



Santa Services

Blackburn to Clitheroe Saturdays 12th & 19th December 2009



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

Manchester Victoria	11.00	14.00
Bolton	11.20	14.20
Bromley Cross	11.28	14.28
Darwen	11.41	14.41
Blackburn	11.52	14.52
Ramsgreave & Wilpshire	11.58	14.58
Langho	12.02	15.02
Whalley	12.06	15.06
Clitheroe	12.19	15.19

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

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

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

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

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

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

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READING BETWEEN THE LINES

THE NEWSLETTER OF LANCASHIRE'S COMMUNITY RAILWAYS



ISSUE 7

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BULL'S-EYE FOR BRIAN THE BULL



Brian the Bull led the charge at the 2009 National Community Rail Awards in Carlisle on Friday 25th September. The Explore the Ribble Valley Line DVD project won first prize in the category of 'Involving Young People'. A full report of the Lancashire CRP's successes can be found on page 6 inside this issue or by visiting www.communityrailancashire.co.uk.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Ormskirk station refurbishment, Blooming Colne, Brian the Bull, Community Rail Awards, Friends of Stations, Infrastructure News and much much more!!

RICHARD'S RAMBLINGS

By the time this issue of RBTL comes out ACoRP will have held its conference on the Value of Volunteering. It is useful to know what added value the railway industry gets from the work of the many volunteers who give up large amounts of time to support an industry they love and wish to see succeed.

It amazes me that the hard work I put in as a volunteer in the 1980's is now paying large dividends for the community rail movement of today. Back in the 80's when I had longer hair and was supposedly teaching boys the joys of history I spent my spare time helping to establish many of the rail users groups across the North West. Starting with OPTA in 1981 I quickly moved on to SFLUA, LLAG, RVR, LASRUG etc. In those days we were concerned about the 'crumbling edge of quality' and 'branches on the brink' and the ever present threat of closures – very real up here with the Settle Carlisle line, Woodhead and Clayton West Branch. Activity was initially mainly political but as groups became more established they started to diversify their activities into station adoption, leafleting campaigns, car boot sales, station galas, special trains etc. – the list is long. This was all done on the basis of the old adage 'use it - don't lose it' – so user groups became ambassadors for their lines and sought to work with British Rail to do exactly what the Community Rail Development Strategy (CRDS) says; increase ridership and revenue to dispel any future threat of closure and maybe just possibly justify some improvements at the same time.

It is those very same user groups that now form the core of the volunteers who work with the Community Rail Partnerships to deliver the core aims of the CRDS. We would be lost without them. So in understanding how much value we gain from volunteers we must in turn cherish and nurture this BECAUSE as volunteers their time and effort can never be taken for granted.

So in practical terms what does this mean? It means that franchised train operators, the DfT and other statutory bodies need to allocate on-going funds to support the continuation of CRP's and their volunteers. They should also recognise and reward this activity in a positive way. ACoRP's National Community Rail Awards ceremony is one such way and Northern Rail's stakeholder specials are another way and are hugely popular. To me though it is the continuity and security of funding that is paramount if CRPs, CRDOs and volunteers are to deliver the core objectives of the CRDS.

(The above article does not necessarily reflect either the official policy of Lancs County Council or of any Community Rail Partnership).

CLITHEROE'S NEW WELCOME BOARD

A newly refurbished 'Welcome to Clitheroe' sign was unveiled on Friday 18th September. As part of the ongoing 'Explore the Ribble Valley Line' (Brian the Bull) project and on the back of the Community Rail events in Clitheroe, six of the 'through the train window' pieces of artwork were chosen and these have been pulled together into a superb sign that will catch the eye of people as they walk from the train into the town centre.



Five Ribble Valley schools were involved; Brookside, Pendle, St. James' and St Michael & St. John's from Clitheroe and St. Mary's in Osbaldeston. The unveiling ceremony was attended by the Mayor of Clitheroe, Cllr. Mary Robinson and her consort along with the Mayor of Ribble Valley, Cllr. Beverley Jones and her consort. James Syson, Chair of the East Lancs & Clitheroe Line CRPs gave a short speech and following short responses from the two Mayors the six children helped unveil the board.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 6th December 2009 sees Christmas Shopper services running between Preston and Ormskirk. With connections to and from Liverpool Central what better way to do your present hunting?

Ribble Valley Rail's Santa Services are on Saturdays 12th & 19th December this year. Mince pies and a sherry for the adults and a free goody bag for children under 12 - see back cover for more detail.

