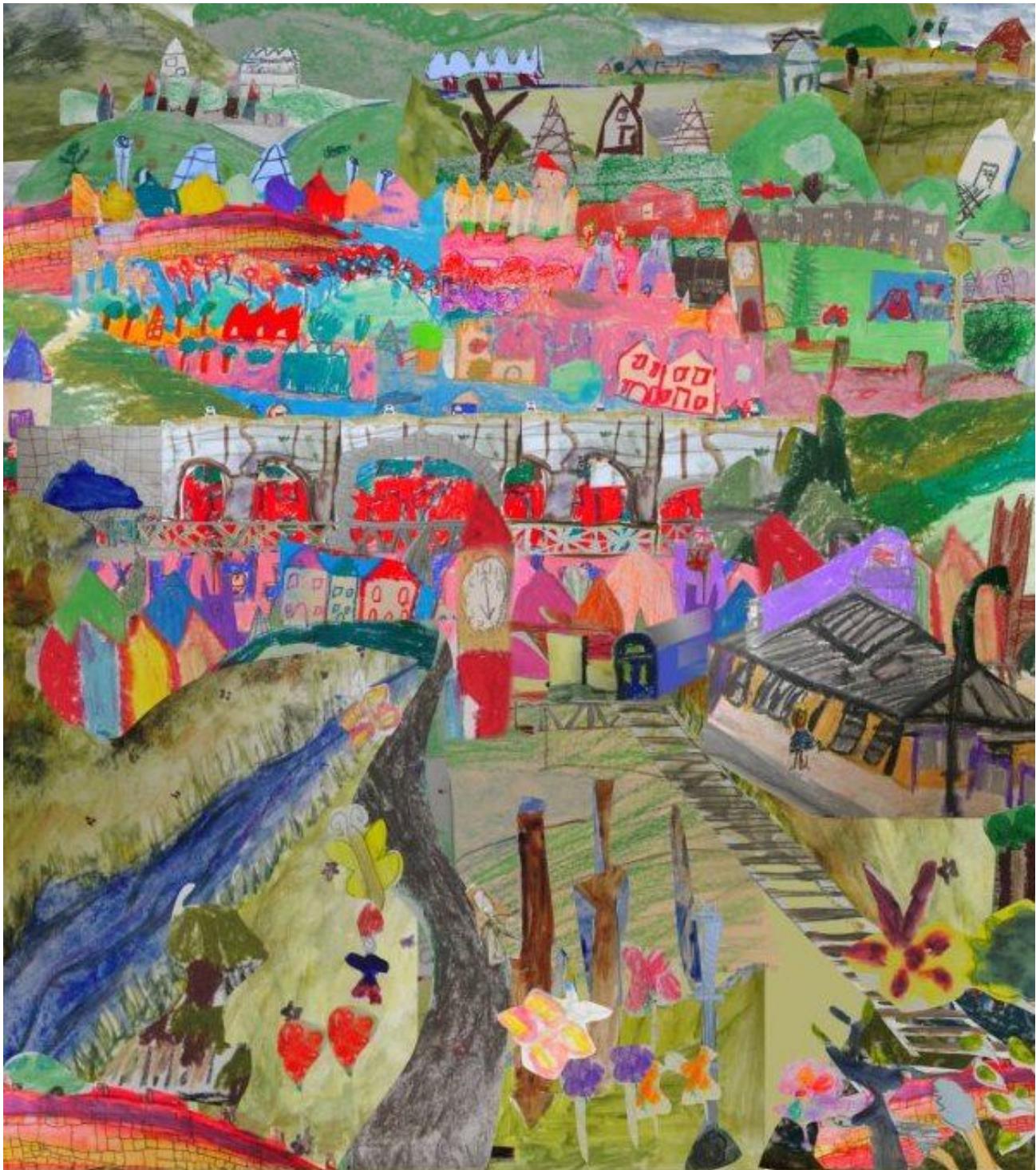


READING BETWEEN THE LINES

THE NEWSLETTER OF LANCASHIRE'S COMMUNITY RAILWAYS

Issue 20

SUMMER 2014



Above is a sample from a poster produced by Blackburn artist Alastair Nicholson using work created by Padiham Green Primary School children as part of the Citizens' Rail Partners visit to Burnley Manchester Road station - full story inside.



NOTES FROM THE BUNKER

Well the first thing to say is that I am not at the Bunker very often these days!! My time seems to be spent dealing with refranchising issues, ranging from Community Rail to Stations, and Rail North matters which takes me in almost equal measure to Leeds and Manchester as well as on a good day to London!!

So these notes bear the mark of extensive travel round the network using a combination of Northern and Trans Pennine trains. My team continue their good work probably better for not having me around interfering all the time. So to the point I hope your pens have been sharpened over the last few weeks responding to the DfT and Rail North Consultation on the replacement Northern and Trans Pennine franchises. We, as in Lancashire CC, held a very well attended consultation event in Preston and this raised some interesting issues for the DfT and Rail North to take away and think about. Amongst those issues Community Rail raised its head, thank you Sally for some very well thought out questions as did stations.

