

READING BETWEEN THE LINES

THE NEWSLETTER OF LANCASHIRE'S COMMUNITY RAILWAYS

Issue 22

SPRING 2015



Deputy Head Janet Ennis stands with pupils next to newly installed CRP branded boards at Padiham Green Primary School - full story on page 8 of this issue.

CRL
Community Rail Lancashire



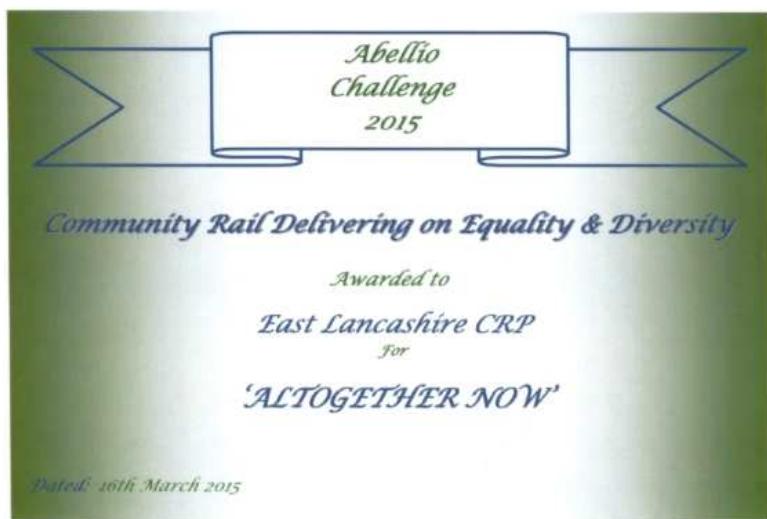
Citizens' Rail

Our train Our station Our citizens

NOTES FROM THE BUNKER

What a busy period this has been for Community Rail Lancashire (CRL). New train services are due to start in a few weeks' time, the new station at Burnley Manchester Road is open and functioning well, a makeover of Rose Grove is underway, plans to upgrade the track and stations on the Clitheroe Line will shortly be approved and the re-franchising of Northern is well underway.

Let's start by congratulating Brian and Marjorie who won the Abellio Challenge at the recent DfT Designated Line CRP Seminar for their project 'Altogether Now'. Apart from a welcome £2k contribution towards delivering the project this will enable CRL to show case to other CRPs how to work with multiple partners to improve a rundown station environment. Our local challenge is Pleasington on the East Lancashire Line our national challenge is to demonstrate next year how we have shared the lessons learned.



March 18th, 2015 was a significant day for me because that is the date on the 'Funding Agreement' between LCC and Northern Rail for the new Manchester to Blackburn via the Todmorden Curve service was signed.

Trains will operate every hour 7 days a week and will call at Burnley Manchester Rd, Rose Grove, Accrington, Church & Oswaldtwistle (Sundays only) and Blackburn in Lancashire. Most trains continue beyond Manchester Victoria and will serve Salford Central and Salford Crescent. Not only does this service mark a significant improvement to rail services in East Lancashire but it makes use of the newly re-laid and commissioned Todmorden West Curve. Accrington will have three trains an hour to Blackburn and Burnley (albeit in the latter case split between Manchester Rd and Central stations).

The Funding Agreement covers three years and the complexities of re-franchising made this a more complex process than it might otherwise have been. Still we got there. We now need to sell the service and a marketing group has been specifically set up to do just that. Northern Rail has created a landing page on its web site for the service so take a look at www.northernrail.org/todmorden-curve. Our own Community Rail website is doing a countdown to the start of the service on Sunday 17th May, 2015 so take a look at www.communityraillancashire.co.uk and be part of the countdown!!!

NOTES FROM THE BUNKER

Events to celebrate the start of the service are in hand with a quietish start on the 17th May when we expect hoards to turn out to send off the very first train at 08:18 from Blackburn!! On the 18th May we will be welcoming commuters to the service with complimentary tea and coffee and a goodie bag providing lots of reasons to use the train. Teams will be present at Blackburn, Accrington and Burnley Manchester Rd. The 26th May sees the formal celebration when all partners will convene in Manchester to hear speeches from Pete Waterman, CC John Fillis, Cllr Mark Townsend, Alex Hynes and Sir Richard Leese. Invited guests will then take the train



Hot on the heels of signing the Funding Agreement was the Citizens' Rail Student Masterclass hosted by UCLAN. The Masterclass involved students from the UK, the Netherlands and Germany and took place over the 24th and 25th March. The theme of the Masterclass was 'How should we promote rail services'? It was a fascinating two days and I vividly recall the excellent presentations given by the students in the final session. See later article and visit the Citizens' Rail website to view the presentations.

