

DalesRail 2010

**Sundays 4 April 2010
until
Sunday 17 October 2010**

**Great Value
DalesRail
Duo Tickets
from £16.50**



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READING BETWEEN THE LINES

THE NEWSLETTER OF LANCASHIRE'S COMMUNITY RAILWAYS



ISSUE 8

SPRING 2010

GREAT WALL OF DAISYFIELD



The children of Class 6 at Daisyfield School, working with local Blackburn artist Alastair Nicholson, have produced artwork depicting the rail journey between Blackburn and Clitheroe. The work has been inspired by Friedensreich Hundertwasser an Austrian artist and architect. Alastair worked in class with the children over six Thursday afternoons and the paintings were then photographed and turned into a large digital montage. The montage was then printed onto three 10 metre banners. See pages 6 & 7 for the full story.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Richard's Ramblings, Accrington Eco Station, Friends of Nelson Station, DalesRail 2010, Brian the Bull, DalesRail and much, much more!!

RICHARD'S RAMBLINGS

What is the value of Community Rail and does it make a difference? Well on the three designated services in Lancashire we have brought in over £25,000 from the Community Rail Development Fund (CRDF) to support a wide range of projects. This has been more than matched by other grants bringing the total to well over £50,000. Now that is real money!!

What you may well ask is the CRDF? This is a fund that has been set up by ACoRP, the DfT and Network Rail to provide grants towards a range of projects on designated community rail lines & services. There are currently three designated lines in Lancashire namely the South Fylde Line (Blackpool South to Preston), East Lancashire Line (Preston to Colne) and the Clitheroe Line. We hope to have a further designated line very soon. It is fair to say that the three Lancashire CRPs eligible to bid for this grant have made excellent use of it this year. Take a look at some of the projects supported by the CRDF:

£3,000 towards the refurbishment of the new shelters at Lostock Hall. The shelters were originally at Accrington. Take a look at them when you pass, they look as good as new - possibly even better!

£4,500 towards the 'Greening of the East Lancashire Line' a new DVD starring the now world famous Brian the Bull and featuring the new Eco Station at Accrington;

£2,000 towards marketing events supporting last years Colne Rhythm & Blues Festival. Remember the Charlie White Project and that special beer 'Sax on the Track' - if not then you just don't know what you missed!!

£2,000 towards a marketing campaign for Pendle Connect the special bus to rail ticket;

£875 to support the development of the new look DalesRail website - www.dalesrail.com. The site goes from strength to strength with nearly 1000 unique visitors in March.

£5,000 towards a design study for Lytham Station. This has proved interesting especially, the conservation issues.

£3,250 towards a new 12 page full colour line guide for the South Fylde Line.

An impressive list and there were more!!

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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday May 22nd to Saturday June 12th 2010 sees the Annual Community Rail Exhibition in the Platform Gallery in Clitheroe. 'Alistair the Artist' will be working with local schools on an animated project called 'Meet Me at the Station' and the result of this work will be displayed in and around the gallery over the three week period.

Saturday 5th June 2010 sees a Community Open Day at Blackpool North Station and Enfield Road Depot. There will be stalls at both the station and depot. It is hoped that the Duchess of Sutherland will be making a visit. As well as this welcome steam visit a number of Northern Rail diesel units will be on show including 142, 150, 153, 156 & 158 classes. The Lancashire Community Rail Partnerships will be represented along with members of BAFRUA, the local Rail User Group.

The 21st Annual Rhythm & Blues Festival in Colne will be taking place over the August bank holiday weekend. The East Lancashire CRP is once again supporting this event with a music train on the opening evening and late trains from Colne to get festival goers home.

The National Community Rail Awards ceremony will be taking place on Friday 24th September 2010 in Westcliffe-on-Sea. The Lancashire CRPs will be entering the awards in a number of categories and is hoping for another success following on from Brian the Bull in September 2009.

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Simon Clarke, Brian Haworth, LCC, and Source Creative,

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.dalesrail.com

www.northernrail.org

www.ribblevalleyrail.co.uk

http://opsta.iccommunities.co.uk

www.llmr.co.uk

www.railramblers.com

www.burnleyandpendle.co.uk

www.nationalrail.co.uk

www.merseytravel.gov.uk

ACCRINGTON ECO STATION

A new station building is under construction on the Eagle Street side of Accrington Station with a completion date scheduled for early July 2010. The key objectives of the Accrington Eco Station project is to promote the innovative use of existing and emerging knowledge, products and services in the design and operation of the new station building and car park that are **sustainable and reduce energy consumption and CO₂ emissions**. Some of the technology being used includes solar panels, solar water heating, a wind turbine and grey (rain) water harvesting for use in flushing toilets.



