THE LANCASHIRE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIPS REPORT TO NORTHERN RAIL 2012

Clitheroe Line Community Rail Partnership

East Lancashire Community Rail Partnership

SOUTH FYLDE LINE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

WEST OF LANCASHIRE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP

INTRODUCTION

Community Rail Lancashire is the new name for the four Community Rail Partnerships looked after by Lancashire County Council. Soon CRL will have its own logo and brand. This development alone shows how far Community Rail has progressed in Lancashire. How much further will it develop? We had some very interesting ideas presented to us by Dr Paul Salveson in a report produced for the Clitheroe and East Lancashire Line CRPs and part funded by the CRDF (Community Rail Development Fund). However, as this will take place in the future and the purpose of an annual report is to review the past you will have to wait for next year's Annual Report to see what comes next!!

2012 has been an exciting year for Community Rail. For me the key highlights have been:

- Our continuing engagement with local schools with that well known character Brian the Bull;
- Securing Interreg IVB funding through the Citizens Rail project to support a range of Community Rail initiatives in the UK and across NW Europe. Key for Lancashire is the contribution the project will make to the development of the Community Station at Burnley Manchester Road, continuing the work of Northern Rail's three Community Ambassadors and supporting the introduction of the new Blackburn to Manchester service via Accrington and Burnley;
- The first Lancashire Community Rail Station of the Year competition with joint winners at Colne and Huncoat
- Securing a range of service improvements with some more to come next year following a derogation to enable changes to be made on an experimental basis to DalesRail;
- The continuing enthusiasm of our volunteers who give large amounts of time to supporting the local railway and in particular I single our Marjorie Birch for special mention as she works very hard for the East Lancashire and Clitheroe Line CRPs as Vice Chair as well as being a Board member for ACoRP.
- The designation of the service between (Leeds) Skipton and Morecambe/Heysham. This brings to six the number of community rail lines that have received either service and/or line designation. This formal recognition of a CRP is an important milestone but it should never be taken for granted that the movers and shakers in the (wider) rail industry fully appreciate what this means which perhaps indicates that there is a need to state more clearly and simply what designation should confer on a CRP – (note to self: a designated line charter may be required in 2013!!).

I could go on but you will read more later in the report. Continued page 3

INTRODUCTION

Every year has its challenges and for me this year has been ensuring that Community Rail has the right profile in the refranchising process. With both Northern Rail and TPE franchises at the starting blocks there is much work to do. On top of this there is the possibility that the franchising of local rail services will be devolved from the DfT to a body covering the whole of the north of England – the so called RiNE (Rail in the North of England). A meeting of northern CRPs took place in Accrington to review how they might get closer to the devolution debate.

On the local front we continue to see improvements at many rail stations with notable schemes completed at Darwen, Blackburn and at three stations on the South Fylde Line as part of this year's Open Golf tournament. However, the same cannot be said for the steadily ageing fleet of diesel units that make up the mainstay of much of the fleet serving our community rail lines. Many are now in need of heavy refurbishment especially if they have to soldier on for an indefinite period of time. This may also include the much loved pacer trains as well!!

A positive relationship has been developed with Network Rail without whose support many of the projects taken forward by our CRPs would not be possible. Over the last year we have worked with Network Rail on a series of high level projects such as the restoration of the Todmorden West Curve, upgrading Bolton to Blackburn, the refurbishment of Darwen Station and the platform 4 works at Blackburn. We have appreciated the input from Roy Greenhalgh at CRP meetings whose local knowledge has been invaluable in understanding what is taking place on a day by day basis across the patch. The project that hopefully will lead to the upgrading of the Preston to Ormskirk line to facilitate a standard pattern timetable is being taken forward by Network Rail. As mentioned elsewhere the disused platform project gained a third entry in Lancashire this year at Lytham. We thank Mike Franklin for his help and support with this worthwhile project. It was good to welcome Laura Stronge to the Network Rail Community Rail team so ably led by Jerry Swift.

Key to most of what we achieve goes to the support and encouragement received from Northern Rail. Central to this are the crucial roles played by our two Client and Stakeholder Managers namely Craig Harrop and Mark Barker. No matter how silly an idea Craig always manages to smile!! The Station Managers team and especially Wayne Smith have worked hard with us and no more so than in planning for the Open Golf Tournament. We welcome the involvement of the three Northern Rail Community Ambassadors in the work of the East Lancashire and Clitheroe Line CRPs and also Colette Fowler who quietly and effectively supports all the Lancashire CRPs.