April should see the final confirmation of the funding for the major upgrade of the Bolton to Blackburn line. The £13m project will see the Darwen loop extended by nearly a mile in each direction and stations between Entwistle and Clitheroe upgraded. This is being done to allow an all-day half hourly service to operate between Manchester and Blackburn and improve the reliability of all services. Stations will receive a makeover to improve passenger waiting facilities, install CIS and other minor works such as improvements to fencing. Langho will receive extra attention thanks to a S106 grant. Discussions with TfGM will hopefully result in some works to their stations as well. Reliability on the Clitheroe Line has been its Achilles heel for many years so this work should be a big step forward. We only need to sort out the line speed between Blackburn and Clitheroe, rolling stock along with revenue protection and we will have cracked it!!! Not much more to do then!!!!???

NOTES FROM THE BUNKER

Thinking of this leads onto the issuing of the Invitation to Tender for the Northern and Trans Pennine franchises. Rail North wanted the ITT for the Northern franchise to be transformational and I hope you will agree that what is in the ITT and the draft Franchise Agreement is just that. The headlines are:

- Additional services on many lines especially early and late journeys, improved Sunday services and a possibility of services on Boxing Day. The additional off peak services between Manchester and Blackburn form part of the December 2017 base line. An additional return journey is also specified for the Preston to Ormskirk line taking the daily total to 14.
- A £30m Station Improvement Fund is mandated to fund a range of improvements such as enhanced passenger comfort; improved safety and security; better information provision and improved ticket retailing.
- A new £2.3m per annum Customer and Communities Improvement Fund has to be established from year 4 of the franchise onwards.
- Guaranteed £1/2m per annum to contribute towards the funding of the 19 Northern CRPs.
- The Northern franchise will need to appoint a senior manager to develop Community Rail in the north of England.
- BUT best of all is the requirement to
 - ✓ build a minimum of 120 new carriages for use mainly on non-electrified lines;
 - ✓ the elimination of all Pacers by 2020; and
 - ✓ the complete modernisation of the Northern rolling stock fleet.

Community Rail Lancashire has been very active in its engagement with bidders and has prepared well for each session. There is much more but space precludes going into further detail.

There is lots more taking place across CRL and I hope you share my enthusiasm for the dynamism the paid and unpaid staff contribute to the on-going development of a vibrant and successful railway.



The Northern ITT eliminates the dreadful Pacers by 2020.

ROSE GROVE REVIVED

Monday 20th April, 2015 saw the start of a £165k make over for Rose Grove station. The works are part of the Burnley/Pendle Growth Corridor and have been agreed as an advance commitment in order that they are completed prior to the new Blackburn to Manchester rail service starting on 17th May, 2015.

The scope of works is as follows:

- passenger security will be improved through the provision of CCTV; passenger operated help point and through the removal of the large trees in the planted areas on the platform to create a more open environment;
- passenger information will be improved through the installation of CIS (Customer Information System);
- passenger comfort will be enhanced through the provision of a new anti vandal waiting shelter and seating;
- a TVM, ticket vending machine, will be installed in the shelter; and
- other works include improved signage and information panels.

The East Lancashire Community Rail Partnership (ELCRP) is working with local schools, including Padiham Green Primary school, to increase awareness of the new rail service, to teach them how to safely use the railway and to develop artwork for display at the station. The project will be called '*Rose Grove Revived*' and will be eligible for a grant from the Designated Line Community Rail Development Fund (DCRDF is supported by the DfT, Network Rail and the Association of Community Rail Partnerships).

In addition, a separate scheme is being developed through the Burnley/Pendle Growth Corridor to provide a car park and bus interchange for the station. Further details in future editions of RBtL.

As a result of the new service and the works described above passenger footfall at the station is forecast to increase by nearly 100% to nearly 100,000 passengers per annum. Now that really is a revival!!



Photo taken 23.04.15 shows work well underway with old shelter gone, beds cleared and CCTV installed

CITIZENS' RAIL MASTERCLASS

How should we promote rail travel?