So let's take a look at stations. I have drafted two papers recently on the subject one for Rail North and the other for DfT and have given a presentation on behalf of Rail North to the DfT refranchising teams on the topic. I am very passionate about stations as any one who knows me will be aware. I have an extensive archive of station photos going back to the early 1970's and in recent years these have been amplified by my growing archive of European but mainly French stations!!!! Stations are the gateway to the rail network and the passengers first and last direct experience of using the network. Get them right and you enhance the experience of travelling by train - yet think back to the 80's and 90's and the state that many stations had fallen into. Station investment in British Rail days had a very low priority - make do and mend was the order of the day or put another way the managed decline of the station estate.

Local Authorities and Community Rail Partnerships (CRPs) have been important catalysts for improving stations across the North of England. From investment in new or improved facilities, innovative thinking to fostering station friends groups. CRP's in particular have contributed considerably to improving the ambience of many Northern Rail and TPE stations.



Lacapella Viescamp - June 2014

NOTES FROM THE BUNKER

The value of CRPs has been well documented by independent research. In 2008 the 'Value of Community Rail Partnerships' study concluded that a well run CRP could add an additional 7% revenue and patronage over 3 years over and above normal growth. This work is currently being updated by DfT and partners and initial findings continue to endorse the original conclusion.

Many stations are in considerably better shape today than they were 20 years ago yet many still lack essential features such as real time information screens, public address systems, passenger help points, CCTV, cycle parking etc. Most though, signpost where the station is which is more than can be said for the users of the French station at Lacapella Viescamp in the Auvergne pictured in this article (see previous page). Users were expected to find the way to the platform over a weedy footpath, there was no signage from the main road that passes a short distance away and the facilities provided were as you can see very basic.

Even the road leading to it was not called 'Rue de la Gare'. The station has a limited service consisting of one morning train to Aurillac and two evening trains towards Figeac/Toulouse. The line itself has a service of 5 trains each way a day. The one positive for the station is that the track through it and along the whole line has been completely re-laid. The ride is superb albeit a bit slow as the line travels down some very narrow river gorges making it one of the scenic lines in this area (a must do as I did!!). The trains are also superb with big windows and seats that line up to them so you can enjoy the scenery (a novel idea which I can't see catching on in another country!!!). If you are so inclined you can see the station by using Google Earth and typing in the station name, then just zoom in and you will see the pristine track and the rudimentary station facilities. In fact you can sit in your arm chair and travel the line using Google Earth but I can assure you it is not the same as using the real thing.



Boisset, in Auvergne, showing the pristine track!



So back to reality!!! The replacement Northern Rail and TPE franchises will need to address how the positive station developments that have been achieved to date will be sustained as well as setting out a framework for the encouragement of new ideas and projects. It is likely that the new franchises will need to be more market focused with greater business definition. For community rail this should result in greater management focus supported by a *customer experience & community engagement strategy* that sets out how Local Authorities, CRP's and the TOC will work together to achieve agreed outputs. There remains scope for the more proactive CRP's to look at taking a bigger role in station management.

NOTES FROM THE BUNKER

Station 'staffing'

Research shows that passengers like 'staff' at stations but this does not have to be a booking clerk sitting behind bullet proof glass in a warm booking office who never appears on the platform. The 'staff' may not even be railway staff it could be a local cafe operator located in a former railway building, a crèche facility for commuters, station friends working in the garden or railway staff who walk round the platforms providing a reassuring and authoritative presence as well as information. Stations need to be designed as convivial places that people want to go to rather than a 'distress purchase'.

You will recall from an earlier RBTL that in October 2012 students from across Europe attended a Master class session as part of the Citizens' Rail Interreg IVB project in Aachen to look at four stations in the Heerlen, Netherlands and Aachen, Germany areas and to develop ideas for their improvement. A common theme that emerged from this was that the students all liked the idea of a human presence at, or close to the stations. Their ideas included formal railway staff, station volunteers, a bus interchange, taxi company or a cafe operator. There was, however, a clear message here as we move towards internet ticket retailing and smart cards which reduce the need for traditional booking office clerks at a window selling tickets. It was also interesting that whilst CCTV was seen as a useful back up it was not the answer. The preference was for activity at the station not someone in a remote location seeing the mugging taking place but unable to do anything quickly about it (always assuming they were alert enough to see it!).

So to finish the other photo shows the new station building at Burnley Manchester road which features elsewhere in this magazine. The station recently welcomed European visitors involved in the Citizens' Rail Interreg IVB project who were treated to a superb welcome by the pupils from Padiham Green School. The lasting impression made by the pupils on the partners has resulted in an invite for them to take part in a visit to Aachen and the arrival of a big parcel from Pays de la Loire, France. Well done everyone it really was the highlight of the partners meeting and showed the educational work of CRL.



Burnley Manchester Road

CITIZENS' RAIL VISITS BURNLEY

European partners from the Citizens' Rail Project visited East Lancashire at the beginning of July for the latest of their Partner's Meetings. Children from Padiham Green Primary School gave a fantastic welcome to the attendees on Wednesday 9th July. Using the booking hall of the new station at Burnley Manchester Road, the children performed a short history outlining the history and development of Manchester Road Station and then went on to give a presentation about the European cities involved in the Citizens' Rail project.