Photographs and images in this issue are by kind permission of Simon Clarke, Brian Haworth, LCC, Source Creative, Wendy Smith, Keith Tomlinson and Brookside School

WEBSITES

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

www.communityraillancashire.co.uk www.lmr.co.uk
www.dalesrail.com www.railramblers.com
www.northernrail.org www.burnleyandpendle.co.uk
www.ribbonvalleyrail.co.uk www.nationalrail.co.uk
http://opsta.iccommunities.co.uk www.merseytravel.gov.uk
www.plusbus.info/

INFRASTRUCTURE NEWS

Following on from the success of the line specific poster panels along the Preston to Ormskirk line these have now been rolled out to the Clitheroe Line. The 3 x DR structures installed at Ramsgreave & Wilpshire, Langho, Whalley and Clitheroe will be used to display a history poster and other community rail publicity.



Other works on the Clitheroe Line have been taking place during a series of Sunday blockades. New signals designed to increase capacity and improve performance have been installed at Langho and Whalley and track renewals have continued along the line between Langho and Wilpshire and over Cob Wall viaduct.



Network Rail has now completed the work to refurbish the canopy at Nelson station and this is now looking resplendent with new colours and new glass in the roof. The track has also been renewed through the station and this completes the work that started with the building of the new bus/rail Interchange. A Friends of Station group has also been formed and

they are looking to brighten the station with flower tubs and wild flowers in the disused track bed.

Many of you will have seen the large number of radio masts that have been sprouting up along the line throughout the network. These are being installed by Network Rail as part of a national programme as recommended by the Cullen Report following the Ladbroke Grove rail accident. The masts form part of a railway-only communications system that will allow direct, secure and continuous communication between the train driver and the signaller which will considerably improve safety, reliability and punctuality for passengers. The system is solely for the use of the railway and will not be available to commercial mobile telecoms operators.

Siting of the masts is a sensitive issue and a number of factors are considered prior to installation. These include coverage requirements, access, 'buildability', availability of power, visual impact, sensitive land uses and Network Rail's safety guidance for positioning infrastructure. Local planning authorities, key stakeholders and residents who live in close proximity to the site are also consulted.



NEW LOGOS

As you will have noticed from the banner on the front page there has been a slight change to two of the logos. The East Lancashire and Clitheroe Line logos were created very quickly, out of necessity, and have served us very well for about four years. It was agreed that we should look to bring them a little more in line with some of our other logos and Source Creative, a design company in Blackburn, have evolved the logos into the ones seen below.



It is intended that we adopt both of the colour schemes and use them as appropriate to the document, poster etc.

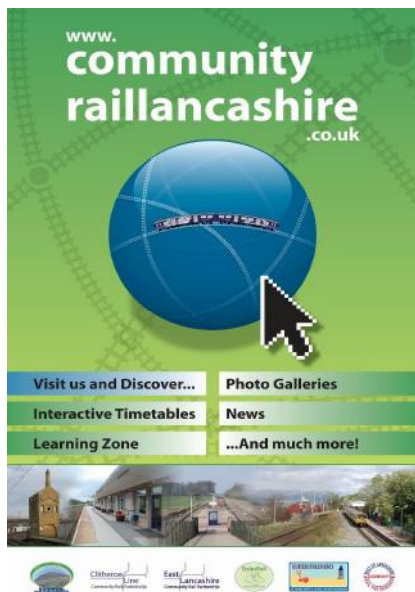
ORMSKIRK STATION REFURBISHMENT

The LCC led project to refurbish Ormskirk station was completed on time and to budget. In a grand ceremony on 31st July 2009, The Hon Sir William McAlpine Bt, Chairman of the Railway Heritage Trust declared the building open. As can be seen from the photographs the exterior of the building has been restored to as near original as possible, whilst the interior has been designed to be modern, stylish and functional.



The project, a partnership between LCC, Network Rail, Merseyrail, Railway Heritage Trust, Merseytravel, West Lancashire Borough Council, the DfT and the NWDA was the first in the country to be completed with funding from the DfT's National Stations Improvement Programme.

The station scores highly with green credentials, with rainwater harvesting, low energy LED lighting, improved thermal insulation and under floor heating. Existing materials have been reused or repaired, including the environmentally friendly insulation boards and with new materials specified in the Building Research Establishment's Green Guide'.



The Community Rail Lancashire website is now fully operational and can be visited using the web address above. The home page allows access to the five partnerships and DalesRail via an interactive map.

The website is a work in progress and comments are more than welcome and can be emailed to Simon Clarke or using the clickable link on the websites or by emailing info@communityrail Lancashire.co.uk.

