

READING BETWEEN THE LINES

THE NEWSLETTER OF LANCASHIRE'S COMMUNITY RAILWAYS

Issue 23

SUMMER 2015



A CELEBRATORY EVENT WAS HELD ON 24TH JUNE TO MARK THE £2.3M INVESTMENT IN BURNLEY MANCHESTER ROAD STATION AND TO LAUNCH A NEW CAMPAIGN TO MARKET EAST LANCASHIRE'S ATTRACTIONS TO RAIL VISITORS

Full story on page 7 of this issue!



NOTES FROM THE BUNKER

Sunday May 17th 2015 was an historic day as it saw the start of a brand new service in East Lancashire connecting Blackburn to Manchester via Accrington, Burnley Manchester Road and the newly re-laid curve at Todmorden. Hard on the heels of this success comes the redoubling of part of the Bolton to Blackburn line at Darwen. This will enable a more frequent weekday service to operate over the line and will improve reliability by eliminating some of the notorious trouble spots. The work was successfully completed and the line handed back for start of service on Monday 24th August. Well done Network Rail - I don't suppose delivering this project on time and within budget will be headline news in the national media!! In all around £25m will have been invested in these big ticket items couple this with the recent investment in stations such as Blackburn, Accrington, Rose Grove and Burnley Manchester Road and this become nearer £30m. The turn-round in the fortunes of the East Lancashire rail network has been transformational. Who would have thought a few years ago that there would be 3 trains an hour between Accrington and Blackburn!! All we need now are trains to match!!! I for one can't wait for the new franchise which should herald some decent investment in the existing train fleet to make them a lot more attractive and fit for purpose not to mention the brand new trains that form a key part of the Northern Invitation to Tender.

As reported last time we welcomed the new service in style with early morning traveller's at Blackburn, Accrington and Burnley Manchester Road greeted with tea, coffee and a goody bag!!! Thanks go to our CRPOs, Northern Rail and Burnley & Blackburn councils for all their help in planning and carrying out this event.

I am sure that over the last few weeks many of you will have enjoyed welcome holiday breaks - time to soak up the sun, relax and travel to pastures new. Living in Preston soaking up the sun has been a rare treat more often it is avoiding the next drenching!! So this year the Watts family holiday took us to France (again!!) where the temperatures were never much below 35 and very often over 40. As usual we travelled the rails of France hiring cars as required and this year we stayed in the Correze at a lovely place called Turenne. Why mention this - well there is a purpose. Turenne has a station which is served by two lines which are operated by different Regions. The station has an eccentric timetable but worst of all first impressions seemed to indicate that it was more closed than open.



Turenne - open or shut? No clues from the approach road. The notice board behind the shelter was the only source of information and tucked at the side of the station building it was all but invisible!!

NOTES FROM THE BUNKER

There was no sign from the main road, no reassuring totem to show we are still in business, the one timetable panel was tucked well out of sight and it was one shelter between 2 platforms. Wow I thought what would a community rail partnership in the UK make of this? Well I think I can answer that in a few simple words tender loving care. With a small budget the station would easily be made to look open, welcoming and provided with good information. With a little more money an additional shelter could soon be provided on the other platform and some flower tubs or equivalent provided. In a short time a welcoming environment could be created. The key challenges would be the deserted and ramshackle station building, promoting the line to the community and the timetable (which is even more French than many I know!!).

Turenne was a great reminder of what Community Rail has achieved across the UK and in Lancashire. The scene that greeted me at Turenne was not so uncommon across the UK in the 1960's and 70's at a time when we were being told about the 'crumbling edge of quality' and 'branches on the brink'.

Thinking of Turenne reminds me of what Rose Grove was like only a few months ago. A shelter without sides, no real time information apart from an erratic LLPA, seats fit only for dwarfs or small children and an over grown forest on the platform. Well a few weeks can make quite a difference and it is pleasing that one of the first schemes to be completed as part of the Burnley Pendle Growth Corridor has been the transformation of Rose Grove station.



Out with the old - the wind and rain swept view of Rose Grove



In with the new - passenger numbers are expected to double from this station.

The project shows what can be done to transform an unloved station. It now has a shelter with sides providing real weather protection, a TVM (ticket vending machine), CCTV, CIS (customer information screens), improved signage, new seats and has been part of a community project based on 2 local primary schools.

