

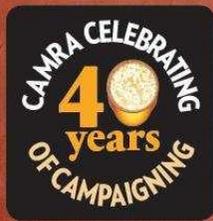
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READING BETWEEN THE LINES

THE NEWSLETTER OF LANCASHIRE'S COMMUNITY RAILWAYS



ISSUE 11

SPRING 2011

BRIAN THE BULL - THE SEQUEL



Brian the Bull, bovine star of Discover the Ribble Valley Line DVD a short film aimed at key stage 2 children has made a new film called, **Greening the East Lancashire Line**. The DVD is a film about how the East Lancashire railway line between Colne and Preston is becoming greener.

The film concentrates particularly on the brand new Eco Station at Accrington and how it has been built in an ecologically sound way using recycled materials where possible and sustainably sourced materials where recycling was not an option. Children from local primary schools will come by train to Accrington to see the DVD in the Education Resource Centre, underneath the station and will learn about green things such as recycling, solar energy and rainwater harvesting. Another photograph of the Premiere inside.

This project is supported by the Interreg IVB SusStations Project & Designated Line Community Rail Development Fund.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Richard's Ramblings, Hands on Huncoat, Daisyfield Rail Ambassadors, Martin Mere Reed Beds, Northern Rail Ambassadors, and much more!!

RICHARD'S RAMBLINGS

Life never stands still in the Community Rail world either locally or nationally. Locally there is some good news to report:

OPSTA has concluded its member's ballot and has now agreed to withdraw its objection to the formal designation of the Preston to Ormskirk line. This means at long last the line can be designated and the DfT will be taking this forward over the next few weeks. Plans for improving the timetable and possibly introducing an hourly service can now be moved forward. Discussions have already taken place with Network Rail on how this might be achieved.

The East Lancashire CRP was awarded the first CRDF (Designated Line Community Rail Development Fund) grant for 2011/12. The £5,000 will go towards the design study commissioned by Burnley Borough Council into much needed improvements at Burnley Manchester Road station. Architects SBS (Strazla Bright Seed) based in Manchester have been awarded the commission and already some good ideas are emerging.

Life may be about to change on the **South Fylde Line** with the Open Golf due to take place next year. Improvements to Lytham, Ansdell & Fairhaven and St Annes stations are being looked at. Grants towards some small scale improvements have been made by Fylde Borough Council and the Local Strategic Partnership. An application will also be made for some CRDF funding as well.

The news **DalesRail** season started on Easter Sunday 24th April when the newly wrapped unit 156464 made its star appearance! Full details about DalesRail are contained in an attractive brochure which can be obtained from your local station or as a download from www.dalesrail.com.

As reported elsewhere the **East Lancashire & Clitheroe Line CRPs** have just launched their second DVD called 'Greening the East Lancashire Line'. Schools are lining up to come to the new Accrington Eco Station by train of course! The award winning school project which started with the 'Explore the Ribble Valley Line' DVD with Brian the Bull has gone from strength to strength. A full report on the project is available on www.communityrail Lancashire.co.uk/learning-zone or on the ACoRP website at www.acorp.uk.com. As to the Eco Station it has been shortlisted for a number of national awards and updates on these can be found on the Community Rail Lancashire website as well as in the next Reading Between The Lines.

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The DalesRail season started on Sunday 24th April and runs through to Sunday 23rd October. There is a series of guided walks from the early train from Blackpool North and for the first time there will be some monthly 'stepping out' walks from the second train (22nd May to 11th Sept) aimed at the novice walker, visit www.dalesrail.com for full details.

The fourth Annual Clitheroe Beer Festival will be held in the St. Mary's Centre, Church Street, Clitheroe on Friday 13th & Saturday 14th May 2011. The Clitheroe Line CRP is once again sponsoring the glasses at the festival and we look forward to seeing you there!

The Clitheroe Line & East Lancashire CRPs continue to run their guided walks programme with the current season taking you through until September 2011. The walks start at a station on one of the lines and are either circular or take you to a station on the other line. There are also some shorter walks for those on 'stepping out' programmes.

