

RIBBLE VALLEY RAILNews



Number 113



**July
2016**

Langho in Bloom

A recently formed group 'Langho in Bloom' have very quickly established themselves in the village and transformed some of the grot spots, in particular in the area surrounding the railway station.

The group have also worked with the Friends of Langho station on the station approach in particular around the underpass and station garden area and made a noticeable difference to the areas enhancing the passenger experience.

Planting adjacent to subway at Langho station carried out by Langho in Bloom.

Photo: Brian Haworth



The group, with permission from Network Rail have also removed overhanging bushes from the embankment close to the railway bridge and planted the area with plants that will give some colour to the embankment next year. It is brilliant to work in partnership with such a dedicated group and members of Friends of Langho Station would like to record our appreciation of the work so far carried out with 'Langho in Bloom' and look forward to continued partnership working.



Embankment cleared of scrub & awaiting planting.

Photo: Brian Haworth

From the Chair

July 2016

Travelling along the Ribble Valley Line passengers cannot help but be impressed by the colourful displays in the flowers tubs at Clitheroe, Whalley, Langho, Wilpshire and Darwen. These flowers do not suddenly appear, it is down to the hard work undertaken by the Friends of Stations groups along the line who undertake the planting and upkeep of the flower tubs.

We are very fortunate to have the help of the Whalley in Bloom and the recently formed Langho in Bloom groups who have been assisting us at their local stations. Ribble Valley Rail are very grateful to Wilpshire, Langho and Whalley Parish Councils and Clitheroe Town Council for their generous contributions towards the purchase of the plants. We are currently looking for volunteers, who live within a 5-mile radius of Darwen Station, to help us with the upkeep of the station.

Friends of Station groups are high on the agenda of the new rail franchisee Arriva Rail North. They are looking to move from single station adopters to groups of volunteers at stations. As you are aware since the re-opening of the line in 1994 we have had Friends of Station groups along our line so we are one step ahead.

June 11th was the day that the railways celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday through the Station-to-Station events. The main events in our area were at Accrington and Blackburn Stations, with RVR being actively involved at Blackburn.

Committee member Ian Tingle, monitors performance on the line on a monthly basis. May was a poor month with cancellations being the worst for 2016. Out of the ten cancellations from Clitheroe five were turned short and restarted at Blackburn. The causes included unit faults, trespass, and issues with train crew and animals on the line. Any cancellation means delay and frustration for passengers who if it is too frequent revert to other forms of transport. We must continue to work to improve the services on our line to maintain our current passenger levels.

Marjorie Birch

Cover photo:

Class 156 156472 crests Cemetery Hill heading a Manchester/Clitheroe service towards Ramsgreave and Wilpshire station.

Photo: Brian Haworth

New Northern Franchise

On 1st April 2016 Arriva Rail North started operating the new Northern rail franchise. The franchise will see £1bn being invested to drive improvements and transform rail travel in the north of England.

Arriva are looking to deliver a transformational change for their customers and want Northern to be the communities' local railway and most of all, to leave a lasting legacy for the north of England

What changes are we likely to see over the next few years:

- 2016 to 2018 – existing trains will be refurbished;
- 2017 to 2019 – 2000 extra services will be introduced;
- 2018 to 2019 – brand new state of the art 100 mph trains introduced;
- During 2018 – free on board WiFi on all new and refurbished trains;
- During 2019 – launch of 'Northern Connect' – 12 enhanced routes linking major cities of the north
- During 2019 – 37% increase in capacity

For more details of the new franchisees and train times and tickets visit www.northernrailway.co.uk

Clitheroe Beer Festival

For the second year on the run Ribble Valley Rail sponsored a barrel of ale at the annual Clitheroe Beer Festival. This very popular festival is run by The East Lancashire branch of CAMRA and attracts beer lovers from a large area, many of whom travel in to Clitheroe by rail on the Ribble Valley Line.



Brian Haworth and Catherine Snelling, Festival Organiser.

Community Rail Lancashire has sponsored the glasses at the festival for a number of years and Ribble Valley Rail are pleased to work with CRL to help promote use of the local railway as a safe and environmental way to travel to the festival.

For the record Ribble Valley Rail sponsored a barrel of Single Blond brewed by Tynebank brewery from Newcastle. The CAMRA tasting notes described it thus; "The single malt and hop combination produces a light ale with a pleasing slightly dry bitterness. Its vanilla and herbal flavours compliment the delicate floral fruit aroma of this pleasing blonde" Having sampled the brew on my visit to the festival I can confirm that it was a "reet good pint!"

