



**COMMUNITY RAIL LANCASHIRE  
ANNUAL REPORT 2018**

# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2018 Annual Report for Community Rail Lancashire (CRL) and the four Community Rail Partnerships (CRPs) that it supports.

The main thrust of the work in 2018 has been the expansion of the CRL's Education Programme that has been funded primarily through a grant from Northern's Seed Corn Fund and has saw three new members of staff joining the team in Accrington.

Structure of the report:

Page 3	<b>Community Rail Lancashire Chair's Report</b>
Page 8	<b>Financial Report</b>
Page 9	<b>Major Projects and Grants</b>
Page 10	<b>Comments from the Chairs:</b> Marjorie Birch, Chair Clitheroe Line and East Lancashire CRPs Tony Ford, Chair South Fylde Line CRP Marion Atkinson, Chair West of Lancashire CRP
Page 13	<b>Community Rail Awards 2018</b>
Page 14	<b>Education Programme Reports</b>
Page 19	<b>CRL Websites and Social Media</b>
Page 20	<b>Project Details</b>
Page 26	<b>Sponsorship</b>
Page 27	<b>Who's Who</b>

# CRL CHAIR'S REPORT

What a very strange year 2018 turned out to be. There were some very positive highlights but it was marred by many things that I would like to forget.

So let's start with the highlights which for me include the following:

- The fantastic support and commitment shown by all CRL's Directors during 2018.
- The launch of the award winning Women who Wander project on the 8th March at Manchester Victoria station an excellent turn out with some excellent presentations from the young and not so young participants - well done Daisy for project managing this.



8th March saw the launch of Women Who Wander 2018, at Manchester Victoria station

- We welcomed three new staff in September, Karen, Katie and Erin, who joined Community Rail Lancashire's education team in September and the speed with which they absorbed community rail was amazing.
- The delivery of two superb projects by our first intake of Northern apprentices at Burnley Manchester Rd and Blackburn stations both projects were launched in September - well done Brian and also Emily Elliott and Erin Dixon.
- Winning two firsts at the 2018 Community Rail Awards in October - well done Daisy they were both her projects.

# CRL CHAIR'S REPORT



Northern apprentices working hard at Burnley Manchester Road

- The great work carried out by the many station adopters along all our lines who brighten up our stations - **a big thank you to all of them.**
- The continued support from Northern and all our other funders, including Merseytravel, St Annes Town Council, Blackpool Borough Council and Ribble Valley Borough Council.
- The forbearance of Northern staff to my occasional diatribes - hopefully seen as constructive - thank you Craig.



Involving young people at Rufford station - the next generation of station adopters!

## CRL CHAIR'S REPORT

- The brilliant websites looked after so ably by Simon which is always a good aide memoire for me when I want to find out something. I love the twitter feeds which keep me up to date with what the team are up to.
- The refresh of the 'bunker' at Accrington.
- The dementia awareness project that our neighbouring CRP has been developing and sharing - thank you Gerald, Rod and Catherine.
- CRL is developing close relationships with the Bolton Station Community Development Partnership which is breathing new life into the many redundant rooms at this major station. The group held a successful gala at Bolton station on the 30th June with members of CRL and our CRPs took part in - thanks Brian, Marjorie and Marion.
- A small team within CRL have been working on a business plan that may lead to Clitheroe Interchange being run by a community interest company should Lancashire County Council continue with its closure plan.
- Forging closer links with the Mytholmroyd station partnership who are developing a set of rooms in the former station building which could be used by local school children - well done Karen. Mytholmroyd is also twinned with Bentham station on one of our partner lines.
- Well done to all those groups who remembered the Armistice and especially the work inspired by Tony Ford, Chair of the South Fylde Line CRP, and the Friends of St Annes station at St Annes and Brian Haworth for Whalley Remembers at Whalley station.



St. Annes Town Crier, Colin Ballard with the silent soldiers unveiled on 31st October 2018

# CRL CHAIR'S REPORT

- Thank you ACoRP and DfT for supporting many of our projects through the Designated Line Community Rail Development Fund and the Small Grants Fund. Also to Northern for the various seedcorn grants CRL and its CRPs were awarded. I hope you feel you got value for money from them.
- Well done Marion for being elected to the ACoRP Board at the November AGM. It was a nail biting election but you did it!
- A personal thank you to the team for having me out of circulation (not action) for much of the year. Cancer was a terrible blow but the help of the team made it much more bearable.
- And a big 'thank you' to Stephen & Howard at Source Creative in Blackburn for all their help with design & print projects and ongoing website support.

**So these were some of the highlights but there were a number of 'low lights' in 2018 which I summarise below:**

- The year has been marred by the on-going industrial relations issues between Northern and the RMT union over driver controlled operation of trains.
- The meltdown following the introduction of the May timetable with 168 services taken out of the timetable including the partial bus replacement of many Lancashire services especially between Preston & Colne, Preston & Ormskirk and Preston & Blackpool South as well as the reduction in the off peak Todmorden Curve service. One service that managed to keep going during this period of turmoil was the Clitheroe/Blackburn to Manchester/Rochdale. Despite some hiccups with broken down freight trains it was probably our most reliable and consistent service.
- The almost total non operation of the iconic Sunday DalesRail service due to a lack of drivers. Northern has agreed to financially support the 2019 DalesRail marketing campaign as well as to be an active partner in extending the marketing reach for the service.
- The resignation of two staff, Emily and Erin, one of whom had only been with CRL for two months.
- The reduction of many Sunday services in our area especially on the Blackpool South to Colne service and the Blackpool/Preston to Hellifield services. All that can be said is that no two Sundays are the same.
- The need to hold back on some marketing activity due to the issues referred to above.