Lastly no introduction is complete without a big thank you to all those who contribute to the core funding of CRL and/or to specific projects. Without your support none of what we achieve would be possible. Also a big thank you goes to the three CRP Chairs and to our two hard working Community Rail Development Officers. You are the movers and shakers in the CRP movement that turn ideas into something happening on the ground involving local communities that helps secure the long term development of our local rail services.

Richard Watts, Secretary, Community Rail Lancashire

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

Clitheroe Line & East Lancs Joint CRPs

As we fast approach the festive season (and the delivery of our already fully booked Santa Special from Blackburn to Hellifield) the Clitheroe and East Lancashire Line Community Rail Partnerships can once again raise a glass to celebrate yet another award wining year.

By working with even more partners at a strategic and 'hands on' level and tapping into even more funding pots we continue to witness the fruits of our toil with above average passenger growth.

Our work with local schools and community groups continues to reach new heights. The My Mill Hill Art Project has helped transform a station environment thanks to a huge effort by the local community coordinated by the partnership and a local artist. The culmination of all this hard work was a well attended opening ceremony with over 200 local school children proudly viewing their artwork which was captured by our resident photographer leading to a first place in the 'Photo Competition – Best Community Rail People Image' category at the National Community Rail Awards.

Our local stations are in great shape with significant investment having been ploughed into Blackburn and Darwen stations, major investment ongoing at Burnley Manchester Road and planned investment at Mill Hill and Cherry Tree. Accrington Eco station continues to be recognised by the rail and building industry and it now even doubles as a market garden. Friends of Stations groups also continue to excel with their efforts having been recognised at the inaugural Lancashire Community Rail Partnership Station of the Year Competition with joint first place being awarded to local stations Huncoat and Colne.

Other innovative projects which we are currently involved with include the Heart of Huncoat project and the Darwen Eco Film festival yet another example of how the partnerships continue to push the boundaries of community engagement.

A big thank you must go to all those involved in raising the profile of our special local rail lines and we look forward to more of the same!

I would also like thank the contribution made to our local rail lines by Peter Moore who sadly passed away at the beginning of the year – his tireless effort along with other founding members of RVR who are no longer with us helped to establish a platform for community involvement.

James Syson, Chair CL&EL Joint CRPs

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

South Fylde Line CRP

Northern Rail carried 20,070 customers on the line during the Open Golf Championship at Royal Lytham Golf Course in July. The manning levels had proved effective and the efforts of railway staff were praised. Some disappointment was expressed about the withdrawal of the service to St Anne's which could be avoided in the future if a passing loop was installed on the line. This continues to remain a priority in the Action Plan because an improved frequency of trains is a key demand of passengers.

The South Line Community Rail Partnership has continued to respond to, develop and initiate projects along the route.

One project involves the development of a promotional DVD of the route based on the view from the driver's cab. The group are also making good progress on developing a range of walks that start and finish at railway stations along the South Fylde Line. Two walks have already been completed and two further strolls are being developed. The project is a joint venture involving St Anne's Town Council, Lytham Civic Society and the Local Strategic Partnership.
The Partnership continues to press Northern Rail and Network Rail on performance issues in relation to the route. Passenger usage is increasing but the potential to increase growth is hampered because the line's hourly service does not meet market demand with convenient onward connections etc.

The newly formed St Anne's in Bloom Group are working with the Community Rail Partnership and the Blackpool and Fylde Rail User Group (BAFRUA) to draw up and develop plans in an attempt improve the look of the station forecourt/car park area. Lytham in Bloom have an agreement to work on the disused platform and are planning to install planters with the help of the local prison service.
We are grateful to our regular volunteers who work tirelessly to keep the stations on the route looking the best they can.

Tony Ford, Chair, SFLCRP

West of Lancs CRP

The West of Lancashire Community Rail Partnership has benefitted not only the quality of rail service in our area but has delivered some real community and social benefits. The partnership has brought together a range of groups and individuals to work together to help improve the quality of service provision. Through the Friends of Stations groups we have helped deliver a real sense of identity and pride within local communities. Local residents now have a genuine sense of ownership of their stations which can be seen by the visible appearance of the stations.

We have also helped to deliver improvements to our local rail services, working with partners within the rail industry to help operate our services in a way that delivers real benefits. We have helped foster links to wider rail destinations and work collaboratively to promote events and destinations to help increase passenger numbers and promote attractions in our local area.