Photo: CAMRA

Brian Haworth

Station to Station – Celebrating the Queen’s 90th Birthday

Saturday 11th June saw eight committee members of Ribble Valley Rail travel to Blackburn Station to be involved in the Queen’s 90th birthday event. We set up our stall, which had membership forms, past issues of RVRNews, CRL celebration rock and some goodies from Northern to give out to passengers moving through the station. We had a busy and successful morning with many people showing an interest in RVR. Blackburn People’s Choir performed and the station was the destination for walks and cycling activities organized by Blackburn with Darwen.

Craig Harrop, our Customer Services Manager and Joan Nixon, Station Manager were responsible for providing the refreshments. During the morning the Mayor of Blackburn with Darwen Councillor Hussain Akhtar and his wife visited the event. They expressed their thanks to the work of the many volunteers involved in organizing the celebrations.

Marjorie Birch



Members of Ribble Valley Rail pose for the camera at an event to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday at Blackburn station. *Photo: Craig Harrop*

RVRNews Archive Online

A reminder that recent editions of RVRNews have been added to the newsletter pages on the Community Rail Lancashire website. Editions from 101 to 112 have been uploaded to the site and can be viewed by visiting the resources section on the website or directly by using the following address: www.communityraillancashire.co.uk/rvr.

Women in Community Rail (WiCR)

A forward thinking vibrant new group has been established in the community rail world. Women in Community Rail, whose aims include promoting and supporting inclusiveness and diversity in Community Rail, was officially launched with an exclusive event at Manchester Victoria station on Thursday 30th June.

Endorsed by the Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP), **Women in Community Rail (WiCR)** was established earlier this year; its ambition is to get more people from all backgrounds involved in Community Rail, making it more reflective of the customers and communities served by local railways. The group aims to create a mentoring network for people throughout the industry; share best practice, knowledge and expertise; and encourage young people to get involved with Community Rail.

Marion Atkinson, Chair of Women in Community Rail, said: "I am absolutely delighted with the support we have received so far from industry partners. It's clear from the enthusiasm shown this is something that is not only needed but valued by partners"

Guests at the launch event heard an inspiring keynote address from Kathryn O'Brien, Customer Experience Director for train company, TransPennine Express (TPE) who said "I am thrilled to have had the chance to speak at the official launch of the Women in Community Rail Group (WiCR). I am delighted to be a member of WiCR and know that the group will play a pivotal part in encouraging more people into the world of community rail."

Jan Chaudhry-van der Velde (Managing Director, Merseyrail) and Dr Karen Booth (Interim Communities and Sustainability Director, Northern) also gave heart felt supporting speeches.

Afterwards the 60 or so guests were entertained by the TransPennine Express Choir, who performed a number of songs on the station concourse whilst guests enjoyed lunch.



Marge Birch, Brian Haworth and James Syson listen to the speaker at the launch event for Women in Community Rail at Manchester Victoria.

Photo: Courtesy Virgin Trains

Daisyfield Coal Yard

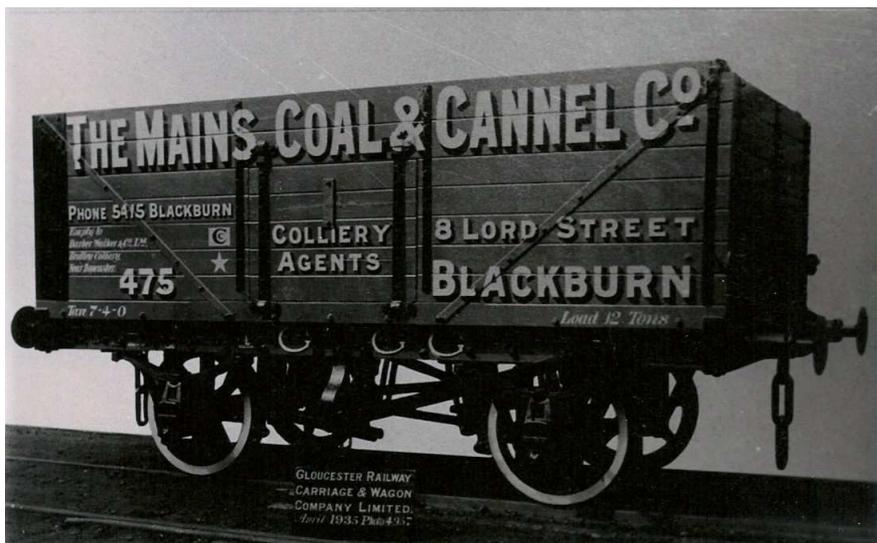
One of the lesser known railway Coal yards on the Ribble Valley Line was that owned by The Clifton and Kearsley Coal Company (C&KCC) adjacent to Daisyfield station.

