

## Further Information:

### About Carlisle

Carlisle Tourist Information Centre  
Telephone: 01228 625600 or  
E-mail: Tourism@Carlisle-City.gov.uk

### About the Guildhall Museum

01228 534781 or www.tulliehouse.co.uk

### About the Reivers

www.borderreivers.co.uk

### About Carlisle Castle

www.english-heritage.org.uk

### About DalesRail

www.dalesrail.com and www.northernrail.org  
or call 01200 429832 (Clitheroe Interchange) or  
08457 48 49 50 (National Rail Enquiries)

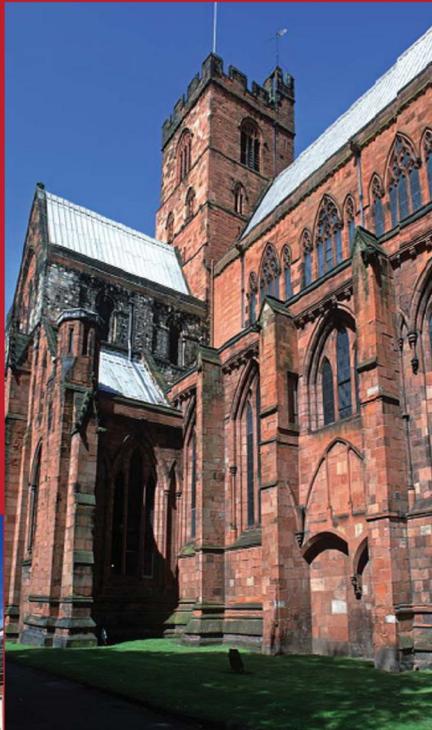
DalesRail operates on Sundays from Easter Sunday to  
Mid October from Blackpool North to Carlisle via  
Preston, Blackburn, Clitheroe and Settle.

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information  
contained in this leaflet, Lancashire County Council, Northern Rail and partners cannot  
be held responsible for any inaccuracies or omissions contained in it.

# CARLISLE

places to visit

DalesRail Country



Above is the front and back of a redesigned leaflet to be used by Dales-Rail's Howard Hammersley on his Carlisle City guided walk. Richard Watts with the help of LCC's Sue Hoole has used Howard's hand drawn and written original to create this stylish leaflet. Look out for it during DalesRail

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# READING BETWEEN THE LINES

THE NEWSLETTER OF LANCASHIRE'S COMMUNITY RAILWAYS



Including the  
South Fylde Line  
Community Rail  
Partnership



ISSUE 5

AUTUMN 2008

## NELSON INTERCHANGE OPENS



The £4.5 million **Nelson Interchange** opened for business on Sunday 7th December. In a V.I.P. ceremony on Saturday 6th December, Councillor Shelagh Derwent, the Worshipful Mayor of Pendle formally opened the site and welcomed other visiting dignitaries to the futuristic building. Matthew Tomlinson, LCC's Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development, said: "This is a fantastic development for Nelson as it gives the town a flagship facility that will be the envy of many other towns in Lancashire and the northwest".

Designed by SBS Architects the interchange allows direct links between bus and trains on the adjacent rail station and has a state of the art booking office and information centre. The building was funded in a partnership between LCC and the NWDA and Pendle Council donated the land.

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

**Santa Services, Merseytravel Refurbishments, Sunday Shoppers, Ribble Valley Blockade, Forthcoming Events and more!**

## PARTNERSHIP NEWS

A lot has happened since the last issue of **Reading Between the Lines** and the team has been busy with a number of projects. Funding for some of these has come from a pot of money set aside to help designated community rail lines. Richard Watts on behalf of the EL and CL CRPs has been successful in bidding for funding for five projects. The **Designated Line Community Rail Development Fund** (DLCRDF) is managed by ACoRP, Network Rail and the DfT and the first successful bid to be awarded a grant in the country was the Daisyfield School DVD project. Other successful bids have been phase two of the DVD project, Pendle Connect, the Lancashire CRPs website and an eco lighting project for Brierfield and Rishton stations. The DVD project and Pendle Connect are covered in detail in this issue.



As well as its second place in the ACoRP Awards (see page 4) **Bamber Bridge** station was also entered into the National Railway Heritage Awards, held on 3rd December 2008. The project unfortunately didn't win but received a Runners Up certificate. The winning entry in its category was Chu Chus – a station café and restaurant at West Kilbride.

The DLCRDF has contributed to a project to set up a website for the five partnerships and DalesRail. Simon, Brian and Richard will be working hard with a company called Orbit Internet to get the first part of the site designed and hopefully live by mid February. This exciting project will see a site that will allow everyone to access their own partnership but also to link with other groups in different partnerships via a member's forum. There will also be an opportunity for members to upload their own images and ideas to the site.