There are further plans in the pipeline to further enhance the facilities at the station including a park and ride and improved bus interchange - transformational indeed. The splendid work by the pupils of Padiham Green and Lowerhouse Primary Schools has also done much to brighten up the station. Operation Stickleback is the title of a delightful book produced by the pupils of Padiham Green and now the theme of a DVD which can be watched on line (see inside for more details).

NOTES FROM THE BUNKER

I am delighted that our school engagement work has once again been recognised in the national Community Rail Awards. The 'Distance Between' has been shortlisted in the 'Involving Young People' category. We will find out if this is an award winning project at the Community Rail Awards dinner on the 1st October in Torquay. Thinking of school work we are developing this project in two new ways. Firstly we are developing new links with the Virgin Trains community team based at Preston and secondly Brian is developing a new scheme of work which is being called 'Down the Line'. Exciting times in an area that Community Rail Lancashire has become a centre of excellence in. Very few people come to the 'Bunker' without being awe struck at how we use this facility. Next year we plan to throw open the doors (for a few hours at least!!) and hold an open day. Watch this space for further details - it is linked to a significant national event but I can say no more.

Being an evaluator for the Northern franchise has been a real eye opener into how the process works. It has also been a privilege to have been in at the start in helping to shape the new franchise with colleagues involved in Rail North. I was also closely involved in two key areas of specification namely community rail and stations. I am also proud of the role Community Rail Lancashire has played in meeting and discussing the needs of community rail with bidders. We are now on the run down to the announcement of the preferred bidder which is expected early December and of course to the start of the new franchise on the 1st April, 2016.

Exciting times with plenty going on. I hope you enjoy the rest of this edition RBTL which showcases the best of what is happening on the community rail lines in Lancashire (and parts of North Yorkshire!!).

Richard Watts

DAY IN THE LIFE OF BENTHAM

A Day In The Life Of Bentham is a photographic project inspired by an idea to install two large art panels on the footbridge at Bentham station. The Friends of Bentham Station (FoBS) developed plans to create a mass-participation photographic competition for all residents in, and visitors to, the parish of Bentham on Wednesday 29th July 2015. The winners images to be displayed at the station.

Funding was sought and a grant from Champion Bowland, a small charity which works to enhance the landscape of the Forest of Bowland AONB, got the ball rolling. The Leeds, Lancaster & Morecambe CRP successfully applied for a grant from ACoRP'S Small Grants fund and an offer from the 'We Are Bentham' group of businesses helped FoBS deliver a greatly enhanced project.

Judging of the photographs, taken on the day, is now complete and an exhibition of the 'final 40' is being shown in Bentham Imaging, a local photographers studio. A presentation evening is taking place in late August and following this the art panels will be prepared and a portable exhibition created.

Full details of the winners and the rest of the project in Reading Between The Lines 24.

MANCHESTER VICTORIA REDEVELOPMENT

Manchester Victoria is currently undergoing a £44m transformation to bring the station up to 21st Century standard and create a transport interchange which is safer, brighter and more spacious. As part of the Northern Hub scheme Manchester Victoria station will grow in importance with an increased number of Northern and Transpennine services calling at the station under the next franchises. In addition the area around Victoria station is seen as a key growth area in the city centre with new and improved retail and residential development taking place within walking distance.

As part of the works the old station canopy has been removed and replaced with a huge curved roof which allows natural light on to the station concourse. Passenger facilities are to be greatly improved with a new 'video wall', ticket machines, information displays and for the first time at Victoria, permanent ticket gates. Passenger flows within the station have also been improved with a new bridge providing access to the Manchester Arena. This is already assisting to keep rail passengers and event attendees separate and improve the impression of space within the concourse.

New Metrolink platforms and track have been installed and these will assist in transforming Victoria station into a key hub for the Metrolink network. This will be further enhanced when the new Manchester 'second city crossing' opens to passengers in mid-2017.

Although the overall goal has been to create a thoroughly modern transport interchange it is pleasing to see that many of the original features of the 171 year old station have been retained including the mosaics, wall map, ticket hall and first class refreshment lounge.

The project is due to be completed by late summer 2015 with the official opening ceremony scheduled to take place in September 2015.