The Clifton and Kearsley Coal Company was formed in 1867 at Clifton near Manchester and in 1929 became part of The Manchester Collieries Company Ltd... Situated two miles and 6 chains from Wilpshire and 12 chains from Daisyfield the sidings were controlled by Daisyfield Station Cabin. An agreement was first set up on the 24th June 1875 between C&KCC and the LYR which set out the boundaries and areas of control. Point connections were maintained by the LYR at the cost of the C&KCC. Sidings were maintained by and at the cost of the C&KCC. Signal and necessary apparatus maintained by the LYR at the cost of the C&KCC.

Situated on the left of the Clitheroe bound track immediately after the level crossing the yard contained four sidings fanning out from a manual wagon turntable and connected to both up and down main line. In later years the C&KCC was taken over and became The Manchester Collieries Company Ltd.

The coal yard was situated adjacent to the bowling green which was at the rear of the Florence public house, one of local Brewers Daniel Thwaites houses. The bowling green has long gone although the pub still survives and an old peoples home stands on the site of the coal yard.

Brian Haworth



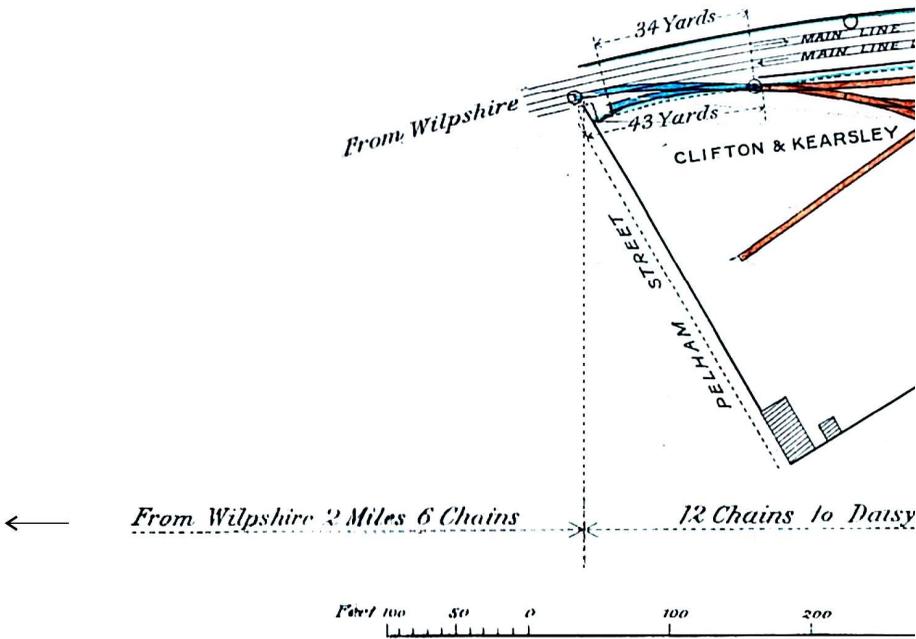
A seven plank private owner coal wagon of the type that would have been regularly seen at Daisyfield Yard. *Photo: Brian Haworth collection.*

New Manchester

CLIFTON AND

Reproduction:

© B. Haworth / N. Kirby



REFERENCE

Connection maintained by L. & Y. R. Co. at
Sidings maintained by and at the cost of
L. & Y. R. Co.'s Boundary
Signals and necessary apparatus maintained
Kearsley Coal Co. Ld.
Leverage—Daisyfield Station Cabin, Clifton

