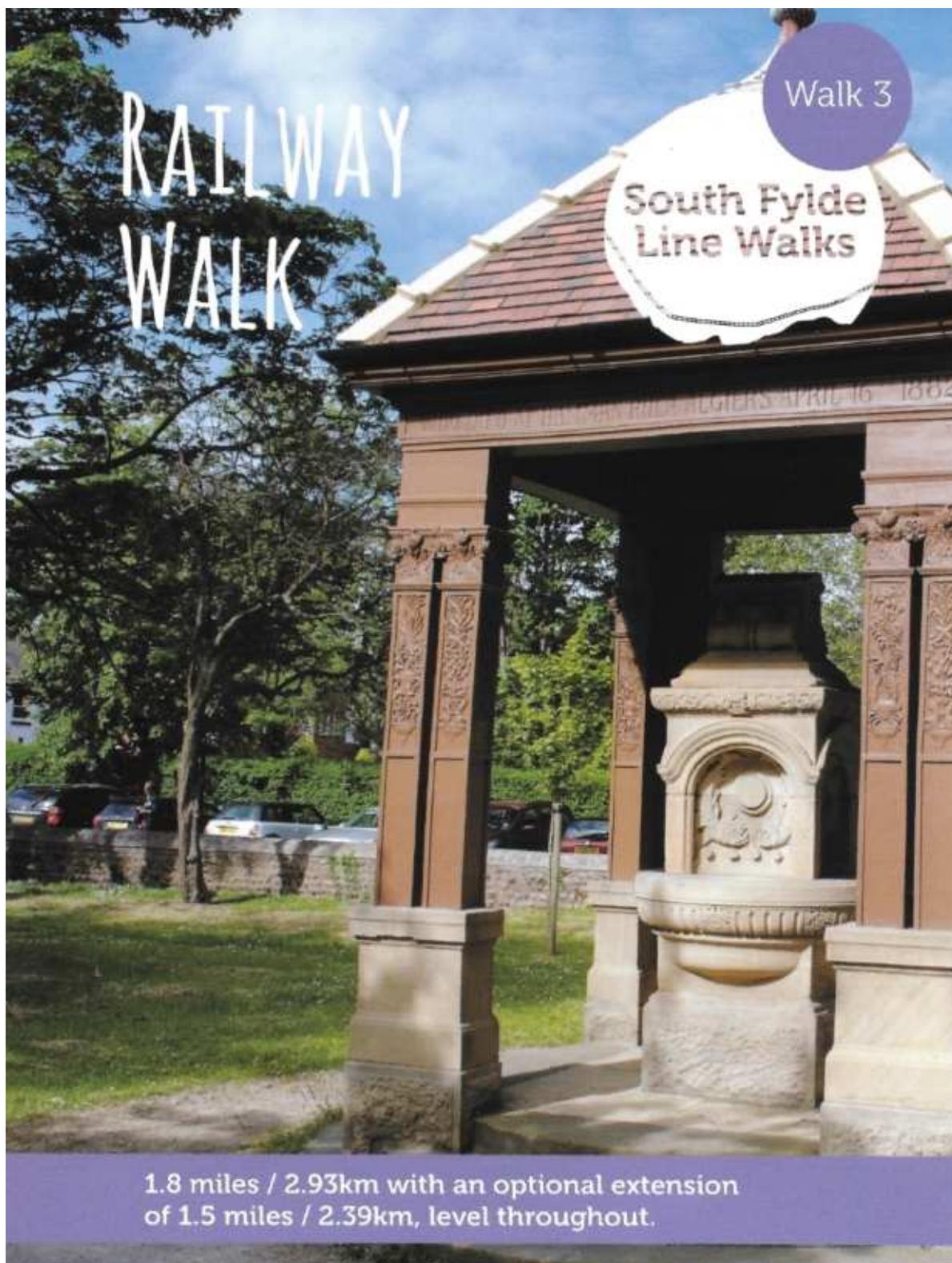


READING BETWEEN THE LINES

THE NEWSLETTER OF LANCASHIRE'S COMMUNITY RAILWAYS

ISSUE 27

AUGUST 2017



The front cover of the latest self-guided walk for the South Fylde Line

CRL

Community Rail Lancashire

NOTES FROM THE BUNKER

Introduction

Welcome to the new edition of Reading Between The Lines which is full of the inspirational work being carried out by our four dedicated community rail staff, occasionally managed by yours truly and of course the army of volunteers across the county. There is a lot going on which becomes very evident as you look through this edition. On the horizon we have the Community Rail Awards on the 5th October which I always approach with trepidation but as you will read we have six shortlisted entries. The DfT are planning to consult on a new community rail strategy later this year - the consultation launch may take place at an undisclosed location not a million miles from the bunker! This will be your opportunity to help reshape and modernise the strategy. More about this when the consultation is launched – possibly a special RBTL will be issued! Then there is, what is rapidly becoming an annual DfT event, yes the aptly named 'Community Rail Marketplace' which takes place in the august setting of the bunker at Great Minster House, London! The format this year is slightly different with the expanded team at ACoRP taking a much more central role. Then there is the annual Northern community rail conference planned, while I am on leave, for the 25th September. Two members of the CRL team will be leading workshops at this event – sign up early on the day to avoid disappointment!

As I write this CRL has just said goodbye to its latest student who has spent two weeks with us learning about community rail and the rail industry. The inspiration for this has come from Emily who has developed links with a number of universities and colleges across Lancashire.



Matthew with ACoRP's Ian Davis and Brian from CRL

As you will see later on a group of students from Lancaster University staged a community rail in the city event at Preston. CRL will shortly be hosting Northern's latest apprentices and students doing a year in industry. It is good to see young people taking such an interest in the railway and wanting to make a career in it and also they bring new ideas and perspectives to the bunker.

www.communityraillancashire.co.uk

So readers, I wonder how many of you regularly look at the CRL website to see the ideas Simon puts into the item 'Something for the Weekend'? If so are you inspired to use one of our community rail lines to take part in the various activities and events? If you happened to read the ideas for the weekend of the 19th and 20th August you will have spotted an event in Preston called 'Feast for Peace'. If you had joined a train to Preston to visit this, not only would you have enjoyed some good food and music but you would have seen me in my chef's gear helping make flat breads that were used by a group of Syrian refugees in the food they were cooking for this event. Community Rail is much more than just about railways, units and PPMs. Community Rail brings people together so we can help and learn from each other. Increasingly important in our ever more dysfunctional world.