COMMUNITY RAIL AWARDS 2015

This year's ACoRP Community Rail Awards are being held at The Riviera International Centre in Torquay on Thursday 1st October 2015. The Community Rail Lancashire team have five shortlisted entries to cheer for.

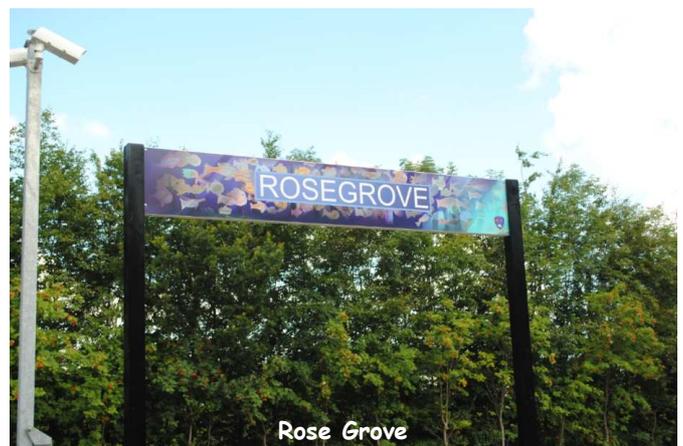
The East Lancashire CRP's project with the sub title of 'The Distance Between' involved children from Padiham Green Primary School and their once in a life time trip to Aachen last November, and this has been shortlisted in the Involving Young People Category.

The Leeds, Lancaster & Morecambe CRP (The Bentham Line) have been shortlisted in the Innovation in Community Rail category with their low price CCTV project at Bentham Station, along with two photographs in category 7, 'The Essence of Community Rail' image.

Citizens' Rail, the European project designed to develop local and regional railways by involving the community has been shortlisted in the Outstanding Teamwork category.

Fingers crossed for success on the night and good luck to all of the 84 shortlisted entries over 13 categories.

NEW RUNNING IN BOARDS



Brand new running in boards have been installed at Mill Hill and Rose Grove stations. With artwork by local primary school children and supplied by Rydon Signs the boards bring a splash of colour to the stations.

The board at Mill Hill shows the artwork done during the My Mill Hill Project (see RBTL issue 15) and replaces the vinyl banner that originally was fastened to the fence at the station. The artwork was drawn by children from Meadowhead Infants, St. Luke & St. Phillips Primary and Audley Primary schools and converted in the banner by local artist Alastair Nicholson.

The running in board at Rose Grove has different pieces of art on each side and has been done by children from Padiham Green and Lowerhouse Primary Schools as part of the Rose Grove Revived project. Once again Alastair was involved both in class and in converting the children's work into an image suitable for the boards.

Both projects have been supported by the Designated Lines Community Rail Development Fund.

CELEBRATING BURNLEY MANCHESTER ROAD

A celebratory event was held on 24th June to mark the £2.3m investment in Burnley Manchester Road station and to launch a new campaign to market East Lancashire attractions to rail visitors.

Representatives of Burnley Borough Council, Lancashire County Council, Northern Rail, Community Rail Lancashire and Citizens' Rail gathered to unveil a plaque marking the station investment and enjoy presentations by pupils from Padiham Green Primary School. The first was about the history of the station, and the second told the story of a stickleback called 'small fry' that was sucked into the water tank of an engine at Rose Grove and then went on a journey to Manchester and back via the Todmorden Curve (see page 8). Download the children's excellent hand-made book, which can be found on the Citizens' Rail website at www.citizensrail.org/celebrating-burnley-manchester-road/



The Explore East Lancashire marketing campaign (see page 11) will highlight the faster connection as an opportunity to visit the area's attractions. Posters and leaflets supporting the campaign will be displayed at stations between Blackburn and Manchester along with artwork previously produced by pupils from Padiham Green Primary School.

Citizens' Rail Project Manager, Richard Burningham of the Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership said: "The Citizens' Rail partners from France, Germany and the Netherlands, as well as here in the UK, are delighted to have helped make this brilliant transformation of Burnley Manchester Road station a reality".

Alex Hynes, Managing Director for Northern rail comments: "what a fantastic opportunity to celebrate all that has been achieved from a solid partnership approach. Working together with Lancashire County Council, we have promoted a brand new, direct service into Manchester to the communities, towns and villages across Lancashire, which we hope will bring more opportunities than ever to this growing part of our network".