That was the task for the second Citizens' Rail Masterclass hosted by UCLAN and taking place in Lancashire. The Master Class involved students from the UK, the Netherlands and Germany. Most of the first day was spent in Burnley starting with a conducted tour of the new station by Richard Watts, Partnership Secretary and then off to the University Technical College located in Victoria Mill for some serious work. The task the students had to address was how to encourage more people to travel by train. To help them focus their ideas five target groups were chosen as below:

- Young people (under 25), including students
- Commuters (over 25)
- Third age (over 65)
- Families
- Leisure and tourist travellers

The ideas that came out of the sessions were impressive but perhaps what struck me most of all was that traditional marketing techniques were still favoured. Full details can be found by going to www.citizensrail.org/masterclass-ii/. I will return to this in a future RBtL but in the meantime do take a look at the students presentations as they packed a lot of ideas into 2 days!!



Richard welcomes the
students to
Burnley Manchester Road

The workshop underway in
the recently restored
Victoria Mill



BLACKBURN TO BOLTON CORRIDOR

On 21st April 2015 it was announced that the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership Board has now formally granted a significant sum of money from the 2015/16 Local Growth Fund to deliver the necessary infrastructure works at Darwen to facilitate the improved service frequency to Manchester from Blackburn.

£12.4m of Local Growth Funding plus a further £1.3m of local authority funding will now enable Network Rail to extend the Darwen passing loop this summer in order to support the introduction of a robust half hourly all day service between Blackburn and Manchester as part of the next Northern Franchise.

The Northern ITT confirms that the additional off peak service between Blackburn and Manchester is included in the base line TSR specification. It is shown in the TSR from December 2017 onwards but of course there is nothing to stop bidders operating this earlier train resources permitting. Given it is an off peak enhancement resources should be easier to secure and we are therefore pressing the case to each bidding team to introduce the much needed service improvement as soon as is feasible.