NOTES FROM THE BUNKER

www.dalesrail.com

Are you keen to keep fit? If the answer is yes have you taken part in one of the **DalesRail** guided walks? If you haven't then you are missing the opportunity for great day out, in convivial company, taking you to some of the best scenery in England. DalesRail offers the largest programme of guided walks anywhere in the country and is delivered free of charge by the volunteer walk leaders of the Lancashire Rail Ramblers group. The present season runs until Sunday 10th September and is then replaced by the weekly Ribble Valley Rambler service which connects with Settle Carlisle trains at Hellifield (this is normally a train but is apt to become a bus when Network Rail want to dig bits of track up which they have been doing across the region for some considerable time). Check the website for details.



Spectacular scenery - Pen-yhent from Horton in Ribblesdale station on the 6th August, 2017

Staying with the active theme CRL also offers a guided walk programme on the East Lancashire and Clitheroe lines. We have also developed a series of very attractive self-guide walk leaflets starting from stations along the South Fylde Line in association with the South Fylde Line CRP. Then there is the linear walk that has been developed by the Bentham Line CRP which takes you from Morecambe all the way to (now where has it got to this week Gerald?). Again attractive leaflets describe the walks in detail. There is no reason to sit at home when there is so much to see and do simply by using the train, picking up a map and walking stick and striding across the fields, hills and mountains of Lancashire (and dare I say Yorkshire). All the details are of course to be found at www.communityraillancashire.co.uk.

Blackburn station – a wonderful (but currently wasted) opportunity

Thinking of stations CRL was lucky to bid for and receive a seed corn grant from ComREG (Community Rail Executive Group) to commission a master plan for Blackburn station. Blackburn station offers considerable opportunities for development but there are large areas of the grade II listed station building that are in a very poor state of repair. It is hoped that Northern will convene a project group to help take this forward. Read more about this project further on in this edition of RBTL.

NOTES FROM THE BUNKER

Burscough Bridge Interchange (BBI) – a new lease of life?

It was very sad that Lancashire County Council closed the wonderful interchange at Burscough Bridge station. The staff had developed an enviable reputation as a source of accurate information about rail travel, fares and much, much more. However, budget cuts led to the closure of this facility and so the process of finding a new user started. At the time of writing it is looking increasingly likely that Burscough Parish Council may take it over and develop it for a variety of community uses. I wish them good fortune in this venture and sincerely hope they can take over and make a success of running it. It is certainly a lovely building! I have personal reasons for saying that which I am sure some of you will be aware of.



<https://downtheline.org.uk/>

If you haven't looked at our new site now is your chance. Down the Line was the inspiration of Brian Hawthorn on one of his holidays in Ireland. The site is aimed at CRPs, train operators, teachers or indeed anyone with a passion for working with children and wanting to introduce them to the railway. Take a look you won't be disappointed and you will hopefully be inspired. The team are constantly working to change and improve the content and to add to it the work you do with school children of whatever age. Time to get involved?

Railway Confidence Programme (RCP)

I am perhaps becoming more aware of the growing issues within society at large as one of the CRL team is developing the **Railway Confidence Programme** in partnership with Arriva, ACoRP and the BTP. It brings home to me that whilst I can confidently use the railway, sometimes overconfidently (but that is another story) there are many who find it very daunting for a variety of reasons. The railway is good at making the system complicated. Just as a simple example, try using Preston station when Northern staff are on the bridge to platforms 1 & 2 and Virgin staff barrier the ramp to platforms 3 & 4 as well as the subway up to the same platforms. I have heard many passengers complaining that they have to show their tickets 3 or 4 times simply to get to the toilets! Sensible - of course not. This is a simple example of a physical barrier created by the railway that makes the station very unwelcoming. Think what these barriers might mean to someone with mental health issues or suffering from dementia. The Bentham Line CRP is developing its dementia friendly stations project. Back to Preston perhaps there is a balance to be struck between revenue protection and making the station a welcoming place to use?

NOTES FROM THE BUNKER

Strikes

Is there ever a good time to pen notes from the Bunker? As I write this the RMT have just announced another 2 days of strikes on Northern which will make 8 days in total so far. Unfortunately, our community rail lines have been low down in the priority list for the trains that are operated on strike days. Despite strenuous efforts there is still no peak service between Blackburn and Manchester. I would have thought it was obvious there was a need for at least one peak service but no Blackburn has to make do with buses to Bolton on a line that carries well over 1.5m passengers a year. That is, of course before looking at the sadder situation on the West Lancashire and South Fylde lines. Again, the portents are that dispute will rumble on for some time - on Southern it is now over 16 months with no obvious end in sight.

Blackburn Station Masterplan

Community Rail Lancashire (CRL), in partnership with the East Lancashire & Clitheroe Line Community Rail Partnerships and Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council, was successful in securing a seed corn grant of £20,000 from ComREG (Community Rail Executive Group) to support the development of a masterplan for Blackburn railway station.

The station is one of the key gateways to Preston and Greater Manchester city regions and the busiest in East Lancashire. Although considerable investment has been made in recent years significantly improving many of the passenger facilities, these have been somewhat disjointed in their approach to the overall operation and function of the station – in particular the location of the booking office. However, the listed station building has significant redundant space that could, with suitable development, significantly enhance the station and contribute to the regeneration of Blackburn's Cathedral Quarter. The masterplan seeks to collate and understand the various operational, social and economic constraints and opportunities as a holistic approach to maximising the stations potential.



One of the dilapidated rooms in the disused side of Blackburn station

Operationally, a reconfiguration of the station entrance to incorporate a relocated booking office would benefit the future aspirations of the TOC and revenue protection issues. The station sits within the upcoming Cathedral Quarter, a newly developed area around the station and benefits from its proximity to town centre activities. Social and economic opportunities exist for the reuse of large areas of redundant internal spaces within the station building which can also take advantage of the canopied area to the front of the building. Exploiting these opportunities will be of commercial value to Northern as well as supporting the on-going regeneration of Blackburn's Cathedral Quarter. Such opportunities will help increase the importance of the station within the town.

Richard Watts, November 2016

Views expressed are mine and not necessarily those of Community Rail Lancashire Ltd.

TIMES ARE CHANGING

Train Times are changing

Recently CRL took part in the consultation on the new timetables starting in May 2018. To use the jargon this is TSR2 - (TSR = train service requirement) and is running about 6 months late due to delays in the NW electrification scheme and the cascade of rolling stock from other TOCs to Northern. I suspect the Northern refurbishment programme is also running a bit late as they rectify the many problems to be found on the class 150, 156 and 158 units. None of which are in the first flush of youth! However, the good news is that all of our community rail lines will see improvements as set out below:

From December 2017 the headlines are

- That on weekdays the Blackburn to Manchester service becomes half hourly for most of the day - making full use of the Darwen Loop with near, or indeed, clock face departures from Blackburn and Manchester.
- The Sunday Preston to Colne all stations service becomes hourly.