## **Frustration**

Just to cap it all I was diagnosed with cancer and for a considerable part of the year I was receiving chemotherapy treatment. This meant I was not as hands on as usual although I did maintain contact with the team throughout with emails being sent from my hospital bed much to the amusement of my doctors and various meetings were held at my home! I would like to place on record my personal thanks to all the team for covering so ably in my absence.

Being out of action was also a great frustration as it meant that many meetings I would normally attend such as ComREG, Northern's Community Rail Executive Group; the DfT's National Community Rail Steering Group (NCRSG) and meetings of the Rail North/TfN partnership had to be missed. I would like to thank Daisy for stepping in to cover both ComREG and the NCRSG for me and for her copious notes which not only kept me up to date but almost felt I was at the meeting. Although not quite firing on all cylinders it was great to be able to take part in meetings again towards the end of the year.

# CRL CHAIR'S REPORT

## People update

It's always sad to see staff leave and we said goodbye to both Emily Elliott and Erin Dixon during 2018. Both found new career paths to follow. Brian Haworth has reduced his working week to 2 days and then promptly filled up those days with schools and this years apprentice programme. The newly refreshed bunker is now alive to the sound of excited children again. CRL welcomed Melanie Taylor, Blackburn with Darwen, as a Director. Melanie is also leading the 'Connecting East Lancashire' project along with her team of Project Officers.

CRL also appreciates the voluntary work carried out by Marjorie Birch, Chair of the East Lancashire and Clitheroe Line CRPs and Vice Chair of CRL, who has been active in the 'Educating the Passengers of the Future' programme especially those at key stage 2.

## Looking ahead

Despite the gloom there is some good news and things to look forward to. Passengers at Preston will have seen over the last few weeks not only the new trains being built by CAF for Northern, shown in the picture below, but also the new Trans Pennine trains passing through. The old order will soon be changing and at long last those dreadful Pacers will be sent off lease. The better news is that Lancashire will benefit from some of the new diesel and electric trains on the new Northern Connect services.



Old meets new at Preston on 5th February with what looks like a stand off between a new class 331 emu & a 195 dmu

2019 will see a new member join the CRL team when on the 1st May we will welcome Shahiesta Raja to the education team. Shahiesta lives in Accrington and will be working not only in East Lancashire but also on the South Fylde and West Lancashire lines.

## Community Rail Development Strategy

Lastly a new Community Rail Development Strategy (CRDS) was launched on the 15th November at Millom Station in Cumbria. Based on 4 pillars, the new CRDS introduces Accreditation in place of Designation. Instead of lines and/or services being designated CRPs themselves will be accredited. CRL and its 4 CRPs will go through the process of accreditation at the annual line planning meeting to be arranged during 2019.

That's it from me elsewhere the CRP chairs set out their highs and lows and also we run through some of the key projects carried put during the year. There is also a financial summary and list of grants awarded to CRL and its CRPs later on in this Annual Report.

**Richard Watts**  
14th February, 2019

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Financial Statement 2018/19

### Income 2018/19

Core funding	106,704 (a)
CRL education grant	105,000
Other grants	91,281 (b) (c)

**Sub total** **302,985**

Deferred income 2017/18	63,000
Connecting East Lancashire project	80,000

**GRAND TOTAL** **445,985**

### Expenditure

Total forecast expenditure to March, 2019 **250,000**

**Balance** **195,985**  
(includes Connecting EL)

### Snapshot:

Cash in bank as of 20th March, 2019

**CRL** **161,000**  
**Connecting East Lancashire** **80,000**

**TOTAL** **241,000**

### Notes

- Core funding for the 4 CRPs
- Other grants mainly: DCRDF, seed corn, Northern SAF, other local authority & Bentham Line CRP.
- Outstanding grant payments amount to £6.5k

Full accounts available on request to [info@communityrail Lancashire.co.uk](mailto:info@communityrail Lancashire.co.uk)

# CRL

## Community Rail Lancashire

## MAJOR PROJECTS AND GRANTS

### COMMUNITY RAIL LANCASHIRE summary of larger projects carried out during 2018

#### East Lancashire & Clitheroe Line CRPs

Accrington Access for All bid	Seedcorn	£2,394
Discover Amazing Women by Rail	Joint with Mid Cheshire CRP	
Prince's Trust at Accrington	No cost	
Bringing Blackburn Back (Apprentice project)	SAF	£5,000
	DCRDF	£4,847
Brightening up Burnley (Apprentice project)	Seedcorn	£5,000
	DCRDF	£2,112
Whalley Remembers	DCRDF	£4,000
	Seedcorn	£4,000

#### South Fylde Line CRP

Blackpool Back on Track (phase 1)	DCRDF	£2,877
Between the Tees Golf Bag project		
Planters at St Annes and Squires Gate	DCRDF	£1,750
	SAF	£1,750
South Fylde Line capacity study	Seedcorn	£7,500 (£7,500 still to claim)

#### West of Lancashire CRP

Make a Bee Line	Seedcorn	£10,059
Twin Tracks	DCRDF	£1,224
	Aviva	£200
tRAILblazers	TfGM	£966
	ACoRP	£949

#### Community Rail Lancashire

Mind the Closet Door	Seedcorn	£4,950
Women Who Wander 2018	TfGM	£750
Changing stations		

**Total** **£60,328**

#### Key:

DCRDF: Designated Community Rail Development Fund

SAF: Station Adoption Fund

TfGM: Transport for Greater Manchester small grant scheme

## COMPANY DIRECTORS

Community Rail Lancashire currently has six directors and they can be contacted by ringing 01254 386579 or by email on [info@communityrail Lancashire.co.uk](mailto:info@communityrail Lancashire.co.uk).

