

NEW SERVICE

THE EAST LANCASHIRE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP
AND
NORTHERN RAIL

ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT STARTING ON MONDAY
10TH DECEMBER 2007 THERE WILL BE A NEW DIRECT SERVICE
BETWEEN COLNE AND MANCHESTER VICTORIA

THE TRAIN WILL RUN MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES

| OUTWARD | | | RETURN | | |
|--------------------|-----|-------|--------------------|-----|-------|
| Colne | Dep | 06.19 | M'chester Victoria | Dep | 17.29 |
| Nelson | Dep | 06.24 | Bolton | Dep | 17.51 |
| Brierfield | Dep | 06.27 | Darwen | Dep | 18.12 |
| Burnley Central | Dep | 06.32 | Blackburn | Dep | 18.23 |
| Burnley Barracks | Dep | 06.34 | Rishton | Arr | 18.28 |
| Rose Grove | Dep | 06.37 | Church & O'twistle | Arr | 18.31 |
| Hapton | Dep | 06.40 | Accrington | Arr | 18.34 |
| Huncoat | Dep | 06.43 | Huncoat | Arr | 18.39 |
| Accrington | Dep | 06.47 | Hapton | Arr | 18.42 |
| Church & Osw | Dep | 06.50 | Rose Grove | Arr | 18.45 |
| Rishton | Dep | 06.53 | Burnley Barracks | Arr | 18.48 |
| Blackburn | Dep | 07.00 | Burnley Central | Arr | 18.50 |
| Darwen | Arr | 07.07 | Brierfield | Arr | 18.55 |
| Bolton | Arr | 07.29 | Nelson | Arr | 18.58 |
| M'chester Victoria | Arr | 07.51 | Colne | Arr | 19.05 |

Sample Fares: (These are correct at time of publication but subject to change, season tickets require photo identification to be carried with ticket when travelling)

| | DAY RETURN | WEEKLY SEASON | MONTHLY SEASON |
|--------------------|------------|---------------|----------------|
| All Stations | | | |
| Colne - Blackburn | £9.10 | £32.80 | £125.95 |
| to Manchester Stns | | | |



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READING BETWEEN THE LINES

THE NEWSLETTER OF LANCASHIRE'S COMMUNITY RAILWAYS



Including South Fylde Line and Leeds, Lancaster and Morecambe CRPs

Issue 2

Autumn 2007

ENTWISTLE – GATEWAY TO THE MOORS

25th September 2007 saw a ceremony at Entwistle station to mark the completion of the works to upgrade the station.

The works, at a cost of £40k, were sponsored by Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and includes new planters, fencing and artwork plaques. The station entrance has been



significantly opened up and re-engineered making it more user friendly and a focus of information with new notice boards. Overhanging trees and shrubs have been cut back revealing a Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway boundary stone and the original station pump, both relics from bygone times.

The works are part of Blackburn with Darwen's ongoing plans to encourage tourism in its rural areas using sustainable transport. Blackburn with Darwen also actively promote walking and mountain biking from the station and are hoping that Entwistle will become the Gateway to the West Pennine Moors. Northern Rail are hoping to timetable more trains to stop at station from December 2008.

Also launched on the day was the East Lancashire's Historical Community Railways leaflet, as featured in the last RBTL, along with the first of a new series of posters charting the history of the station.

The latest partnership leaflet, Ride, Relax, Ramble and Roam features a walk from the station and can be obtained from the usual sources and also features later in this newsletter.

PARTNERSHIP NEWS

The main news for this issue is the pending **Community Rail Designation** of the **South Fylde Line**. The DfT has started the process and has issued a draft prospectus for all to peruse. As long as this gains the support of all the bodies concerned then it is likely the Minister will give his seal of approval. The line will be designated from Kirkham North Junction to Blackpool South and the service from Preston to Blackpool South. It is hoped that the designation will be announced in time for the official launch planned for May 2008.

The partnerships were well represented at the Community Rail Awards held in **Bexhill** and although we didn't win anything we did have limited success with a 2nd overall for the **CLCRP Marketing Plan**, 3rd place for the **Ribble Valley Rail website** and 3rd place for the **Brief Encounter Tearooms** at Carnforth (pictured here).