From May 2018 the headlines are

- On weekdays a new pattern of service is introduced on the Colne, Blackpool South and Ormskirk lines. The new pattern allows Ormskirk to gain an hourly clock face timetable but it breaks the through Colne to Blackpool South direct link. Trains will operate as follows: Colne to Preston, Preston to Ormskirk, Ormskirk to Blackpool South and Blackpool South to Colne via Preston. For passengers travelling from East Lancashire to Blackpool South there will be a 13 minutes connection at Preston which will be needed as the Colne train will use platform 3C before going on to Ormskirk and the Blackpool South train will depart from platform 1. Is there a case for clearer signing to help people get between the two platforms at Preston?
- The hourly Ormskirk service will certainly help people remember the timetable and provides a link right into the heart of Liverpool. On the plus side those travelling to London, Glasgow and Edinburgh will have good connections from Ormskirk on the downside those arriving from the same places will generally have a long wait to return to Ormskirk.
- On weekdays there are later departures trains between York/Leeds and Preston/Blackpool making it possible to have a night out in Leeds and still get home.
- Clitheroe and Blackburn gain later Sunday services at 2207 and 2314 respectively.
- On weekdays Clitheroe has an earlier departure to Manchester at 0625 arriving Manchester Victoria at 0741 - a real bonus on Saturdays!
- There are significant improvements in connections at Blackburn for passengers travelling between Clitheroe/Ribble Valley stations and Preston.
- On the Southport to Manchester line most services will go to Victoria with the exception of 2 morning and evening peak trains on Mondays to Fridays which will go to Manchester Piccadilly/Alderley Edge. From Victoria one service continues to Leeds via the Calder Valley route and one to Blackburn via the Todmorden Curve and Burnley Manchester Road.
- The Bentham Line sees a greatly improved weekday service with more and generally better timed trains. Commuting to Leeds is now a possibility although it is not so good in the Lancaster direction.

Richard Watts

CRP THANKS DEPARTING CHAIR



Richard hands over James' man bag

Community Rail Lancashire said a big thank you to James Syson on Friday 16th June, at the Joint Management Group meeting of the Clitheroe Line & East Lancashire CRPs.

During that time James has worked with the partnerships to develop projects at Mill Hill, Cherry Tree and Pleasington stations. His biggest achievement was to secure over £12m investment to redouble part of the Bolton to Blackburn line at Darwen to enable an all-day half hourly service to operate between Blackburn and Manchester. Unfortunately James is resigning as Chair of the two partnerships as he is now taking up a post with Transport for the North.

Richard Watts, Director of CRL and Secretary of the two partnerships, thanked James for all his hard work to support community rail development in East Lancashire and as a token of appreciation Richard presented James with a 'man bag' with his initials inscribed on the inside. CRL wishes James every success in his new post.

CHURCH & OSWALDTWISTLE SUBWAY



The newly painted subway

The subway that links the two sides at Church & Oswaldtwistle station has been cleaned and painted.

For the last three years the Rotary Club of Church & Oswaldtwistle have been looking after Church & Oswaldtwistle under the station adoption scheme. The Rotarians have working parties every Saturday morning.

The group have power washed the approach steps to the station, painted the handrails and removed foliage and planted up the flower tubs on both platforms.

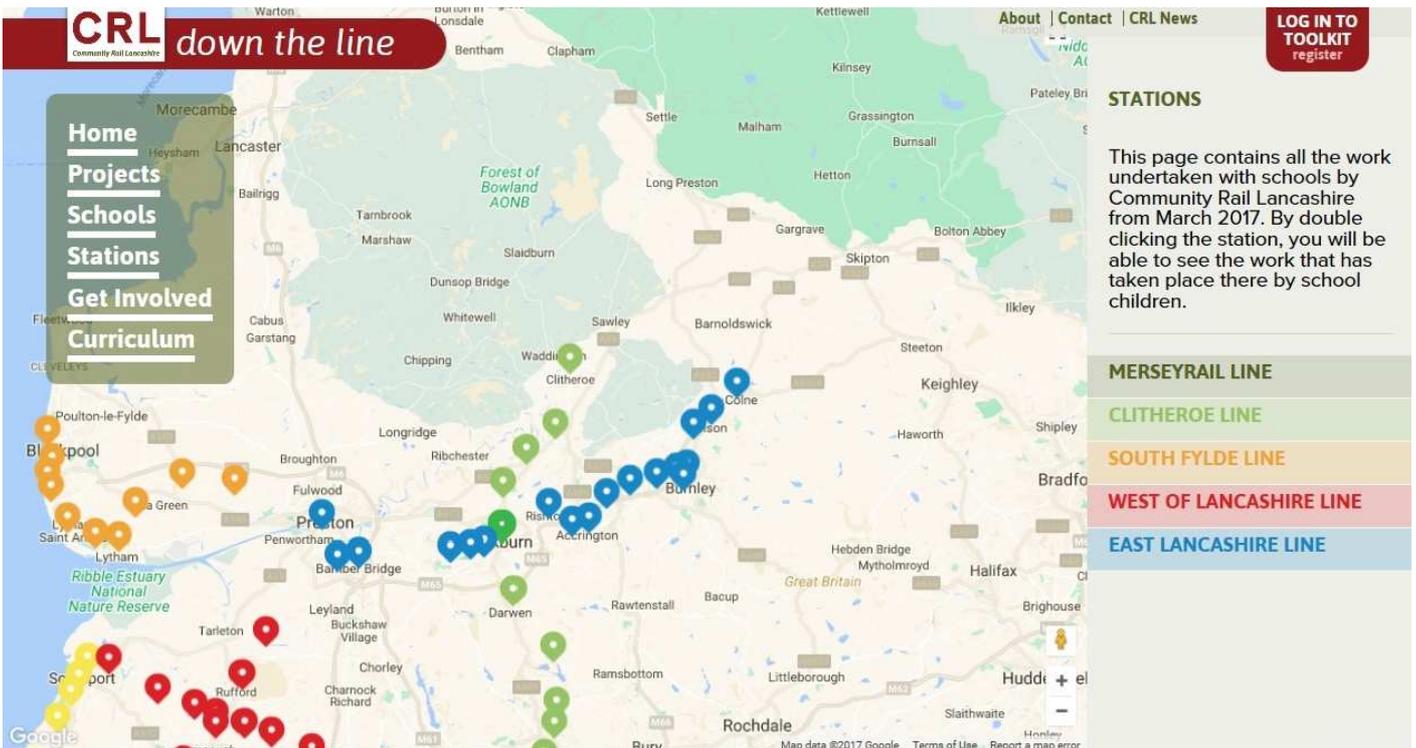
The main eyesore always been the scruffy and tatty appearance of the subway under the line but this has now been cleared of pigeon droppings with mesh fitted to stop the birds roosting. There has been a general tidy up and the walls have been painted leaving a much more pleasant environment.

