

Councillor Mrs. Marion Camm writes:

‘LET THE TRAIN TAKE THE STRAIN’ – a snappy slogan from the past and very enticing when considering the overcrowding on our roads today.

**Alsager Station** is a great asset to our town, bearing in mind its proximity to the town centre, its excellent car park and also the benefit of the local bus service, making rail travel easily available to all the community.

Improvements for passengers have been taking place- such as the introduction of a new **Crewe to London service**, run by **London Midland**, calling at Alsager from 15 December 2008- with more in the pipeline and, with the co-operation of all concerned, the aim is to continue to further develop the use of our Station.

This new service is in addition to **East Midlands Trains** hourly Crewe-Derby service, which links you to attractions such as Uttoxeter Races, Alton Towers and Tutbury Castle. And now, with the continuing support of the **North Staffordshire Community Rail Partnership** and **Alsager Town Council**, we are seeing big improvements in the gardens of our Station to further enhance the regeneration and enjoyment of our town. The Community Rail Partnership has also won funding to install an electronic customer information system at the station, meaning more and improved information for passengers to help them use their local train services.

I am one of the **Friends of Alsager Station**, a group of willing volunteers who, on a rota basis, attend to the light gardening around the new planting that has taken place this year with high hopes of returning the gardens to their former glory.

So ... why not step aboard the train, sit back, relax and enjoy the view from the window!

For detailed timetable information on rail services from Alsager, visit [www.eastmidlandstrains.co.uk](http://www.eastmidlandstrains.co.uk) or [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk), telephone **08457 48 49 50**