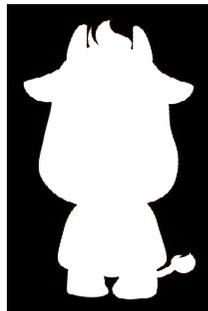
Part of the project is to link it to other transport networks including pedestrian and cycle routes, such as the Hyndburn Greenway, and also to the proposed new bus interchange and the local road network. A Station Travel Plan is being developed and this will be launched at the same time as the new station opens.

For up to date information about this project and to see a series of photographs recording the construction go to: www.communityraillancashire.co.uk or www.eastlancashirecrp.co.uk/gallery

BRIAN THE BULL PROJECT

The last 12 months has been very busy and very successful for the Brian the Bull (Explore the Ribble valley Line DVD) project - 16 schools visited and over 530 year 5 & 6 children involved. Brian Haworth and Marjorie Birch have taken on the task of the school visits and also the subsequent train journey along the Clitheroe Line and Marjorie has also developed an additional teaching aid with a flowchart showing how teachers might link the project to the National Curriculum.

Just about every school is getting something different out of the project - Padiham Green has linked it to the book The Railway Children, Daisyfield developed a science & technology project on bridges and St. Mary's Langho are working on some poetry - to name just a few! Some of the resultant work can be seen on the Community Rail Lancashire website at: www.communityraillancashire.co.uk/learning-zone.



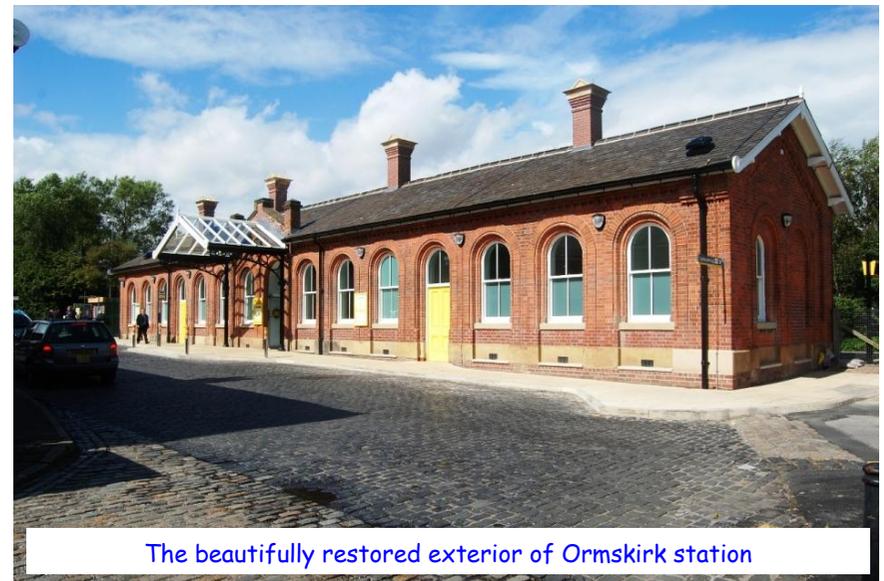
RICHARD'S RAMBLINGS

The CRDF is truly an excellent grant. The good news for 2010 is that the grant is likely to be available again. I know that the Lancashire CRPs have already got plans to make further bids but you will need to keep visiting www.communityraillancashire.co.uk to find out what they are.

To answer my question Community Rail does have a real value and is able to bring in funding to support a range of projects that really do make a difference. On top of this many of the local station partnerships also obtain grants so well done Friends of Nelson and Ribble Valley Rail. I look forward to 'meeting you at the station' - sorry!!

See also ACoRP's report on - The Value of Community Rail Partnerships at: <http://www.acorp.uk.com/Values%20of%20CPR's%20project.html>.

ORMSKIRK STATION



The beautifully restored exterior of Ormskirk station

The recently refurbished Ormskirk Station is being entered by SBS Architects into the 'Manchester Society of Architects Design Awards' in April 2010 and also into the 'National Railway Heritage Awards' in December 2010. The Grade 2 listed building was fully refurbished last year with considerable attention given to restoring the external fabric to as close its original condition as modern standards allow. Fingers crossed that it wins one of these prestigious awards this year.