DOWN THE LINE WEBSITE

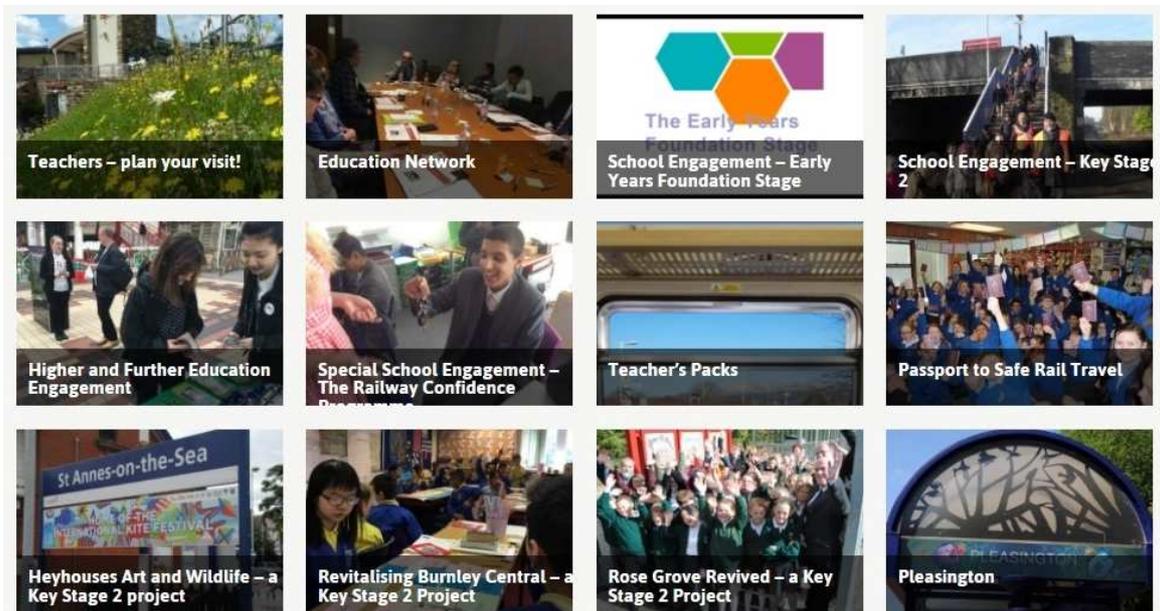
Community Rail Lancashire HAS recently launched a brand new educational website www.downtheline.org.uk

The new Down the Line website focuses on creating an innovative and unique living record of local stations. The records will be created through working with thousands of local school children, ensuring a record of each relevant station exists, which represents, and has been created by, the community.

Each station will be represented by a map icon, where teachers can input station project information following their work with CRL. In chronological order, different schools' projects will appear within each station section, highlighting the excellent work that each child undertook when learning about the national and local railway.



In addition to this community record, projects undertaken by CRL will be displayed on the site. Each school will also have their own page, to serve as a record for schools that have taken part and to enable them to link the site to their own school website.

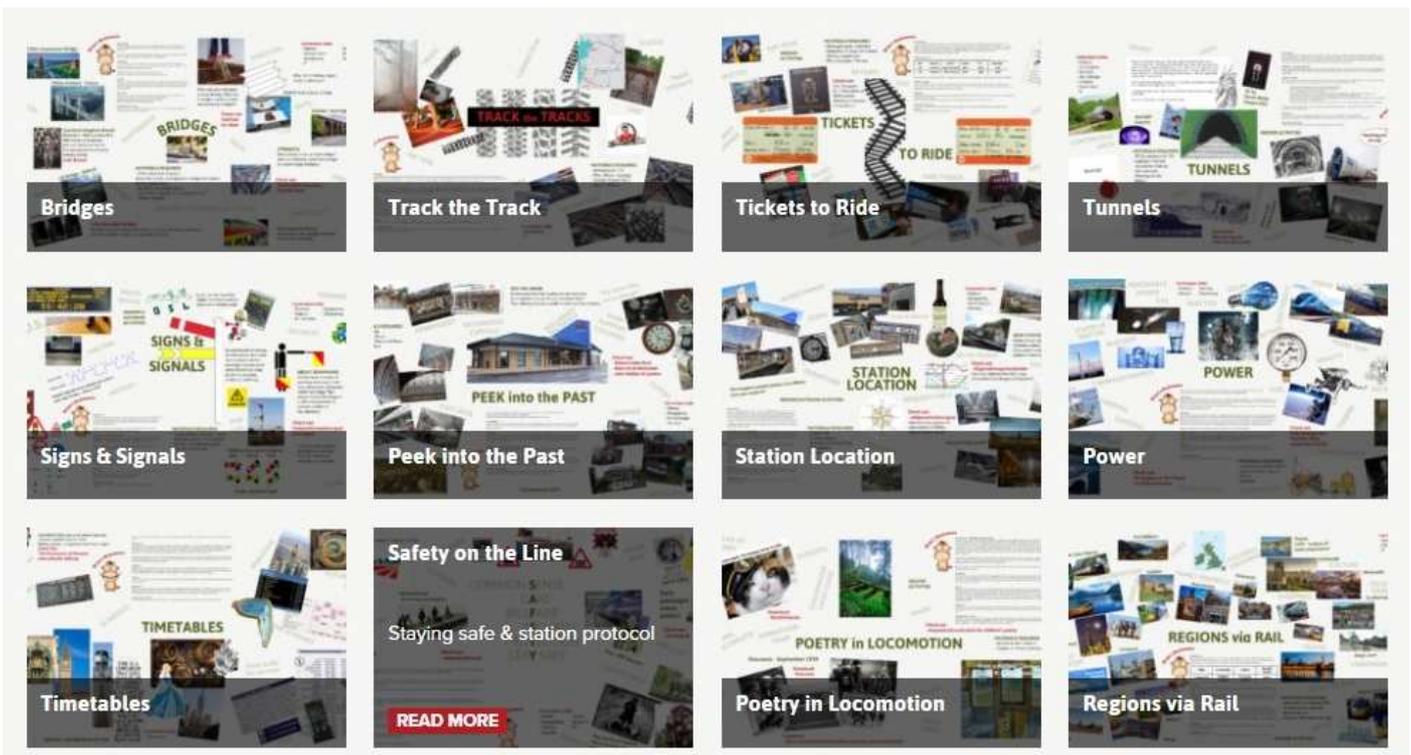


DOWN THE LINE WEBSITE

Students from colleges and universities will also be encouraged to apply for volunteering roles through the site, where recent updates and photos will be posted via a news feed and Twitter to encourage a high uptake of volunteers.

