

## DARWEN STATION IMPROVEMENTS

Darwen station is to have £400k invested in a programme of works to improve the station. The work will focus on security improvements, better passenger waiting shelters and information facilities, and the installation of self serve ticket machines on both platforms.

The £400k funding package for the improvements is coming from Network Rail's National Station Improvement Programme Tranche 2 (£200k) and from Blackburn with Darwen's Capital Programme (£200k).



## BROMLEY CROSS TVM

One of the regular topics brought up by customers and rail user groups on the Clitheroe to Manchester Victoria route is the issue of revenue collection. At Bromley Cross, one of the busiest stations on the route, a self serve ticket machine has been installed on the Manchester bound platform. This will go some way to helping with the issue of queuing to buy a ticket at the station or having to queue at the barriers at Bolton or at any of the Manchester stations. This will also free up the conductor to issue tickets from unmanned stations.

Regular travellers, including scholars and students, are also being encouraged to buy season tickets for their journeys which cuts down queuing times and also saves money.

## DALESRAIL 2012

The DalesRail 2012 season will be one of the longest ever, starting on Sunday 1st April and running right through until Sunday 21st October. The second train will operate from Sunday 20th May to Sunday 9th September.

The timetable and fares for 2012 are already available and can be seen by visiting [www.dalesrail.com](http://www.dalesrail.com). The timetable is little changed from the 2011 season but the fares structure has been completely overhauled to leave just two origin and destination bands and as a result a good number of fares have come down in price.

# ON THE LINE

THE CLITHEROE LINE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER



150223 stands at Blackburn's Platform 4 - photo Simon Clarke

Welcome to the third Clitheroe Line Community Rail Partnership newsletter. The photograph above shows the newly reopened platform 4 at Blackburn station, where a £1.7m project has seen the installation of a lift, a canopy and a heated waiting room. The project was funded through the Department for Transport's Access for All scheme, Network Rail's National Station Improvement Programme and a contribution from Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council. The revamped platform was officially opened by local MP Jack Straw on Friday 21st October.

Customers using one of Blackburn's busiest platforms will no longer have to



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

## PERFORMANCE ISSUES

Performance on the Clitheroe Line has recently fallen short of Northern Rail's target for the line and Area Director West, Lee Wasnidge was asked to comment on recent performance issues and he writes:

Period 8, traditionally the worst period for train running performance, has seen Northern surpass Performance targets by a significant margin. Lancashire & Cumbria recorded a provisional figure of 85.6% some 8% above last year's figure. The Clitheroe route recorded a figure of 86%; representing a 5% improvement on last year. Pleasing though these improvements are, I acknowledge that we need to work to improve the level of consistency.

Northern has seen passenger numbers grow by 38% since 2004 and have worked hard to strengthen key services. These have been tracking at around the 81% mark with the exception of the 07:40 Clitheroe - Manchester Victoria at 63%. The main reason for this has been the reliability of the class 153 trains.

There have also been a number of operational incidents on the route that have caused severe disruption including freight train failures. A coal service has failed 3 times recently resulting in heavy delay and cancellation. Network Rail and the operator are now looking at a number of measures including using a more powerful locomotive. Other options are to divert the service via the West Coast Main Line or to treat the railhead appropriately to prevent any adhesion issues.

On top of this we have suffered a number of infrastructure failures between Darwen and Blackburn Station, most significantly affecting track circuits (allows the signaller to see where a train is) in Sough Tunnel. Network Rail are working hard to address these issues including the replacing transceivers, renewing cabling and relays and enhanced maintenance, and we hope (expect?) to see an improvement soon.

I hope that you've found this update useful and it goes some way to explaining the constraints we face as a business and the solutions we are working on with our partners to make improvements along the route.

This is an edited version of Lee's comments — to see the full script please visit [www.clitheroelinecrp.co.uk/home/clcrp-news](http://www.clitheroelinecrp.co.uk/home/clcrp-news)

## INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE

The much talked about platform lengthening between Blackburn and Clitheroe is well underway with a projected completion date of the middle of December 2011.

Work has also started on Whalley viaduct to correct the problems highlighted in a recent inspection and remedial work on Cob Wall viaduct between Blackburn and Wilpshire is nearly complete.



## BOLTON STATION IMPROVEMENTS

A £4m upgrade has now been completed at Bolton station which means that passengers can now experience much improved facilities. The ticket office has been completely rebuilt and the area opened up to create much more space and reduce congestion. The footbridge has also been refurbished.

At platform level the canopies have been extended to reach the bottom of the stairs. This will enable the position where trains stop to be altered so that there is a much shorter distance for passengers to walk to and from trains.



The waiting room on platform 4 has been modernised and a brand new waiting area is now in place between platforms 1 and 3. Cycle stands have been provided, the toilets have been refurbished and include disabled and baby change facilities, and a new glass extension has been added to the coffee shop.

Improvements have also been made to the station lighting and signage, the platforms have been resurfaced and a new CCTV system has been installed.

The £4m project included a contribution of £950,000 from Transport for Greater Manchester.