The children had done plenty of research which included culture, history and local food from each city. They surprised the visitors with a selection of equivalent English food including: Chorley cakes, Bury black pudding, local cheeses, Fisherman's Friends, Liquorice Allsorts, toffee and some local beers, which the visitors were invited to sample (except the beer - everyone was working!).



The Company Men



The story of Heerlen, the Netherlands

Uwe Muller from Stadt Aachen said: "The children's work and enthusiasm was really outstanding! I was very impressed by what they had learned and presented about Aachen. I hope that one day we might be able to arrange for the children to visit our cities in person."

Erwan Terrillon from Pays de la Loire said: "I was extremely impressed by the quality of work that the children produced, and the way they explained the history of their railway line and the geography of the different Citizens' Rail partners. I also very much enjoyed their words in French!"

Working with Community Rail Officer Brian Haworth and artist Alastair Nicholson the children had also produced railway related art work in three mediums; pastel, charcoal and water colours and the artwork was displayed in the Community Room at the station. Alastair has also produced a poster (see front page) using a montage of the children's work and this will be displayed at Burnley Manchester Road station and at other stations throughout the Community Rail Lancashire area in the Community Rail Lancashire branded poster panels.

STOP PRESS: ACoRP have advised us that Community Rail Lancashire has least three nominations for the 2014 Community Rail Awards shortlisted.

CITIZENS' RAIL VISITS BURNLEY



Photographs clockwise from top left: The audience; Erwan discusses Pay de la Loire with the children; Uwe talks to the Aachen group; Alastair shows the children where their work appears on the poster.



This project has received
European Regional
Development Funding
through INTERREG IV B.



A WALK INTO RAILWAY HISTORY

As part of the ongoing development of schools work, a class of children from Huncoat Primary school were taken on a railway history walk by Community Rail Officer Brian Haworth. The class travelled from Huncoat by train to Accrington and from there, set off up the track bed of the old railway line which ran from Accrington to Manchester via Clifton Junction and which opened in 1848.

The children were shown the old viaduct piers at the start of the walk, which are situated at the foot of the notorious Baxenden Bank and inspected the remaining bridge structures. The walk up the bank from Accrington to Baxenden is a lovely walk with nature having reclaimed adjacent embankments and even though some bridge structures have been removed the track bed is largely intact.

The highlight 'find' as far as remaining bits of railway to be seen was an old platelayer's line side toilet which fascinated the children. After a picnic lunch adjacent to the lodges at Baxenden the group retraced their steps to the Bunker where sketches of the old railway line and its features were produced.



The old viaduct piers



Line side toilet



Toilet drawing by Lydia

NORTHERN & TPE FRANCHISE CONSULTATION

The Department for Transport and Rail North have issued a consultation document on the Northern and TransPennine franchises. The consultation is taking place alongside the start of the formal procurement process for Northern and Trans-Pennine and will be used to inform the Invitation to Tender when it is issued around the end of 2014. Consultation responses need to be submitted by 18 August 2014.

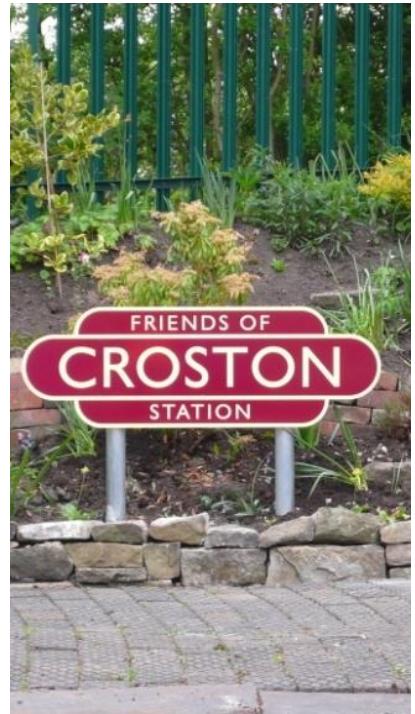
It is important that community rail partnerships and rail user groups respond to the consultation document and attend any public meetings where possible, to ensure that community rail continues to get the support it needs.

Rail North have released a consultation briefing and this can be viewed by clicking this link <http://bit.do/KY6J>. The DfT has published the consultation document and this can be viewed by clicking this link <http://bit.do/KZZZ>.

FRIENDS OF CROSTON STATION

The Friends of Croston Station have rounded off a tremendous effort to bring the disused platform at the station 'back to life' by entering their project into this year's ACoRP Community Rail Awards. Incredibly they have removed years of foliage, including trees, and created a visual treat for passengers by creating and planting colourful flower beds.

The group at Croston led by Kath Almond are a good example of how a group can start off small and then, when established, move on to bigger tasks. Initially the group methodically cleared rough overgrown areas round the car park perimeter planting out shrubs and flowers and installing a bench. This attracted attention from villagers, some of who donated plants for the project and some who joined the group. Following on from this success the group took on the unenviable task of clearing the jungle-like disused platform, which they have again methodically worked at to achieve a fantastic result. Let's hope the group are successful at the awards in October.

