

Santa Services

Blackburn to Clitheroe

Saturdays 11th & 18th December 2010



Santa will board the following trains at Blackburn and travel to Clitheroe

Manchester Victoria	11.00	14.00
Bolton	11.20	14.20
Bromley Cross	11.28	14.28
Darwen	11.41	14.41
Blackburn	11.52	14.52
Ramsgreave & Wilpshire	11.58	14.58
Langho	12.02	15.02
Whalley	12.04	15.04
Clitheroe	12.19	15.19

Christmas just wouldn't be the same without Santa. This year, he is giving the reindeer a rest and taking a Christmas train journey and you can come along too!

So why not enjoy a train journey with a difference and meet a truly magical passenger. Ribble Valley Rail is providing sherry and mince pies for the adults and all children under 12 will receive a FREE Santa goody bag.

So come along and take a magical train journey along the scenic Blackburn to Clitheroe line, and make it a happy Christmas for everyone!

Return on any train. Services connect with trains from Preston, East Lancashire and Yorkshire at Blackburn. Please refer to the full timetable for intermediate stations between Manchester Victoria and Blackburn and for other services. Normal fares and railcard discounts apply. Children 5-15 travel half-fare and children under 5 travel free.

RVR, Northern Rail and the Partnership wish you a Happy Christmas



For train times and further information please call National Rail Enquiries on 08457 484950 or visit www.northernrail.org or www.ribblevalleyrail.co.uk or www.clitheroelinecrp.co.uk

READING BETWEEN THE LINES

THE NEWSLETTER OF LANCASHIRE'S COMMUNITY RAILWAYS



ISSUE 10

AUTUMN/WINTER 2010

AWARDS SUCCESS



The Lancashire Community Rail Partnerships were honoured to receive a number of awards at the annual National Community Rail Awards held in Westcliff-on-Sea in September. The Partnerships submitted ten nominations in eight categories and were pleased to have five short listed.

On the evening all five of the short listed entries were successful in receiving an award, the best haul of certificates and trophies for the Lancashire CRPs ever! There was one outright winner in the Ormskirk Station redevelopment, which won in the Station Development category. Full details of all the awards inside this issue.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Richard's Ramblings, Accrington Eco Station, Friends of Stations, Brian the Bull and much, much more!!

RICHARD'S RAMBLINGS

As we approach Christmas it is time to be both reflective and forward looking! As I said in RBTL 9 there is much to be proud of with Community Rail in Lancashire with most lines showing continuing growth. There are also some positive moves in respect of the formal Community Rail designation of the Preston to Ormskirk line and I hope by the time RBTL 11 comes out that we will have the fourth designated line in Lancashire.

Community Rail designation has been a big step forward in official thinking about regional rail services and lines. For the first time that I can recall it gives formal recognition of the value of the lines, the partnerships that support them and the role they play in the local transport mix. Community Rail designation has much to offer and the CRPs on designated lines and services will be meeting early next year to discuss this. There is ALSO much to play for with re-franchising affecting many regional TOCs over the next few years including Northern Rail and TPE in our own patch.

Community Rail may also have a part to play in the emerging 'Big Society' agenda. Perhaps you are aware that the Cabinet Office is currently consulting on 'Supporting a Stronger Civil Society' which sets out some ideas about the 'Big Society'. Use the attached link to view the document in more detail <http://www.strongercivilsociety.org.uk/> and note that the consultation ends on the 6th January, 2011. It is interesting to note that two headlines in the document use the phrases "Promoting social action" and "Empowering local communities". Sounds familiar? Well of course it does as this is what rail user groups and more recently community rail partnerships have been doing in spade full's. I would advise all CRPs and station friends groups to take a look at the document and perhaps respond to the consultation?

There is of course a bit of a BUT to all this, so far as I am concerned. Many CRPs rely heavily on the public sector and local authorities, in particular, to support them. That support comes in two main ways, the employment of CRPO's and finance in the shape of grants etc. So, as the public sector is facing major budget and staff reductions over the next 3 to 4 years this will inevitably affect the support and finance that is available for CRPs. I know of at least one local authority that is totally pulling out of its CRPs. So perhaps that needs to be kept in mind when responding to this or any future consultation?