Looking into next year we are hoping to deliver a range of new and exciting projects including working with local schools to help promote safe use of public transport and areas of the school curriculum. We are also looking to work with the Sefton & West Lancashire VISIT project which is a joint initiative aiming to promote sustainable means of transport to the visitor economy in both boroughs.

Speaking as Chair I have to say that it is a privilege to work with community and other groups with the sole aim of improving the service in our area.

Ian Gill, Chair, WoLCRP

INCREASED RIDERSHIP

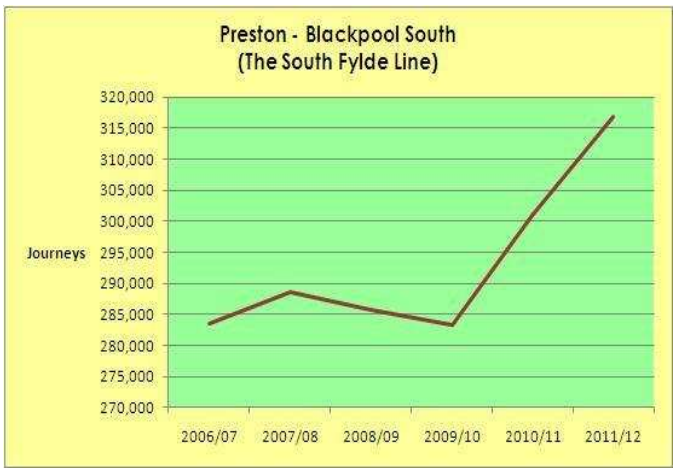
The Community Rail Strategy launched by the Strategic Rail Authority in November 2004 and reviewed by the Department for Transport in March 2007 is designed to involve local communities in the development, and running, of local and rural routes and stations and has four key aims:

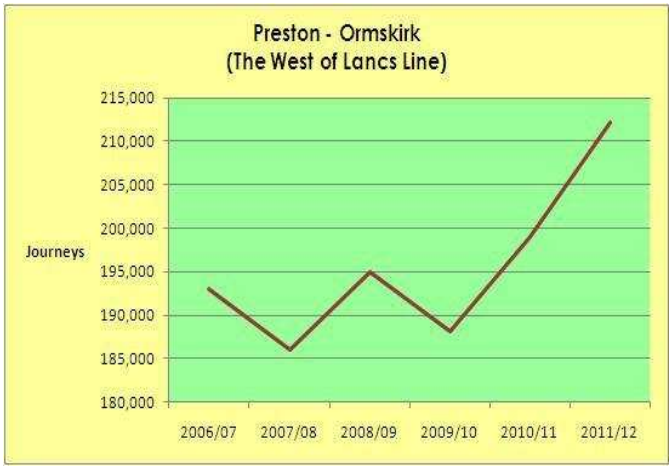
- To increase revenue;
- To reduce costs;
- To increase community involvement; and
- To support social and economic development.

Point one of the strategy says that community rail should increase revenue and this is directly linked to increased ridership. In order to evaluate ridership the Lancashire Community Rail Partnerships employ Eden Business Analysis, an independent consultancy based in York, to provide passenger figures for the Clitheroe to Manchester Victoria, Preston to Colne, Preston to Blackpool South and Preston to Ormskirk lines.

Eden Business has access to Lennon data through an arrangement with Northern Rail's Headquarters in York and produces a twice yearly report giving the CRPs data on passenger numbers, station footfall and flows.

As can be seen from the graphs below all four lines have seen significant rises in patronage over the last five years and very steep rises between 2010/11 and 2011/12. The Clitheroe Line has risen from 1.56 million journeys in 2006/7 to 1.88 million in 2011/12 - a 20% rise. The East Lancs Line has seen a increase of 53.7% in the same time. The South Fylde Line and West of Lancs lines have seen an upturn of 11.7% and 9.9% respectively.





The figures confirm that the work community rail partnerships and the small army of volunteers carry out to encourage use of local stations and services really does work, both on busy commuter routes like Clitheroe to Manchester Victoria and on the more rural routes such as the Preston to Blackpool South and Preston to Ormskirk lines. Coupled with the route specific marketing efforts of Northern Rail and the tireless work of the Development Officers, the Lancashire CRPs definitely have the right formula for success.