Councillor Mark Townsend, leader of Burnley Council, said: "visitors to Burnley Manchester Road station are predicted to double now the direct service has been established. We're delighted to have a direct service to Manchester from Burnley once again. It will bring clear benefits to our economy in terms of access to the job market and establishing Burnley as a commuter town. It's real milestone in our continuing success story and one we wish to celebrate".

ROSE GROVE REVIVED

Operation Stickleback



..... the story of an adventurous stickleback who chooses to explore East Lancashire via the rail gateway.

The Rose Grove Revived project started back in May 2015 and was an early scheme forming part of the Burnley & Pendle Growth Corridor and was an advance commitment to support the new Todmorden Curve service.

The scheme, which is now complete, included installation of a new shelter, additional seating, CCTV & customer information screens and a ticket vending machine along with improved signage and a CRP branded notice board.

A separate scheme will see improved car parking and an interchange between rail and local buses.

Community Rail Lancashire has also received a grant from the Designated Community Rail Development Fund (DCRDF) to enhance the works at the station with some artwork designed by children from Lowerhouse and Padiham Green primary schools. This work has been centered around the historic aspect of the station and its locomotive shed, that was one of the last to close in 1968 at the end of steam on British Rail.

The children from Padiham Green have developed a story book based on a stickleback being sucked up into an engine's water tender from the Leeds Liverpool Canal that ran behind the shed. The story tells of Small Fry's journey to Manchester via Todmorden and Summit Tunnel. The story has also been made into an animation by local artist Alastair Nicholson and has been uploaded to YouTube and this can be viewed on the Community Rail Lancashire website by visiting the resources pages at: www.communityraillancashire.co.uk/animations-dvds/ or directly on the YouTube website at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mpjarGyG7Do&sns=em>.

Additionally fish inspired artwork is to be installed on the fence at the Burnley end of the platform and a flame-cut steel sculpture will be fixed at the entrance to the station on Rose Grove Lane.

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

www.northernrail.org

www.nationalrail.co.uk

<http://communityrailman.wordpress.com>

www.acorp.uk.com

www.lancashirebus.co.uk

<https://twitter.com/comunityrailman>

www.merseytravel.gov.uk

www.tfgm.com

<http://railramblers.wordpress.com>

www.btp.police.uk

www.dalesrail.com

<http://ribblevalleyrambler.wordpress.com>

www.ribblevalleyrail.co.uk

www.bwdconnect.org.uk

BENTHAM CARNIVAL 2015



This year's Bentham Carnival was held on Saturday 30th May and had a 'Tales of the Riverbank' theme. As usual the station and town were bedecked with vibrant flags and bunting.

Following her morning arrival at Bentham by the scheduled Morecambe to Leeds designated service, Queen Sophie was greeted by regal music from the Boom Bike and given a red-carpet welcome on Platform 1 by the Mayor of Bentham, Tim Stannard, who was weighed down by the wealth of 'bling' hanging on his shoulders. Crowds cheered and applauded her arrival from the platforms and bridge. Local bodyguards were brought in to protect the Carnival Queen during her visit.

Queen Sophie then addressed the residents and visitors thanking them for their warm welcome before declaring the carnival open. Having made her way into the station building with her entourage and many residents, the assembled gathering were entertained with 'Tales of the Riverbank' by the official Town Storyteller, Tim Austen.

The Carnival Queen then made her way into town to participate in the afternoon parade, calling in at local shops and venues along the way. More tales relating to the River Wenning were told throughout the day, all over town.

The Friends of Bentham Station 'pop-up' café appeared once again in the station building and on the platform, (for those who wanted to take in the sun and strong breeze). Gorgeous homemade cakes, lovingly baked and decorated by FOBS members, were served with a variety of drinks. Amongst those partaking of the silver service, provided in FOBS mugs and on Hyacinth Bucket quality paper plates with accompanying patriotic napkins, came from across the North and included tandem riders from Kingston Upon Hull, holidaymakers from Leeds and even some folk from Lancashire. Donations towards FOBS activities at the station were gratefully received.

CLITHEROE BEER FESTIVAL 2015

The Clitheroe Line CRP once again sponsored the festival glasses at CAMRA's annual Clitheroe Beer Festival.

The event took place on 15th & 16th May in the St. Mary's Centre in the centre of town and featured over 70 real ales and ciders.