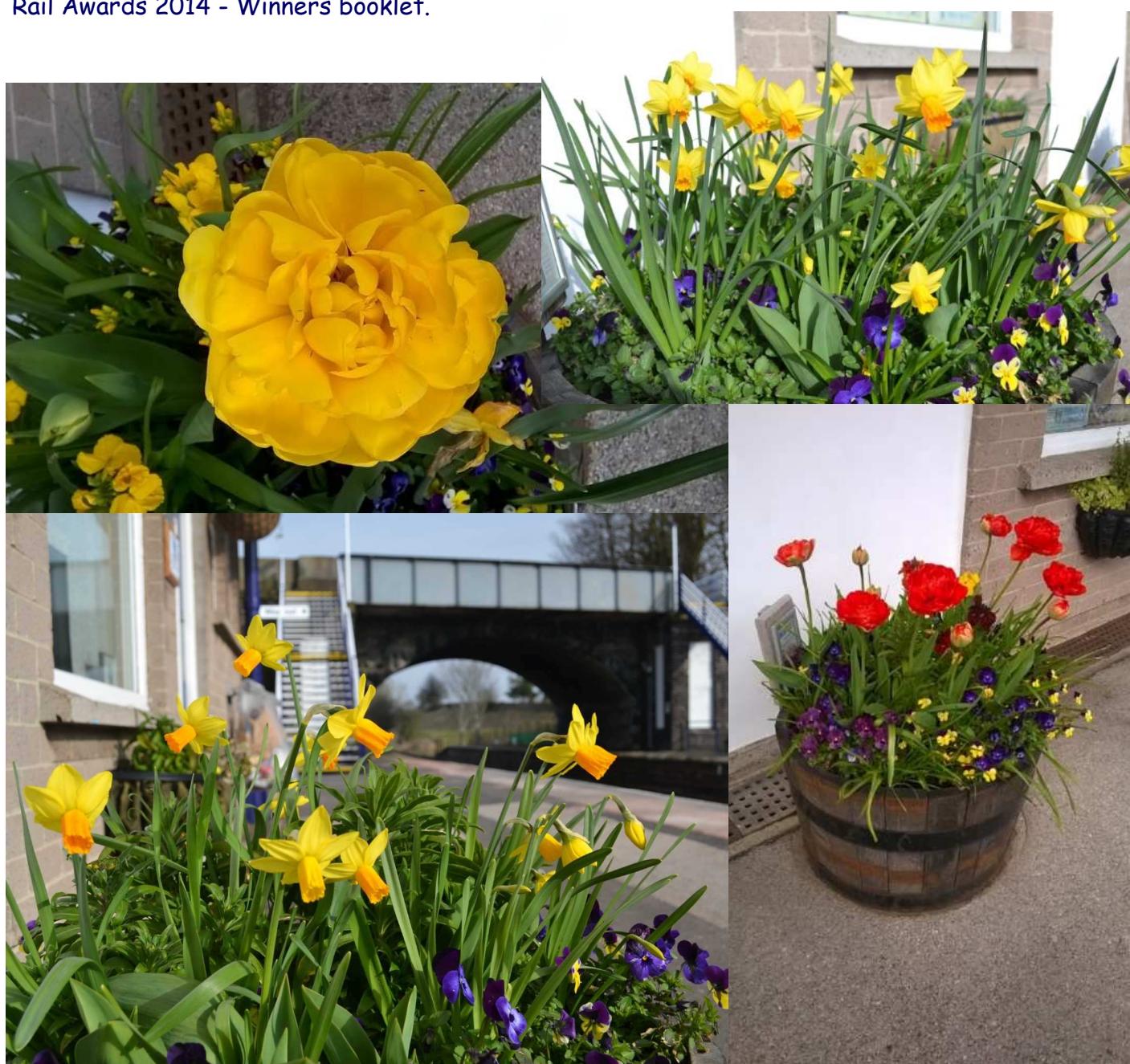
SPRING AT BENTHAM

A Double and Triple Taste of Spring at Bentham Station - thanks to the endeavours last autumn of the Bloomin' Bentham volunteer gardeners and the 'green fingers' of pupils from Bentham Community Primary School, and a careful choice of bulbs and plants.

Spring arrived early in the western Dales this year with snow drops emerging in early February, daffodils providing a blaze of colour throughout March and the bonus of gorgeous double and triple tulips all the way through April. Pansies, violas and wallflowers have added to the continuity of colour.

The station gardens, planters and window boxes have provided almost three months of cheer for the passengers on the Bentham Line and helped the community celebrate spring in style, thanks to kind donations of plants and bulbs from local residents and the sponsorship of the planters by over twenty business members of 'We Are Bentham'.

Full details of the planter sponsorship scheme are on the ACoRP website and in the Community Rail Awards 2014 - Winners booklet.



SPRING IN LANCASHIRE

Not to be outdone by our friends in North Yorkshire the various friends groups that look after stations in the Lancashire area have also been busy planting spring bulbs. St. Anne's-on-the-Sea, Langho, Brierfield, Nelson, Ansdell & Fairhaven and Lytham (where bee & insect hotels have proliferated) are among some of the best.



DALESRAIL 2015

The 2015 DalesRail season starts on Sunday 17th May along with the rest of the new timetable. There are over 90 walks spread over the 17 Sundays with graded walks suitable for all levels of walkers whether you are a beginner or more experienced.

The walks are arranged, and led, by the Lancashire Rail Ramblers and the 2015 season must without doubt be dedicated to one of their more charismatic leaders Howard Hammersley who sadly passed away in January of this year.



Howard was long associated with the railway and developed a whole range of walks based on the railways across the north of England. However, his biggest involvement was in masterminding each year's DalesRail programme which he oversaw from conception to implementation. It was a rare Sunday when Howard was not on DalesRail ensuring all the details of the days programme would work, looking after the passengers on the train and carrying out meticulous counts of those joining and alighting the trains.

His reports were works of art and detailed; who did what, what the weather was like and the condition of the train! Woe betide the operator if you couldn't eat your breakfast off the toilet floor! Howard built up a dedicated and enthusiastic team of volunteer walk leaders who turned out every Sunday and in all weathers. His infectious enthusiasm motivated everyone around him. He will be sorely missed.

Visit www.dalesrail.com to download details of the train times, walks and much, much more. We hope to see you on one of the Sundays and we hope that if you join one of the guided walks that you pause to think of Howard, without who, DalesRail may never have happened.

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

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Brian Haworth, Simon Clarke, Gerald Townson, Craig Harrop, CAMRA & Alastair Nicholson

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>

BRANDED BOARDS IN THE COMMUNITY

As can be seen on the front page of this issue Community Rail Lancashire has started to fulfil its ambitions to take community rail into the community rather than just on stations. The first installation of a CRP branded notice board away from the railway has taken place at Padiham Green Primary School.