The six directors are:

**Richard Watts - CRL Chair**

**Marjorie Birch - CRL Vice Chair & Chair of Joint Clitheroe Line & East Lancashire CRPs**

**Simon Clarke - CRL Secretary**

**Tony Ford - Chair of South Fylde Line CRP**

**Gerald Townson - Chair of Leeds, Lancaster & Morecambe CRP**

**Melanie Taylor - Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council**

# COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRS

## South Fylde Line Community Rail Partnership

The South Fylde Line like others in the North West of England was affected by two main issues during 2018; The Great North Rail Project (GNRP) and industrial action by the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (RMT).

The GNRP saw the line blockaded for twelve weeks from Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017 until Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2018, whilst the electrification of the route between Preston and Blackpool North got underway.

The RMT industrial action initially saw strikes on weekdays but eventually this came to conductors striking every Saturday. Although Northern managed to run a skeleton service on the branch, passenger numbers were down as connections from other parts of the network were not possible.

On the positive side the line has a friends of stations group on all of its stations now and one group has developed a website (<http://friendsofstannesontheseastation.btck.co.uk/>) and a number have a presence of Facebook. The friends groups have been involved in a number of projects on their stations either as the group themselves or in partnership with the South Fylde Line CRP.

## Projects and other involvement

- Ansdell & Fairhaven Station have built a significant 'horticultural' reputation by winning various Best Station and North West In Bloom Awards
- Friends of St Anne's Station supported Remembrance Day commemoration events through their Silent Soldiers, linking in with St Anne's In Bloom (Photo)
- Both Ansdell & Fairhaven and St Anne's Stations supported the Ricoh Women's Golf event with displays of golfers (photo) and flowering golf bags marking out the route from the station to the golf course.
- Engaging with local primary schools through the key stage 2 educational project. The aim is to engage with a number of schools each term, linked to the 'Passport for Safe Rail Travel'
- Engaging with the station partnerships along the line and bringing them together to develop and co-operate on joint projects Developing a stand-alone Station adopters' group for Squires Gate Station
- Maintaining involvement in station projects at St. Annes-on-the-Sea (Heyhouses' Project), Blackpool South (Blackpool Back On Track), Lytham (public and disused platforms) and providing material to help maintain the CRL and Down the Line websites.
- Continuing promotion of the existing self-guide walk leaflets and preparation work for additional ones.
- Marketing and sponsorship of the 2018 St Anne's Carnival and Kite Festival.

## Going forward

- Continuing to work with CRL Ltd to extend the school engagement project to the line with a view to more local primary schools taking part in trips to Preston station.
- Helping to recover the reputation of the line through improved publicity of good news stories
- Organising a music train to support the St. Anne's Music & Arts Festival



Town Crier, Colin Ballard with the soldiers



Golfer cut outs at Ansdell Fairhaven station

# COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRS

## Clitheroe Line & East Lancashire Community Rail Partnerships

Towards the end of last year there was good news regarding improvements to some of our stations through the Connecting East Lancashire programme. Station audits have been undertaken at stations throughout East Lancashire and the Ribble Valley and seven stations will benefit. Arriva Rail North are also putting forward an Access4All bid for Accrington station and if successful would see step free access to all areas of the station.

Rail travel over the past twelve months on both are lines has been unreliable to say the least. Turn backs at Blackburn for the Clitheroe passengers and Burnley Central for those travelling to Colne has been a regular occurrence during 2018.

The Saturday strike action by Northern conductors and the ongoing engineering work has deterred passengers from using the service. This is reflected in the ORR figures for 2018, which show all stations suffering a decline in passenger numbers on the Clitheroe Line with Darwen down by 10.3% and Ramsgreave and Wilpshire by 14.6%. On the East Lancashire line there was a less significant decline with Nelson being down by 7.3% and Burnley Central by 4.3% and growth at both Burnley Barracks and Rose Grove by 10.25% and 12.5% respectively. It was good news for the Todmorden Curve line, which once again bucked the trend and during the engineering works became an alternative route into Manchester for passengers from the Clitheroe Line.

The new December timetable saw the final temporary timetable bus replacements removed from the Colne-Preston service and the resumption of a full train service. The service which now arrives and departs from platform 3C is a three way service from Colne-Preston-Ormskirk-Blackpool South-Colne.

What are our hopes for 2019? Hopefully to see improvements in the quality of rolling stock, reliability and punctuality of services on the two lines. Restoring the confidence in our rail services resulting in an increase in passenger numbers.



Northern Apprentices at Burnley Manchester Road station with their canal locks installation

The continued support of the many volunteers in the Friends of Station groups along the two lines who spend many hours ensuring that our stations are attractive and safe environments for our passengers. We owe them a great deal of thanks.

Last but not least thank you to all the staff of Community Rail Lancashire for their hard work in helping to deliver the many successful projects on the two lines and educating the passengers of the future.

**Marjorie Birch**  
**Chair CLCRP & ELCRP**

# COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRS

## West of Lancashire Community Rail Partnership

The West of Lancashire CRP covers three lines, Preston to Ormskirk, Wigan Wallgate (Manchester Victoria) to Southport and Wigan Wallgate to Kirkby (Merseyside). As in other areas the services were affected by issues with the introduction of the May 2018 timetable and also the industrial dispute between conductors and Arriva Rail North (Northern).

The Preston to Ormskirk service was particularly affected with a temporary timetable that saw three trains in each direction each day replaced by buses. The Saturday strike days will certainly have impacted on customer confidence.

On the positive side the west of Lancashire has seen some incredible projects including a photography project called tRAILblazers that has seen artwork installed on stations along the Wigan to Kirkby line.

The Preston to Ormskirk Line saw two big projects during the year: The Bee Line was a project designed to encourage tourism on the line and a film was made and this will be launched during 2019. The second project was called twin Tracks and has seen a primary school in Burscough twinned with a school in Erkrath in Germany. Art work designed by the children has been installed at Burscough Junction station.



The artwork panels at Upholland station



Burscough Junction station & Twin Tracks artwork



Rufford Village Society and the Primary School Gardening Club

The West of Lancashire CRP has a number of station partnerships groups including: Friends of Bescar Lane, Friends of Burscough Stations, Friends of Croston, Friends of Meols Cop and Friends of Parbold.