The 22nd Annual Rhythm & Blues Festival will take place in Colne over the August bank holiday weekend - watch this space 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.communityrail Lancashire.co.uk
www.dalesrail.com
www.northernrail.org
www.ribbonvalleyrail.co.uk

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

FARES FAIR

Blackburn is at the heart of a network of rail lines on the Northern Rail and national network and a lot of these lines can be accessed using very reasonably priced ranger and rover tickets.

One ticket in particular, the East Lancashire Day Ranger, is very competitively priced at £10 for an adult (reductions for children and families) and allows both train and bus travel throughout East Lancashire. Bounded by Colne, Clitheroe, Bolton and Preston by rail and Skipton, Keighley, Bacup and Rawtenstall by bus the ticket opens up great opportunities. Link this with some added value 2 for 1 coupons for Clitheroe and Skipton Castles and discounts at Oswaldtwistle Mills, what better way to spend a day?



There are a number of other day ranger tickets including the Lancashire Day Ranger (£19) which allows travel on all lines in 'old' Lancashire and the Northwest Round Robin (£32) which allows a circular journey from Blackburn via Leeds/Carlisle over the Settle Carlisle line.

There is also a series of 4 in 8 and 7 day rover tickets including the North West Rover (4 in 8 day £60.00 & 7 day £74.00) allowing travel as far south as Stockport & Chester, as far north as Lockerbie & Dumfries and east to Hexham and Leeds. The North Country Rover is a 4 in 8 day ticket (£76.00) which covers the network north of Preston and south of Carlisle including Newcastle, Whitby, Scarborough and Hull.

For more local journeys don't forget Northern Rail's great Duo tickets that offer 'buy one - get one half price' for two adults travelling together. Full details of all these tickets can be found by visiting www.communityraillancashire.co.uk/publicity or the Northern Rail website at www.northernrail.org.

Photographs and images in this issue are by kind permission of:
Simon Clarke, Brian Haworth, Craig Ward, Skipton Castle Yorkshire,
Apple Video, Northern Rail and East Lancs CAMRA.
Other photographs can be seen at www.communityraillancashire.co.uk

RICHARD'S RAMBLINGS

Then there are the successful station partnerships across the Lancashire Community Rail network. Just look at Huncoat a transformed station – come on Hapton don't be beaten by your neighbour!

Last but not least there are the Community Ambassadors carrying out important and complimentary to the CRPs work in Blackburn and Brierfield. Let's hope this successful project can be continued.

Nationally the government has given the green light to continuing its funding of ACoRP (the Association of Community Rail Partnerships). As well as this good news the CRDF pot has been increased to £120,000 this year and the ACoRP small grants pot to £20,000. The government has clearly recognized the valuable work not only being done by ACoRP but also by the many CRPs across the country including those in Lancashire. Watch out for some interesting developments as refranchising of Northern Rail and TPE approaches involving CRPs.

As I said at the start life does not stand still for very long in the Community Rail world. There are many more exciting projects on the way. Keep looking at the Community Rail Lancashire website for the latest news.

CYCLING INTO RAILWAY HISTORY

The original Cycling into Railway History leaflet that was put together as a handout leaflet to accompany the 11 mile cycle ride from Eanam Wharf in Blackburn to Calderstones Hospital near Whalley has been redesigned and expanded. The new leaflet will be sent for printing shortly and will be available from normal outlets and as a download on the Community Rail Lancashire website.

The expanded ride now starts at Witton Park Visitors Centre and accesses the Leeds Liverpool canal towpath at Feniscliffe and then into Blackburn to follow the original route from Eanam Wharf through to Cunliffe Quarries and then onto the disused railway line through Great Harwood. From here it's then onto Whalley via Martholme Viaduct and then out past Calderstones Hospital & Mitton Church to finish at Clitheroe railway station.



2012 OPEN GOLF

The South Fylde Line will see an influx of tartan trews and plus-fours when the British Open Golf Tournament visits The Royal Lytham & St. Annes Golf Club in July 2012.

