

## **Hidden Gems: Photography/song-writing project**

### **Project Outline:**

*Hidden Gems* is a photography and song writing project that will work with local school, community and charity groups along the Liverpool-Southport, Southport-Wigan and Wigan-Liverpool lines during June – September 2019. The groups (one per station) will work with photographers and song-writers to create a body of work that captures places of interest in walking distance from their local station; the hidden gems. These “hidden gems” might range from sweeping beachscapes, to lively community centres and bustling town centres. The songs written will reflect the diversity and communities of the line through these sites, bringing undiscovered locations to both locals and tourists, and encouraging and promoting access to these through rail use.

The views (and voice) of those involved will be incorporated into the final photographic and musical outcomes that will be displayed at the relevant station on a semi-permanent basis. Each of the stations involved will have a maximum of 3 boards of photographic work and each line will have a newly composed song.

The photographic work will be printed onto Dibond and be installed by Community Rail from September 2019 with the associated song being accessible via a QR link (hosted on the CRL website). In addition, line maps will be created that will be used with SEND groups from the 2019/20 academic year onwards when delivering the Rail Confidence Programme along the West of Lancashire CRP. The map will have space for (young) people to collect stickers of the stations that they have visited and, when a route is completed, they will be awarded with a *Hidden Gem* certificate by CRL.

The aim of this project is three-fold:

- 1) To engage people from under-representative and/or marginalised communities with their own localities, including train stations, to encourage a sense of ownership and pride.
- 2) To inform rail users of interesting places at stations along their route and, hopefully, encourage people to explore the local areas.
- 3) To create a visual/audio resource to use as part of CRL’s Railway Confidence Programme.

### **Proposed stations along Southport – Wigan:**

Southport  
Parbold  
Appley Bridge  
Gathurst  
Wigan

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*If you’d like to either get involved or find out more, please don’t hesitate to get in touch.*