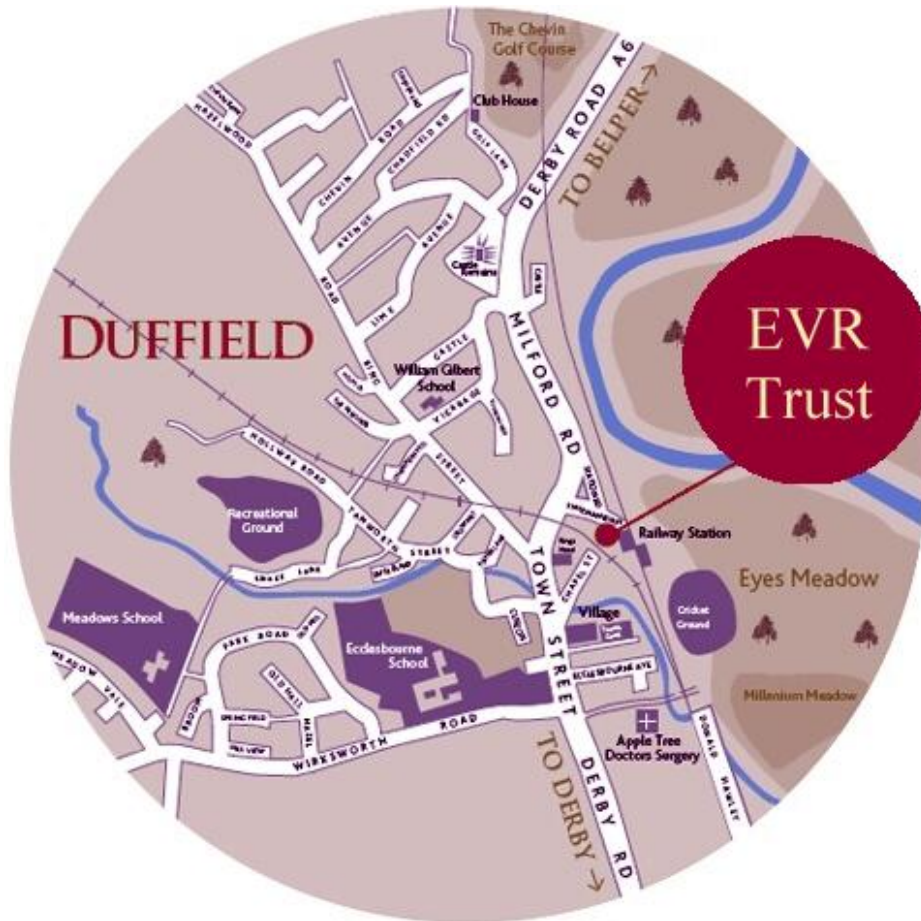
In terms of seeking grant-in-aid, the Trust does seek match funding for small project work, an example is the need to remove the operational coal heap from Wirksworth Station car park to improve disabled access to that station and the rest of the Railway.

A word of thanks

The Trust wishes to thank the following people for their work and engagement this year: East Midlands Railway for grant-in-aid and their volunteer day at Duffield; all volunteers and staff for their continued efforts in keeping our railway running, often with the most limited resources and in all weathers, in particular volunteers at Duffield and Ildridgehay, for the gardens at Wirksworth and for the particular contribution which the LMSCA has made to passenger comfort through the exemplary restoration of their vehicles. Trust Commendations are herewith given to Stuart Walker, James Hallam, James Hinnels, Mike Ball, Ken Underhill, Henry McDonald, Dan Smith, Nick Allen and John Allsop for their particular

contributions to the railway and our passengers this year; as well as all volunteers working towards the class 108 restoration; those engaged in the LMS Brake Van project; the Class 73 restoration; Wash Green Signalling and for volunteers' efforts of every kind around the railway: our most grateful thanks.

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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