Brian Haworth can be seen in the photograph with festival organiser Martin Snelling at the opening of the event.



ALL TOGETHER NOW - UPDATE

Since winning the Abellio Challenge the project based on Pleasington station has been looked at in more detail and a plan of action established.

Recycled plastic planters will be sourced and installed at the station. Due to the narrow platforms these will be reusing planters transferred from Mill Hill and will be located to allow people to work on them in a safe environment. The planters will be filled and maintained by Stanley Grange, a voluntary organisation which specialises in working with people of all ages with cerebral palsy, autism and epilepsy.

'The Young Weavers', the children's arm of a local family cycle group, will create a family cycle route between Cherry Tree and Pleasington railway stations which will become a spoke in Blackburn and Darwen's Cycle Wheel project. A map to be displayed at each station using a collage of children's work will be produced. The children's chosen name for the route is the 'Pirates Way'.



Pleasington looking towards Preston

Pleasington is a rather isolated station and is surrounded by mature trees and hedges. The Blackburn bound shelter is hemmed in with young ash saplings and thick scrub. Students from Myerscough Agricultural College will advise and carry out works to modify the landscape sympathetically to encourage wild birds.

Pupils from a local primary school will develop a cut metal sculpture featuring local birds that can be seen in the station environs and design feeders

with a railway theme. A bird identification chart will be installed in the waiting shelters giving waiting passengers the opportunity to engage in some bird spotting whilst waiting for their train in the shelter which doubles as a hide.

Teenagers from Nightsafe, a charity for homeless youth in the Blackburn area, will produce sketches of local bird life which will be made into metal cut-outs and fixed to the station fencing.



EXPLORE EAST LANCASHIRE BY TRAIN

The East Lancashire CRP has published a new leaflet and poster promoting East Lancashire as a destination to visit by train. The leaflet is designed to encourage people to use the new service between Blackburn and Manchester via the recently reinstated Todmorden Curve.



The leaflet gives a history of the route and of the flagship Burnley Manchester Road station.

There is a map of the route and suggestions of places to visit and things to do along the way. Oswaldtwistle Mills, Towneley Hall, Todmorden Market and the Littleborough Co-operative Heritage Trail are just a sample of the things that you might like to visit.

The leaflet can be downloaded from the Community Rail Lancashire website from the resources pages or you can collect the leaflet from staffed stations throughout East Lancashire.

Burnley Manchester Road Station, the Todmorden Curve service and the Marketing publicity have been developed in partnership with the Citizens' Rail Project (Interreg IVB), Lancashire County Council, Burnley Council, the East Lancashire CRP, the Department for Business Innovation & Skills and local train operator Northern Rail.

WALKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

The South Fylde Line CRP Successfully re-launched its series of railway based walks for the summer 2015 season. Around 25 people braved a strong sea breeze and temperatures in the high 20s to walk the St. Anne's Town Trail on 1st July 2015. Locals were joined by people from as far away as Manchester and Southampton to enjoy a guided version of the walk led by CRP chair, Tony Ford.

Lytham & St. Anne's Town Crier Colin Ballard started proceedings off in his own inimitable style and then Tony explained that the reason for the series of walks was to encourage people to come and explore the delights of the Fylde Coast by train and to discover a bit of the history of the area. Tony then led the group around the walk explaining highlights of the town including the uniquely styled Porritt houses, Ashton Gardens, the gory details of the Clifton Family crest and the history of the pier.

Two walks have already been published, the St. Anne's Town Trail and a walk from Lytham station to Ansdell & Fairhaven station via Lytham Hall. Two more walks should be ready for publication later this year a Lytham Town Trail and a coastal walk from Lytham to St. Anne's via Fairhaven Lake.

The development of the walks has been supported by a grant from the Designated Community Rail Development Fund.

BENTHAM LINE JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Leeds, Lancaster & Morecambe (Bentham Line) CRP has a vacancy for a Community Rail Partnership Officer.

This is an exciting, challenging and wide-ranging post for an enthusiastic, confident and self-motivated individual. Based at the Partnership's offices at Bentham station, the post will be focused on engaging with individuals, community groups, local councils and businesses, the train operating company and other key stakeholders, in the promotion and development of the Bentham Line, its train service and stations.