You will see from the front page that **Nelson Interchange** has now opened to the public. The Interchange is staffed from first bus until last bus and has a direct link to the rail station. The Travel & Information Centre will handle all public transport enquiries and will also sell rail tickets to all destinations along with the new Pendle Connect & East Lancashire Day Ranger tickets developed with Northern & Transdev.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

January 2nd 2009 sees the start of the new East Lancashire Day Ranger and Pendle Connect tickets. An official launch of these tickets will take place at Nelson's brand new Interchange during January 2009.

The 2009 DalesRail season will start on Easter Sunday, 12th April 2009. As in 2008 there will be some interruptions to the programme as there is once again engineering taking place during July on the Settle to Carlisle line.

The Official 2009 Community Rail Events are destined to be held over a month starting on Friday May 15th and running to Friday 12th June. The East Lancs & Clitheroe Line CRPs will focus their events around the Clitheroe Festival Weekend, which starts on May 15th 2009.

The South Fylde Line and Leeds, Lancaster & Morecambe CRPs are set to hold their main Community Rail events outside of the official month set by the DfT and ACoRP, possibly over weekends in June or August.

The West of Lancashire CRP are to hold their Community Rail Gala events over a weekend in July similar to last year's very successful event.

ACoRP's Community Rail Awards 2009 are to be held at the Swallow Hotel in Carlisle in September. The categories for this competition will be announced soon after Christmas this year.

**Photographs and images in this issue are by kind permission of Simon Clarke, Brian Haworth, Marion Atkinson, Andy Whitlam, LCC, Northern Rail & Pendle Leisure Trust.**

## WEBSITES

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

[www.elcrp.org](http://www.elcrp.org)  
[www.dalesrail.com](http://www.dalesrail.com)  
[www.northernrail.org](http://www.northernrail.org)  
[www.ribblevalleyrail.co.uk](http://www.ribblevalleyrail.co.uk)  
<http://opsta.iccommunities.co.uk>  
[www.plusbus.info/](http://www.plusbus.info/)

[www.lmr.co.uk](http://www.lmr.co.uk)  
[www.railramblers.com](http://www.railramblers.com)  
[www.burnleyandpendle.co.uk](http://www.burnleyandpendle.co.uk)  
[www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)  
[www.merseytravel.gov.uk](http://www.merseytravel.gov.uk)

## DVD PROJECT

At the beginning of 2008 the East Lancashire & Clitheroe Line CRPs agreed to take forward the idea of a project to develop a learning tool to support the ongoing partnership with **Daisyfield School**. It was decided to make a DVD that recorded the journey between Blackburn and Clitheroe along the Ribble Valley Line. The DVD was to cover various elements from Key Stage 2 of the National Curriculum, which covers Year 6 and into the start of Year 7.



Paul & James from Apple Video along with Brian

Brian and Simon have been working with Apple Video to produce the DVD and the majority of filming took place in September and after a few tweaks the scripted voice over was recorded at the beginning of December. The DVD covers

the history of the line along with geography, social history and engineering structures. The finished DVD, supported by funding from the Designated Line Community Rail Development Fund and other partners, should be ready for its first public airing by mid January 2009.

## DARWEN STATION

A design brief is currently being developed by Blackburn with Darwen Council for the provision of a **new Booking Office at Darwen Station**. Included in the brief will be toilets, a waiting area and provision for a potential café. Architects will be tasked with identifying the most appropriate location for the building and will ensure that its future environmental impact is reduced through good passive design. Northern Rail are closely involved in the scheme and Northern have agreed to man the booking office when built. Blackburn with Darwen have already earmarked money towards the project.

## BLACKBURN PLATFORM 4 IMPROVEMENTS

A project led by Network Rail using NSIP funding with significant contributions from Blackburn with Darwen Council and Northern is currently being developed. Two projects will run concurrently, the first part of the 'Access for All' programme will see a lift provided between the subway and platform 4. The second will provide a **full length & width canopy** on the platform along with a customer information system and passenger seating. It is hoped that the platform surface can also be improved and that this work would be completed by spring / summer 2009.

## RIBBLE VALLEY RAIL SANTA SERVICES

Saturday's 6th & 13th of December saw the annual **Ribble Valley Rail Santa Services** running between Blackburn and Clitheroe. The RVR volunteers helped to decorate the train and also to hand out a sherry and a mince pie to each adult and a soft drink and biscuit for each child. Santa and his two elves worked hard joining the 11.46 & 14.48 trains from Blackburn. Every child was able to speak to Santa and each received a goody bag with items from Booths Supermarket, Northern Rail, Network Rail, LCC and BTP. Many had their photograph taken with Santa and all seemed happy to have seen him in the flesh! The services were well loaded and the event



was seen as great success. Ribble Valley Rail and the Clitheroe Line Partnership would like to thank all those who help to make this event such a winner year after year!