(Richard's Ramblings does not necessarily reflect either the official policy of Lancashire County Council or of any Community Rail Partnership.)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Ribble Valley Rail's Santa Services are once again running in 2010. The dates are Saturdays 11th & 18th and as usual Santa will be giving every child a goody bag and a drink — mums and dads don't miss out as they are invited to have a glass of sherry and a mince pie. Details on back page!

The East Lancs & Clitheroe Lines Guided Walks programme continues throughout the winter and spring with walks on December 15th 2010, January 5th, 15th & 17th 2011 and then through February and March until the end of the current programme. All walks are led by volunteers from the Rail Ramblers and walks are available for all grades of walkers.

March 19th 2011 sees a new venture with a National Community Rail Day. Ideas so far are to have an event at a station or on train and to hand out local produce to encourage use of community rail lines. The new Northern Rail Community Rail Ambassadors will be closely involved in any events in our area.

The DalesRail 2011 season starts on Easter Sunday 24th April and runs until 23rd October 2011. Visit www.dalesrail.com for more details.

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WEBSITES

For information on Lancashire's Community Rail partnerships and for a host of other useful information please visit the following websites:

www.communityraillancashire.co.uk
www.dalesrail.com
www.northernrail.org
www.ribblevalleyrail.co.uk

www.railramblers.com
www.lancashirebus.co.uk
www.nationalrail.co.uk
www.merseytravel.gov.uk

BRIAN THE BULL PROJECT

Brian the Bull has been out and about in several schools during the autumn term. Schools visited by the bull over this period are Sudell Primary School, Darwen, Padiham Green Primary School, Padiham Primary School, St Leonard's Primary School, Langho and Huncoat Primary School.

Padiham Green travelled to Bromley Cross dressed as Victorian children as the children are currently studying tunnels and experienced two journeys through Sough Tunnel which is certainly the longest one in the community rail Lancashire area. Their colourful Victorian costumes certainly caught the eye of passengers on the train and the school received a letter from a passenger on the train commending the children on their dress and behaviour. Huncoat and St Leonard's schools chose to journey to Blackburn and visit both Blackburn museum and Blackburn Cathedral.



Blackburn museum has become a popular choice with schools due in no part to the excellent job that Steve Irwin and his team do. Nothing is too much trouble and as long as the schools put in requests prior to their visit, worksheets and hands-on sessions are available and expertly delivered in Steve's own inimitable style.

FARES FAIR

Don't forget that a number of good travel offers are still available throughout the Lancashire CRP area including Northern Duo tickets (some not valid on Saturdays and Sundays in December), Lancashire Day Rangers at £18, East Lancashire Day Rangers, which includes bus travel for £10 and a host of other tickets.

Do make sure that you buy before you ride and don't forget that a season ticket is a great way to save money if you use the train every day to get to work, school, college or university!

Photographs and images in this issue are by kind permission of:
Paul Bigland, Simon Clarke, Brian Haworth and Richard Watts.
Other photographs can be seen at www.communityrailancashire.co.uk

RICHARD'S RAMBLINGS

On a more positive note the emerging budget for Lancashire's CRPs in 2011/12 is not looking too bad. There should even be enough to support a range of projects as well! Priority will be given to projects that have a good pay back or are part funded from other sources. It is to be hoped that the excellent Community Rail Development Fund continues next year. The fund is provided by DfT, Network Rail and ACoRP and Lancashire CRPs have already received over £11,000 from the fund this year.

Last but by no means least the Oscar winning Brian the Bull will shortly be starring in the sequel DVD 'Greening the East Lancashire Line'. The trailer will be on show at the launch of the new Accrington Eco Station on the 9th December and the full DVD will be on general release shortly after that!! The DVD is aimed at key stage 2 pupils and will be used in conjunction with the Community Resource Centre at Accrington Eco Station. We hope to launch the DVD at one of the schools that have been involved in the 'Explore the Ribble Valley Line' project. Watch this space for more details.