They have been joined this year by a new group at Rufford station. The Rufford Village Society has now adopted the station and has been working with Rufford Primary School's Gardening Club to help brighten the station with new planters on the platforms installed by Ark Plastics and filled by the pupils.

# COMMUNITY RAIL AWARDS 2018

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018 saw the National Community Rail Awards being held in Scotland for the first time in its fourteen year history. Sponsored by Abellio and ScotRail the Doubletree by Hilton hotel in Glasgow saw 480 representatives from the community rail world, station partnerships, industry partners and government representatives, celebrate all that happened in community rail in the last 12 months across the rail network.

Community Rail Lancashire (CRL) had four projects short listed;

- The Railway Confidence programme (CRL)
- Blackpool Back on Track (South Fylde Line CRP)
- Women Who Wander (CRL)
- Northern Apprentice Programme (CRL & Arriva Rail North)

On the evening CRL was honoured to receive two first places with Daisy Chapman-Chamberlain on stage to receive the awards for the **Railway Confidence Programme** in the **Involving Diverse Groups** category and **Women Who Wander** in the **Best Community Engagement Project** category.



The full list of winners and runners up can be downloaded from the ACoRP website at: <https://communityrail.org.uk/events-training/community-rail-awards/>

# EDUCATION PROGRAMME REPORTS

## DAISY CHAPMAN-CHAMBERLAIN

### COMMUNITY RAIL EQUALITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION LEAD

**CRL** has employed two new staff members from 1<sup>st</sup> September; Karen Bennett and Katie Musgrove. Karen will specifically be working on the eastern Northern patch and Katie has been employed part-time for CRL's Railway Confidence Programme delivery and development. Shaheista Raja will also be joining the team from 1<sup>st</sup> May, with a focus on the South Fylde Line and the West of Lancashire Lines. The above roles have been funded by Northern to continue and expand CRL's education work, and to continue to develop programmes with CRPs across the North.

**'Twin Tracks'** - Funded by DCRDF, CRL, Aviva - A project to promote European unity at Burscough Junction, involving Burscough St John's RC Primary and Sechseckschule School in Erkrath, Germany. The Lancashire probation service has cleared the disused platform and relevant land at Burscough Junction. Planting at Burscough Junction including in new planters has been carried out by the students, and the artwork has been produced and installed. A launch event took place on June 29<sup>th</sup>, and the school will now be caring for the disused platform on an ongoing basis.

### Education Network

The Education Network continues to support community rail groups across the North, with a very successful session led by Karen Bennett on the topic of initial education engagement with schools. The next session is planned to lead community rail groups in learning how to effectively work with Young people on the autism spectrum, especially with regards to confident travel. This session will be led by the National Autistic Society.



Out on a Women Who Wander trip

**'Railway Confidence Programmes' and school engagement** – All continue to be extremely popular projects. Development of education programmes has continued, with new ideas and contacts being generated through attendance and participation at the Naidex show in Birmingham, dedicated to enhancing the lifestyles of people with disabilities and additional needs, and the Autism Show in London, as well as the very engaging ACoRP volunteering and social inclusion training day. The National Autistic Society has also taken a keen interest in the RCPs, and have also promoted the programmes through their 'My World' magazine.

CRL has also developed a number of resources, including Braille i-hear cards, a number of age-varied activity resources and a set of surveys designed to gather youth views for a large-scale youth view report.

We are delighted that The Railway Confidence Programmes took first place in the 'Involving Diverse Groups' category at the 2018 Community Rail Awards, and has been nominated in the 'Creative Project' category at the National Autistic Society's Professionals Awards.

# EDUCATION PROGRAMME REPORTS

## On Track to Train

'On Track to Train' is Community Rail Lancashire's employment project specifically tailored to young people who belong to underrepresented groups in rail, including young women, those with special and additional needs and disabilities and those from BAME communities. A series of holistic and comprehensive experiences provide opportunities for in-depth learning and dialogue across a wide range of roles in rail and community rail and the programme is flexible to reflect group learning needs. They give the young people an opportunity to experience, explore and question different aspects of rail and community rail. This is delivered in partnership with; The Mid-Cheshire CRP, Women in Community Rail, Merseyrail, Merseytravel, Northern, Virgin, TransPennine Express and Network Rail.

The sessions are concluded with a presentation by the participants outlining their learning and next steps, and their own recommendations to the project partners for adaptations within rail to encourage diversity. Finally, the programme ends with presentation of a certificate of completion, which serves not only as a marker of achievement, but entitles the recipient to a guided discussion around apprenticeships and employment with our outstanding industry partners.

### Feedback;

#### Teaching staff –

9.3/10 – How interesting and fun was it for your students?

100% - Did you find this session useful for your students?

"Nothing to improve. Was well planned, informative and exciting. Brilliant day, very engaging, gave our students some great opportunities!"

#### Students –

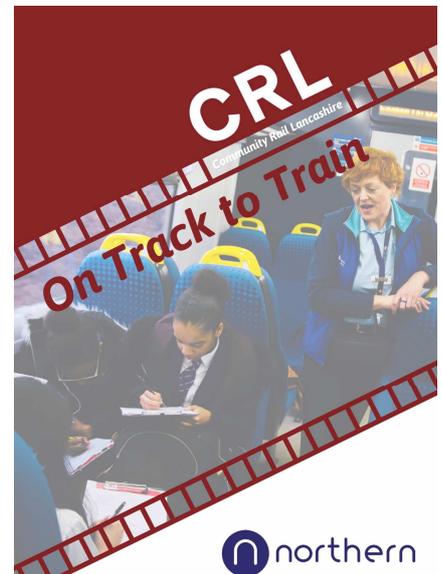
9.75/10 – How interesting and fun was it?