If you think this might be just the job for you, then download the full job outline and the application form from www.communityrail Lancashire.co.uk/news/llmcrp-vacancy-2/. The Closing date for applications is 11th September 2015 with interviews being held before the end of September 2015.

SMALL GRANTS FUND SUCCESSES

Three successful bids have recently been made into ACoRP's Small Grants Fund. The West of Lancashire CRP on behalf of the Friends of Meols Cop (£650), the East Lancashire CRP on behalf of the Friends of Church & Oswaldtwistle and the 'All Together Now' project (£996) and the South Fylde Line CRP (£526) on behalf of the Blackpool South Station Working Group have all had funding agreed for recycled plastic planters.

The recycled planters are being supplied by local Accrington company Ark Plastics Ltd. And will compliment planters already installed on other community rail stations throughout Lancashire.

HELLIFIELD LABYRINTH



Hellifield station has recently seen a piece of artwork in the shape of a finger labyrinth installed on the fence adjacent to café.

The artwork for the labyrinth was done by children from Brookside Primary School in Clitheroe and was originally designed as part of a project about the line between Blackburn and Hellifield. It is hoped to see similar works installed at other stations along the line

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

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Andy Ford, Richard Watts, Brian Haworth, TfGM, Simon Clarke, Alastair Nicholson, Gerald Townson, Network Rail, Northern Rail & Pendle Leisure Trust

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

FRIENDS OF STATIONS

Community Rail Lancashire's Friends of Stations volunteers continue to amaze by the work that they carry out on our stations. Whether it is planting and watering, weeding, litter picking or painting their time is invaluable. Below are some examples of the work that is carried out on both public and disused platforms, car parks and approaches.



Lostock Hall Car Park



Croston disused platform



Lytham disused platform



Lostock Hall



Bentham



Ansdell & Fairhaven



Huncoat

CIVIL SERVICE LIVE

Community Rail Lancashire recently played host to a film team from the Department for Transport, who were making a video to be shown at a series of events called 'Civil Service Live'.

The purpose of the events is for each of the different Government departments to show the others what they do. The DfT is using the video to put across the importance of community rail across the country and wanted to include some of the activities in Lancashire.



The team began at Clitheroe and filmed the start of a guided walk led by the Lancashire rail ramblers. They then moved to Huncoat to capture the sort of work that volunteers do at stations and interviewed Barbara Russell from 'Hands on Huncoat' (see above) about how and why she got involved with her local station.

The team also visited Blackburn and Mill Hill stations to record some of the artwork done by school-children and local youth groups and finished at Pleasington to get some footage of the 'Harrington Hump' that is installed on the east bound platform.

BENTHAM CCTV GOES LIVE

A Designated Community Rail Development Fund (DCRDF) grant has seen the installation of CCTV system at Bentham station. A total of seven cameras are now protecting the outside of the station buildings, car park, platforms and one camera is covering the main internal room. Volunteers from the Friends of Bentham Station and the Lancaster and Skipton Rail Users Group helped with the installation of the system.

The Leeds, Lancaster & Morecambe CRP wanted this project to be a demonstration of how a scheme that would normally be prohibitively expensive, could be achieved a low cost but without losing quality. The project cost a total of £2000 with the main funding coming from the DCRDF along with contributions from Bentham Town Council (precept grant) and the Leeds, Lancaster & Morecambe CRP and volunteer time.

It has been proven that having CCTV helps lift the perception of safety and security for passengers using the station and this in turn helps to increase patronage. Providing security for the staff, volunteers and visitors who use the station buildings will help the CRP build on the already fruitful community involvement at the station and on the route.

There have also been occasions where video evidence would have helped with incidents such as graffiti attacks on shelters and other property. Limited policing in rural areas and the fact that British Transport Police officers are based a distance away in Lancaster is a further factor. Bentham is a larger community with an unstaffed station near to the town centre, and reducing the amount of anti-social behaviour at the station is an ongoing way to keep the cost of recurring maintenance to a minimum.

BLACKBURN - BOLTON ENHANCEMENTS

By the time you are reading this issue of RBTL the work to lengthen the double track section of railway at Darwen station will have been completed.

Funded by the Lancashire Local Enterprise Partnership, Lancashire County Council and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, the improvements will see additional track installed for one mile either side of Darwen Station. This will provide the necessary capacity for a more reliable, frequent service throughout the day between Manchester and Blackburn, with two trains per hour by 2017.