## WEST OF LANCS SHOPPERS SPECIALS

Following on from the success of the Sunday services between Preston & Ormskirk during July's Community Rail Gala, the **West of Lancashire CRP** decided to ask Northern Rail if it was possible to run services on another Sunday on the lead up to Christmas. Northern Rail agreed to allow the services to run and Network Rail agreed to open the two signal boxes along the line. Both companies did this at no cost to the partnership. The services were well supported with shoppers visiting Preston and changing at Ormskirk to take advantage of **Merseytravel's Christmas Cracker** promotion



into Liverpool. The trains had the luxury of an at seat trolley service and seasonal songs by a quartet of young ladies from Ormskirk School. There was also mince pies available and goody bags for the children with presents donated by Mersery-travel and Northern.

## COMMUNITY RAIL AWARDS 2008

The Annual Community Rail Awards were held in Plymouth at the end of September. The Lancashire Partnerships came away with three awards in total. **Friends of Brierfield Station** got a third in the *Best Station Adoption Group* category and can be seen, below left, accepting their certificate at the station, with some of the happy band of helpers who work hard to keep the station clean and tidy.



Friends of Brierfield Station



Ken enjoys his evening in Plymouth

Another success in the station adoption arena was a third place for **Ken Roberts** (seen above right) in the *Outstanding Volunteer Contribution* category. Ken, an octogenarian, visits Ramsgreave & Wilshire station on a daily basis to collect litter and generally clean up the station. He also reports any faults to the staff at Blackburn station to be passed on for prompt repair.

The last of the awards was for **Bamber Bridge Station** in the *New Uses For Railway Buildings* category. A well deserved second place for this project, which has seen the original 1846 booking office building tastefully and accurately restored to its former glory. The building is now home to the South Ribble Pensioners Association who use it as an HQ



Bamber Bridge's newly refurbished building

and for social and educational purposes such as learning foreign languages and introductory courses in computer skills including 'silver surfing'!

The award winning building was only part of a project that saw other works carried out on the platforms. A new vandal proof shelter on each platform along with new seating and signage help to complete the improved image. A small CCTV scheme is also in place to help with security and safety.

## BURSCOUGH JUNCTION DISUSED PLATFORM



Brian watches as Paul signs the contract

A giant leap towards commencing this project took place on 30<sup>th</sup> October when **Paul Meakin**, Chairman of Friends of Burscough Stations signed the Network Rail licence to formally open the door for the project to begin. This groundbreaking agreement between Network Rail and the Friends of Burscough Stations is one of the first

in the country to be signed. Once the group have completed their Network Rail safety induction on site the project can really get underway. Watch this space!!

## CARNFORTH STATION'S FIFTH BIRTHDAY

On 17<sup>th</sup> October 2008 the **Carnforth Station and Railway Trust** celebrated the fifth birthday of the reopening of Carnforth station with a ceremony in the Furness & Midland Hall. Carnforth station was first opened in 1846 by the Lancaster & Carlisle Railway Company and the original station building later became the station refreshment rooms. In 1938 there was a major rebuild of the station which included the 890 ft Furness line platform with its unsupported single piece concrete roof, the longest in the world at the time.



1945 saw the station used as a basis and location for David Lean's famous film **Brief Encounter** starring Trevor Howard and Celia Johnson. The 1960s saw great changes to Britain's railways and the facilities around Carnforth were gradually run down and closed and by the time the West Coast mainline was electrified in the 1970s the station had lost its mainline platforms and had become an unmanned branch line halt.

In 1996 the Carnforth Station and Railway Trust Co. Ltd. was formed and plans were drawn up to refurbish the station. Work started in late 2000 and on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2003 the Brief Encounter Café and the Visitor/Heritage Centre were opened.

## RIBBLE VALLEY LINE BLOCKADE



Steel sleepers await rail on the down line

For three weeks in November the **Ribble Valley Line** was closed for major renewal works. New continuous welded rail (CWR) has been laid in different areas on 16,000 new concrete or steel sleepers bedded down in 40,000 tonnes of ballast. This massive project was carried out between Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2008. The work was completed on

time and the Temporary Speed Restrictions (TSRs) between Blackburn and Clitheroe have now been lifted. The only TSR remaining is a 20 mph between Horrocksford signal box and Clitheroe station.

In the weeks leading up to the blockade Community Rail Officers worked with **First Bus Rail Replacement**, Northern Trains, Capita and Ribble Valley Rail to ensure that a robust bus replacement service was in place. It was agreed that permanent boards should be mounted at the nominated stopping points and these would then be used to display the timetables. These boards will be left in situ for any future bus replacement operations.

Posters were displayed at stations well before the blockade started and as well as posters, Northern Rail produced a hand out booklet showing the bus replacement times. These booklets were available at various stations and at Clitheroe Interchange along with other 'off railway' locations and RVR volunteers and the CROs handed them out on peak service trains.