BRIAN THE BULL DIGS IN

Padiham Green Primary School is just one of many schools who have experienced the 'Brian the Bull' initiative, but due to the school's close proximity to a closed railway line, the children have expanded their studies into industrial archaeology!

Part of the disused North Lancashire Loop line that passes through Padiham has been recently redeveloped and the Padiham Greenway Project has breathed new life into a section of this long abandoned railway line by converting it into a cycle and pathway.

Mrs Ennis's class have become very involved

in the Greenway Project and have planted bulbs and shrubs beside the new path and thanks to Brian the Bull's artefact collection, have now carried out an archaeological dig in an area of the old sidings adjacent to Padiham viaduct.



The children of Padiham Green School with their finds



Some of the artefacts

The enthusiastic children have spent time discovering items and understanding the layout of the area when it was a working railway. Brian and Marjorie, from the Community Rail Partnership, were asked to revisit the school to help identify the finds - most of which originated from the railway. The children are now busy drawing and cataloguing their finds prior to displaying them at school. The enthusiasm of the all the children has to be seen to be believed - in fact some of the children are continuing their search on their way to school each morning!

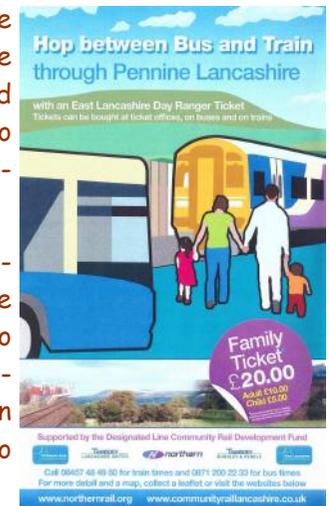
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FARES FARE



Pendle Connect the innovative new ticket for the Pendle Area has been relaunched with a brand new poster to match the existing East Lancashire Day Ranger poster.

Pendle Connect allows customers to board the bus in the Pendle 7 area and transfer to the train for an onward journey to Accrington, Blackburn or Preston without having to purchase separate tickets.



Northern Rail's ever popular Duo ticket has been expanded. The Lancashire area has been selected as one of the areas to trial cross-route availability. Previously Duo tickets were only available on line of route but now on certain routes customers will be able to purchase Duos that allow a change of train to a different line of route. Examples of this are from the Clitheroe line to Preston and onto the Ormskirk line and stations from the Blackpool South and Blackpool North lines to Blackburn and stations in east Lancashire. More details can be found in the news archive section of the Community Rail Lancashire website or by visiting www.northernrail.org.

MEET ME AT THE STATION

Ribble Valley Rail, one of the partners on the Clitheroe Line CRP has secured funding for an 'artist in residence' to work at some of the schools involved in the Brian the Bull project to produce a range of art work, including an animation, on the theme of 'Meet Me at the Station'. This work will be on display in the Platform Gallery for three weeks from 22nd May until 12th June and a permanent piece of art will be produced to enhance the station.

Along with the art work the CRP is hoping to have a exhibition of photographs on the same 'Meet Me at the Station' theme on display in the gallery. Anyone who has a photograph that they think may be suitable can send them to Simon Clarke either electronically to simon.clarke@lancashire.gov.uk or by post to Environment Directorate, Room D1, PO Box 78, County Hall, Fishergate Hill, Preston PR1 8XJ.

PRESTON TO ORMSKIRK

The DfT is formally consulting a range of bodies about the formal designation of the Preston to Ormskirk line as a community rail line and service. This move is fully supported by the West of Lancashire Community Rail Partnership and was heralded as far back as November 2004 in the Community Rail Development Strategy.



View across St. Mary's Marina

Take a look at the timetable for the line and you will see that trains are all over the place, quite unlike most services in Lancashire which operate to a standard pattern each hour. It is not an easy timetable to remember and there are some quite long gaps as well. Through designation the West of Lancashire CRP wants to work

with Northern Rail, Network Rail and the DfT to secure an improved service - preferably an hourly clock face timetable as suggested in the Network Rail Lancashire & Cumbria Route Utilisation Strategy launched in August 2008. That way it will be easy to remember the timetable and generate improved usage of this line.

In the meantime the Partnership wants to secure a CRDF grant towards a line guide which it hopes to develop jointly with Northern Rail and launch later this year. This will complement a similar guide being prepared by Northern Rail for the Wigan to Southport line.