ACTIVITIES

2012 has seen work taking place at many of the stations on the Lancashire CRP lines. This has ranged from major refurbishment work at Darwen and Wigan Wallgate carried out by the industry but with input from the partnerships down to weekly visits by Friends of Stations groups.

On the Clitheroe Line, primary school children were involved in the annual Community Rail Art Exhibition that takes place each year in the Platform Gallery in Clitheroe. This years theme was railway posters and the children were asked to design an advertising poster in the style of the those produced by the railway companies in the 1920s & 30s. Pictured here is the winning entry being shown off at Whalley by Izzy, who designed the poster.

Whalley station has seen a QR Code trail introduced that starts at the station and guides users around the village. Whalley Primary School have also created a garden on a piece of land at the entrance to the station in partnership with the Friends of Whalley Station.

At Blackburn station a piece of art work created by young people from the nearby Nightsafe Hostel, was installed on a wall on platforms 1 & 2 and the same group are interested in getting involved the Incredible Edible Movement by growing vegetables on the station.

The growing of vegetables and fruit bushes continues at Accrington with the Prospects Foundation taking the lead and introducing the disabled and those with learning difficulties to the pleasure of market gardening. Prospects are also involved at Rishton station where the Friends of Station group have recently started growing vegetables in raised beds in a bit of no-man's land at the back of the Colne bound platform .

Friends of Stations groups continue to blossom on all lines in Lancashire with the volunteers carrying out work in all weathers to keep their stations clean and tidy. One in particular stands out at Huncoat station, where 'Hands on Huncoat' have worked miracles at what was a very run down station. They have created flower beds and cleared others to create a very colourful display. The station was joint winner in the Station of the Year competition (see page 12).

Lytham station on the South Fylde line has joined Burscough Junction and Croston on the Preston to Ormskirk branch as stations where a Network Rail licence has been granted for the friends groups to work on a disused platform.

The various partnerships are continuing to fund CRP branded boards at stations and have installed boards at; Lytham, St. Annes, Nelson, Huncoat, Blackburn, Bolton and Mill Hill stations. Some of these have been funded through general station developments and some through the Designated Community Rail Development Fund.

A number of public realm works have been carried out at Lytham, Ansdell & Fairhaven and St. Annes stations partly in preparation for the Open Golf tournament that was held at the Royal Lytham & St. Annes Golf course in July and partly as legacy work for Fylde Borough Council's 2020 Vision project. The work included revamping garden areas at Ansdell, redesigning the entrance to Lytham station and some car park and public access works were carried out at St. Annes-on-the-Sea.

Two small stations on the East Lancs line have also seen work taking place. Church & Oswaldtwistle has had its waiting shelters revamped with lighting and help points installed. Mill Hill saw a project to install CCTV in partnership with Northern Rail and the huge My Mill Hill project has seen the station become a focal point with children's art work on display.

One disappointment was that the waiting shelter at Blackpool South was destroyed by a fire in September, in an act of vandalism. This has spoiled the overall effect of the branch created by the BAFRUA volunteers that do stirling work on the stations along the line.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME

Brian Haworth has continued to develop our educational programme right through 2012 with both Brian the Bull DVDs continuing to prove very popular with local schools. Over 1000 school-children plus teachers have visited Accrington to experience our unique learning zone.

In addition to the standard schools work, other initiatives such as the 'My Mill Hill' project involving six primary school classes, a local youth club and a senior citizens group has generated additional visits to Accrington. Another project involving Whalley Primary School also generated visits. Feedback from both children and teachers proves that the educational resource we provide is interesting, curriculum linked and an enjoyable experience for pupils and staff.

We aim to provide a high quality educational resource for schools which is stimulating, informative and flexible enough to meet the ever changing school curriculum and to carry this through into 2013. The support we receive from Northern, Network Rail and ISS is excellent, in particular, David Wilkinson from Northern.

Work started in October 2012 on two projects that will carry over into 2013, both involving primary school children.

Heart of Huncoat is a innovative project that will see children from Huncoat Primary School visit a local foundry to see the work they have done in class cast in metal to be displayed at the station.

People, Planet Film is a project that will culminate in the Darwen Film Festival in February 2013. This project involves a number of schools from Darwen, Blackburn and Accrington and is working towards an animated film that will seen at a special premier to launch the Film Festival.

The Educational Programme is also attracting interest from within the Community Rail family and from schools, not all of which are local, and is seen as an example of best practice. We have had fact finding visits from CRPs in Kent, Yorkshire, Cumbria and Devon & Cornwall and also from East Coast Railways and Southern Railways.