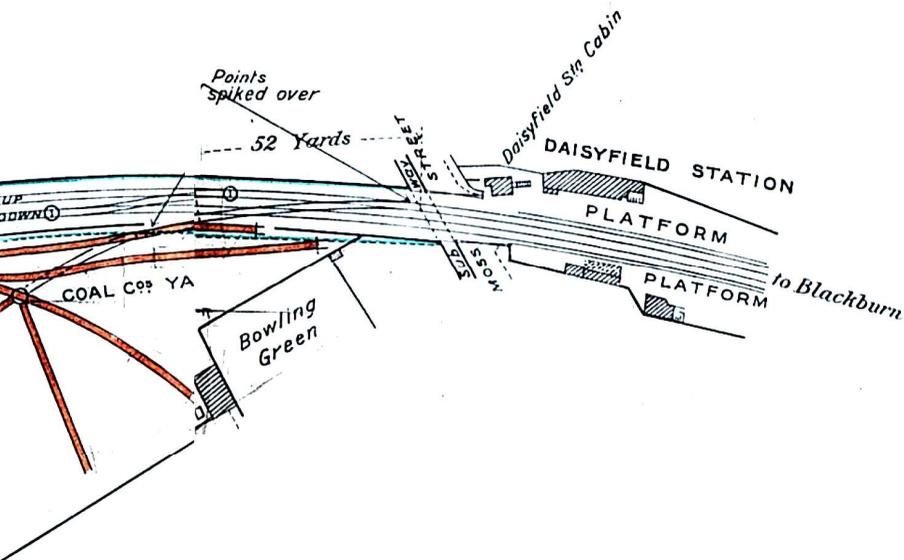
L. & Y. R.

Collieries

KEARSLEY COAL CO.'S (LD) SIDINGS

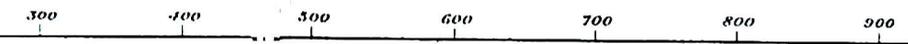
AT

DAISYFIELD



Daisyfield →

Scale 2 Chai to an Inch



the cost of Clifton & Kearsley Coal Co. Ld. coloured 77 Yards
 Clifton & Kearsley Coal Co. Ld. " "
 by L. & Y. R. Co. at the cost of Clifton & " "

Clifton & Kearsley Coal Co. Ld., 4½/15

Infrastructure News

A busy period with trackworks just beyond Horrocksford and on Cob Wall Viaduct being carried out. Tree pruning has also been carried out in several areas.

Bridge 15 'Ellwoods' occupational bridge at Wilpshire has been taken out of use, filled and blocked up. The two views (taken in January 2016) show that it had become a magnet for anti-social behaviour and is no longer required when the nearby crossing was closed and a new access road built for the two cottages the crossing served.



Two views of bridge 15 taken days before closure.

Photos: Brian Haworth

As part of the work taking place to eventually reduce congestion at Manchester Victoria many services will run through to points beyond Victoria and the proposal is for Clitheroe services to run through to Rochdale.

To facilitate this work to reinstate the old bay platform at Rochdale has been going on for a number of months and is now nearing completion.

Works taking place at Rochdale to facilitate new terminating platform May 2016.

Photo: Brian Haworth



On The Line

Early in February a landslip at Eden's Brow just North of Armathwaite effectively closed the through route to Carlisle. The impact on the Ribble Valley Line has seen several scheduled freight services diverted on to the West Coast Main Line and the new seasons DalesRail service will see bustitution from Appleby.

On 9/2 2N59 was cancelled at Blackburn after a 63 minute late arrival .The following day 2N59 was again cancelled at Blackburn. On 11/2 66069 was in charge of 6C38 the Gypsum service.

On 12/2 37604 worked 3Q01 a Network Rail test train. A couple of infrastructure trains were noted with 66952 6Y94 on 13/2, 66421/66548 on 6Y95. On 16/2 66167 was noted in charge of the London cement working 6M90.The following day so the Scottish cement diverted to run via Blackburn with 66104 in charge. Later in the day 66181 was noted on the gypsum. On 17/2 the Scottish cement was diverted via Blackburn with 66104 in charge. On 20/2 66148 was paired with 66015 heading 6L91 and 66544/66524 on 6Y60, both infrastructure services. The following day saw 66004 paired with 66148 on a similar working running as 6L46. Later on 21/2 2N51 the 19:51 service to Clitheroe and its return diagram were cancelled due to a signal failure in the Manchester area.