Northern Rail and Network Rail are working on plans for the train service to Ansdell & Fairhaven, where spectators will access the course. Along with these plans, Fylde Borough Council, Lancashire County Council and the South Fylde Line CRP are working together on plans to improve the look of stations and the area surrounding them. These plans will be supported by funding from Fylde BC & The Local Strategic Partnership but will be aimed at longer term tourism and not just tartification for the Open Golf.

WEST OF LANCASHIRE LINE GUIDE

Another of Northern Rail's excellent Line Guides has just been launched. The new guide, produced in partnership with the West of Lancs CRP, is aimed at promoting the use of the Wigan to Southport and Ormskirk to Preston and features great places to visit and things to do.

What about a spot of retail therapy on Lord Street in Southport or Fishergate in Preston, a visit to the National Trust's Rufford Old Hall, a healthy walk on the Leeds Liverpool canal towpath, a visit to the theatre or perhaps some bird watching at Martin Mere? All these can be done on West Lancashire's rail lines - leave the car at home and save the environment.

The launch took place at Burscough Bridge station at the start of the new footpath from the station to Martin Mere. The footpath takes people on a safe, well signed, route directly from the station to the Mere and takes about 30 minutes to walk.



At the launch and pictured here are: Jane Murray, Northern Rail Station Manager, Brian Haworth, Community Rail Development Officer, Victoria Fellowes, Marketing Manager Martin Mere and Dominic Carr, Transport Planner with West Lancs Borough Council.

MARTIN MERE REED BEDS

Martin Mere recently launched its canoe safari, which gives visitors the opportunity to get close up to the reed bed ecology and which will no doubt prove to be a resounding success with children visiting the popular West Lancs attraction this year.

Martin Mere working with the West of Lancashire CRP and local landowners have created a safe walking route from Burscough Bridge railway station to the Mere which is an ideal route for families. The well signed route of just over a mile, takes walkers through cultivated fields and alongside flowing dykes showcasing the unique landscape of the area and eventually to the main entrance of Martin Mere. It is a very relaxing way to access the Wetland centre and who knows what wildlife you will pass on route.



EAST LANCASHIRE DAY RANGER

The East Lancashire Day Ranger, the incredibly priced day ticket that allows travel on rail and bus throughout East Lancashire, has been relaunched.

The ticket is the culmination of a partnership between the Clitheroe Line and East Lancashire CRPs, Northern Rail and Transdev. Transdev have redesigned the leaflet and also secured some added value offers for the ticket.

The offers give ticket holders 2 for 1 entry at Clitheroe Castle Museum and Skipton Castle, one free drink in the Chorley's Little Theatre Bar and 10% discount at Oswaldtwistle Mills and in the 'bru station' at Blackburn railway station.

The ticket costs just £10 for the day with discounts for children and family groups and is available all day everyday, and can be bought at stations, on train and on bus. Collect a leaflet from manned stations or download a copy at www.communityrailancashire.co.uk/publicity



STATION SAFETY

Two of East Lancashire's stations affected most by vandalism, trespass and anti-social behaviour have recently seen CCTV installed.

Cherry Tree's system has been funded by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and covers the station platforms and car park. **Lostock Hall** has had seven cameras installed as part of Northern Rail's rolling programme of CCTV and has been part funded by a grant secured by the East Lancashire CRP from the Designated Line Community Rail Development Fund.

DAISYFIELD RAIL AMBASSADORS

Community Rail Development Officer Brian Haworth has gone back to school, in this case Daisyfield School, to work with the school's Rail Ambassadors.

Time has been spent working with the children highlighting Rail Safety issues. The four ambassadors then worked together producing a PowerPoint presentation which they then delivered to a school assembly. This has been a really worthwhile project for both the ambassadors and the school. To stand up and deliver a presentation in front of an audience can be quite daunting and it is a great character building process for the children involved.