FEEDBACK

Vicky Hall, Year 5 teacher, Whalley C of E Primary School;

This is the third year that Brian and Marjorie have visited my year 5 class to talk to them about the history and development of the local railway. Each year the children are enthused by the content and hands on experience provided with many of them remembering tales from the day many years later – the information definitely remains with them. It is very easy to fit these visits and linked projects with a number of Creative Curriculum Topics encompassing KS2 Learning Objectives. I have found that the resulting work after one of these visits has been of the highest standard as has been demonstrated through our work now on display at Whalley Station.

Caroline Walmsley, Year 4 teacher, Farrington Moss Primary School;

Thanks for our fantastic visit to Accrington Eco Station last week. After a very exciting lead up to the visit the children were not disappointed. They really enjoyed the train journey and because of your school visit prior to the trip they were able to point out areas of interest along the way. As some of the children had never been on a train before it was a very valuable experience. Once at Accrington the children were able to link our curriculum work with ease. They enjoyed the selection of activities which covered a wide range of experiences such as literacy (poetry writing), numeracy (working with timetables), geography (mapping the journey), history (train memorabilia and artefacts) and our wider topic of looking at ways to improve the environment concentrating on greener facilities. We have been able to do lots of follow up work and the children have been really enthusiastic and engaged. A really super trip, which was well organised, very informative and interesting. Also a big thank you to you and Marjorie for making us feel so welcome and at home.

Peter Fenton, Head Teacher, Daisyfield Primary School;

Once again the school continues to benefit from working with Brian Haworth our Community Rail Development Officer. Recent work has included:

- Continuing to work with a small group of children rail ambassadors working on issues around rail safety.
- Visits to Accrington Eco station have provided work to support the geography curriculum KS2, specifically helping children to understand how and why people may seek to manage the environment sustainably and to identify opportunities for their own involvement.
- An art project has just started which as well as enhancing the children's art skills will also add to our Community Cohesion Policy as the children will come together and share work with children from different communities.

DCRDF PROJECTS

The Designated Community Rail Development Fund (DCRDF) is a £100k pot of money provided by The Department of Transport and Network Rail (managed by ACoRP) to help with projects on the countries 32 designated community rail lines or services. The Lancashire CRPs have been very successful in securing grants (£17.15k) and whilst some of the grants were given during 2011 the money has been mostly spent on projects in 2012, but some will be spent in spring 2013.

In East Lancashire one of the biggest beneficiaries has been the People Planet Film (Darwen Film Festival) project that will see work by children from six primary schools in Darwen, Blackburn and Accrington made into a animation that will be shown at the launch of the festival in February 2013.

The My Mill Hill project was a project that saw primary school children, a youth group and local senior citizens working together to make the station the focal point of the village.

Heart of Huncoat is a innovative project that will see a group of primary school children taken to a foundry in Blackburn to see work they have done in class, with Alastair the Artist, making clay models that will be cast in metal. The resulting castings will be displayed at Huncoat station.

Also receiving funding in East Lancs was a piece of consultative work, called Agenda for Action, that considers what might be next for community rail in Lancashire.

On the South Fylde Line two projects have received funds. The first was money to match fund the public realm works at Lytham station and was earmarked for the improvements to the station entrance.

The second project, 'Walking with the Community' is aimed at getting local people, and visitors alike, exploring the interesting and historic Fylde coast area. The project will see a series of self-guide walks leaflets providing directions for circular and linear walks from St. Annes-on-the-Sea, Ansdell & Fairhaven and Lytham stations.

COMMUNITY AMBASSADORS

This innovative project aims to bridge the gap between the railway and the communities it serves. Through the employment of three Community Ambassadors it is hoped that the barriers to rail travel can be reduced. The project has recently changed to a line of route approach with three Ambassadors covering the East Lancashire, West Pennines and Calder Valley lines. With support continuing through the Citizens' Rail Interreg IVB programme the Ambassadors will be employed at least until the end of the Northern Rail franchise.

The project initially focused on reaching ethnic minority communities. This is now changing and the Ambassadors are now developing links with the local colleges in their areas. In East Lancashire Sultana has visited Blackburn, Burnley and Accrington & Rossendale colleges and supported by Zanib and train crew has attended some of their open days this autumn. It is intended to further develop these links. A number of familiarisation trips have also been organised during the year aimed at helping people understand how to use the railway.