On 22/2 142001 was paired with 153332 on 2J54. The following day 23/2 2N51 the 06:44 service to Clitheroe and its return working was cancelled due to an engineering overrun in the Darwen area. On 23/2 66167 was on the Avonmouth cement service and sister loco 66098 was in charge of the gypsum. On 24/2 142022 was paired with 153328 on 2J54.

Class 66 66011 worked the Avonmouth cement on the 1/3 and the following day saw 66172 on the gypsum. On 4/3 2N55 to Clitheroe and its return diagram was cancelled at Man Oxford Road.

On 5/3 57310 was noted in the company of 57312 heading 1Z30 a Northern Belle Crewe circular excursion. Later in the day infrastructure trains ran from Basford Hall to Horrocksford in connection with track renewal just beyond Horrocksford. Noted were 66060/66051 6T52, 66035 6T53 And 66118 6T54. The following day saw 66564 6Y54, 66518/66553 6Y55 and 66511 6Y69

On 7/3 142044 was paired with 153301 on 2J54. Again later in the evening engineers infrastructure trains ran with 66564/66525 on 6Y56 and 66511 on 6Y69 and on the following day, the 8th 66623 6Y65, ,66957 6Y66, 66511 6Y69, 66549/66547 6Y69 all infrastructure service and 66082 Avonmouth cement, 66126 gypsum a busy day! 9/3 saw another busy day with 66524 on 6Y67, 66561, 6Y68, 66547/66549 6Y69.

On 10/3 66547 headed 6Y69 and 66513 6Y70. Also on 10/3 2N55 was terminated at Blackburn after a 57 minute late arrival due to animals on the track at Stockport. On 12/3 2N52 the 20:51 service to Clitheroe and its return working was cancelled at Man Vic due to unavailability of a conductor. On 13/3 66511/66510 headed 6Y63 A Hellifield/Basford Hall infrastructure service. Class 66 66750 was noted on the gypsum on the 15/3 and 66007 on the Avonmouth cement later in the day.

On 20/3 66956 was paired with 66544 running as 6Y51. On 23/3 66553/66510 worked 6Y50 and 142047 was paired with 153331 on 2J54. The following day saw 2J54 cancelled at Blackburn due to 156461 failing at Blackburn. On 27/3 2J54 was again cancelled this time at Clitheroe with break issues on 150214. Classmate 150111 running as 5J56 rescued it but ran empty stock to Blackburn where it then ran as normal back to Manchester. On 28/3 AND 29/3. 2J54 was again cancelled for reasons not known. A new freight working was noted on 29/3 when 66754 worked 6M33 Arcow Quarry/Pendleton.

The first service under the new Northern franchise saw 150136 paired with 150272 on the first morning service out of Clitheroe on 1/4/2016. The following day saw disruption on the RVR line due to signal problems between Deansgate and Salford Crescent, 2N55 the 08:50 service to Clitheroe and 2J54 its return diagram was cancelled. A pattern emerged for the first service of the day from Clitheroe with a regular 156/153 pairing during April. On 9/4 2N55 the 16:03 Man Vic/Clitheroe was terminated at Blackburn due to a unit fault. On 12/4 2N57 the 09:03 Man Vic/Clitheroe was terminated at Blackburn due to signalling issues at Daisyfield. Later in the day 66704 was noted on the Gypsum running as 4C38. The following day 13/4 saw 66951 paired with 66513 heading 6Y66 a infrastructure service, 66704 Gypsum (empties), 66703 Gypsum (loaded).



Class 156, 156420 approaches Primrose Viaduct on a Clitheroe – Manchester Victoria service.
Photo: Brian Haworth

On 18/4 142051 was paired with 153351 working 2J54 (Slowly!) On 23/4 57316/57314 (top and tailed) worked 1Z15 a Milton Keynes excursion north in the morning returning south in the early evening. On 26/4 66117 was on the Avonmouth cement with 66150 in charge on the 29th and 66082 on the 30th. On 5/5 2N58 the 17:03 to Clitheroe was cancelled at Salford due to a seriously ill passenger requiring medical attention. On 9/5 150132 worked 2J52 solo and this happened again on the 12/5 when 156421 was rostered to the same working resulting in overcrowding beyond Darwen.

On 14/5 57601/47851 top and tailed 1Z66 a Hereford/Appleby excursion returning south later in the evening. On 16/5 2N51 the 12:03 to Clitheroe was terminated at Blackburn after arriving 32 minutes late due to a unit fault. On 19/5 66197 was in charge of the Avonmouth cement. On 17/5 2J52 was again short formed with 150142 working the service solo.