75% - Would you consider applying for a job in community rail or rail?

100% - Did you find the session useful?

"I would like to work at Wigan North Western Station."

This project is funded by Community Rail Lancashire and the Mid Cheshire Community Rail Partnership.



The 'Stand Clear of the Closet Doors' temporary display at Manchester Victoria

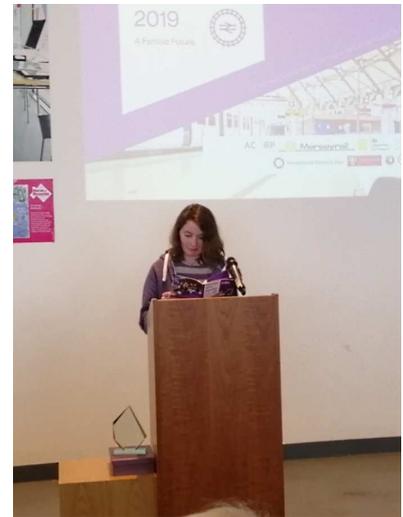
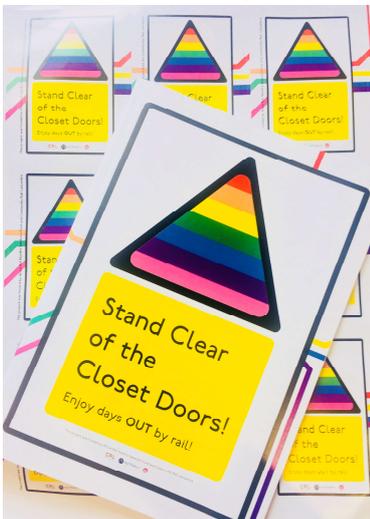
## EDUCATION PROGRAMME REPORTS

**Stand Clear of the Closet Doors!** – CRL has been successful in applying for £4,950 of Northern seedcorn funding for the ‘Stand Clear of the Closet Doors!’ project. Confident and safe use of public transport is a right that must be available to all people within our communities.

In partnership with the Proud Trust, a Manchester-based LGBT+ youth charity, Community Rail Lancashire has enabled some of this confidence and representation through an art project named ‘Stand Clear of the Closet Doors!’.

The project was delivered over the Summer holidays in July and August, and launched on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August at the ‘Rainbow Playground’ event, with two more launch events on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August in Manchester Victoria and the 25<sup>th</sup> of August at Manchester Pride, featuring an LGBT+ ‘travel map’, connecting and displaying LGBT+ people, places and events through use of the rail network, and a booklet guiding rail users through this inclusive network, with key information about the featured LGBT+ people and events.

This project will continue into the summer of 2019 with the ‘Ticket to Pride’ anti-hate crime campaign.



A Women Who Wander trip and the Awards Ceremony

### Women Who Wander 2019

‘Women Who Wander’ is a unique project engaging women and girls to experience and influence rail use and industry, promoting and publishing their views of rail experiences, use and employment. We had great success with our nationally award-winning ‘Women Who Wander’ 2018, which can be viewed at [www.downtheline.org.uk](http://www.downtheline.org.uk). In 2019, we have focussed on looking to the future; engaging hundreds of young women across Lancashire, Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside aged under 25 in looking towards the future of rail and community rail. By young women to meet with women across the rail and community rail industries, we will ensure they have a view of and a say in the future, and are able to communicate their desires, concerns and goals for this future.

Through escorted and structured rail travel and activities, hundreds of young women have been able to provide their thoughts, concerns and views for the future of rail itself; both as young people and as women, telling us what they hope or think rail as an industry may look like, or they hope looks like, in the future. The final 25 winning pieces of writing have been to be sent to transport operators, the Department for Transport, politicians, social groups, stations, charities and education facilities across the country, providing a full range of young female views, ideas and hopes.

The project was launched on International Women’s Day, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019, at the Museum of Liverpool. The Right Worshipful, the Lord Mayor of Liverpool attended to congratulate the winners and present the grand prize, along with our industry partners at Merseytravel, Northern, Network Rail and TransPennine Express. This project was funded by Community Rail Lancashire and the Designated Community Rail Development Fund.

We are delighted that Women Who Wander 2018 took first place in the ‘Best Community Engagement Project’ category at the 2018 Community Rail Awards!

# EDUCATION PROGRAMME REPORTS

**Brian Haworth – Community Rail Development Officer**

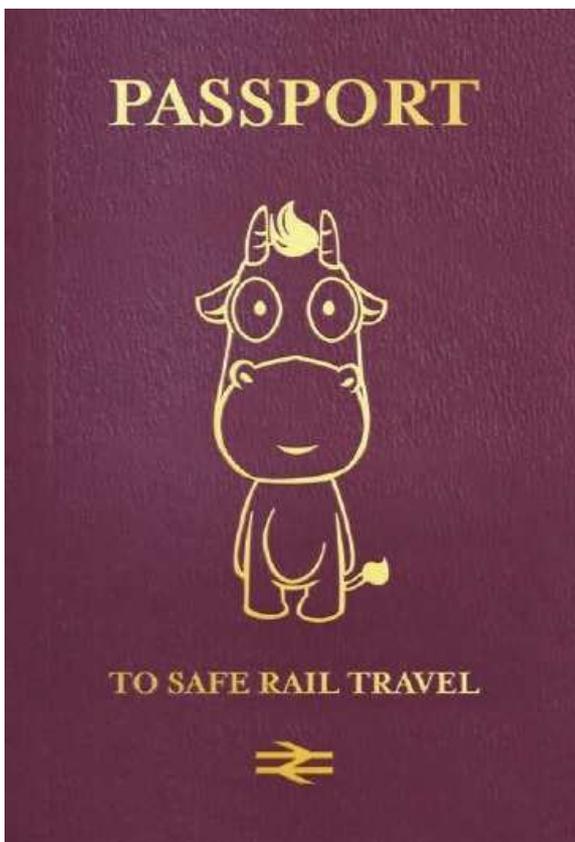
**Educating Passengers of the Future** - During 2018 I continued to be the main user of the education room at Accrington station for Key Stage 2 pupils from local schools. Over fifteen school classes visited the bunker during the spring and summer terms and learned about railway safety, bridge building, reading timetables and the eco ethos of the building.