On the first day of operation both Community Rail Officers and RVR members monitored the services and reported any issues to Mark White, of First Bus, as agreed. As well as coordinators provided by First Bus, RVR have had volunteers at stations during the morning peak to help passengers. Partnership officers have regularly used the



Wooden sleepers on Primrose Viaduct

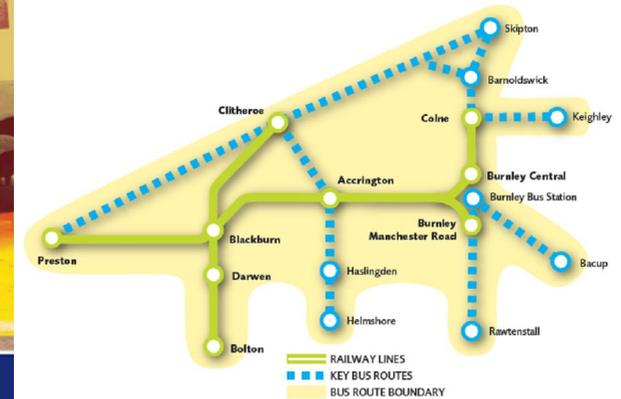
bus service and have closely monitored the service. Good communication has ensured that whatever problem has arisen, and there have been few, has been dealt with immediately.

## RETAIL RAMBLINGS

Explore Pennine Lancashire by bus & train... with an East Lancashire Day Ranger ticket 2009 Edition Hop on and off all day for only **£10.00** Adult **£5.00** Child

www.northernrail.org

On 2nd January 2008 the East Lancashire Partnership will be launching two new products. These have been designed to fill a gap in the East Lancashire area. They have been developed in a partnership between ELCRP, Transdev and Northern Rail. The first is the **East Lancashire Day Ranger** which will allow travel on both rail and bus. The area includes the rail lines between Preston & Colne (including Burnley Manchester Road) and Bolton to Clitheroe. The ticket will be available on Transdev/Lancashire United services in an area as shown on the map below.



The second of the new products is the **Pendle Connect** ticket, and is an exciting development of the **Plusbus** idea (see last issue) which will let customers buy a combined bus and rail ticket for certain journeys starting in on a bus in East Lancashire. The ticket will allow customers boarding buses in the Pendle Area to buy a through ticket including the rail element of their journeys to Accrington, Blackburn or Preston. The bus drivers will issue the

through ticket and then it will be sealed in a special wallet, shown on the left for the remainder of the journey. The ticket will be available on all services between Colne and Preston for customers joining at Colne, Nelson or Brierfield.

## MERSEYTRAVEL'S STATION

On Thursday 9th October, Partnership Officers Brian Haworth & Simon Clarke had a guided tour of **Merseytravel's** most recent station refurbishments/renewals hosted by Marion Atkinson and David Jones. The tour took in St. Helens Central, James Street, Sandhills and Bootle Oriol Road.



St. Helens Central

**St. Helens Central** station has been completely rebuilt and is the 6th station on this side of the town. The £6 million project includes an impressive glass structure along with a new booking hall and ticket office. There are new waiting facilities, CCTV and customer information screens.

A new footbridge and lift has dramatically improved customer access. Sustainable transport has not been overlooked either, with 120 car parking spaces on the site of the old station buildings, ample cycle storage and the bus station is only 200 metres away. A nice touch was to include the old Victorian gateposts into the works. Funding for the scheme came from Merseytravel, DfT, St. Helens Together and the ERDF European Objective One Programme. Northern Rail, St. Helens Council and English Partnerships also supported the project.

**James Street**, a busy city centre station has recently undergone a £2 million refurbishment. Close to the city's commercial and major developments such as Kings Waterfront and Pier Head the station will provide a gateway to Liverpool's latest retail outlet Liverpool One.



James Street

Pedestrian access has been improved and there are refurbished bus stops immediately outside the

station. The booking hall area has been refurbished and extended with new ticket gates and a fully accessible toilet. The external station frontage has also been revamped and a new canopy installed.

## REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME

Works were still ongoing when we visited **Sandhills**. Once complete the station will have a new ticket office and booking hall; platform improvements including a new canopy and enclosed waiting rooms; a lift to platform level; a passenger ramp; a fully-accessible passenger toilet; new lighting and CCTV for improved passenger



Sandhills

security and new customer information displays and help point.

At **Bootle Oriol Road** a £4.25 million complete rebuild has seen construction of a new station with a booking hall, ticket office, footbridge and lifts to aid customer access to the platforms. CCTV and customer information screens have also been included in the project which has helped to lift the stations image within the local area.



Bootle Oriol Road

Brian and Simon found all the stations to be clean and tidy and a credit to their staff. They would also like to thank Marion and David for their hospitality during the day and for their patience in answering our many questions.