On 21/5 66109/66114 headed a ballast service north running as 6L46. 2J52 was again worked solo on 25/5 with 156461 in charge. On 29/5 2N55 the 16:03 Man Vic/Clitheroe was cancelled at Manchester.

On 3/6 2N54 the 22.51 service to Clitheroe was cancelled. The following day saw the 07:29 service from Clitheroe cancelled at Clitheroe due to a flock of sheep on the line in the Primrose area. This incident affected several services throughout the morning. Later on the 4th June 66021/66108 worked a civils train both north to Kirkby Stephen and back south.

On 6/6 142044 was paired with 156441 on 2J52. The following day 7/6 2N54 the 22:51 to Clitheroe was cancelled at Manchester and a bus replacement service put on. On 9/6 142029 was paired with 150142 on 2J54. 12th June was a bad day with several cancellations caused by staffing issues and track circuit issues. On 14/6 142033 was paired with 153324 on 2J52. On 17/6 2N55 the 07:28 Hazel Grove/Clitheroe and its return working 2J54 were cancelled due to failure of unit 156426.

On 23/6 2N54 was terminated at Blackburn after a late arrival due to an incident at Bromley Cross. The following day 2N59 was terminated at Blackburn due to an operational incident.

On 27/6 early morning trains were disrupted when the early turn signaller failed to turn up at Horrocksford Box. The first service had turned at Horrocksford under control of the night signaller who had then come off duty leaving the unit stuck at Clitheroe. Major delays ensued. The 06:20 2N50 was cancelled at Blackburn as was the following service 2N51 (06:44) road transport was requested. 2N53 the 07:47 to Clitheroe departed Blackburn 24 mins late with 150143 in charge. The unit trapped at Clitheroe eventually left at 08:15 working all stations to Man Vic with 156471 paired with 153378. The second service of the day from Clitheroe was 2J50 which departed Clitheroe 16 mins late with 156468 in charge. On 28/6 156424 worked 2J52 solo which made this a very crowded service with passengers unable to board at Hall 'l' Th' Wood.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS & DIARY DATES 2016

Mon 8 Aug	RVR Meeting New Inn, Clitheroe	19:30
Mon 5 Sep	RVR Meeting New Inn, Clitheroe	19:30
Mon 3 Oct	RVR Meeting New Inn, Clitheroe	19:30
Mon 7 Nov	RVR Meeting New Inn, Clitheroe	19:30
Mon 5 Dec	RVR Meeting New Inn, Clitheroe	19:30

**Non-committee members are welcome to attend
but will not be allowed to vote.**

RVR WHO'S WHO & OTHER USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Hon Life Vice-Presidents: Alan & Sheila Kay	01254 826435
Chairman: Marjorie Birch	01200 441549
Hon Sec: Peter Eastham	01254 240830
Hon Treasurer: David J Butterworth	01200 425750
Membership Sec: Bill Briggs	01254 854474
55 Bank Head Lane, Hoghton, Preston, PR5 0AB	

RVRNews Co-ordinator: Simon Clarke 07399 563599 / 01254 885996
email: simon.clarke57@talktalk.net

FoS Co-ordinator: Brian Haworth 01254 247844
brian.haworth@talktalk.net **or contact via:**
Community Rail Lancashire: 07887 831129 / 01254 386579
Accrington Station, Eagle Street,
Accrington, Lancs BB5 1LJ email: brian.haworth@lancashire.gov.uk

FoR&WS: Ken Roberts	01254 264772
FoL: Peter Eastham	01254 240830
FoWS: Alan Bowles	01254 823331
FoCS: Gordon Wilson	01200 426214

RVRWebsite & RVRNews Layout: N. Kirby

BT Police: Railwatch Freephone	0800 405040
Network Rail National Helpline	08457 114141
Clitheroe Integrated Transport Facility Control Room	01200 429832
Northern Rail Customer Helpline	0800 200 6060

RVR website: www.ribblevalleyrail.co.uk
Community Rail Partnership Website: www.communityraillancashire.co.uk



New tool storage bench in position at Langho.

Photo: Simon Clarke



New tool storage bench in position at Huncoat.

THEN



Courtesy LYRS

View of Blackburn station in the 1960s

NOW



Brian Haworth

View of Blackburn station June 2016