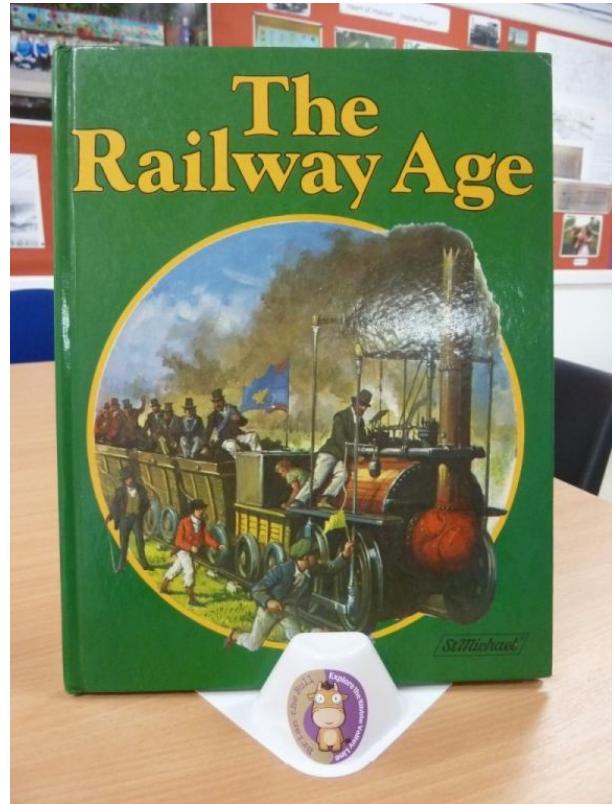


MEOLS COP STATION

Unfortunately another successful friends group at Meols Cop have recently not been as lucky. Twice in as many weeks at the end of July the group has seen vandalism occur at the station where damage to plants and planters has occurred. It is particular sad when one considers that the group has enlisted a local school and girl guides to get involved with planting at the station only to see this malicious damage occur.

The group have reported the incidents to both BTP and the civil police and let's hope the perpetrators are apprehended. The group have carried out repairs to the planters and have re-planted.

BRIAN THE BULL GOES POTTY



Never one to miss an opportunity to recycle; Community Rail Lancashire's eponymous hero Brian the Bull has launched a new range of book display holders using old yoghurt pots.

A particular brand of popular yoghurt pot (see above) can be washed, turned upside down, decorated (optional) and put straight into use as a book display stand. Ideal for use in offices, libraries, schools and Bunkers. Readily available from all good retail food outlets!

CRAVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL VISIT THE BUNKER

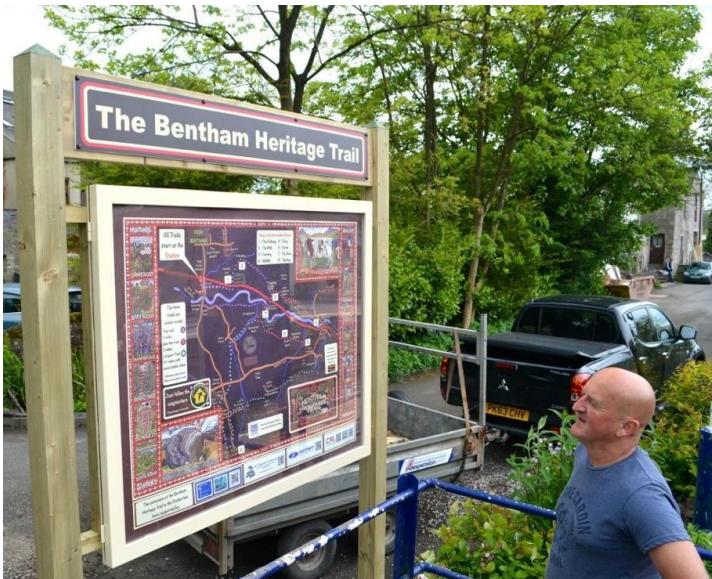
On 20th June, representatives from Craven District Council visited Community Rail Lancashire's office in Accrington to get an understanding of how the Clitheroe Line & East Lancashire CRPs carry out their award winning work with schools.

Accompanied by Gerald Townson, Chair of the Leeds, Lancaster & Morecambe CRP, Margaret Cowling (Friends of Bentham Station), Paul Ellis (Director of Services), Harriet Steventon (Policy Development Officer) & Linda Brockbank (Chair of Craven District Council & member of LLMCRP) met with Community Rail Development Officer Brian Haworth to see what tasks the children get involved with when they visit the Bunker at Accrington station.

The tasks, all linked to the curriculum, are aimed at introducing children to the 'eco ethos' of the station building, learning to read timetables, writing and artwork with a railway theme and the geography of the railway network.

The Leeds, Lancaster & Morecambe CRP are hoping to develop similar ideas with local school children in the Craven area using one of the rooms set aside for community use at Bentham station.

BENTHAM HERITAGE TRAIL



The Bentham Heritage Trail has recently been extended to start at the railway station. New signage and a map poster case have been installed at the station. The signs and poster case structure were hand-made in the station building and were kindly erected by Brian Hewitt. Hopefully, this will encourage many more passengers to alight at Bentham and go walking in the beautiful countryside surrounding the town. Northern Rail have generously offered to support a rail leaflet for the Trail, to go on stations throughout their network.

