

Community & Learning Report

SCHOOLS

The school's learning programme continued to develop in 2019/20 with engagement numbers on target to pass the previous year until the onset of Covid-19. However, between September 2019 and February 2020 we worked with 439 children and their accompanying 67 adults. Most of the schools booked a workshop as part of their visit with the Early Years offer, Teddy Bears to the Rescue, once again being the most popular. Other workshops included our science activity, Changes of State, World War II, Industrial Revolution and Local History. As last year, we worked with Nursery, Reception, Year 1, 3-6. Sadly, due to the closure of Rail Story in response to the pandemic, we cancelled nine classes which were due to visit. This prevented us running other workshops such as Seaside Holidays, Lights Camera Action and the Railway Children.

COMMUNITY/LEARNING COACH

The Learning Coach hosted many events prior to lockdown and engagement figures stand at 1212, bringing the total from Sept 2018 to Aug 2020 to 3829. The Coach was regularly open during October weekends and we staged three Halloween-themed days with the offer of arts and crafts. We were almost at capacity when a talk about the Coal Tank was held in the Autumn. We opened for three days in December before Christmas Day and a couple of days when the Railway was running their Mince Pie Specials. Early in January, the Coach hosted 'New Year Blues', a laid back, music offering for people dropping in. We re-started our birthday party offer in January with a group of 11 and adults using the Coach for eating and games etc. In February, we hired two face painters to complement the Railway's Jurassic Specials events. We had a whopping 380 people visit the Coach over two days which was then followed by 402 over three days for March's Steam Gala. Adding on meetings held by KWVR, the Bronte Partnership and a number of openings in August completed the year's numbers.

OTHER

Potential or new partnerships have been created with the National Railway Museum which wants to bring their learning staff to Ingrow, Eureka which hosted a visit for the Ingrow learning team, East Riddlesden Hall which wants to find out more about our offer, the Bronte Parsonage Museum in creating a joint workshop offer, and Community Rail Lancashire which can offer free transport to Keighley in association with Northern Rail. Matt Arnold and VCT's Alexandra Haley featured on Bradford community radio station BCB to promote Rail Story.

Summary Facts & Figures

Visits for past academic year – 2019/20 up to February 2020: 13 (11 with workshops, two facilitated station visits).

Workshops delivered include Changes of State, Teddy Bears to the Rescue, World War II, Industrial Revolution and Local History.

Numbers for year: 439 children, adults 67 (last year's full academic year was 714/146).

Year groups covered: Nursery, Reception, Year 1, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Same as last year. Currently working on a new workshop for Year 2.

Visits cancelled due to Museum closure: 9 (237 children).

Learning Coach numbers: 1212 (just under half of figure for 18/19). Total for past two years (from Sept 18) stands at 3829.

Vintage Bus passengers: 166 (figures include up to Sept 13)

Matt Arnold – September 2020