The group site has a section called the **learning zone** and this is being used to store children's artwork from the Explore the Ribble Valley Line DVD project along with lesson plans from the various schools.

The individual partnership sites have an interactive line map and every station has a page with a brief history and detail about the station and local attractions. The pages are flexible and contributions are gratefully accepted.

BLOOMING COLNE

Colne In Bloom one of our station partners at Colne station have been very successful in this years 'North West in Bloom' competition. Colne was awarded first prize in the large town category in the North West in Bloom ceremony held on Friday 23rd October in Southport.

The group were presented with the Lord Mayor of Chester Millennium Cup and a certificate recording their achievement.

The group's presence and activities on Colne station and its environs have really lifted the station, in particular the platforms where the recycled plastic planters, provided by the East Lancashire Community Rail Partnership, and wooden half barrels have been a riot of colour throughout the summer months.



Well done to Dorothy Lord and her team of helpers in achieving a well deserved commendation for the second year running.



A new poster has been designed by Source Creative to help boost sales of the East Lancashire Day Ranger ticket. The ELDR is a day ticket that allows travel by train and bus and is valid throughout East Lancashire on train and bus and 'over the border' to Skipton and Keighley by bus. In a new initiative for 2010 the boundary will also be extended to take in Todmorden by bus.

The ticket is attractively priced at £10.00 per adult and £5.00 for children. There is also a family ticket available at £20.00 giving a maximum saving of £10.00. Northern Rail have also announced that these prices will be held in 2010.

Northern Rail's extremely popular Duo ticket will also see slight changes with restrictions being changed to match off peak return times. Also watch this space for possible changes to route availability.

Northern Rail has also launched the winter offers for journeys on the Settle Carlisle line. The Dales Railcard offer allows adults to travel for a flat fare of £6 with up to 4 accompanying children at £2 each. This offer is valid from 19th October 2009 until 20th February 2010. Northern will also be offering flat fares for holders of English National Concessionary Travel Scheme passes issued by West Yorkshire PTE or Metrocards. The flat fare will be £8 from valid stations and will run from Monday 2nd November 2009 until Saturday 13th February 2010. Details can be found on www.northernrail.org.

FRIENDS OF ST. ANNES STATION

The Friends of St. Annes Station have been busy over the spring and summer and were pleased by an offer from St. Annes Town Council to provide a welcome sign at the station. This was unveiled in May and was followed up by the provision of a link seat planter which has been filled with flowers and



has been well received by customers using the station. The planters were provided by the South Fylde Line CRP with half of the funding coming from ACoRP's Small Grant Fund. The planters are made from recycled plastic and are hard wearing and vandal proof.

BENTHAM COMMUNITY RAIL EVENTS



Saturday 1st August saw an open day at Bentham railway station just over a year from the official opening of the refurbished station building. The building had been brought back into use as a community transport hub for the 'Little Red Bus' by Bentham Development Trust [BDT]. Since then Bentham Station Partnership has been formed including BDT,

Bentham Community Transport, LASRUG, Northern Rail, Bentham Environmentally Sustainable Town, Blooming Bentham and Bentham Tourist Information - to provide and maintain further enhancements to the station which is an important gateway to the town. Visitors were able to see the developments that had occurred in the community transport field and the colourful floral displays on the station.

The **Lancaster & Skipton Rail User Group** are pleased to report that the coffee morning held in Bentham Town Hall on Saturday 8th August was well supported and successful both socially and financially, raising nearly £200. The Town Hall was also the venue for the group's AGM which celebrated the 20th anniversary of the group, with 'founding father' Richard Watts as guest speaker.



FRIENDS OF BRIERFIELD STATION

The Friends of Brierfield Station group continues to go from strength to strength. The group were once again short listed for the National Community Rail Awards, but were pipped at the post!

The group are still visiting the station on a daily basis and the flower beds and picnic area are as immaculate as ever. It is hoped that two 'eco' lights will be installed at the station shortly. The lights will use solar and wind power to create electricity and will be used to light the car park. The group has also recruited two new volunteers, Triston, aged 8 and Virginia aged 4, pictured left, who are both helping with litter picking and weeding duties on the station!



DAISYFIELD SCHOOL

Work has started with pupils at Daisyfield School to create a large piece of artwork to be sited along the playground wall, rebuilt last year by Network Rail. The aim is to produce a mural type piece of art which will show the views from the train window as you journey along the Ribble Valley Line.

The Clitheroe Line CRP has engaged a professional artist, Alastair Nicholson, to work with the children to develop the project. The children have been taken on a journey over the line courtesy of Northern and have walked under the arches at Whalley to highlight this impressive feature.

