

Abbey Line

Community Rail
Partnership

the first 20 YEARS



Founded in 2005

The Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership was one of six pilot 'Community Railways' in the UK



- Highlights -

The Early Years

2005 The Abbey Line Community Rail Partnership was founded as one of six pilot 'Community Railways' in the UK

2006 The first Station Adopter Volunteers Easter Special

The 2007 'Easter Eggspress' proved an award-winning hit! The Santa Express and Hallowe'en Specials followed in later years and the awards kept coming!

2008 Silverlink celebrated 150 years of the Abbey Line

Silverlink handed over to London Midland

2011 Real-time Information Boards and Help Points installed

Over the years, substantial investments from Hertfordshire County Council, Network Rail and successive Train Operators have also led to significant improvements in: lighting, seating, passenger and cycle shelters, signage, poster cases, customer information screens and accessibility:

*'Harrington Hump' and new entrance at St Albans Abbey with level access
Step-free access to Platform 11 at Watford Junction*

2013 New Abbey Line CRP branding

2015 10th anniversary year - Abbey Line Trail launched



20
YEARS

- Highlights -

Community Work

With the help of our amazing volunteers, we 'Connect Communities with their Railway' and make wider links in many wonderful ways!

We've engaged with schools, businesses and community groups in workshops, producing artwork, upkeeping station planters, community fun days and more. We've also hosted volunteer and stakeholder days. Here are a few examples...

2010 Garston station community art scheme

2012 Abbey Line Adopters visit the Marston Vale CRP

2012 Watford North community art scheme

2013 Abbey Station mosaics and Watford Junction Walkway art project

2014 Garston station shelters - Sustainable Travel artwork

2019 Youth Connexions bring Abbey Station planters back to life

2023 Stakeholder Day

2024 Try-the-train trip with new groups





- Highlights - *The Later Years*

Challenges over the years

Passing Loop - assessed as not financially viable in 2008 and 2022
Trams, light rail and the East-West mass rapid transit ('HERT') proposals
COVID pandemic, industrial action and train reliability

2017 West Midlands Trains awarded the franchise

2017 Launch of the Abbey shuttle - connecting St Albans Abbey station to the city centre and the City station

2018 Launch of Abbey Line Days Out campaign

2022 Changes to the timetable to allow later trains

2023 Bricket Wood Station restoration completed and opening of the Tea Room
Well done to the Bricket Wood Station Heritage Trust!

2024-5 Creation of Garston Station Wildlife Garden

More promotion of sustainable travel, enhancing biodiversity, and making a start on a garden at the Abbey Station too!

2025 Celebrating Railway 200 and our 20th anniversary
Making accessibility a major priority

Here's to the next 20 years!

Photo credits: The Abbey Line CRP and Paul Spelzini