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and New Year!

BACK TO COLLEGE



Simon & Brian at Burnley

For the second year in succession Partnership Officers Brian Haworth and Simon Clarke attended the Fresher's Event at Burnley UCLAN College. A display was set up in the college reception with pull ups, timetables, and leaflets detailing events in which the Community Rail Partnership were involved. Northern Rail kindly donated some goodies to distribute on the day. The event went very well with hundreds of timetables taken away and students testing our route knowledge with all sorts of journey queries. Simon's knowledge, gleaned during his early career, working long hours in booking offices, stood us in good stead when the inevitable questions regarding ticketing came to the fore. We both feel that this is a worthwhile exercise and certainly since the college opened last year patronage into Burnley Central station with students travelling to the college has dramatically increased. In the true spirit of partnership working the photograph was taken by an employee of Transdev the local bus company who were on an adjacent stall.

FRIENDS OF STATIONS

FRIENDS OF BRIERFIELD

Once again the group have received help in their station work from the Community Reparation Group. Unfortunately there were some issues during this work placement when local youths attempted to intimidate the youngsters working at the station resulting in the local police attending the scene. Hopefully this setback will not dampen the enthusiasm from the reparation group as their input has been well received.

FRIENDS OF BURSCOUGH STATIONS

The group has made good progress on the disused platform with recycled plastic planters and beds made from old sleepers acquired and put in position. A Community Reparation scheme has been involved clearing the weeds from the disused platform and access path. A planter has also been installed at Burscough Bridge station.



FRIENDS OF CLITHEROE

All planters have been emptied of summer plants. The floral displays at Clitheroe were again magnificent and contributed towards Clitheroe station's success in this year's ACORP awards. Gordon Wilson who looks after the floral displays can be seen here with Marjorie Birch and Brian Haworth receiving his certificate.

FRIENDS OF COLNE (COLNE IN BLOOM)

Colne won a first place in this year's 'In Bloom' competition and the railway station was praised by the judges for its flower display. There are issues with the quantity of litter bins at the station but hopefully this problem can be addressed in the near future.

FRIENDS OF DARWEN

Another station that had colourful floral displays over the summer. There are still issues with litter at the station for which a solution is being investigated.

FRIENDS OF ENTWISTLE

Blackburn with Darwen council provided the plants for this isolated station and they managed to survive the summer, bringing a splash of colour to the platform.

YOUR CHOICE

Workshops

Web Detective - is designed to use ICT to teach students factual information and widen their knowledge and experience of the issues faced by the emergency services and transport providers. It is created using PowerPoint with hyper links attached to all of the agencies involved and can be adapted to cover a range of different questions to match the groups abilities.

Millionaire Game - is an interactive quiz using strategic questions designed to target particular pieces of information we want students to be made aware of. Each of the agencies main issues are then turned into questions for students to answer, ABCD using hand held remote control sets.

Vehicle Tour - Fire service vehicles, Police Horses, Police Dogs, Tunnel Police, Ambulances, British Transport Police, Bus Operators, Police Armed Responses and a CCTV bus from Arriva and Stagecoach. Students can explore the emergency/public service vehicles which they may one day need to come to their assistance.



Drama - Charlie's Choice addresses issues regarding anti-social behaviour in the community. The work shop is designed for students to create their own dramatic scenes and by living through the event (albeit safely) they experience for themselves how choices and actions lead to serious consequences, some which can be fatal.

Rap - The highly energetic performances use this popular art-form to motivate and inspire students, making use of mind mapping, improvisation, and literacy skills, the content of the performances and workshops include positive messages focusing upon the importance of choices and their potential consequences.

Students learn key factual information relating to fire, road, and rail safety and are encouraged to appreciate and understand the problems experienced by the emergency/public services in the every day life of the community.