Padiham Green have been closely involved in a number of projects with Community Rail Lancashire including working closely with Lancashire County Council's Remade project to convert the disused track bed of the Padiham Loop Line for use as a footpath and cycleway. The project called The Padiham Greenway links the centre of Padiham to Rose Grove station on the East Lancashire Line.

The school have also worked with the Citizens' Rail project and were on hand to do a presentation about the history of Burnley Manchester Road station when the European partners visited the brand new station building in July 2014. A small number of pupils were also interviewed by students during a Citizens' Rail Masterclass that took place in Burnley in March of this year.



Sculpture on the Padiham Greenway

ACCRINGTON BOOK EXCHANGE



A charity book exchange has been set up at Accrington railway station. Regular clerk Steve Garside & coffee cart operator Neil Sheridan manage the scheme which sees customers donating books for others to borrow giving a donation to the Railway Children charity.

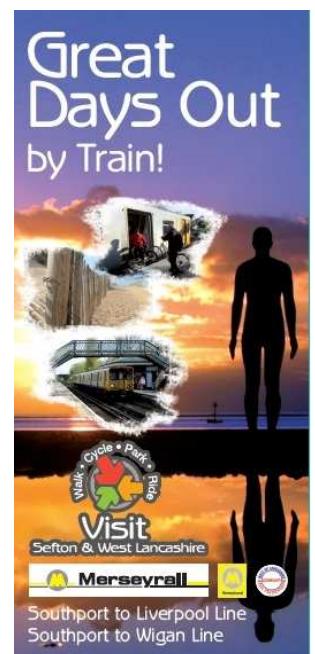
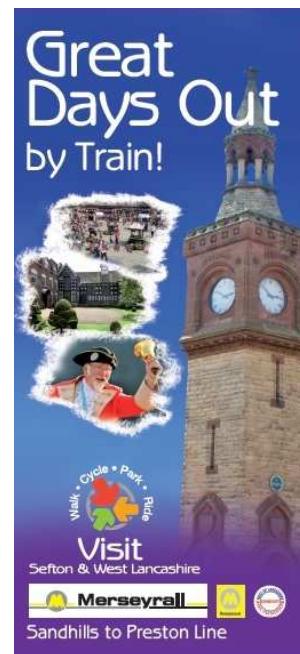
To date well over £120 has been raised for the charity.

PROMOTING THE WEST OF LANCS RAIL NETWORK

With spring now upon us and summer on its way now is the time to explore the west of Lancashire area by rail.

There is a huge number of attractions that can be accessed by rail including Martin Mere, Ormskirk Market, the 'Iron Men' at Crosby and much, much more!

Two attractive leaflets have been produced promoting the lines under the banner of 'Great Days Out by Train'. The guides have been developed in a partnership between the West of Lancs CRP, Northern Rail, Merseyrail, Merseytravel & Sefton Council.



The leaflets can be obtained from local stations or by going to:

<http://www.visitseftonandwestlancs.co.uk/days-without-the-car/visit-publications.aspx>

FARNWORTH TUNNEL ELECTRIFICATION

The major challenge during 2015 for the North West Electrification programme will be the works to widen Farnworth Tunnel.

The two tunnels date from 1838 and 1880. In preparation for electrification the smaller tunnel will be reinforced with concrete and signalling will be installed to allow bi-directional working on the single line. This work has taken place at weekends since February and has necessitated line closures. Once complete a limited service will be able to operate in both directions through the one tunnel allowing the other tunnel to be widened to eventually be able to take two tracks.

The main works will take place from 2nd May until 4th October 2015. There will be a limited Monday to Friday service between 06:00 & 20:00 with mostly six carriage trains.

The work also includes re-siting of one of the Farnworth platforms, lowering a section of track and removing a pedestrian crossing and replacing it with a footbridge.

For full details of the timetable visit the Northern Rail or National Rail websites.



WEST OF LANCS PASSENGER COUNTS

The West of Lancashire CRP and Northern Rail teamed up with OPSTA to carry out passenger surveys on the Preston to Ormskirk and Wigan to Southport lines. The surveys have given us a very good idea of who is using the line and why. This information is helpful in pressing the case for increased capacity on the Ormskirk line and in discussing service developments with bidders for the Northern franchise. It is hoped to carry out follow up surveys.