The Ambassadors maintain a close working relationship with the East Lancashire and Clitheroe Line CRPs and attend CRP meetings on a regular basis. The Community Rail Lancashire base at Accrington Station now provides internet access to the Northern Rail system so that the Ambassadors can work out of the station.

Looking ahead the Ambassadors will continue to work with their local communities and colleges and develop new links with members of the local business community to see how the railway can help meet their needs.

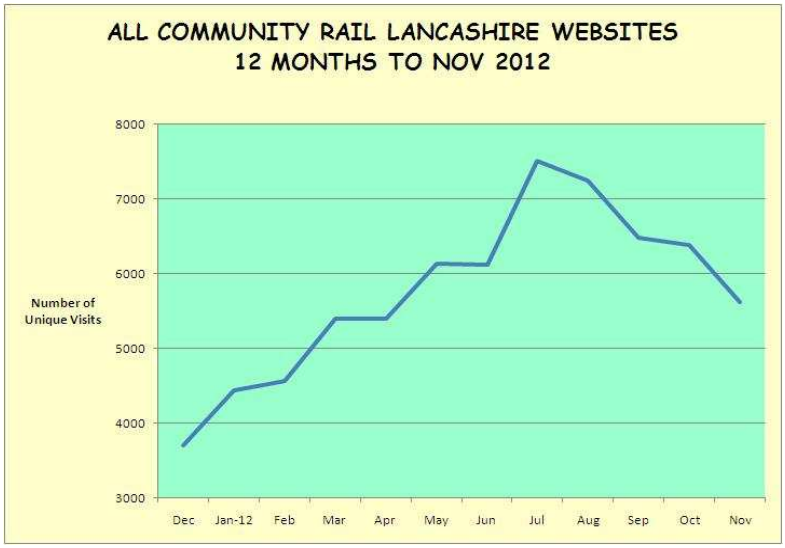
The crowning glory this year was that the Community Ambassadors won the coveted national Civil Service 'Diversity and Equality' award.

CRL WEBSITES & OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA

The Community Rail Lancashire websites are used both to market the partnerships and the local rail services and stations but also to report the work of the partnerships such as the school work carried out by Brian Haworth and Marjorie Birch.

The sites are used to report news items about our local rail network and the various successes we have had in awards throughout the year. The website also uses links and other items of interest to support our partners and stakeholders and has a large section of downloadable information about walks and cycle rides, destinations and rover and ranger tickets available for use throughout the East Lancashire area.

The number of unique visits to the sites has been steadily rising since inception and 2012 has been no different with numbers peaking at 7500 in July helped by visits to the seasonal DalesRail site.



The websites also provide various pages of useful customer information such as timetables for the community rail lines, engineering information and links to TOCs and National Rail. A recent addition to the main CRL website has been the inclusion of a widget on the home page to allow visitors to book tickets directly with Northern Rail's online booking service.

The Lancashire CRPs, keen to keep up with modern trends in communication, have also embraced the ever burgeoning field of social media. Simon Clarke, who manages the websites also now manages a blog (http://communityrailman.wordpress.com) and has created a twitter account (@comunityrailman). So far 95 blogs have been posted and 111 tweets, all helping to promote community rail and publicise the benefits of rail travel.

ALASTAIR THE ARTIST

As part of the educational work carried out by Lancashire's Community Partnerships local artist Alastair Nicholson has become an integral of part of the team delivering innovative art work for display on both stations and in schools.

Over the last twelve months we have seen banners, animation, painting and, as a part of the My Mill Hill project laminated art work in bus shelters. The Mill Hill project, in particular, took art work into the community surrounding this sadly neglected railway station and involved a wide range of participants.

The accompanying picture shows Alastair on his potter's wheel working on an important project for next year.

Alastair has also contributed to the work of the partnership by volunteering to work with children visiting the bunker on several occasions. His enthusiasm is infectious and the children love travelling on the train with him, as he spots things with his artist eye that many of us would miss. Alastair's contribution goes a long way to the number of children who make repeat journeys on our local lines.

STATION OF THE YEAR 2012

The Community Rail team in Lancashire decided that it would like to run a Station of the Year competition during 2012 as a way of encouraging and supporting the hard work the Friends of Stations volunteers carry out each year. The competition was open to any station in the community rail family. In the end 10 stations were nominated by the various Friends of Stations groups: Brierfield, Colne, Croston, Huncoat, Meols Cop, Nelson, Rishton, St. Annes-on-the-Sea, Squires Gate and Whalley.