Partner agencies include Merseyrail, BTP, Police, Mersey Tunnels Police, Merseyside Fire & rescue, North West Ambulance service, Park rangers, Stagecoach and Arriva

ACCRINGTON STATION TRAVEL PLAN

A Station Travel Plan has been developed for Accrington station as part of ATOC's Station Travel Plan Pilot Scheme. The completion of the new Eco Station has meant that a good number of the actions in the Action Plan have now been completed. One of the actions was to develop some publicity to encourage people to use public transport rather than the car for their journeys.



Brian and Simon on the market stall

The publicity takes the form of a credit card sized Z-card and this was launched in an event in Accrington Market on Saturday 20th November. On a freezing cold day Partnership officers Brian Haworth and Simon Clarke and local bus company Transdev took over a market stall in Accrington's newly refurbished market hall to promote the new eco station and to highlight the station travel plan. Pennine Events also joined in the promotion and were on hand with their cycle smoothie maker which always proves a big attraction to the youngsters whilst pro-

YOUR CHOICE

Your Choice is a conference held in Liverpool and is a multi-agency organised event aimed at tackling issues such as personal safety, fire safety, bus and rail safety, internet safety, hoax calls, graffiti and vandalism.

The event is a fast moving interactive informative day for key stage 2/3 students aged 10-12 years, where pupils take part in five work shops, a powerful performance of drama and meet with a group of musicians who deliver rap music focusing on responsible behaviour and the consequences of anti social behaviour in the community.



The conference is devised in a way to accommodate a range of learning styles and follows the 'mind friendly learning cycle. The workshops activate learning and pupils are quickly engaged in the activities with the intention of making learning as unconscious as possible.

FRIENDS OF STATIONS

FRIENDS OF HUNCOAT

The group continue to have a major impact at the station - gardens have been created and bulbs planted. The planters have been installed on both platforms and planted up. The transformation at the station is attracting comments from travellers and train crews. The station now has its own resident squirrel which turns out to observe working parties from the garden area!



The Hands on Huncoat team

FRIENDS OF LANGHO

Volunteers have started to carry out work on the station garden. Overgrown shrubs have been cut back and new plants provided by volunteers are being planted.

FRIENDS OF NELSON



Friends of Nelson during a lull in work

The group at Nelson have continued their good work at the station. Funding was obtained for a secure tool store which has been located within the Interchange perimeter fence courtesy of LCC. Old bedding plants have been removed from the planters and winter plants added. Bulbs and wild flower seeds have been planted in the grassed area. The group are currently re-painting the

platform end fences with Northern's permission and with paint supplied by I.S.S.

FRIENDS OF RISHTON

A colourful summer display and the group are looking to clear and plant an area to the rear of the platform to enhance the ambience for intending passengers from the station.

FRIENDS OF WHALLEY

The group put on a good display of flowers at the station and along with the Community Rail Partnership Officer are looking to involve a local primary



Marje with the Clitheroe award



Simon collects the Carnforth award



Brian collects the GWOD award

The Lancashire Community Rail Partnerships were very successful at September's National Community Rail Awards ceremony in Westcliff-on-Sea. Ten nominations were made in eight categories, including The Friends of Nelson Station, Colne Rhythm & Blues Festival, the Meet Me at the Station Exhibition, the 2010 DalesRail Brochure, the Discover the South Fylde Line Brochure, Clitheroe Station, Ormskirk Station Regeneration, the Great Wall of Daisyfield, Carnforth Station Refreshment Room and the Meet me at The Station Project.

Richard Watts, Brian Haworth, Simon Clarke and Marjorie Birch from the Lancashire Partnerships were at the event in Essex.

Five of the nominations were short listed and all five received an award during the evening's festivities. The successful nominations are listed below:

- Ormskirk Station, **First Place**, Station Development
- Clitheroe Station, **Second Place**, Local Station Environment Award
- Carnforth Refreshment Room, **Third Place**, Best Station or Train Retail Outlet
- Meet Me At The Station Project, **Third Place**, Involving Young People
- Great Wall of Daisyfield, **Highly Commended**, Community Art Schemes



Brian and Marje pick up the MMATS award



Richard, Gary and Irene on stage for Ormskirk



Brian and Marje toast our success