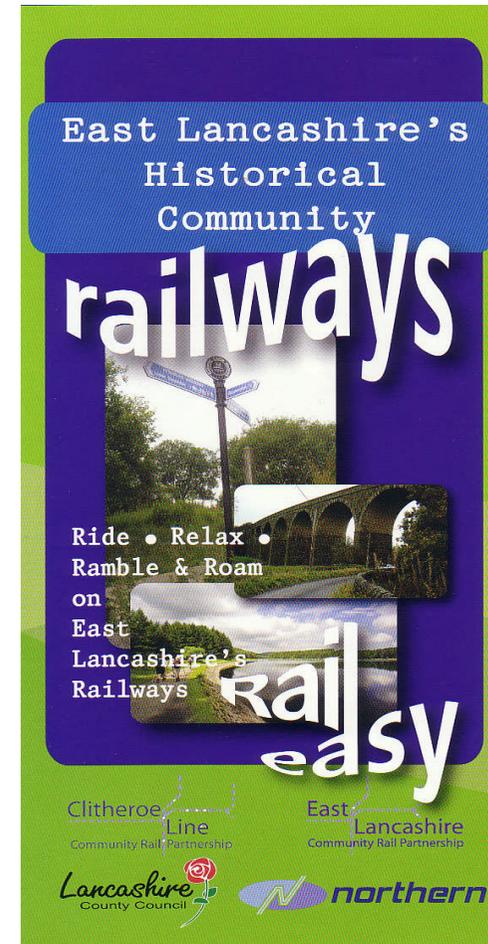
Along with the small stations schemes at **Brierfield**, **Hapton** and **Bamber Bridge** it has been announced that the scheme at **Huncoat** may be able to be resurrected following a development close to the station that has funding set aside for improvements. A small stations scheme has been commissioned for **Lytham** station and this hopefully will see the wall at the station entrance lowered or removed which will open up the station making it a safer and pleasanter place to travel to and from.

Marjorie Birch, Vice Chair of Ribble Valley Rail has been successfully elected to the Executive Committee of ACoRP and we wish her well in this new role.

As many people will remember the regular use of mainline steam finished in August 1968. **Paul Salvesson** Northern Rail's champion of all things community rail is chairing a steering group to see if we can celebrate the 40th year of this demise. Suggestions so far include the possibility of some sort of slide show or talk at Rose Grove Railway Club. Simon Clarke has been asked to join this group and will give regular feedback at the partnership meetings.

Another important piece of news is the signing of the lease by **Bentham Development Trust**, which sees the old buildings at **Bentham** station being signed over on a 25-year tripartite lease. This is reported in more detail later in this issue.

LOCAL HISTORY



Bridge piers - Accrington



Old Langho Church



Martholme Viaduct

This new leaflet has been designed to complement the earlier history leaflet. It has again been produced by partnership officers Brian Haworth and Simon Clarke. It is a self-guide walk leaflet and covers both the East Lancashire and Clitheroe lines. There are small maps showing the routes of the walks along with a brief description. The leaflet is also liberally sprinkled with photos of the areas covered and samples of views available to the walker.

The production of the leaflet was supported by ELCRP & CLCRP, Lancashire County Council and Northern Rail and more information can be sought by contacting either Brian (01772 533196) or Simon (01772 530144) or by post at PO Box 9, Guild House, Cross Street, Preston, Lancs. PR1 8RD.

RETAIL RAMBLINGS



Dent Church

The ever-popular Sunday **DalesRail** service will be running again in 2008. Preliminary dates are 23rd March, 4th May, 18th May – 29th June and 27th July – 19th October 2008. The services are once again going to be affected by engineering works on the Settle to Carlisle line and there will be some disruption on the long section

between Clitheroe and Hellifield, which may see single line working.

There will be as usual a series of guided walks arranged and led by experienced walk leaders from the Lancashire Rail Ramblers. A range of fares will be available for individuals and small groups along with the normal discounts for children and railcard holders.

The Mills and Market ticket is being withdrawn and will be replaced from 2nd January 2008 by a Lancashire Day Ranger priced at £16.00 for an adult along with the normal discounts. The ticket will cover all of Lancashire and will also allow travel to/from Greater Manchester and Merseyside.

Northern Rail continue to offer good discounts with their Duo tickets for 'line of route' journeys and there are a number Rover tickets which offer the opportunity to travel around all of the partnership area as well a number of other lines such as the Settle to Carlisle and Cumbrian Coast.

Northern have also just announced their Dales Railcard winter promotion. It will run from 12th Nov 2007 to 29th Feb 2008. The offer will be a flat day return for £5.00 with up to 4 accompanying children at a flat fare of £2.50 each. The offer covers eligible cardholders and includes journeys on the Wennington branch and the Settle to Carlisle line. The offer also allows senior railcard holders to travel at a flat fare of £7.00.