The main funding for the project came, following a presentation, from Bentham Town Team via Craven District Council. Local timber merchants, Hanafin's, supplied the timber at a considerably reduced rate. The headers and signage plaques were paid for from LLMCRP funds. The rest was FOBS volunteer time. The original trail map, painted by local artist Gill Barron, was digitised and developed for use at the station. QR codes were included to provide smart phone and tablet users instant access to copies of the maps, as well as the sponsors websites.

BENTHAM CARNIVAL 2014

The station played a leading roll throughout the day in this year's Carnival, bedecked with large colourful flags and bunting. Platform entertainers greeted the passengers on the late morning trains from both Morecambe and Leeds. The Mad Hatter with his Purple Rabbit and the portable silhouette theatre brought smiles to the travellers faces.

A pop-up cafe appeared on the platform from 11am to raise funds for FOBS and throughout the day in the



station building there was an exhibition of local railway memorabilia which brought to light many memories of the Bentham Line, the lost route from Wennington via Lancaster Green Ayre to Morecambe Promenade and the local electric train services between Lancaster, Morecambe and Heysham.

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

Photographs and other images in this issue are by kind permission, and remain copyright of:
Alastair Nicholson, Simon Clarke, Brian Haworth, Richard Watts, Gerald Townson, Citizens' Rail,
Kath Almond, Susan Spray (TPE), Paul Sumner (Network Rail), Mark Ormerod (Northern Rail)
& the children of Chernobyl.

Other photographs of the work of the Lancashire Community Rail Partnerships can be seen on
www.communityraillancashire.co.uk, www.dalesrail.com & <http://ribblevalleyrambler.wordpress.com>

NORTHERN RAIL NEWS

Clitheroe Commuter's Network

At the start of the new timetable in May, Northern Rail launched a new venture called the Clitheroe Commuter's Network. This is a social media based project that allows commuters on the line between Clitheroe and Manchester to get real time information about how the service is running via a special Twitter account. Tweeters use @northernrailorg but add #CCNet to their message and those emailing use a dedicated email address:
clitheroe.commuters@northernrail.org.

Summer Promotions

Starting on Monday 28th July, Northern Rail began distributing a direct mail campaign to over 800,000 houses across the north of England. The campaign targets 11 destinations including Blackpool, Manchester, Southport and York. The leaflets provide information on fares from local stations, clear travel information and reasons to travel including places to visit, shopping hot spots, events and festivals.

The campaign will also be supported by digital advertising, website feature, a newsletter to the Northern Rail database and posters on stations. The leaflet includes a clear call to action to buy your tickets online, at staffed stations or via the Northern Rail app. Duo and off-peak day returns are featured in the leaflet where applicable.

BEAVERS & CUBS GO GREEN



Cubs and Beavers outside the Bunker

As a thank you for their involvement in the 'All Change at Cherry Tree' project the Beavers and Cubs from St Francis Cherry Tree were treated to an evening visit to the Community Rail Lancashire Bunker at Accrington.

At the station they were given a short tour conducted by Community Rail Officer Brian Haworth, to learn all about the green aspects of the station building, car park and its gardens.

Some of the Cubs are working towards an environmental badge and the visit to Accrington will enhance the work already they have already done towards this award.

COMMUNITY RAIL IN THE CITY

For a number of years ACoRP's 'Community Rail in the City' has been bringing the story of community rail to the travelling public at the larger intercity rail stations across the country. In 2014 this included Preston for the first time and the event was hosted by Community Rail Lancashire in partnership with Virgin Trains.

On the day members of the CRL management team, supported by volunteers from the Lakes Line Action Group, Cumbria County Council, the British Transport Police and TPE's Customer Relations Manager manned the stall at the bottom of the main slope to platforms 3 & 4. (see photos below).

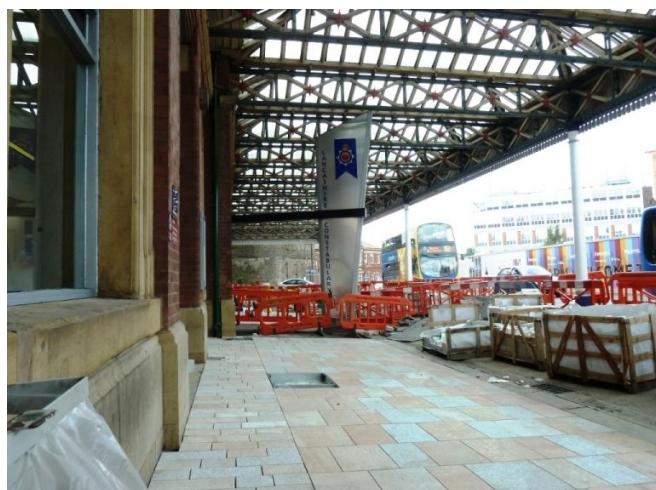


BLACKBURN STATION REFURBISHMENT

Work on redevelopment of Blackburn's Boulevard, site of the old bus station, outside Blackburn railway station is gathering pace with the demolishing of the bus shelters complete and work beginning on the construction of the new buildings, which will include a hotel.

