



AND YET MORE SUCCESS FOR THE MCL MUSIC TRAINS!!

We've had a great July this year – we held one private Music Train for **Opal Care Support** who had a lovely day out supported by the **MCCRP** who provide both the music and a donation to the event as well as **Northern** who kindly provide a travel pass for those attending. We also had another of our usual open Music Train which was a massive success with nearly 150 people attending! What a night out that was but all our volunteer hosts ensured it ran smoothly – a huge thank you to Jim, Pat, Mike, Mark, Delyth and Ann for their help that evening.

If you'd like to learn more about becoming a volunteer host for the CRP, drop a line to musictrains@midcheshirerail.org.uk and we can send you some more details and organise to shadow one of our experienced hosts to show you the ropes.... It's a really rewarding experience!

Anyway, keep reading to find out about the Music Train events we ran this month as well as more details about the final Music Train for 2026 and lots of other events that the CRP are running along your **Mid Cheshire Line**.

On 7th July the Music Train went from Mouldsworth to Chester and returned to the Goshawk carrying around 30 people from **Opal Care Group**. The band, Rolling Folk, had played the previous year for them on the Music Train and there was great excitement about the day as people gathered at The Goshawk to await the arrival of the train. The weather was perfect. The band played original music written by Victoria, the lead vocalist, with everyone joining in, both singing and playing percussion instruments. Everyone agreed that it was fantastic day out!

The leader of the group from Opal Care said....

"We are very grateful for the support. It was all really well organised and the band were great.

It was lovely to see the delight on our members faces - especially those with dementia who lit up when the music started.

We will hope to do this again next year and thank you again for your great generosity."

Here's a couple of photos to show what a great time people had both on the train and in The Goshawk. We'll have a couple of videos on our website soon so be sure to take a look at these!



Then at the end of July, we had the penultimate Open Music Train of 2026 running a well-travelled route - from Chester to **The Golden Pheasant** in Plumley. The chosen band for the evening out was **Lynchpins** which is an established and experienced band specializing in Irish jigs, reels and ballads. In addition to singing, band members play several instruments.

It's always a bit of a nerve-wracking time as the date of a Music Train draws near – usually with the same question.... “Will we get enough people to come along?” Well, it was clear about 2 weeks before the event that this was going to be answered a resounding YES! With over 80 booked into the pub, the numbers kept rising.... so much so that the weekend before the event, we had to close bookings that stood at close to 130.... Amazing support!

Because of this, The Golden Pheasant had already started encouraging people to pre-order their food. It was also decided that due to nice weather we could also host an outdoor event – which was another first for the Music Train - and people were asked to bring along another layer in case it got a bit chilly. We drafted in 4 more willing volunteer hosts to help during the evening to help it all run smoothly....

And what a great time we all had! We ended up with 149 people attending at The Golden Pheasant. The previous record was 72 back in 2016. Having such a large number of people attend did provide us with a couple of learning points.....

- We need to organise it so that the band can get on the train first so they can set up in the middle of the carriage
- we need to manage the numbers so that all the audience can be in the same carriage to hear the band
- The venue needs a chance to serve people in a realistic time frame.

We had some great feedback on the night and many said what a lovely time they'd had, the band were entertaining and the food was delicious. For the price of a train ticket, it is still great value for money and a novel way to spend an evening in Cheshire with live entertainment, whilst supporting the Mid Cheshire Line.



As a team of volunteers, it helped us to see we need to manage the bookings more effectively. It has always been a 'come along if you want' event. We have been trying to encourage people to let us know if they intend to join us, as well as book a space at the venue to be near the band. We will find a way, as best as we can, to work with the venue to better manage the number of people attending in future.

Lynchpins were amazing keeping people entertained on the journeys as well as in the pub garden. We met them to set up their equipment in the afternoon to ensure they could start playing from the off on arrival at the Golden Pheasant, playing 2 x 45 minute slots. They did a grand job providing some good craic! The Golden Pheasant worked hard to serve everyone in the limited time they had.

One audience member commented *"I thoroughly enjoyed the evening on the Music Train and the atmosphere at the Golden Pheasant, I will definitely attend another event."*

A couple of photos below show what the evening was like... again videos will be available on our website over the next few weeks... be sure to take a look!





And so to final open Music Train of 2026! 🤖!

This will be the last open Music Train for this season, and we are going with a popular band for this one – **Hound Dog Blues** have entertained us all several times on the Music Train, and we are going from **Altrincham to The Goshawk at Mouldsworth**. Details are.....