WEBSITES

For more detail, and for information on Lancashire's Community Rail Partnerships please visit the following websites:

www.elcrp.org
 www.lancscc.gov.uk
 www.dalesrail.com
 www.northernrail.org
 www.ribblevalleyrail.co.uk

CHRISTMAS 2007

| Santa will board the following trains at Blackburn and travel to Clitheroe | |
|--|-------------|
| Manchester Victoria | 11.00 14.00 |
| Bolton | 11.18 14.18 |
| Bromley Cross | 11.27 14.27 |
| Darwen | 11.38 14.38 |
| Blackburn | 11.46 14.48 |
| Ramsgrave & Wilsbridge | 11.52 14.54 |
| Lalgho | 11.57 14.58 |
| Whalley | 12.01 15.02 |
| Clitheroe | 12.13 15.15 |

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 are 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 everybody.

Services on Saturday 15th December run approx 2 minutes later between Blackburn and Clitheroe. 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

Santa and his elfin helpers will be making a number of personal appearances on the Ribble Valley line, as Ribble Valley Rail in association with CLCRP will be once again running their very successful Santa Services. The event sponsored by Northern will see a strengthened train service running at 11.00 and 14.00 from Manchester to Clitheroe. Santa joins the train at Blackburn and hands out goody bags to the children. Adults are invited to join in the festivities with a glass of sherry and a mince pie. A raffle, with prizes donated by local businesses, will be drawn after the second Saturday.

DUCK LINK

The BBC based their Autumnwatch series at Martin Mere Wetland Centre in order to follow and record the huge amounts of migrating wildfowl and other birds.

A successful partnership between Lancashire County Council, the West of Lancashire CRP, WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre, West Lancashire District Council, Merseytravel and the Ormskirk, Preston and Southport Travellers Association saw the provision of a bus link between Burscough Bridge Interchange and Martin Mere.

The bus operated from 5th – 18th November and was timed to meet the trains from both the Manchester and Southport directions. Striking publicity, in the form of leaflets and posters, was produced and distributed at stations and other outlets throughout the area and further a field.

STATION PARTNERSHIPS

With the coming of autumn the change of weather has not stopped things happening on our local stations and the station partnerships continue to strive to make our local community stations pleasant and user friendly.

Burscough Junction has been chosen by Network Rail to be one of the pilot schemes to study the possibility of allowing Friends of Stations groups to work on disused platforms. Network Rail and ACoRP are busy preparing plans and digesting the required paperwork. The Friends have set up a steering group and hopefully will move this project along with some innovative ideas.

At **Burscough Bridge** spring bulbs have been planted in the planters adjacent to the interchange doors and a re-furbished bench has been provided for bus passengers outside the interchange. A water tap has been installed to aid the station gardeners next summer.

Bescar Lane continues to build on its success at last years Community Rail Day when its innovative flower tubs attracted the interest of the Judges. A wooden flower trough has been hand made commemorating the stations success and some mileage signs have been made giving the station a hint of individuality.



At **Croston** the station group continues to tidy and plant the land adjacent to the station car park and Network Rail have removed large amounts of scrub from the disused platform lifting the appearance of the station. At **Gathurst** and **Appley Bridge** the station planters have been planted with winter plants. At **Ormskirk** major refurbishment of the station is currently being planned with a partnership in place and is moving forward. (Watch this space!)



Recent activity at **Bescar Lane** station has revealed a hidden piece of history. Network Rail have been using the old goods yard area for storage during recent engineering works and when they cleared the area of undergrowth the cobbled surfaces of the goods yard and goods ramp were revealed in excellent condition.

INFRASTRUCTURE NEWS

Along with the exciting prospect of seeing a £2.5 million Eco Station built at **Accrington** is the development of **Nelson** station environs as a transport interchange. The £4.5 million project is a joint venture between Lancashire County Council, Pendle Borough Council, and the Pendle Partnership. The scheme involves building a brand new bus station with 10 covered bays on the land in front of the station.

A separate contract with Northern Rail will see works carried out on the station including a lift to platform level, the removal of the derelict old booking office and providing a new shelter. One of the aims of the project



is to provide a new travel centre and ticket office, which will be manned from first until last for both bus and train. The office staff will provide travel information for bus and train and also sell national rail tickets and products.

There will also be toilets, CCTV and electronic screens with both bus and rail information.

The exterior will see taxi and car drop off points along with cycle stands and easy access for pedestrians. Work on the initial stages of the project is due to start in late November 2007.