The main entrance area outside the station, under the canopy, is currently a busy area with new paving currently being installed. Clever use of barriers and diversions is allowing the work to proceed without too much disruption for customers intending to use the station.

Work should soon start on the refurbishment of the lower concourse area of the station, including the old refreshment room. Plans are well under way for this to become a new Subway franchise.



The new paving outside the lower concourse



Overall view of the works on Blackburn Boulevard

PLEASINGTON GOLF CLUB CROSSING

Network Rail has given a commitment to the Office of the Rail Regulator (ORR) to reduce risk at level crossings and part of that commitment is to close approximately 500 crossings nationally.

The level crossing on Pleasington Golf Course, which allows ground staff and players to cross the East Lancs Line from the 5th to the 6th hole, is ranked in the top 10 riskiest in the London North Western Route. Network Rail has managed to secure funding to complete an over-rail structure to provide players with a safe, convenient route from one side of the 6,500 yard course to the other. Currently, players have to wait at a level crossing for trains to pass before they can continue to the next stage of the course.

Working with Storey Contracting an innovative flexi-arch pre-cast concrete structure clad in stone facing has been designed. The structure is large enough to accommodate foot traffic, golf carts and ground maintenance vehicles replacing the need for the level crossing and removing the safety risk to the railway and users. The works have taken place with the full support of key stakeholders including the land owner, De Houghton Estates, and the golf course and members. The construction of the bridge has taken place whilst maintaining both golf course and railway operations.

The final installation of the spans and parapet took place over the weekend of 26th & 27th July and took just 90 minutes for the four arches to be lifted into place. The project that has cost around £1 million and taken approximately 24 weeks will soon be coming to an end with the new bridge forecast to be open by the end of August. The new style of bridge has a predicted life of 120 years and Network Rail hope to be able to use this new type of structure during control period 5 to help them meet their commitment to the ORR.



View of main span



Installing the parapets



Cab view of the new bridge.

Taken by Mark Ormerod - Driver Team Manager, Blackpool North

CHILDREN OF CHERNOBYL



One of the reactors at the Chernobyl nuclear plant, near Minsk in Russia, exploded in April 1986. A cloud of radiation drifted over the nearby border of Belarus and the effects are still being felt today with a massive increase in cases of thyroid cancer being seen in children. Each year some of the children from Belarus are given the opportunity to visit the UK on recuperative holidays.

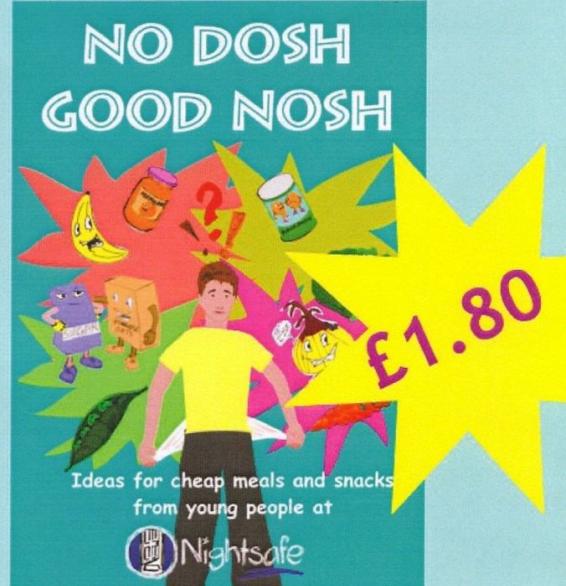
Working in partnership with Northern Rail, Community Rail Lancashire gave the children who visited Clitheroe the chance to travel from Clitheroe to Manchester to visit the National Football Museum. The trip on Tuesday 17th June went well with all trains on time and the children had a great day out. They got together and sent a card (opposite) to thank everyone for their trip.

NO DOSH - GOOD NOSH

A unique recipe book created by homeless young adults aged 16 – 24 using affordable ingredients. This book is the brainchild of the homeless charity 'Nightsafe' based in Blackburn. Community Rail Lancashire's resident artist Alastair Nicholson has worked with the young people to reproduce and update a recipe book first produced 16 years ago designed to help young people on a limited budget to eat well.

All recipes in the book have been created using food donated to the community food larder that 'Nightsafe' helps run. All recipes can be made using inexpensive tinned food. Several wartime recipes are also featured in the book.

The recipe book is available to buy from Amazon in ebook format for £1.80 and all the money goes to help the homeless young adults.



Ebook from www.amazon.co.uk



**Profits to Nightsafe a charity for
homeless young people in Blackburn**

HOLME TUNNEL - the final piece of work to finish the refurbishment of Holme Tunnel on the route between Burnley and York has now taken place. The line speed through the tunnel has been lifted from 10 mph to 40 mph.

CUSTOMER INFORMATION SCREENS - Northern rail has announced plans to install CIS at 100 stations as part of their direct award commitments.