Additional work is also been carried out at other stations on the route funded by contributions from Lancashire County Council, Transport for Greater Manchester and Network Rail's National Station Improvement Programme (NSIP). The work will include the installation of new shelters on the stations between Clitheroe and Blackburn, Customer Information Screens (CIS) at all intermediate stations except Entwistle, repairs to fencing, painting and improved signage. This work is due to be completed by the end of 2015.

Works that have taken place during the blockade include:

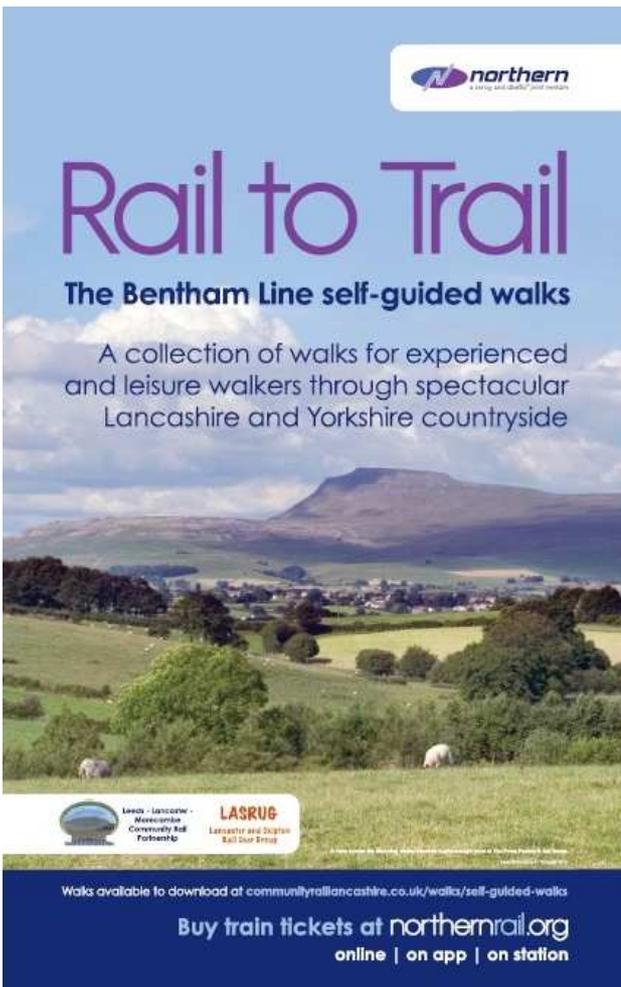
- On average, there has been over 100 people working on site each day since the start of the blockade;
- Works take place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week;
- 48 engineering trains will access the site to unload materials, and take away/dispose of old ballast, sleepers, rail and scrap material;
- 5km of new rail, 7,958 concrete sleepers, 5,782 tonnes of sand and 25,589 tonnes of ballast will be laid;
- 1km of drainage installed;
- 8 new lightweight Dorman signals to be installed;
- 2 x bridge replacements - so the twin track alignment can fit over;
- 90 m retaining wall strengthened - 55nr 12m long soil nails drilled into wall and spray concrete applied;
- 25 km of lineside cable routed;
- 43 Location case/Signals/Telephone civils bases installed; and
- 27 Location Units to be installed throughout site



RAIL TO TRAIL

Rail to Trail is a brand new programme of 12 self-guided walks that has been developed for the Bentham Line by the Leeds, Lancaster & Morecambe CRP in partnership with the Lancaster & Skipton Rail User Group and Northern Rail.

The Rail to The walks link neighbouring stations along the line between Heysham Port and Skipton and it is hoped that people will use the train to travel to their starting point and then walk to the next station. The walks combine into a 68 mile linear walk with the shortest (Morecambe to Bare Lane) being 2.5 miles and the longest (Wennington to Carnforth) being just over 11 miles.



The poster features the Northern Rail logo at the top right. The main title 'Rail to Trail' is in large purple font, with 'The Bentham Line self-guided walks' below it. A descriptive paragraph reads: 'A collection of walks for experienced and leisure walkers through spectacular Lancashire and Yorkshire countryside'. At the bottom, it includes the website 'communityrail.lancashire.co.uk/walks/self-guided-walks', the text 'Buy train tickets at northernrail.org online | on app | on station', and the LASRUG logo.