Elsewhere has seen **Darwen's** CCTV cameras go live and these are proving to be very successful with loitering and vandalism much reduced.

Freckleton Street bridge in **Blackburn** has a lot of the steel work now in place and the bridge is still on schedule for a May 2008 finish date.

At **Ormskirk** plans to refurbish the station are underway. A partnership between Lancashire County Council, Mersey Rail, Mersey Travel, Network Rail and West Lancashire District Council has been forged and sbs architects are now drawing up detailed plans. The works will see a completely revamped entrance and booking hall with combined waiting areas and toilets. There will also be scope for a retail outlet and there will also be the usual mod cons such as CCTV and 'real time' train running information displayed on state of the art screens.

DAISYFIELD SCHOOL



The East Lancashire CRP is planning to adopt **Daisyfield County Primary School** as part of its ongoing programme to develop links with local primary and secondary schools. The partnership has also appointed a volunteer, **Mike Billingham**, as its Schools Liaison Officer.

Daisyfield was originally selected as

the first school to work with as it sits adjacent to both the East Lancashire and Ribble Valley lines. The school's playground fence is the boundary fence to the Ribble Valley line! The school has 98% of pupils from an ethnic minority background and many have only a limited understanding of the history of the area and its railways. **Head Teacher, Peter Fenton** is keen to teach his pupils more about railway safety.

Peter addressed the CLCRP/ELCRP Stakeholder Meeting held on 10th October and stressed the important curriculum links that the railway could help him meet and also the Stay Safe message that the railway is keen to promote. At the meeting **Steve Butcher** said 'We need to think outside the box in broad gauge way and to go beyond the railway fence to reach socially excluded groups'

The ELCRP has produced a leaflet setting out the railway history of the area and this forms an excellent base for developing curriculum related projects that meet Key Stage 1 & 2 in history, geography and citizenship. It is also hoped that this leaflet and others may be used to introduce the children to the sustainable benefits of rail travel. Once the techniques have been perfected it is planned to roll them out to other primary schools. Then it will be time to turn the spotlight onto secondary schools.

A party of children from the school have been taken to York, courtesy of Northern Rail, to visit the National Rail Museum and further trips are planned to local destinations such as Clitheroe to visit the museum and to Hall i' th' Wood to learn more about the textile history of the area.



Photographs and other images used in this newsletter are by kind permission of LCC, Blackburn with Darwen, Northern Rail, Simon Clarke and Brian Haworth.

STATION PARTNERSHIPS

On the **Ribble Valley** line the massive flower display at **Clitheroe** is finished for the year with all hanging baskets emptied, cleaned and stored ready for next spring. Along the line station cleaning continues whilst the main thrust of the group is towards planning and implementation of the now legendary Santa Services (see page 3).

Over on the **East Lancs** line at **Rishton** the group has continued their sterling efforts and the planted and grassed areas still look great even into autumn. Hopefully the unsurfaced area, which was once the station goods yard, will become the station car park. Planning permission for this scheme funded by grants has now been approved and work on the site to develop this scheme should start early in 2008.



Work is due to start on station improvement work at both **Hapton** and **Brierfield** in the near future. At **Brierfield** the station group continue to "come up with the goods". Their latest project has seen a sitting and garden area created in place of what could only be described as a overgrown dumping ground.

This dynamic group certainly don't let the grass grow under their feet (or anywhere on the station platform) They now have a regular station cleaning rota in place which has made a big impact on the station and its environs.

Along the Leeds to Morecambe line there are prospects for starting new station partnerships and hopefully getting the local schools and community involved. **Bentham** Development Trust has recently secured a 25-year lease on the old station buildings, and great things



are promising once the renovation gets underway. Also at **Bentham** are a number of historical features that may be renovated and painted as part of the works. At nearby **Wennington** there is a strong possibility that a local resident may want to get involved and there is space to install a Community Notice Board and maybe liven up the platforms with flower tubs.

150272 IN RHYTHM & BLUES COLOURS



The Colne Rhythm & Blues Festival took place over the August Bank Holiday weekend and unit 150272 stands at Colne resplendent in its newly applied swoosh following the successful music train on the Friday evening. The swoosh was applied as part of a sponsorship deal between Pendle Leisure Trust, the East Lancashire Community Rail Partnership and Northern Rail. Northern pulled out all the stops to get the unit ready in the week leading up to the event and also diagrammed the unit to the line over the weekend. It is hoped that the swoosh will remain for about another 3 – 5 years providing an ongoing advert for the event the partnership and the line.