Nineteen of these are on community rail lines in Lancashire: Accrington, Appley Bridge, Bamber Bridge, Blackpool Pleasure Beach, Blackpool South, Burnley Central, Burscough Bridge, Clitheroe, Colne, Kirkham & Wesham, Lytham, Mill Hill, Morecambe, Nelson, Parbold, Rams-greave & Wilpshire, Rishton, St. Annes and Whalley.

It is hoped that other stations such as Langho may see CIS arriving soon through other schemes.

SUMMER STRENGTHENING - Northern Rail are providing additional seats on trains on the Blackpool South Line during the summer months to help with over-crowding with customers travelling to the resort and the ever-popular Blackpool Pleasure Beach.

Most trains throughout the day will be formed of 4 carriages rather than the normal 2 and this will help tremendously with comfort levels.

COMMUNITY RAIL LANCASHIRE WEBSITE - the company that has hosted the family of Community Rail Lancashire websites since their inception in 2009 has unfortunately ceased trading and this has meant a complete review of the websites.

Source Creative a small design company in Blackburn are working with CRL to develop a new website that should be ready to go live at the beginning of September 2014.

WEST LANCASHIRE LINE GUIDE - a brand new line guide developed in partnership between the West of Lancs CRP, Northern Rail, Merseyrail, Merseytravel & Sefton Council has just gone to print.

Images of the front covers can be seen on the past page of this issue - keep a look out for these leaflets and pick up a copy from local stations and tourist outlets soon!

WALKING WITH THE COMMUNITY - the next of the self-guide walks leaflets promoting the South Fylde area is under development. The leaflet will be an adaptation of the Lytham Town Trail and will be ready to launch in September 2014.

The first two leaflets, Lytham Hall and the St. Anne's Town Trail are still available from local stations throughout Lancashire and tourism offices in the Fylde area.

The full series of self-guide walks leaflets are designed to encourage use of the South Fylde Line and are either a circular from a station or a linear walk from one station to another. The final walk will be a coastal walk from Lytham station to either Ansdell & Fairhaven or St. Anne's stations depending on how far people want to walk.

CYCLING INTO RAILWAY HISTORY - summer is the perfect time to think about getting out your bike or pulling on your walking boots to discover some of Lancashire's railway history. The Clitheroe Line & East Lancs CRPs have produced two leaflets that explore dis-used railway lines in the East Lancashire area.

The first takes in part of the old line to Great Harwood and the second concentrates on the new Padiham Greenway which covers the route from Padiham to Rose Grove.

Pick up the leaflets from local stations and get out there and explore your heritage!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Until Wednesday 3rd September 2004 - West Lancs Open Exhibition, Chapel Gallery, Ormskirk - now in its 13th year an open art exhibition displaying the creative talents of artists throughout the region - click the link for more details <http://bit.do/K39a>.

Friday 1st to Thursday 14th August 2014 - West Lancs Walking Festival - walks to suit people of all abilities, from short themed and informative walks to longer ramble. Click the link here for full details <http://bit.do/K376>.

Saturday 9th August - Clitheroe Food Festival - the 2014 festival takes place in the centre of Clitheroe. Northern Rail are strengthening trains and providing additional revenue collection on the day. Full details available on the festival website at www.clitheroefoodfestival.com.

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th August 2014 - Music in the Park - Two days of music from the bandstand in Coronation Park, Ormskirk. Sounds Affects Music Studio and Coppull & Standish Brass Band.

Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th August 2014 - The Official 1940s Lytham Wartime Festival - click the link for full details <http://bit.do/K4ch>.

Great British Rhythm & Blues Festival - the 25th Anniversary of this huge blues festival in Colne takes place over the **August bank holiday weekend** with the traditional Blues & Ale Train running on Friday 22nd August 2014 with Tom Attah on guitar and Franny Ewbank on harmonica. Local Burnley brewery Moorhouses are providing the real ale again in 2014. Full details on www.bluesfestival.co.uk.

Sunday 24th August 2014 - Lytham Hall Outdoor Theatre - Roald Dahl's George's marvelous Medicine Tickets: Adults £13, Concessions £10 & Children £6.50 - click the link for full details and how to book <http://bit.do/K39Z>.