Before each school visit to Accrington an artefacts and familiarisation session is held in school and this helps both teachers and pupils get to know us before they visit the station. Thanks must go to Northern for allowing the school parties free travel to and from Accrington.

After each of the days spent in Accrington the pupils are presented with a 'Passport to Safe Rail Travel' which confirms that they have learned about all aspects of rail safety. The passport allows the child to travel for free for three months on their local line as long as they are accompanied by a fare paying adult.

**Northern Apprentices** - during the year I worked with a group of Northern apprentices. The apprentices were based at Burnley Manchester Road station and were split into two separate groups to look at projects at Burnley and Blackburn stations. Two of the Key Stage 2 classes were involved in the projects - Reedley Primary School at Burnley and St. Anne's RC Primary School in Blackburn. Full Details of the two projects; **Brightening up Burnley and Bringing Blackburn Back** are covered in the Project Detail section later in this report.

**Queen Mary's Military Hospital** - working once again with local artist Alastair Nicholson and Whalley Primary School we helped Whalley in Bloom and the Friends of Whalley station mark the centenary of 100 years since the end of World War I. The children help design a memorial plaque and the two large pieces of artwork that are on display on the station platforms. Although most of the design and engineering work was carried out 2018 both the memorial stone and murals have been unveiled in early 2019.



The front cover of the Passport



A group of pupils enjoy the sunshine outside the bunker

# EDUCATION PROGRAMME REPORTS

## KAREN BENNETT - COMMUNITY RAIL EDUCATION DEVELOPEMENT OFFICER

**Accrington Bunker Renovation** - During October, I created new interactive displays to match the activities which will continue to take place with the primary engagement programme. I hope to use some of the same and similar materials when making displays for the Mytholmroyd learning space.

**Education Network Meeting** - On Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> November, I led training at the meeting in the Bunker at Accrington. The theme of the meeting was Educational Visits. As an ex-primary school teacher, I have organised many school trips, so the meeting was an opportunity to share my experiences. I also made a video which shows the views of other teachers, headteachers, pupils and parents to share with the group.

**Home Education Groups** - On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> December I visited the York Railway museum with eight local home-education families. These are families who can use rail during term-time weekdays when trains are quiet. Through the visit, I wanted to encourage families to think about using rail to support their tailor-made education programmes. Several families said they were interested in getting a Friends and Family Railcard after I explained how much they could save on future trips and all enjoyed the day with one saying “It was spot on. Karen and Hannah were perfect hosts.”

**School Engagement** – I have visited several schools since appointed for various types of engagement. I have taken Rufford C of E School to Rice Lane City Farm, accompanied a special educational needs & disability (SEND) group from Bradford Academy and taught a rail safety session in Crossley Hall Primary in Bradford.

## KATIE MUSGROVE – SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION OFFICER

**Railway Confidence Programme/On Track** - Since starting at CRL in September I have helped to expand the network of schools accessing the Rail Confidence Programme and On Track to Train. To date an additional eight SEND (Special Educational Needs & Disability) schools/units/youth groups across the partnerships have taken part in CRL activity and that is set to grow as word gets out and further contacts are made.

**New Learning** - I am working with two *Supported Internship* programmes within Greater Manchester to explore whether a similar programme could be(come) feasible within the rail industry.

**West of Lancs CRP** - I am developing a community engagement project within the WoLCRP area that will use photography and soundscapes to share what attractions there are to visit along the line(s). People with a range of additional needs will work with professionals to create artworks that will be displayed at a number of stations.

**Feedback** - “Thank you for your terrific session which was interesting and engaging for the learners - and me! It has been so valuable and I'm sure you'll agree that the knowledge gained in that short time was immense. There is so much to explain and you did it in a constantly engaging way at just the right level for the interns.” Fiona Halyburton, Lecturer for Trafford Hospital Supported Internship Programme

### From some of the young people themselves:

- “I feel more comfortable traveling alone and hoping to plan a journey in the future.”
- “It was nice to get out of the classroom learn about all the different train jobs that people do everyday to get the general public from one place to another. I thought what I was told was interesting and I learned a lot.”
- “Thank you for the travel training we received last Thursday. I definitely feel more confident when it comes to traveling by train.”

## Community Rail Lancashire Websites

Community Rail Lancashire maintains two websites [communityraillancashire.co.uk](http://communityraillancashire.co.uk) & [downtheline.org.uk](http://downtheline.org.uk) and these are regularly updated by Simon Clarke and the Education Team respectively.

**The CRL website** continues to perform well with regular updates and news items posted almost daily. The website covers all five of the CRPs under the umbrella of CRL and each has its own pages. The Events page, accessible from the home page, is used to promote activities, meetings and 'things to do' that are easily accessible by rail and there is a large repository of downloadable resources including guided and self-guide walks leaflets, town trails, timetables, history posters and much, much more.