LLMCRP is grateful to Stuart Ballard for researching the walks and to LASRUG members for testing the walks before publication, Gerald Townson for his hard work in developing his initial idea and preparing the leaflets, and Pete Myers and Abigail Cumberland of Northern Rail for their unstinting support for the project.

These walks in spectacular Lancashire and Yorkshire countryside, follow ancient paths and canals, offering the opportunity to explore the Lune, Wenning, Ribble & Aire valleys and pass through many villages each with their own unique charm and character.

The programme of walks has been designed to appeal both to the experienced walker and to the leisure walker who enjoys a varied but not too demanding walk. The easier walks may be attempted by families with children.

The timing for each of the walks is based on a 'look around and enjoy pace' and allows for a break of 30 minutes. All walks end where there are refreshment facilities available. It is possible to combine many of the neighbouring walks to make a longer day.

BLINK AND YOU WILL MISS IT



Rare images of actual physical work being carried out by our two Community Rail Development Officers

MEOLS COP BID SUCCESS

The West of Lancashire CRP, on behalf of the Friends of Meols Cop Station, has been successful in bidding for funding from ACoRP's Small Grant Fund worth £650, to support a project to replace the existing planters on the station platform.

The project will see 3 existing, life-expired wooden planters on the station platform replaced with new vandal-resistant, recycled plastic planters that meet Network Rail standards, filled with soil and stock with bedding and perennial plants.



A similar recycled plastic planter in place at Huncoat station

The Friends of Meols Cop Station are active members of the West of Lancashire Community Rail Partnership. The aim of the Friends Group is to make the station attract passengers and to serve as a community asset by involving and educating different parts of the community in creating a green and pleasant environment.

The original planters were acquired 5 years ago second hand from Bellway Homes and were of cheap, softwood construction never intended for long term planting. Despite maintenance and extensive repairs they are now rotting badly. Many users of the station say they do not mind the often lengthy wait for a train because it is a pleasant and tranquil place to sit (during day time when the weather is good). Feedback proves it has encouraged train usage.

It will also encourage greater involvement of local community groups. The local primary school and Guides Group have both contributed to the upkeep and planting on the station. That school now uses the train as preferred method of transport when taking groups of pupils on town centre visits.

CONTACT DETAILS

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COLNE RHYTHM & BLUES FESTIVAL

The Legacy Continues...
4 Days of Live Music 8 Official Venues 1 Great Festival

26 YEARS

THE GREAT BRITISH R&B FESTIVAL COLNE & LANCS 28 - 31 AUGUST 2015

Artists:
Coco Montoya
Nikki Hill
Davina and the Vagabonds
Avery Sunshine
Courtney Pine
Tommy Castro
Anson Funderburgh
Billy Boy Arnold
Nine Below Zero
The Blues Band
Vanesse Thomas
Eugene Hideaway
Bridges
Climax Blues Band
Plus many more!

Ticket Prices:		Saturday 29 August	£38
Full Festival Ticket	£127	Sunday 30 August	£38
Friday 28 August	£27.50	Monday 31 August	£33.50

Tickets: 01282 661234 WWW.BLUESFESTIVAL.CO.UK
TICKETLINE: 0844 8884406 WWW.TICKETLINE.CO.UK

COACH HOUSE
Matthew Clark

Colne's Great British Blues Festival is in its 26th year and the East Lancashire CRP has for the last 10 years sponsored the event to the tune of £2000 a year. The festival is the countries biggest of its type, and takes place over the August bank holiday weekend in Colne town centre. ELCRP in partnership with Northern Rail will once again be running a music & ale train on the Friday evening, with music by Matt Walklate (harmonica) & Paolo Fuschi (guitar) and arriving into Colne in time to see Pat McManus start the festival on the International Stage.

Northern Rail have also been able to secure the traditional late and additional trains and these will leave Colne as follows: Fri 28th 00:02 (Sat), Sat 29th 23:56 & Sun 23:30 - all the late trains will call at Nelson, Burnley Central, Accrington, Blackburn and Preston.

Visit the festival website at www.bluesfestival.co.uk to check the full line up across the 8 official venues throughout Colne and to see ticket prices.