CRL's 'Education Network' will also be featured on this site, within the map page. Different CRPs will be able to highlight and feature their own station projects and education work; allowing them to showcase their work alongside other outstanding examples from other CRPs.

The website also allows registered users access to a toolkit that has been designed to encourage schools, CRPs and user groups to develop their own educational programmes using the experience and best practice of the Community Rail Lancashire education team.



The Down the Line website is designed to support Community Rail Lancashire's ongoing education programme. We believe that school-aged children, are the 'Passengers of the Future', and must be able to access and understand the rail network both locally and nationally.

We offer a comprehensive and adaptable education programme, and have reached over 5000 children in 100 schools to date. Our key programme involves a visit by us to your school, followed by a guided train journey on another date.

All activities are closely linked to National Curriculum objectives. More information can be found within the 'schools' section of this website, along with examples of work in the 'stations' section.

We are fortunate enough to have an excellent partnership with the British Transport Police, and work regularly with Officer Dax to engage children in the topic of rail safety, and ensure all young people have all the knowledge they need to use the railway. The programme was 'highly commended' in the Outstanding Teamwork category at the 2016 National Rail Awards. The presentation is variable, age-appropriate and includes dialogue about the consequences of a criminal record, delivered in a meaningful and approachable way.

Best of all, the programme is completely free of charge! If you are interested in engaging your class or school in our programme, please get in touch at info@downtheline.org.uk.

DEMENTIA & COMMUNITY RAIL

An estimated 850,000 people live with dementia in the UK today (1.3%).

The individuals directly affected by dementia are still the independent, proud people they always have been, they just need some additional help to carry out their daily activities. These individuals most likely still want to travel, enjoy day trips and go to the shops etc. This means working towards creating inclusive travel for all has become a priority throughout the transportation industry.



The Bentham Line CRP, in collaboration with Alzheimer's Research UK & Arriva Rail North Ltd, the CRP aim to make the Bentham Line a centre of excellence in terms of understanding how community rail can assist in helping those with dementia to still lead an active life and continue to be part of society.

The CRP feels the Bentham Line is well placed to host such as initiative as the line's history as the means of getting to a seaside holiday in Morecambe in times gone by can provide the nostalgia of long term memories (e.g. childhood holidays) that enables those affected by dementia to feel good about themselves.

The CRP will do this through training customer facing staff and volunteers including dementia friends training and dementia champions alongside producing a series of materials (including walk leaflets and other activities) with the aim of encouraging safe, tourism and group travel. The CRP hopes to be able to offer similar packages to other disadvantaged groups in communities around the UK.

During the project, the CRP will also liaise with the Yorkshire Dales National Park, the Forest of Bowland AONB, local councils, businesses and interested individuals – all invaluable in supporting our award winning 'Rail to Trail' project for walkers and cyclists and our recent 'Bowland Rail Gateways' project at Wennington, Bentham, Clapham and Giggleswick. We will build on all we have learned from these collaborations to further develop the project.

CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

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Other photographs of the work of the Lancashire Community Rail Partnerships can be seen on

www.communityrail Lancashire.co.uk, www.downtheline.org, www.dalesrail.com &

<http://ribblevalleyrambler.wordpress.com>

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HEYHOUSES ART & WILDLIFE PROJECT

On Friday 14th July 2017 Community Rail Lancashire and Heyhouses Primary School completed the 'Heyhouses Art and Wildlife project' with a celebration at St Annes-on-the-Sea station.

The project has been ongoing since December 2016 with a range of community groups involved including, Friends of St Annes Stations and Park View 4 U. The project has seen 90 year 4 children get involved with uplifting their local station to highlight what St Annes has to offer to passengers using the train, they have brightened up the station with a 4.8 metre planter hosting a variety of herbs and plants suitable for wildlife such as bees to pollinate, bird boxes and bug houses for insects to inhabit the station, and vibrant artwork highlighting the 'International Kite Festival, Beach houses and wildlife that can be seen at St Annes, all with the help of their local artist and Forest School leader Julie Norman.

Heyhouses came to the station in force to celebrate the completion of the project. Community Rail Lancashire (CRL) and the Friends of St Annes Stations set up a gazebo which displayed the project with pictures, the children's pebbles, lighthouses, driftwood kites they had made, and their journey to Preston on the train with CRL. 90 children came to the station along with their class teachers and head teacher followed by many parents who had come to the station to look at their children's project work. The Town Crier and Town Mayor opened the event giving thanks to those involved and read a lovely letter from the 'bugs' that now live at the station thanking the children of Heyhouses for providing them with a home. 3 Year 4 children also gave speeches to thank all those involved for their help unveiling their artwork to family, teachers, and friends showing them around the station.

Special thanks also go to those groups that made it possible through funding including the Department for Transport, the Association of Community Rail Partnerships, St. Annes Town Council, local train operator Northern and Community Rail Lancashire.



REVITALISING BURNLEY CENTRAL

Local schoolchildren worked with Community Rail Lancashire and the University of Manchester to creatively reinvigorate Burnley Central station.

Community Rail Lancashire launched their latest unique station project on the 13th of July 2017. In partnership with Young Arts Arriva, the project has revitalised, diversified and brightened Burnley Central station.

Working with the Year Six class at St. Peter's School, Burnley we ensured that all the artwork would reflect the interests of local passengers and 'passengers of the future'. By considering the number of languages spoken in Burnley, in partnership with the University of Manchester, we developed the project to reflect the rich diversity and heritage of the area. The children chose the languages they wanted to use, including English, Urdu, Punjabi, Chinese, Hungarian and Spanish.

They undertook sensory train journeys with Northern to generate vocabulary to express how they felt about their local transport networks and to record what they would learn about safety and train use. To ensure the project was fully immortalised, the film crew at Gravel and Sugar Productions was on-hand to capture the work; the video can be viewed here; <https://downtheline.org.uk/projects/revitalising-burnley-central/>

Local Artist Alastair Nicholson led the children through the creation of abstract artwork, where they used colours and shapes that reflected the words they had chosen.



The launch was a great success, with all partners, parents, governors and members of the Arriva Group attending to celebrate the children's hard work and dedication. Gill Coyne, the class teacher, said, "This is the best project we have ever done, the children have enjoyed it so much and the artwork looks fantastic!"