In the period 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2018 statistics for the website are as follows:

Sessions	34,338
Users	25,222
Page Views	72,701

The top five most visited pages are:

1. [communityraillancashire.co.uk/home/](http://communityraillancashire.co.uk/home/)
2. [communityraillancashire.co.uk/dalesrail/](http://communityraillancashire.co.uk/dalesrail/)
3. [communityraillancashire.co.uk/bentham-line/](http://communityraillancashire.co.uk/bentham-line/)
4. [communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/](http://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/)
5. [communityraillancashire.co.uk/dalesrail/timetable/](http://communityraillancashire.co.uk/dalesrail/timetable/)

## Down the Line website

In the period 1st January 2018 to 31st December 2018 statistics for the website are as follows:

Sessions	2,034
Users	1,495
Page Views	5,552

The top five most visited pages are:

1. [downtheline.org.uk/home/](http://downtheline.org.uk/home/)
2. [downtheline.org.uk/projects/](http://downtheline.org.uk/projects/)
3. [downtheline.org.uk/women-who-wander-north-west/](http://downtheline.org.uk/women-who-wander-north-west/)
4. [downtheline.org.uk/curriculum/](http://downtheline.org.uk/curriculum/)
5. [downtheline.org.uk/toolkit/](http://downtheline.org.uk/toolkit/)

## Other Social Media

Community Rail Lancashire Uses popular social media feeds to spread news and promote events. There is a Twitter account [https://twitter.com/crl\\_live](https://twitter.com/crl_live) and we have a Facebook page that can be found on [www.facebook.com/communityraillancashire/](http://www.facebook.com/communityraillancashire/).

Currently the Twitter account @crl\_live has 485 followers and has tweeted 2,867 times and this is supported by a further personal account @communityrailman that has 342 followers and 4817 tweets to its name.

The Facebook page is currently followed by 100 'friends' and is used mostly to share CRL news items out across the Facebook family by the 100 sharing with friends and family.

## PROJECT DETAILS

### Blackpool Back On Track

Blackpool Back On Track was a project by the **South Fylde Line CRP** working with Thames Primary Academy in Blackpool and local artist Julie Norman. The project was designed to breathe life back into the unloved Blackpool South station at the end of the line.

The children designed a number of bright and vibrant pieces of artwork that are displayed on the fence at the station. The children also designed a poster to promote the local attractions and these are displayed at the station and at other stations along the line. The project was unveiled on 30th January 2018.

Read the full story at <https://www.communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/blackpool-back-on-track/>



Thames Primary Academy at Blackpool South station



The artwork panels on Blackpool South station

### tRAILblazers

tRAILblazers was a project by the **West of Lancashire CRP** and engaged students from Kirkby High School and Hope School and College to travel the line, taking photos that represent their views and perceptions of rail travel, visiting locations that they could encourage their peers to use rail to access.

The photographs were transferred onto Dibond panels that are displayed along the Wigan to Kirkby line.

Read the full story at <https://www.communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/trailblazers-photography-project-launched/>

### Women Who Wander 2018

Women Who Wander was a project by **Community Rail Lancashire** to engage women and girls to experience and influence rail use and industry, promoting and publishing their views of rail experiences, use and employment.

Working with a number of education facilities and groups, including Girlguiding North West England, Kirkby High School, the University of Manchester, Broadfield Specialist School and Whalley Range High School, CRL has enabled women and girls to experience rail travel, facilitating discussions and activities around these journeys. They then wrote a piece of writing in a style of their choice, reflecting their views on any area of rail travel, use or employment.

Over 100 contributions were received and 18 pieces of writing were selected to be published in a booklet. The launch event in Manchester saw a number of the winners read their pieces from the Women Who Wander booklet and a short video of the event can be watched on this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oPPaLanmlEI&t=8s>

# PROJECT DETAILS

## Discover Amazing Women by Rail

Discover Amazing Women by Rail was a joint venture with the **Mid Cheshire CRP** and **Community Rail Lancashire** designed to encourage people to travel by train and find out about the amazing women who have lived and worked along the Mid Cheshire Line, the Calder Valley line and in East Lancashire.

Full details of this project can be found on [www.amazingwomenbyrail.org.uk/](http://www.amazingwomenbyrail.org.uk/)

## Make a Beeline for West Lancs

Make a Beeline for West Lancs was a community marketing project by the **West of Lancashire CRP**, that combined the vital elements of local education and wider group engagement with tourism attractions and professional marketing.

The pupils of Rufford Church of England Primary School and Rice Lane Primary School were vital to the project; producing all the fantastic nature-themed artwork whilst learning about the environmental benefits of using the train.

Full details of this project can be seen on <https://www.communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/make-a-beeline-for-west-lancs/>



Make A Beeline artwork at Croston station



Make A Beeline artwork at Rufford station

## Twin Tracks

Twin Tracks was another project by the **West of Lancashire CRP** that saw St. John's RC Primary School in Burscough working with Sechseckshule Primary school in twin town Erkrath, Germany. The project celebrates the differences and similarities of the two areas through language, art and photography.

The top classes of each school exchanged letters, all illustrated with art and photographs and these were made into two identical pieces of artwork for display at Burscough Junction station and in the school in Erkrath.

All of this has revitalised an overgrown and unused platform, brightening and reinvigorating the station, and has completed the Preston to Ormskirk line as a route where all stations have a community rail/friends group project/work on display.

Visit <https://www.communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/twin-tracks/> for the full story.

## PROJECT DETAILS

### Princes Trust at Accrington

A project undertaken with the **East Lancashire CRP** working with volunteers from the Princes Trust.

Friday 22nd June saw the Mayor and Mayoress of Hyndburn, Councillor Mohammad Ayub and Mrs Noreen Ayub, attend a celebration of the successful project. Representatives from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Services and the Prince's Trust heard the Mayor praise the volunteers for their work. The volunteers created an outdoor learning area for use by the school children who visit Community Rail Lancashire's Rail classroom situated below the station.

Full details on <https://www.communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/princes-trust-at-accrington/>

### Stand Clear of the Closet Doors

Stand Clear of the Closet Doors is a unique, youth led art and writing project, illustrating and detailing LGBT+ history across North West rail-linked locations. In partnership with the Proud Trust, **Community Rail Lancashire** and Northern aim to promote LGBT+ history people, places and events for all to access.