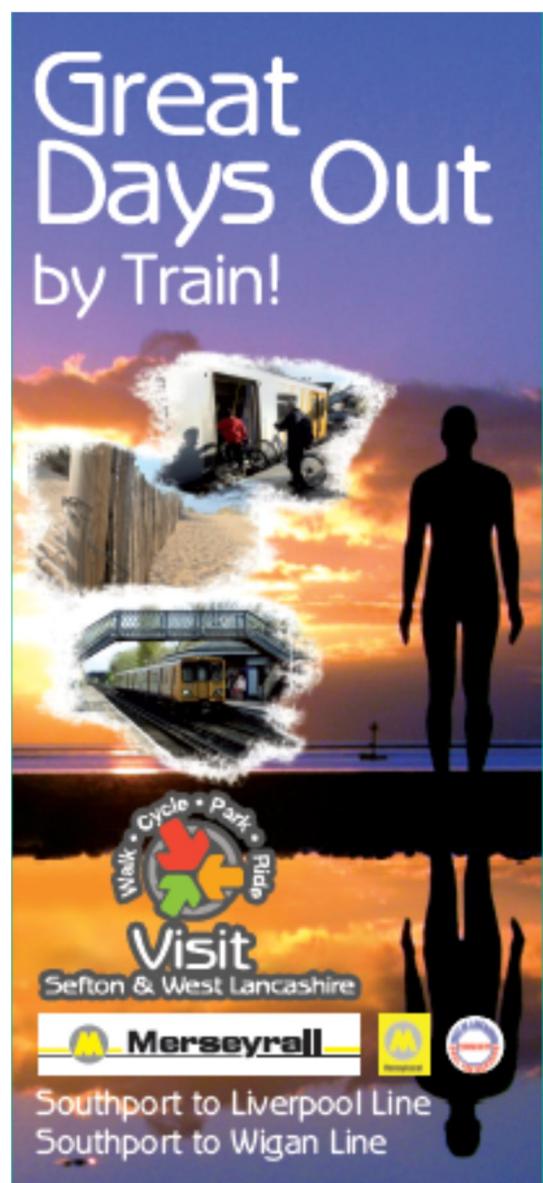
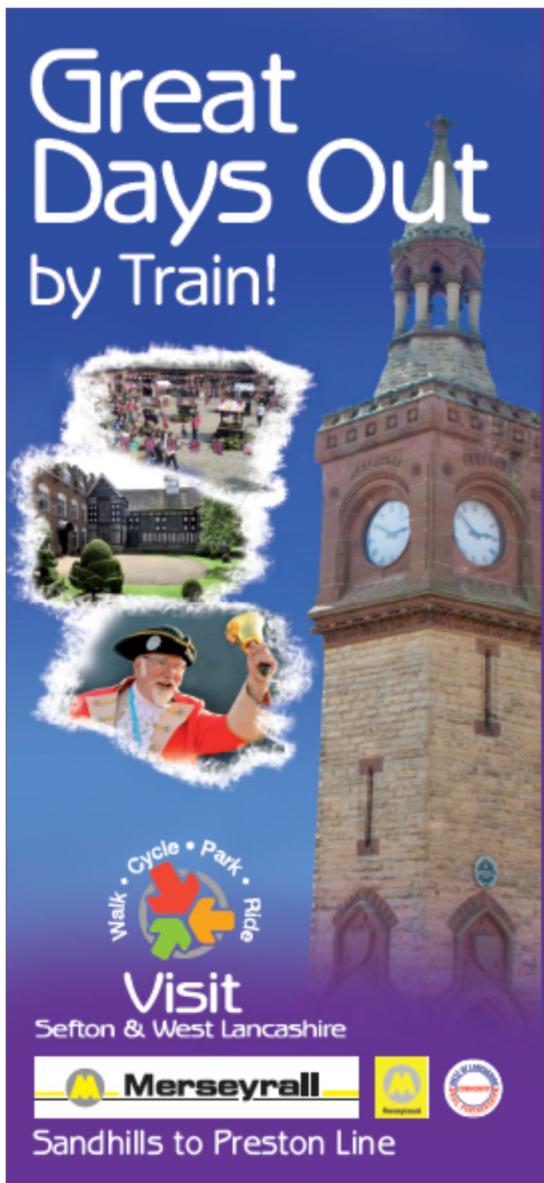
4th to 6th September 2014 - Burnley Beer Festival - the 3rd Burnley Beer Festival is taking place in Burnley Mechanics over the three days. Community Rail Lancashire is once again sponsoring the festival glasses and will be promoting rail travel to and from the event.

4th to 6th September 2014 - Lytham Beer Festival - the Lowther Pavilion hosts a CAMRA beer festival. Over 80 real ales and ciders. Click the link for more details <http://bit.do/K4aK>.

Friends of Bentham Station, 12th September 2014 - the third birthday party of the Friends of Bentham station, a group of volunteers that look after the station and its environs.

14th September 2014 - Ribble Valley Rambler - the start of the second year of the winter Sunday service from Blackpool North to Hellifield via the Ribble Valley Line. The first train connects at Hellifield into the first north bound train over the Settle Carlisle Line. Once again there will be a programme of guided walks and other activities linked to this new service.

Community Rail Awards, 2nd October 2014 - the 10th anniversary of this great event that celebrates all that is good in the world of community rail. This year's Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony takes place in the grand venue of the Scarborough Spa, a magnificently restored Victorian spa that dominates the promenade of the south bay.



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USEFUL WEBSITES

For information on Lancashire's Community Rail partnerships and for other information on community rail, walking and cycling by rail, integrated public transport, the communityrailman blog and communityrailman's twitter pages; please visit the following websites:

www.communityraillancashire.co.uk
<http://communityrailman.wordpress.com>
<https://twitter.com/communityrailman>
<http://railramblers.wordpress.com>
<http://ribblevalleyrambler.wordpress.com>

www.northernrail.org
www.acorp.uk.com
www.merseytravel.gov.uk
www.btp.police.uk
www.ribblevalleyrail.co.uk

www.nationalrail.co.uk
www.lancashirebus.co.uk
www.tfgm.com
www.dalesrail.com
www.bwdconnect.org.uk