RUNSHAW COLLEGE VOLUNTEER

Matthew Wignall, a student who has just finished his studies at Runshaw College, Leyland, joined Community Rail Lancashire for two weeks on their 'Get Involved' programme.

Matthew started his two weeks on Monday 7th August in the Bunker at Accrington with a general introduction to community rail and the work of CRL. He also spent a day out on the CRL area with Simon & Daisy looking at the various projects at stations. He also visited Clitheroe Interchange and had a brief introduction to ticket sales from Kris. Later in the first week he spent time with local train operator Northern at Manchester Victoria and Manchester Piccadilly learning about train presentation and the role of a conductor.



Matthew & Simon enjoy a ride on a Pacer



Brian and Vicky hand Matthew his certificate

During the second week Matthew spent time back in the office in Accrington and visited Merseyrail & Merseytravel in Liverpool. On the Wednesday he went across to ACoRP's offices in Huddersfield with Brian and met with Ian Davis, Operations Manager North, and had an introduction to the work ACoRP carry out in supporting the 50+ CRPs across the country.

Matthew's final day was spent looking at Burnley Manchester Road station to come up with some ideas about possible improvements and then including these in a PowerPoint presentation about his two weeks experiences. In the afternoon Vicky Cropper, Northern's Community & Sustainability Manager (West) joined Brian, Simon & Matthew to hear Matthew's presentation and to congratulate him on his two weeks efforts. Matthew was also presented with a certificate for his portfolio in recognition of his two weeks of volunteering.

RUFFORD VILLAGE SOCIETY

Rufford Village Society have formally adopted Rufford station on the Preston to Ormskirk Line.



One of their first jobs was to apply to Arriva Rail North (Northern) for a grant from their Station Adoption Fund. The money went towards purchasing recycled plastic planters from Ark Plastics (www.arkplastics.net) in Accrington.

These have been installed on the platform and on Friday 30th June 2017 the planters were planted up with help from Rufford Primary School's Gardening Club (see photo opposite).

The new planters bring a welcome bit of colour to the platforms.

STATION APPROACHES

It's great to see that some of our station adoption groups are spreading their wings beyond the station platforms and turning their attention to the station approaches.

This area can be neglected but it's often the first impression that prospective railway travellers see, so to improve this area can only have a positive effect on both the station and the local community.

At Whalley the station friends group have teamed up with Whalley in Bloom and upgraded the station garden adjacent to the Mitton Road station entrance. Using old sleepers the garden has been stepped and replanted. The issue of soil washing onto the station entrance path has been addressed with a small retaining wall being raised.



The garden retaining wall at Whalley © Paul White

Further up the line at Langho the station friends group has worked with Langho in Bloom to create a colourful flower display adjacent to the station approach steps which along with the station garden upgrade and subway painting has uplifted the area for passengers and members of the public alike.



Langho in Bloom have introduced colourful planting adjacent to the station approach steps considerably improving the area for both passengers and footpath users.

STATION APPROACHES

At Church and Oswaldtwistle the station adopters Church and Oswaldtwistle Rotary Club fresh from their successful subway project (see page 7) have moved on and have commenced work on the overgrown area adjacent to the station entrance and main footpath removing rubbish and weeds again raising the stations profile in the community.



The freshly cleared and weeded area around the branded notice board alongside the main road outside the station.

At Rishton the group have positioned some flower tubs along one side of the station approach to complement the colourful display on the opposite side and have spent time keeping on top of the large car park flower beds.



Rishton Prospects stalwart Colin Cooper is pictured on the station approach at Rishton station with his four legged assistant Bobby.

LYTHAM TOWN TRAIL

The third of a series of self-guided railway walks on the South Fylde Line, a Town Trail of Lytham, was launched on 6th June 2017 amid blustery conditions in Lytham.

As has become tradition for the series of walks, Colin Ballard the Town Crier to the Fylde Mayor and St. Annes Town Council, 'Cried In' the walk at the entrance to Lytham station. Following Colin, the Mayor John Singleton gave a short welcome to the small group of hardy attendees.



Tony Ford, Chair of the South Fylde Line CRP, led the small group on a weather shortened version of the Town Trail, which points out key locations and features of historical and architectural interest.

The Mayor, who thoroughly enjoyed the experience of riding on a Class 142 'Pacer' from St. Annes to Lytham said this about the new Town Trail:

“Despite the blustery conditions today we were taken on the rail journey from St Annes to Lytham and then a wonderful walk along the newly launched Railway Walk based on the Lytham Town Trail. A group of us were escorted by Cllr Tony Ford and the Town Crier, Colin Ballard, around the new walk which is littered with historical landmarks and fascinating associated tales...some true, some not maybe!!”

“If you get the opportunity, do try one of these walks, they are incredibly interesting and encourage you to look at the surroundings in a new light. It is heartening to see the strong relationship between the ACoRP (Association of Community Rail Partnerships); CRL (Community Rail Lancashire); Friends of St Annes Stations and Heyhouses School, the latter providing much of the artwork on the Bug Hotels and Bird Boxes. If you fancy helping out the Friends of St Annes Stations then pop along to the station on Wednesday mornings from 10:00 to 12:00, you will be made most welcome.”

NEW ENTRANCE FOR PRESTON STATION

Preston station, operated by Virgin Trains West Coast, has a new entrance on Butler Street.

As a continuation of the project that saw a cycle hub open at the station in December 2016, Virgin Trains have now completed a brand new entrance on the Butler Street side of the station.

The new entrance building houses ticket vending machines and the relocated car park payment machines. There is space for retail outlet and the entrance allows direct access onto Platform 7.



The futuristic new entrance to platform 7

CLITHEROE INTERCHANGE

In January 2017 TravelWatch NorthWest, an independent company who champion the interests of public transport users in the region, published a report on rail/bus integration.

The paper called 'Integration Between Rail and Bus at Rail Stations' is a report on guidance and convenience for passengers. The report covers in detail 42 stations that were surveyed in October & November 2016 across the North West. The stations surveyed were operated by Northern (20), Virgin Trains West Coast (10), Merseyrail (7), Manchester Metrolink (3), First TransPennine Express (1) and Arriva Trains Wales (1).

In the immediate Community Rail Lancashire area the stations looked at included some on the Clitheroe Line, the East Lancashire Line and the South Fylde Line.

Information regarding buses was found on platforms at 9 out of 20 stations and at entrances/concourse at 15 out of 20, but clear signage to buses was poor with only 6 out of the 20 meeting the mark.

One of the best stations on the area was Clitheroe with the Bus Interchange clearly visible from the station booking office and Clitheroe is regarded, in the report, as a good example of bus/rail interchange.