LANCASHIRE DALESRAIL

Lancashire DalesRail is the name being applied to a Northern Rail Class 156 unit to celebrate 35 years of DalesRail services from Lancashire.

Lancashire DalesRail

The naming will take place at Clitheroe Interchange on Friday 30th April in a ceremony attended by Richard Watts (LCC), Howard Hammersley (Rail Ramblers) and Matt Beeton and Kathryn O'Brien (Northern Rail). The unit will then makes it's inaugural run on the DalesRail service from Blackpool to Carlisle on Sunday 2nd May.

FRIENDS OF NELSON STATION

This relatively new station partnership group, that have taken on looking after Nelson Station have been very successful in pulling in local grants to help them in their work at the station.

The group led by Walter Stafford and Eddie Emmot have greatly improved the outer platform area at the Colne end of the station by removing copious amounts of weeds from the flagged area which has made a huge difference to the station appearance.



Friends of Nelson Station Working Party

The group have plans to provide and maintain flower tubs in the newly cleared area and are raising funding to purchase recycled plastic planters. The group hold regular meetings and regular working parties at the station. If there is anyone out there who would like to join this busy group Walter can be contacted on 01282611797 or by email to walter410@btinternet.com

THE FURNESS LINE

The scenic Furness Line is likely to get a CRP through an initiative being led by Cumbria County Council. The CRP would cover the route from Lancaster to Barrow in Furness which passes through the attractive Arnside/Silverdale AONB, crosses over the Kent and Leven Estuaries where you can feel at sea at high tide and passes through Grange and Ulverston before reaching Barrow.



Picturesque Silverdale station

There is much to do from the line so having a CRP will certainly help promote its attractions to the leisure user. I am sure we can look forward to some interesting initiatives - get out your waders you may have to cross over Morecambe Bay with Cedric Robinson in order to catch your train home!!

THE GREAT WALL

The 'Great Wall of Daisyfield' started life as a fence; this fence was an old railway sleeper fence between Daisyfield School playground and the Blackburn to Clitheroe railway line just north of Daisyfield signal box. Daisyfield Primary School had earlier been adopted by the Clitheroe Line CRP and Northern Rail, Network Rail and the Partnership Officers had all been into to school to do presentations on railway safety and the history of the line.

Following the Network Rail presentation, Peter Fenton the Head, asked if was possible to do something with the dilapidated fence and Network Rail agreed to look at what might be done. Very shortly after, the fence was replaced with a wall and the 45 metres of skimmed surface left an ideal canvas for some sort of artwork - and the Great Wall of Daisyfield was born.



Following the school's involvement in the Explore the Ribble Valley Line DVD it was agreed that it would be good to have the children get involved in a project that depicted the journey from Blackburn to Clitheroe concentrating on what you might see 'through the train window'.

The CRP approached Alistair Nicholson, a local artist, to see if he would be interested in helping, and after his initial surprise at the size of the canvas he agreed. After time to think he asked Peter Fenton if he had heard of an artist call Hundertwasser, and not only had Peter heard of him but said that Hundertwasser was one of the artists to be studied in the National Curriculum. Alistair suggested that the children might like to paint in the style of the Austrian artist and this was warmly received. Alistair said that vinyl banners would be the easiest way to cover such a large area and the project got under way.

OF DAISYFIELD

The Clitheroe Line CRP made a bid to the Designated Line Community Rail Development Fund for a grant to cover this project. 'Alastair the Artist' was engaged to go into school for six afternoon sessions over six weeks to work with the children of Class 6 to produce some artwork after the style of Hundertwasser that showed the journey from Blackburn to Clitheroe.

The project started with a class fact finding trip along the line, organised by the CRP and given free by Northern Rail. The children were encouraged to look 'through the train windows' and to note anything down that they might like to paint. The trip also took them by foot under the massive Whalley viaduct. A record was made of everything that the children could remember about the trip.

Once the final session had been completed Alastair took away all the images and set about pasting them into the final image ready to take to the vinyl printing company. Proofs were sent round as 'cut ups' and once approved production commenced. The vinyl banners were delivered to the school and once these were rolled out the enormity of the project hit home - they covered best part of half of the school hall!

The vinyl panels were fixed to the wall and the Great Wall of Daisyfield was officially unveiled on Wednesday 3rd March 2010 in a ceremony attended by the Mayor of Blackburn and other distinguished guests from the CRP, Network Rail, Northern Rail and GMPTE.

The full story and many photographs can be seen by visiting the Community Rail Lancashire website at www.communityrailancashire.co.uk/galleries.