Originally it was the intention to short list the stations but in the end all ten stations were visited by the judge on Thursday 9th August. The judge used three criteria to make his decision:

- Added value - did the work at the station add anything that wouldn't already be there under normal circumstances?
- Something different - had the group done something innovative at the station?
- Attention to detail - had the group paid particular attention to the work carried out at the station?

The judge commended all the stations and the hard work the station groups had undertaken to get their station ready for judging. After a great deal of deliberation the judge decided to award two first prizes, and the joint winners were announced in September.

Colne (Colne in Bloom) left & **Huncoat (Hands on Huncoat) below.**

Both station groups get certificates and will receive a prize and be entered into the appropriate category in ACoRP's 2013 National Community Rail Awards.

Hands on Huncoat asked for a new community notice board and this has been provided as part of a larger branded notice board at the station. Colne in Bloom have yet to decide on their prize.

There will be another competition in 2013 and it is hoped that more stations will enter.

WALKING & CYCLING FOR HEALTH

The Clitheroe Line and East Lancashire Community Rail Partnerships regularly attends meetings and are involved with events as part of the **change 4 life** programme in the Hyndburn, Burnley, Ribble Valley and Blackburn area. This health improvement service involves supporting Health and well being in the area through encouraging people to take part in a physical activity on a regular basis.

The Community Rail Partnership has a programme of led local walks of varying distances to encourage people to take up walking. The partnership also has a leaflet of self guide walks, all easily accessible by local rail services.

The partnership delivers a 'Cycling into Railway History' series of cycle rides with commentary along an old local railway line and canal, again encouraging people to take regular exercise. The group meeting pulls in representatives from several local towns and councils and is an ongoing initiative which is always looking for innovative ways to add to the programme

DALESRAIL 2012

Another wet summer, indeed the wettest for a century, plus the continuing economic uncertainties, again had an adverse effect upon the number of passengers using this year's DalesRail services. This was disappointing given that the volunteers from Lancashire Rail Ramblers gave over six thousand hours of time to plan, prepare, organise and lead over one hundred and forty guided walks, steward the trains and arrange eleven connecting coaches to destinations away from the Settle to Carlisle Line. Without this input, and the support of the Community Rail Partnership, DalesRail would not be the success it is.

It remains, probably, the best example of an integrated recreational public transport service in the UK offering passengers a wide variety of walks, strolls and guided tours to a variety of destinations. It also supports other national initiatives relating to promoting fitness, mental wellbeing and social inclusion.

Activities have included strenuous and not so strenuous fell walking, wildflower walks, the popular 'Climb a Peak Slowly', guided tours of Gretna Green and the pubs of Carlisle and 'History in the Landscape' strolls to name but a few. The coach links have taken passengers to destinations such as Barnard Castle, Swaledale and Teesdale.

The number using both trains totalled 4822. The first train carried 3752 – an average of 134. The second train carried 1070 – an average of 63.

Despite the wet weather, the numbers of regular walkers using the train held up quite well. It was the effect on the numbers of occasional walkers and day-trippers who didn't make use of the service which made the difference – particularly noticeable on the many wet Sundays. Ironically, on October 14th and 21st when the service was cancelled due to rearranged engineering works at Hellifield, the sun shone brilliantly from dawn to dusk!

CITIZENS' RAIL

The Lancashire CRP team have also been out and about to the Launch of a new Interreg IVB funded project called Citizens' Rail. The launch took place in the House of Commons at an event hosted by Torbay MP, Adrian Sanders and with a keynote speech by Transport Minister, Norman Baker.

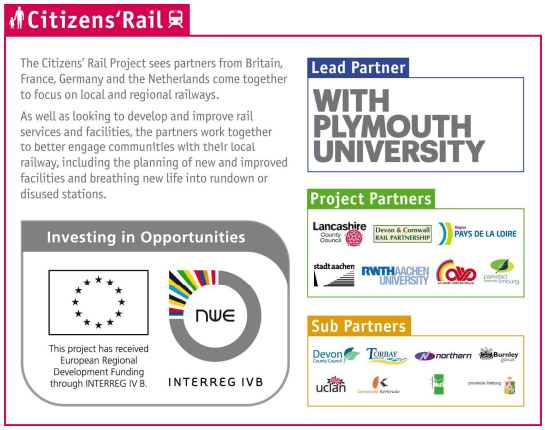
The Citizens' Rail Project sees partners from Britain, France, Germany and the Netherlands come together to focus on local and regional railways.