Date	Day	Start from	Dep	Destination	Arr	Venue	Dep	Arr
24-Sep	Thursday	Altrincham	1836	Mouldsworth	1926	The Goshawk	2207	2257

Hound Dog Blues play well known and not so well-known blues covers from the 50's, 60's and 70's..... they are sure to have your feet tapping, you face smiling and your heart and soul feeling good both on the train and in the pub.



So, remember to let us know if you're coming along and book your table at **The Goshawk** – tell them you're with the Music Train and they will then seat you in the correct area to be close to the music. As usual, we will have a dedicated space available to all those who want to enjoy the music, but it is limited. If you want to eat you can see the menus available at .

<https://www.thegoshawpub.co.uk/menus>

It's the last one of the season, so why not come along and take part in an enjoyable and different evening out.....

All you have to do is buy your train ticket and hop on the Music Train from any station between Altrincham and Mouldsworth or come directly to the pub, you'll be more than welcome.

A brief reminder of how the Music Train works.....

It's really easy to join us on this entertaining event. You just need to remember a few things.....

- There is ***no charge at all*** to take part – just buy your return train ticket
- If you would like to come along, just drop us an email to musict rains@midcheshirerail.org.uk so we can get an idea of numbers



- There's a cash collection on the way back for the band – put in whatever you want
- Good food and drink is available at all the pubs
- Catch the Music Train from any station at all along the line – or come straight to the pub

Other events on the Mid Cheshire Line.....

The Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership is here to make the Mid Cheshire Line part of your community from Manchester to Chester and all ports of call along the way.... We like to publicise what is happening throughout the year, look after our stations so it is a pleasure to use them from keeping it clean to planting and looking after borders, tubs, gardens, planters and shrubbery – this is only possible through funding from our partners as well as the volunteers who give their time and expertise to design and maintain the planting displays.

We also like to put on some unusual events to encourage people to not only use the line but to find out something about the different places along the way.... So we ran our very first **Nature Walk** on 31 July.... Led by retired CWAC Countryside Ranger Chris Moseley who pointed out things of interest along the way such as a white berry known as a snow berry. There was an abundance of juicy blackberries in the hedgerow so plenty of opportunity for foraging. People saw lots of butterflies flitting about especially on the Oakmere Way which leads to Delamere Forest. CRO Sarah Muir also walked at the back of the group to make sure no one was left behind.

The walk was mainly on country tracks with only a couple of road crossings and the weather was warm but manageable. It was well attended with around 30 people coming along made up of station volunteers and people from the local community as well as walking group members from Northwich Amblers. This is run by Christopher Charles. You can access details of their walks by emailing mail@merseyforest.org.uk

The walk ended at Delamere station and many of the walkers enjoyed food and refreshments at The Station House Cafe before catching the Northern train back to Cuddington. Another success for the CRP along the MCL! We will be organising another one soon!



We have some other events, listed overleaf, for you that you might be interested in attending – come along and do something different!



Places are limited on all these events, so please register your interest to the Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership at contact@midcheshirerail.org.uk

Timing	Event	What it entails	Additional information	Cost
Tuesday 15 September Morning 10.30 meet 2.5 hours	Walking tour – Radical Manchester led by Dave Smith	Visiting key sites which played such an important role in establishing Manchester as a place of activism.	You will need comfy walking shoes. There is time for a coffee too	FREE event All you need is a valid MCL train ticket for that day
Thursday 27 August Evening 6.30 meet 1 hour	Northwich Railway History led by Trevor Booth	You will go to several locations and hear all about the history of the railway in Northwich	You will need to wear comfy walking shoes.	FREE event
Saturday 5 September Afternoon 2.30 meet 1 hour	Northwich Railway History led by Trevor Booth	You will go to several locations and hear all about the history of the railway in Northwich	You will need to wear comfy walking shoes.	FREE event
Thursday 28 October Evening 7.00 meet 2 hours	Knutsford Ghost Tour Led by George Williams	You will visit some of the towns most haunted buildings and places – you can even have a go at being a ghost detective!	You will need to wear comfy walking shoes	FREE event All you need is a valid MCL train ticket for that day

Why do we do this?

Music Trains are arranged by volunteers on behalf of the Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership to promote the Mid Cheshire Line. We want people to use the line, enjoy the experience and come back again – that’s our sole purpose. The train line is for everyone to use, and we actively encourage this. So, we run the Music Trains, we produce booklets of circular walks from every station along the line and advertise many events and activities that take place during the year, and you can take the train to get there. Find out more at.....

- the Mid Cheshire Line website (www.midcheshirerail.org.uk)
- subscribe to this newsletter for news and more details at musictrains@midcheshirerail.org.uk
- follow **MidCheshire CRP** via social media - Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and X – just look for Mid Cheshire Rail.

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON 24 SEPTEMBER!!