



Representing users of the Barnstaple to Exeter rail line

Welcome...> to the seventh edition of our Station News.

Marsh Barton in Exeter is the city's largest trading estate and one of the region's largest employment centres. The new Marsh Barton station, planned to open in the winter of 2023, is currently under construction and is rapidly nearing completion. It is sited in the middle of the estate at Clapperbrook Lane between Exeter St Thomas and Starcross stations. The two new platforms will accommodate up to five-coach length trains, which will be delivering an hourly Paignton to Exeter and Exmouth service, plus additional peak hour trains. It will be handy for those employed in the area and for leisure walks beside the canal towards Exminster and the Turf Lock Hotel as well as the Riverside Valley Park. It will also be useful for residents around Alphington which is nearby.

The project was made possible by the Department for Transport, GWR, Network Rail, Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership, Exeter City Council and Teignbridge Council. The station will be unstaffed but will have help points and full CCTV. The station will only have blue badge disabled parking bays for cars to encourage sustainable travel. It will be served by nearby bus services and a cycle route. Access to the station will be step free.

At the Railfuture AGM in Bristol, Rail User Group Awards were presented to ACE Rail, which won gold for best New Group for their campaign to reopen the Bideford to Barnstaple railway line, and to the Tarka Rail Association which received a commendation in the Best Newsletter category.

Tim Steer the campaign lead for ACE Rail has been kept busy presenting his case for the restoration of services to local councils to gain their support. Banners promoting this campaign are now being displayed at Barnstaple and at a couple of other stations along the line.



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Platform two at Barnstaple now has regular weekly visits by volunteer groups including Barnstaple in Bloom to maintain and plant this area. This hard work has resulted in the scheme being awarded the Royal Horticultural Society and South West in Bloom Level 5 outstanding award. The RHS judge was Jon Wheatley.



Left to right
Alastair Macloud, Barnstaple Mayor Louisa York, Alice holding the “Outstanding” certificate (stationmasters cafe), Andy Hedges holding the Barnstaple town council environment cup, Tim Steer holding the Railfuture Gold award, Jenny Macloud.
Photo courtesy of Keith York