It is often said that CRDO officers never know what they are going to be involved with and an interesting thing happened whilst carrying out the above work. On arrival at school on the appointed day it was quite obvious that things were not as they should be as everyone except the CRP officer were



dressed in red. It was of course Comic Relief Day and the CRDO found himself press ganged into a judging roll in the Daisyfield's Got Talent show! Simon Cowell can rest easy as the sight of the CRDO miming to YMCA was enough to confirm the complete lack of artistic ability. Thank goodness the scene was not captured on film!

ACCRINGTON GROWS GREENER

Accrington's new eco railway station is becoming even greener! Community Rail Development Officer Brian Haworth working with Ian Hodgson, Hyndburn Borough Council's Community Food Growing Co-ordinator and a group of volunteers from Accrington's Prospect Panel have started a project to grow fruit and vegetables at Accrington's rail station.



A secure piece of land at the rear of the booking office at the new station has been tidied and some fruit bushes and trees planted. Three raised beds have been made and were installed at the end of March. The next stage is to acquire top soil for the beds and this is scheduled to take place over the next two weeks. Once this has happened vegetable and herb planting can begin. Watch this space!

CLITHEROE BEER FESTIVAL

The fourth Annual Clitheroe Beer Festival will be taking place over the weekend of 13th & 14th May 2011. For the second year running the Clitheroe Line CRP will be sponsoring the glasses for the festival and promoting getting to and from the festival by public transport.

The Festival is open from 12.00 until 23.00 on both days and will be taking place in the St. Mary's Centre on Church Street which is around five minutes walk from the train and bus interchange. An hourly train service serves Clitheroe on both days and frequent buses are available to and from the area around Clitheroe.

CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale), organisers of the event, are celebrating 40 years of their organisation and have pulled together an impressive list of ales and ciders for the event with local brews from Blackburn, Darwen, Bashall Eaves, Burnley, and Haslingden. Others from Manchester, Leeds, Faversham and from as far away as St. Austell also make an appearance. The full list of probable beers can be found on the Clitheroe Line website at www.clitheroelinecrp.co.uk/clcrp-news.

A PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF



Community Rail Development Officer Brian Haworth, and Kathryn O'Brien, Northern Rail Client and Stakeholder Manager, pose with Sultana Jamil and Zahid Ahmed, two of Northern's Community Ambassadors.

The photograph was taken at the Manchester launch of the Community Ambassador project on 11th February 2011.

Jerry Swift, Network Rail's Head of Community Rail Planning & Development is seen here at Padiham Green School during the event that saw the premiere of the new Brian the Bull DVD.



Greening the East Lancashire Line, is the latest film to star the enigmatic bull and concentrates on 'green' issues along the East Lancashire line and in particular the new Eco Station at Accrington.



Croston, on the Preston to Ormskirk line, is the latest to see a Friends Group being allowed access to a disused platform. The group are taking advantage of Network Rail's scheme to clear the disused platform and prepare it for planting in beds and tubs.

Shrub clearance means that already the active platform is now visible from the footpath at the rear of the redundant platform.

COMMUNITY RAIL ACTIVITIES

Kirkby Stephen platform is thronged with passengers as the 2011 DalesRail season gets underway. The town was the starting point for the guided walks and was also hosting a Classic Bus and Coach Festival.



The 2011 DalesRail season is one of the longest ever, with over 150 guided walks led by members of the Rail Ramblers on 27 Sundays.



'Hands on Huncoat' is the name of the group that have adopted Huncoat station. The group have already achieved great things with the clearing of the platforms and creating flower beds and sympathetic planting.

Pictured with the group on a cold February day is Cllr Malcolm Pritchard, Mayor of Hyndburn and Brian Haworth, Friends of Stations Co-ordinator.

The photograph here shows the only known station flower tub with a rhododendron! The tub is on the Clitheroe bound platform at Langho station and is benefiting from the good, early spring weather.



Langho is one of the stations looked after by the Ribble Valley Rail Friends of Stations group, arguably the first Rail User Group to engage in this type of activity in the country.