MEOLS COP

The station has suffered a spate of vandal attacks over recent months, this, however, has not deterred the group who are looking to replace some of the damaged wooden planters with recycled plastic planters. The group have links with a local school who help in planting at the station and the new planters will be much appreciated by the children as well as the station group.

NORTHERN & TRANS PENNINE RE-FRANCHISING

On the 19th August, 2014, the government announced the short lists for the TPE and Northern franchises as follows:

For Northern they are:

Abellio Northern Ltd
Arriva Rail North Ltd
Gavia Northern Ltd

For Trans Pennine they are:

First Trans Pennine Express Ltd
Keolis Go-Ahead Ltd
Stagecoach Trans Pennine Express Trains Ltd

Bids are due on the 26th June, 2015.

Bids are due in on 28th May, 2015.

Full details of what is in the ITT's and the draft Franchise Agreements can be found by going to:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/northern-franchise-2015-invitation-to-tender>

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HUNCOAT SIGNAL BOX

The historic Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway signal box that has stood sentinel over Huncoat level crossing since 1876 has been de-commissioned as part of Network Rail's level crossing modernisation programme and will shortly be demolished.



Pupils from Huncoat Primary School were amongst the last visitors to the box as part of a project run by Community Rail Lancashire when they were given a tour and talk on the workings of the box . All pupils received a copy of the Network Rail booklet 'How to stay safe at level crossings'

A small piece of the box has been saved for posterity, however as Network Rail have kindly donated the signal panel for use by Community Rail Lancashire in their education room at Accrington station.

THE DISTANCE BETWEEN

During their trip to Germany and Holland late last year children from Padiham Green Primary School worked with pupils at the Domsingschule in Aachen to produce some colourful artwork. Artist Alastair Nicholson used computer software to develop the work in to a finger labyrinth poster called The Distance Between. The poster has been printed full Double Royal size and copies have been presented to both schools.

The posters are on display in the branded community rail boards throughout Lancashire and a number have been sent to Aachen for display on their local rail network. The photographs show both schools proudly displaying the posters.



Padiham Green Primary School



Domsingschule, Aachen

CLITHEROE BEER FESTIVAL

Community Rail Lancashire is pleased once again to be working in partnership with the East Lancashire branch of CAMRA to promote rail travel to Clitheroe's 10th Annual Beer Festival which takes place in the St. Mary's Centre on Friday & Saturday 15th & 16th May 2015. CRL is sponsoring the festival glasses again this year and the design can be seen below:



Due to the scheduled engineering works taking place at Farnworth Tunnel there are some changes to the timetable over the period of the beer festival.

On Friday 15th May there is a normal hourly service between Manchester and Clitheroe. On Saturday 16th, however, the trains will only operate to between Clitheroe & Blackburn. A rail replacement bus service will operate between Blackburn and stations to Manchester. Please check train times prior to travel.

CREATIVE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP WORKING

Community Rail Lancashire hosted a visit by Sally Buttifant from the Mid Cheshire Community Rail partnership to the Bunker on 19th February 2015. Sally is planning to set up a similar venture at Ellesmere Port station and used the visit to look at how CRL runs its educational programme.

Brian Haworth and Marjorie Birch explained the set up at the Bunker and described a standard day for school children who attend and the various tasks they undertake. Sally asked lots of questions, took lots of pictures and came away with some really great ideas to try with schools in the Ellesmere Port area.

Sally fully enjoyed her visit and said "Community Rail Lancashire have really inspired me - it is amazing the work that they do with young people. I hope that all their good practice will give me a head start to offer meaningful sessions on the railway to local children."

It was really good to see Sally and to be able to help her in her exiting new project and we hope to visit Ellesmere Port Station over the next few months to see what community rail is achieving there.

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



THE DISTANCE BETWEEN

THIS FINGER LABYRINTH HAS BEEN CREATED FROM ARTWORK PRODUCED BY PUPILS FROM
PADIGHAM GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL, LANCASHIRE ENGLAND AND
THE DOMSINGSCHULE, AACHEN GERMANY AS PART OF THE CITIZENS' RAIL PROJECT 2014.

USING YOUR FINGER, THE JOURNEY FROM PADIGHAM TO AACHEN AND HEERLEN CAN BE TRACED.
THE CHILDREN'S COLOURFUL ARTWORK ILLUSTRATES THE JOURNEY AS SEEN THROUGH THEIR EYES