As well as looking to develop and improve rail services and facilities, the partners will be working together to better engage communities with their local railway, including the planning of new and improved facilities and breathing new life into rundown or disused stations.

There is a wealth of experience among the partners and they will be sharing this in developing and taking forward the schemes that will form part of the overall project.

In Lancashire the project will see the redevelopment of Burnley Manchester Road station giving the station a brand new building, reusing the materials from the demolished old building, a bigger car park, a booking office and a community space for the Northern Rail Community Ambassadors to use.

The project began in May 2012 and runs until September 2015. The total budget is 9.03 Million Euros of which 50% is being funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the INTERREG IVB NWE programme.



PRESS & PUBLICITY

The Lancashire CRPs have had a good year as far as press and other publicity are concerned. Below is a list of instances of where one of the CRPs have been mentioned in printed and other media:

- Train Times 64 (Spring 2012) - My Mill Hill Project
- Train Times 66 (Autumn 2012) - Partnership Profile
- St. Annes Town Carnival Brochure - South Fylde Line profile
- Great British Rhythm & Blues Festival Brochure - East Lancs CRP sponsorship
- Whalley Parish Magazine November 2012 - Whalley primary School Garden
- Bike4Life publicity - East Lancs CRP Railway History Cycle Ride
- Witch Ale Spring 2012 - Clitheroe Beer Festival (CLCRP sponsorship)
- Witch Ale Summer 2012 - Burnley Beer Festival (ELCRP sponsorship)
- Clitheroe Beer Festival programme - CLCRP sponsorship
- Lancashire Telegraph 28.06.12 - Blackburn 'Platform 5' artwork
- Lancashire Telegraph 03.07.12 - Blackburn 'Platform 5' artwork
- Lancashire Telegraph 25.08.12 - Colne R & B Festival Music Train
- Lancashire Telegraph 15.09.12 - Lancashire CRPs Station of the Year competition
- Lancashire Telegraph 20.11.12 - RVR/CLCRP Santa Special
- Clitheroe Advertiser Nov 2012 - RVR/CLCRP Santa Special
- Radio Lancashire 04.04.12 - general promotion of community rail

Community Rail Lancashire also features regularly on the following websites: CAMRA, Northern Rail, Network Rail, Department for Transport, ACoRP, Blackburn with Darwen BC, Transport for Greater Manchester, Wikipedia, West Yorkshire Metro, Lancashire CC, Great British Blues Festival, Ribble Valley Rail (and other rail user group sites), a number of school websites and links on a number of other websites too numerous to list. The Blackpool South to Colne line also features in '*On the Slow Train Again*', a new book by Michael Williams.

SPONSORSHIP

The Lancashire CRPs continue to sponsor a number of events with the aim of encouraging people to visit the event by train. The main thrust of sponsorship continues to be the Colne Rhythm & Blues Festival that takes place over the August bank holiday weekend and involves the East Lancs CRP running a music & ale train along with other publicity in the festival venues.

In 2012 the partnerships were involved in sponsoring two CAMRA Real Ale festivals; the Clitheroe Beer Festival in May and the first Burnley Beer Festival in September. On both occasions the relevant CRP co-sponsored the festival glasses which most people keep and make and are a constant reminder of the CRPs. In return the festivals publicise the CRP and also carry rail timetables and advertise last trains.

A new venture, in 2011 and 2012 has been to sponsor the St. Annes Town Carnival by designing and printing their publicity posters in return for a page in the Carnival Brochure allowing us to promote the South Fylde line CRP and the train service on the line.

WHO'S WHO

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Along with the core members of the management groups there are a number of other industry members who regularly attend the meetings along with representatives from local councils, Station Managers and from local Rail User Groups and Friends of Stations.

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And finally:

I just wanted to express my thanks again for taking the time out to meet with me today which I very much appreciated. I was very impressed with all the work that you have been doing which is certainly a credit to the wider work of community rail partnerships. I wish you all the success with both your current and future plans and I will certainly recommend you to anyone that asks for a good example of a CRP.

Daniel Washington, Transport Planner, Kent County Council

Photographs and other images in this report courtesy of: Brian Haworth, Simon Clarke, Matt Clarke, Chris Barber, Ross Taylor, SBS Architects, Northern Rail and the Citizens' Rail Project.

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