

## CLITHEROE LINE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

What is, and who are the partners in, the Clitheroe Line Community Rail Partnership?

The Clitheroe Line Community Rail Partnership is one of nearly 60 CRPs in the country formed after the Strategic Rail Authority issued its Community Rail Development Strategy (CRDS) in 2004. The CRDS has 4 key objectives:

- To increase ridership and revenue;
- To contain costs;
- To engage with the local community; and
- To enable the local rail network to play a part in the economic and social regeneration of its area.

The Clitheroe Line CRP is a partnership between, Lancashire County Council, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, GMPTE, Northern Rail, Network Rail, Ribble Valley Borough Council, Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council, Ribble Valley Rail and ACoRP (Association of Community Rail Partnerships).

The CRP actively works towards improving the line between Clitheroe and Manchester Victoria, whether this be looking at improvements to the timetable and stations or getting the community involved in guided walks and starting Friends of Stations groups.

Successes to date have been to safeguard the Sunday service, small works at stations including installing recycled plastic planters and the introduction of red 'line branded' notice boards at a number of stations along the route. The Partnership has also been working closely with local schools and has produced an award winning DVD called Explore the Ribble Valley Line, featuring 'Brian the Bull'. This is aimed at Key Stage 2 pupils (i.e. 8 - 10 year olds) and aims to get them involved with the railway in a positive way.

In addition - The CRP employs a Community Rail Partnership Officer who travels everyday on the line! If you have any suggestions for future editions of this newsletter or ideas for improving the line then why not e-mail them to [brian.haworth@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:brian.haworth@lancashire.gov.uk) who will be delighted to hear from you.

Summer Sunday days out by DalesRail - this is the unique Sunday service that provides a link onto the famous Settle Carlisle line. Offering a range of guided walks, bus links, special fares and an at seat trolley service from Rolling Riot this is the best way to enjoy a summer Sunday. Want to know more? Then go to [www.dalesrail.com](http://www.dalesrail.com) for the latest news and to download this year's brochure.

ISSUE 1

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# ON THE LINE

THE CLITHEROE LINE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER



**Whalley Viaduct with Stonhurst College in background**

Welcome to the first newsletter of the Clitheroe Line Community Rail Partnership (CRP). This issue contains some good news about longer trains on the line as well as ideas for summer days out.

The railway line between Manchester and Rochdale via Oldham has been closed for conversion to a new Metrolink tram line. This has freed up five 2 carriage trains which are being used to ease congestion on some of the most overcrowded services in the Greater Manchester area, including a number on the Clitheroe to Manchester line. The changes took effect from Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July and full details of the changes will be found on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter.

Ever thought of trying DalesRail? Well, find out more about this unique service that links Blackburn with the famous Settle to Carlisle line by going to:

[www.dalesrail.com](http://www.dalesrail.com) or go to

[www.communityraillancashire.co.uk](http://www.communityraillancashire.co.uk) or [www.clitheroelinecrp.co.uk](http://www.clitheroelinecrp.co.uk)



## CLITHEROE LINE STRENGTHENING

The Clitheroe Line CRP has been vigorously campaigning for some time to secure additional carriages for the Clitheroe Line. I hardly need to inform you that peak trains to/from Manchester can be extremely full!!! Our surveys have shown the extent of the problem but solving it has been much harder.

So it is welcome news indeed that the Greater Manchester Integrated Transport Authority (GMI TA) secured the retention of the 5 trains freed up by the Oldham/Rochdale conversion in October, for use in the Greater Manchester area for a 9 month period. Since then, the Department for Transport has committed to fund the continued use of these trains. As you will see there will be some welcome relief for passengers on many of the most overcrowded peak trains on the Clitheroe to Manchester route. Also we should see the single car trains banished from the line. GMI TA continues to press government for more carriages to relieve overcrowding in the north west - our readers are asked to support this by writing to their local MP.

The changes in detail are:

### Morning Peak

**05.55 Manchester Victoria to Clitheroe** (*Bolton 06.12, Blackburn 06.52, Clitheroe 07.17*) strengthened from 2 carriages to 3 (a 150/x to **150/x + 153**), an increase of 75 seats.

**07.23 Manchester Victoria to Blackburn** (*Bolton 07.42, Blackburn 08.20*) strengthened from 1 carriage to 2 (153 to **150/x**), an average increase of 61 seats.

**07.40 Clitheroe to Manchester** (*Blackburn 08.03, Bolton 08.30, Manchester Victoria 08.52*) strengthened from 2 carriages to 3 (150/x to **150/x + 153**), an increase of 75 seats.

**08.32 Blackburn to Manchester Victoria** (*Bolton 09.02, Manchester Victoria 09.26*) strengthened from 1 carriage to 2 (153 to **150/x**), an average increase of 61 seats.

Timetable information for the Clitheroe to Manchester route can be found at [www.northernrail.org](http://www.northernrail.org) or collect a printed copy at manned stations.

To find out if your train is running on time, text your station name to **84950** or visit [www.gmpte.gov.uk](http://www.gmpte.gov.uk) for details of their 'how is my train running' scheme.



### Evening Peak

**15.40 Manchester Victoria to Clitheroe** (*Bolton 16.00, Blackburn 16.30, Clitheroe 16.56*) strengthened from 1 carriage to 2 (153 to **150/x**), an average increase of 61 seats.

**17.09 Clitheroe to Rochdale** (*Blackburn 17.31, Bolton 18.01, Manchester Victoria 18.24, Rochdale 18.47*) strengthened from 1 carriage to 2 (153 to **150/x**), an average increase of 61 seats.

**18.00 Manchester Victoria to Clitheroe** (*Bolton 18.20, Blackburn 18.49, Clitheroe 19.14*) strengthened from 2 carriages to 3 (150/x to **150/x + 153**), an increase of 75 seats.

**18.23 Manchester Victoria to Blackburn** (*Bolton 18.43, Blackburn 19.21*) strengthened from 2 carriages to 4 (142 to **2 x 142**), an increase of 114 seats.

**19.31 Blackburn to Manchester Victoria** (*Bolton 20.02, Manchester Victoria 20.24*) strengthened 2 carriages to 4 (142 to **2 x 142**), an increase of 114 seats.

**19.40 Clitheroe to Manchester Victoria** (*Blackburn 20.03, Bolton 20.25, Manchester Victoria 20.52*) strengthened from 2 carriages to 3 (150/x to **150/x + 153**), an increase of 75 seats.

**James Syson, Partnership Chairman said;** 'The Clitheroe Line Community Rail Partnership is pleased to see that these extra carriages are being used to ease overcrowding and boost capacity on some of the busiest train services that operate on the line. It has been a long term aspiration of the partnership to see additional strengthening and we hope that passengers have more comfortable journeys as a result of this'.