The artwork will be based on work by Friedenreich Hundertwasser who used concentric patterns and bright combinations of colour in his style of paintings to good effect.

The first workshop in the classroom took place on Thursday 15th October when the children viewed images of Hundertwasser's work and looked at harmonies in the colour of blue. Work then commenced on creating the sky for the artwork. The children were very enthusiastic and are looking forward to the next workshop.



WEST LANCASHIRE SUNDAY SHOPPERS

Sunday 6th December 2009 will see the West of Lancashire CRP running their Sunday Shoppers for the second year between Preston and Ormskirk.

The line is normally closed on Sundays but with the help of Network Rail who have agreed to open the signal boxes and Northern Rail who are providing the unit and train crew, there will be five services from Preston to Ormskirk and return on the day all running at no cost to the partnership.



Good connections at Ormskirk will allow easy access to Liverpool and with normal fares on the day what better way to do your Christmas Shopping without the hassle of parking your car? It is hoped that there will be some carol singers on the train and the local friends of stations group will be providing mince pies!

COMMUNITY RAIL AWARDS 2009

The 2009 ACoRP Community Rail Awards Gala Dinner was held in Carlisle at the Swallow Hill Top Hotel on Friday September 25th. Chris Austin, the author of the original Community Rail Strategy, presented the first prizes in 15 categories. The Lancashire CRPs had a good night with a first, a second, a third and a special award.



Brian the Bull triumphed with a first prize in the Involving Young People category for the Explore the Ribble Valley Line DVD. Pictured left are Brian Haworth, Community Rail Development Officer and Peter Fenton, Head Teacher at Daisyfield School receiving the award from Chris Austin. This award was given the biggest cheer of the night as the project has been universally well received throughout the industry.

David Wilson, bus operator Transdev's Commercial Development Director, collected second prize in the Local Transport Integration category for the innovative Pendle Connect ticket featured in the last issue. Simon Clarke was next up to get a third prize in the Passengers Matter category for the work done for replacement buses during the Ribble Valley Line blockade.

Last up was, a very surprised, Partnership Secretary Richard Watts to receive a Special Recognition Award in recognition of outstanding achievement in community rail development. This well deserved award was shared with Richard Burningham of the Devon & Cornwall Partnership. Full details of all the winners can be found by visiting the ACoRP website at www.acorp.uk.com where a gallery of photographs from the very successful Carlisle Station Festival can also be found.



COLNE RHYTHM & BLUES FESTIVAL

The August bank Holiday weekend saw another successful Rhythm & Blues Festival in Colne. Once again Northern Rail working with the East Lancashire CRP were able to run a music train on the Friday evening and also provide late night services back from Colne over the whole weekend.

A new deal with Moorhouse's Brewery meant that we were able to have a barrel of cask ale on the music train, which proved to be very popular with festival goers and will hopefully be repeated in August 2010.

BRIAN THE BULL STRETCHES HIS LEGS

Following the successful launch of The Explore the Ribble Valley Line DVD at Daisyfield School, it was agreed that the project should be rolled out to other schools. Initially the plan was to do three schools in the Ribble Valley and one school out of area. Brookside, St. Mary's Osbaldeston and St. Michael & St. John's were the Ribble Valley schools and Lower Place School in Rochdale was chosen as the out of area school.



The programme consists of a classroom visit to show the DVD and also a session with railway memorabilia such as oil lamps, hats and ticket nippers. This is followed by a trip over the line between Blackburn & Clitheroe

so that the children chance to see the landscapes and history shown on the DVD. The schools have also tied in a visit to Blackburn Museum or Clitheroe Castle as part of the day and the trips have proved very successful.

After the summer break the CRP found themselves being approached by schools to come in a do the presentation and the autumn term sees two more schools in Clitheroe, and schools in Whalley, Hapton and Padiham being visited. An offer from First Rail Support, who provide buses for rail replacement services has seen a free bus being laid on for some schools in at least one direction. The CRP repays this generosity by giving the children a short safety brief on how to behave on, and around, buses.



MARTIN MERE WETLAND CENTRE

Wednesday 2nd September saw the launch of a new footpath from Burscough Bridge station which leaves the Wetland Centre merely a short walk away! The footpath funded by a Natural Tourism Demonstration Project, the Climate Change Fund and Groundwork was supported by the West of Lancashire CRP, Northern Rail and Martin Mere. The path through fields and country lanes and away from busy roads is a safe way to walk from Burscough village to the Mere.