The Clitheroe Interchange office as seen from Maxwell's roof terrace

ACCRINGTON BUS STATION

Accrington's new 'George Slynn' Bus Station was built as part of the £40m Pennine Reach Project and opened in July 2016.

Pennine Reach is a £40m major transport scheme which is aimed at improving the local bus network along the Accrington - Blackburn - Darwen corridor and linking in with the east-west and north-south railway lines. The project which is funded by the Department for Transport is being jointly led by the two local highway authorities: Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and Lancashire County Council.

Part of the Accrington bus station project was to include reciprocal transport information at the bus station and railway station. Rail information was already on display at the bus station and on Saturday 28th January 2017 a bus information monitor was installed and went live at the railway station.



CRL IN THE CITY - PRESTON

Students from Lancaster University's Management School spent the day at Preston on 20th May 2017, doing a fantastic job of promoting Community Rail Lancashire's project and education work.

Virgin Trains provided use of the central concourse and community hub room, whilst Northern provided plenty of freebies to give away. The students not only staffed a stall, which was fantastically decorated, and managed to give out over 600 leaflets, but also used CRL children's artwork to create their badges and branded t-shirts to promote the event.



In the Preston Station Community Hub, they also staffed a 'craft room', where children came with their parents to create a personalised train ticket or create their own train designs. The day was a great success, with many passengers reached as they moved through the station, many others reached online through social media, and a good number of children entertained and educated about rail-related topics!

ACORP AWARDS 2017

The Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP) have announced the shortlist for their 2017 Community Rail Awards. 2017 will be the 13th annual event and is being held in the Roundhouse in Derby in October.

Community Rail Lancashire and its partners have had a total of six nominations shortlisted for the awards:

- Category 3a, Community Art Schemes, (Permanent Projects) - CRL, **Welcome to Langho**;
- Category 7, Best Marketing or Communications Campaign - CRL & Northern, **The Todmorden Curve 'Switch Campaign'** and LLMCRP, Northern & partners, **Explore Bowland**;
- Category 9, Innovation in Community Rail - CRL, **Down the Line Website** and Friends of Bentham Station & Mytholmroyd Station Partnership – **Station to Station Across Yorkshire** (Twinning Bentham & Mytholmroyd);
- Category 10, Photo Competition (Best 'Essence of Community Rail' Image) - Gerald Townson, Friends of Bentham Station – **Low Flying at Bentham**.

To see the full shortlist please click this link: <http://bit.do/dFXxi> to get details of the event in Derby please visit the ACoRP website at <https://acorp.uk.com/eventsawards/cra17/>.

AC:RP
New life for local lines

BOWLAND EXPLORER

A new venture between the Leeds, Lancaster & Morecambe Community Rail Partnership (LLMCRP) the Dales and Bowland Community Interest Company (DBCIC) and the Forest of Bowland AONB has brought about a further innovation for the Bentham Line.



The Bowland Explorer, launched on Sunday 7th May 2017, is an integrated minibus service that connects with Bentham Line rail services from Leeds and Morecambe and at Bentham station. The service operates on Sundays until 24th September 2017.

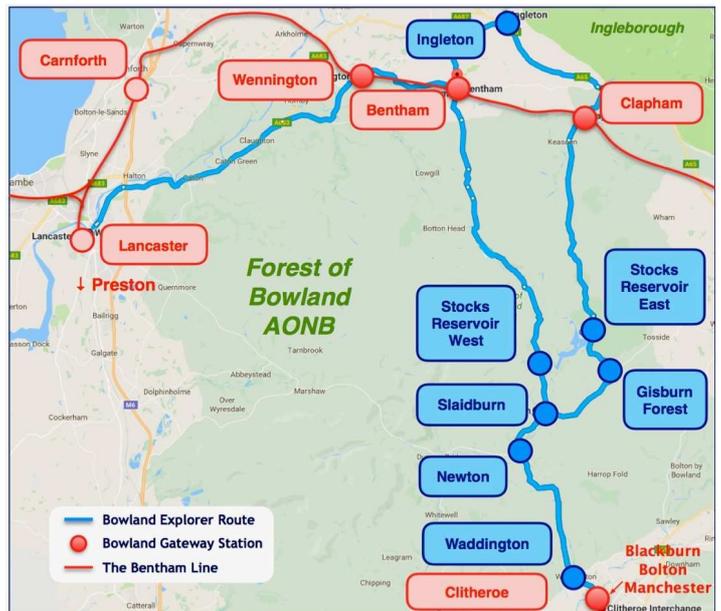
At the other end of its route the Bowland Explorer connects with Clitheroe Line rail services to and from Manchester, Bolton and Blackburn (connections for Preston). The service will also operate on the bank holiday Monday in August.

With the Explorer service starting early on Sunday mornings from Lancaster station, it also acts as a 'rail-bus' service between Lancaster and Bentham via Caton, Hornby, Wray and Wennington station, at a time when there is no scheduled train, before commencing its Bowland duties. The Bowland Explorer minibus service also provide a link to the Yorkshire Dales at Ingleton and Clapham.

The new service has been made possible as a result of a successful bid for £4,500 to Northern's (Arriva Rail North Ltd.), Seed-Corn Fund by LLMCRP along with funding and in-kind support from the participating organisations.

The Bowland Explorer will enable both local residents and visitors to enjoy an area of outstanding natural beauty and a national park, whilst at the same time linking villages and hamlets with the public transport network, in some cases for the first time in decades.

This is also an opportunity to open up the Forest of Bowland AONB to a far wider audience from right across the North, including those from the



major conurbations of West Yorkshire and Greater Manchester, and to encourage visitors to make use of a 'greener' travelling option to explore this wonderful area straddling the Yorkshire-Lancashire border.

The Forest of Bowland AONB has planned a series of walks and country activities to complement the Bowland Explorer service at various points along the route during the summer. Numerous self-guided walks are available throughout the AONB along with the CRP's award-winning Rail to Trail programme between and from the Bowland Gateway stations at Wennington, Bentham, Clapham and Giggleswick. Whether it be a fell or forest walk, a gentle stroll, a mountain bike ride, Sunday lunch in a country pub or afternoon tea by the river, here is a new range of leisure opportunities.

Full details about the service, timetable, fares and activities are available both in print, at stations and tourist information centres, and on the partners' websites. Details can be obtained free by post from: LLMCRP, Bentham Station Building, Station Road, Bentham, Lancaster, LA2 7LF or by telephoning: 015242 98940.

The main Bowland Explorer leaflet can be downloaded using this link: <http://bit.do/dFXrk>

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUMP ON BOARD THE BLUES TRAIN!

