

EAST LANCASHIRE'S HISTORICAL COMMUNITY STATIONS

WHALLEY



Whalley 1910 - photo courtesy Brian Haworth collection



Whalley June 1961 - photo courtesy Ken Roberts



Whalley October 2009 - photo courtesy Brian Haworth

WHALLEY RAILWAY STATION

Whalley station opened in June 1850 amidst great celebrations in the village. A gondola was attached to the first special train containing musicians who provided melodies en-route. The special train reached Whalley at 4:00pm and 240 guests left the train at the station to be treated to a celebration banquet in a large marquee on what is now the cricket field. The Whalley Glee Sisters entertained the guests. The station officially opened to the public on 22nd June 1850. By 1904 the goods yard boasted a five ton goods crane and could deal with livestock, horses and prize cattle vans. The Station closed to passengers in 1962.

The station buildings still survive in private ownership adjacent to the Clitheroe platform. The famous Whalley viaduct sits alongside the station. Consisting of 48 arches, 679 yards long it carries the line 70 feet above the River Calder. Seven million bricks and 436,000 cubic feet of stone were used in its construction at a cost of £35,000. Arches 12 and 13 collapsed during construction killing three men, whose bodies were laid out in the nearby Judge Walmsley public house. Bricks for the arches were made close to the viaduct on Billington Moor the site of Calderstones Hospital. Close to Whalley station a small branch line once served St Mary's Military Hospital which later became Calderstones Hospital. In steam days the banking engines were attached at Whalley station to assist goods trains up the 1 in 82 graded Langho bank.

Whalley station reopened on 25 May 1994 and is served by an hourly service to and from Manchester, seven days a week.