FRIDAY 25TH AUGUST 2017



FOR THE 12TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR, COMMUNITY RAIL LANCASHIRE WILL BE PROVIDING THE TRADITIONAL BLUES TRAIN TO GET YOU TO THE COLNE RHYTHM & BLUES FESTIVAL. THE TRAIN WILL LEAVE PRESTON ON FRIDAY 25TH AUGUST AT 18:00 ARRIVING INTO COLNE AT 19:15 TO KICK START THE FESTIVAL IN STYLE.

WITH REAL ALE AND LIVE MUSIC ON BOARD, WHAT BETTER WAY TO GET YOU IN THE MOOD FOR A WEEKEND OF BLUES?

WE CAN NOW CONFIRM THAT HERDEN BRIDGE BASED ROCKABILLY BAND, MAD JACK & THE HATTERS WILL BE PERFORMING ON BOARD.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.COMMUNITYRAILLANCASHIRE.CO.UK
WWW.BLUESFESTIVAL.CO.UK



Partly supported by


ORMSKIRK MOTORFEST

MOTORFEST RETURNS TO ORMSKIRK

SUNDAY 27TH AUGUST

11AM ONWARDS

THE ACTION REVS UP AT ORMSKIRK TOWN CENTRE...

- FORMULA ONE
- RACING CARS
- RACING MOTORCYCLES
- VINTAGE CARS
- CLASSIC CARS
- VB STOCK CARS
- TOWN CENTRE PARADE LAPS AT COROPATION PARK

AND MANY MORE... VISIT: WWW.ORMSKIRKMOTORFEST.COM



PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN FROM PREVIOUS MOTORFEST EVENT

We've partnered up with Northern to deliver extra trains to this year's event:

Additional AMVAL times							Additional SEMI-FLEX times							
Preston	Dep	18.45	19.00	19.15	19.30	19.45	Ormskirk	Dep	19.35	19.45	19.55	20.05	20.15	20.25
Colne	Arr	19.07	19.22	19.37	19.52	20.07	Barnesley Junction	Arr	19.31	19.40	19.49	19.57	20.06	20.15
Salterford	Arr	19.02	19.17	19.32	19.47	20.02	Colne	Arr	19.37	19.46	19.55	20.04	20.13	20.22
Barnesley Junction	Arr	19.08	19.23	19.38	19.53	20.08	Preston	Arr	19.42	19.51	20.00	20.09	20.18	20.27
Ormskirk	Arr	19.16	19.31	19.46	20.01	20.16	Preston	Arr	19.58	20.07	20.16	20.25	20.34	20.43

For more information please contact:
 National Rail Enquiries: 08457 48 49 58
 Customer Helpline: 0800 300 6640
www.communityrail Lancashire.co.uk
www.nationalrail.co.uk



Two big events take place over the August bank holiday weekend; Colne hosts the annual Great British Rhythm & Blues Festival on Friday 25th to Sunday 27th August and Ormskirk town centre is the venue of a MotorFest on Sunday 27th August.

Community Rail Lancashire is running its now famous Blues Train on the Friday evening leaving Preston at 18:00 and arriving into Colne at 19:15 just in time for the start of the festival. Once again Moorhouses Brewery is providing the beer and music is by Mad Jack & The Hatters.

THE SEVEN LINE CHALLENGE



On Thursday 21st September 2017 Simon Clarke, one of CRL's Community Rail Development Officers is attempting to travel on all seven of the routes covered by the Community Rail in Lancashire area in the space of one day's timetables.

The Challenge is being carried out to raise money for the Alzheimer's Society and a donations page has been set up on the My Donate website at the following link: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/simonclarke/>

Alzheimer's Society is the UK's leading support and research charity for people with dementia, their families and carers. There are currently 850,000 people living with dementia in the UK, with numbers set to rise to 1 million by 2025. The fundraising will help support people to live well with dementia today and also to fund research to help find a cure for tomorrow.

CHILDREN MEET A STAR



Children from St. Nicholas C of E Primary School in Blackpool were on an educational trip to Preston station with Community Rail Lancashire when they spotted a well-known face.

The children spotted well known comedian, actor & children's author David Walliams on the station. He had been visiting nearby Tarleton, where the youngest victim of the Manchester bomb attack attended school, and was waiting to catch a train.

He came over to talk to the children to ask them what they were doing in Preston and was happy to have his photograph taken with the children, teachers and the CRL Educational Team. The children were very excited to have met their favourite author as can be seen in the photo above!

USEFUL LINKS

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 Community Rail Lancashire twitter pages; please visit the following websites:

www.communityraillancashire.co.uk

www.northernrailway.co.uk

www.nationalrail.co.uk

<http://communityrailman.wordpress.com>

www.acorp.uk.com

www.lancashirebus.co.uk

https://twitter.com/crl_live

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

CONTACT US

If you need to contact us for any reason please ring 01254 386579 or email the editor on simon.clarke@lancashire.gov.uk or ring on his mobile 07399 563599

THE DAY JOB

In this issue of *Reading Between The Lines* you will have read about the many projects that Community Rail Lancashire carry out across the area, but what you don't necessarily see is the work carried out doing the 'day job'.

The day job means core community rail work for Community Rail Lancashire and includes looking after our estate of branded notice boards, running in boards and station planters. CRL has 218 notice boards, 24 running in boards and around 100 other assets including pieces of artwork and two gardens. The work to maintain these is normally carried out by Brian & Simon CRL's two Community Rail Development Officers.



Brian Haworth cleaning branded notice boards at Hall I' Th' Wood

As well as this there are friends of station groups to meet, funding bids to write, suppliers and designers to brief and consumables to purchase. There are plenty of other things to keep us busy including writing press releases and news articles, keeping the websites up to date and promoting CRL's work through the Facebook page and Twitter feed.

The big projects are just the icing on the cake and without the day job these could never be developed, project managed and delivered on time and publicised effectively throughout the community rail industry and to wider audiences.

TAILPIECE

It is not often I get the chance to both start and finish a RBTL but this time I have been given just that opportunity. So I think it is nice to conclude with a little unsung area of CRL's activity and that is that every year for some time now we have sponsored the 'Small Projects Award' category in the annual Community Rail Awards. I believe we are the only CRP grouping that sponsors an award and in this case it is one that recognises the efforts of CRPs to demonstrate innovation, value for money and high impact. So to quote my words from the ACoRP Awards brochure:

"It is true to say that a lot can often be done with a little and community rail partnerships are generally very good at coming up with low value high impact schemes often with some help from the small grants fund looked after by ACoRP. This award has attracted some very exciting projects in the past and with an ever tightening financial position facing many partnerships doing a lot with a little will become ever more important."

So see you in Derby and I look forward to seeing who has won our award this year and if it is an idea we can pinch!!

Richard Watts