Details of this unique project can be found on <https://www.communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/stand-clear-of-the-closet-doors-2/> and copies of the booklet that supports the project can be obtained by email on [daisy.chamberlain@btconnect.com](mailto:daisy.chamberlain@btconnect.com)

### Changing Stations

Changing stations was a project supported by **Community Rail Lancashire**, Merseyrail and Merseytravel. Wednesday 11th July saw young dancers from Kirkby High School perform a spectacular dance routine at Liverpool Central station.

The dance routine represents the journey of life through the stages of growth as related to a journey taken by rail. **CRL** is extremely pleased to have collaborated on this project and we are sure that we will see many of the young people performing in years to come.

More details and a YouTube video on <https://www.communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/big-thanks-for-changing-stations/>



The Kirkby High School 'Changing Stations' dance troupe at Liverpool Central station

# PROJECT DETAILS

## Between the Tees Golf Bag Project

This innovative project saw **St. Annes in Bloom** and **St. Annes Town Council** supporting the Ricoh Women's Golf Tournament with discarded golf bags planted up with bedding plants and placed on the route from St. Annes station to the golf course.

Details on <https://www.communityrail Lancashire.co.uk/news/between-the-tees-golf-bag-project/>



Planted golf bags at St. Annes-on-the-Sea station



The Northern apprentices with the hand tree

## Northern Apprentices Projects

During 2018 **Community Rail Lancashire** hosted a number of Arriva Rail North (Northern) apprentices. The group were split into two and undertook projects at Burnley Manchester Road and Blackburn stations.

The two projects, Brightening Up Burnley and Bringing Blackburn Back saw the apprentices doing customer surveys, designing artwork, fund raising and project managing under the tutelage of Brian Haworth, one of CRL's Community Rail Development Officers.

The Blackburn project saw a new a new piece of artwork designed by the children of St. Anne's RC Primary School that is displayed in the Platform 1/2 waiting room and also the installation of recycled plastic planters on the platforms.

Burnley Manchester Road benefitted from colourful artwork along the fence line on the slope to the Blackburn bound platform, a canal themed five rise lock planter and also a 'hand tree' featuring the hand print of each child in a class at Reedley Primary School.



# PROJECT DETAILS

## Silent Soldiers - 1918 to 2018 - 100 Year Remembrance

To mark the centenary of the final year of World War I the Royal British Legion invited the public to take part in saying 'thank you' to those who fell, serving either at home or in the towns and fields fighting.

The **Friends of St. Annes Stations** decided that their contribution would be some 'silent soldiers' and signage on planters on the station car park at St. Annes station. In a ceremony on 31st October 2018, the soldiers were unveiled.

More details and photographs on <https://www.communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/silent-soldiers-unveiled/>



Tony Ford, Chair of the South Fylde line CRP, and Northern's Mick Elliott with the silent soldiers at St. Annes station

Following on from the unveiling of the silent soldiers a video produced by Gordon Head (Nogrod), one of the volunteers has been uploaded to YouTube and can be watched by clicking this link:

<https://youtu.be/YSV7Y6p5g9I>

The video is a compilation detailing what the friends group have done at the station, what plans there are for the future, whilst at the same time remembering the servicemen who gave their lives in the world wars.

**“They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them”**

**For the Fallen, Robert Laurence Binyon**

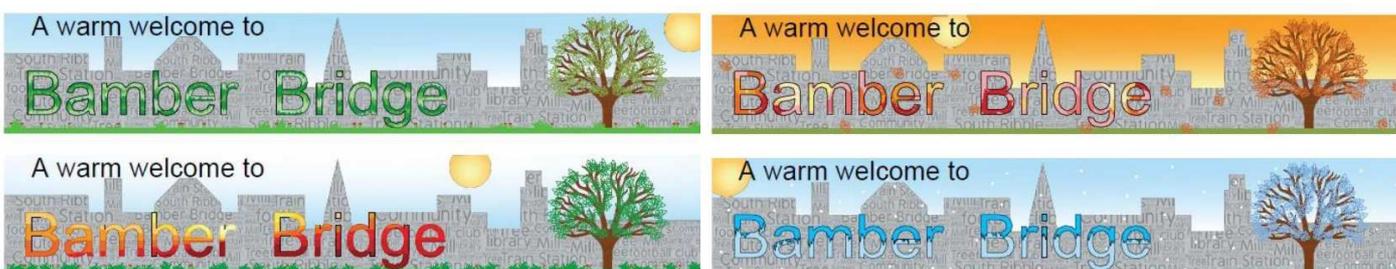
# PROJECT DETAILS

## A Warm Welcome to Bamber Bridge

Whatever the season there is always a warm welcome at Bamber Bridge station. The **Friends of Bamber Bridge Station** have been working with Community Rail Lancashire and Northern over the last two years to improve the look of the station with a project that has seen recycled plastic planters installed and colourful artwork designed by local school children displayed on the station.

The latest bit of the project has seen additional 'A Warm Welcome to Bamber Bridge' running in boards installed on the platforms.

Full details on <https://www.communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/a-warm-welcome-to-bamber-bridge/>



The four seasons running in boards now on display at Bamber Bridge station

## Queen Mary's Military Hospital

The Queen Mary's Military Hospital project saw the **Clitheroe Line CRP** working with Ribble Valley Rail's Friends of Whalley Station, Whalley in Bloom, Whalley Primary School and local artist Alastair Nicholson to mark the centenary of the final year of World War I. The newly built hospital was taken over by the military on 14th April 1915 and was linked by a short branch line to the main line near Whalley station. Thousands of injured soldiers arrived by special ambulance trains constructed by different railway companies.

The project has seen a memorial plaque unveiled close to the site of the hospital and two large art installations on the platforms at the station. Posters explaining the project and the story behind it will be displayed close to the artwork on the station.

See a short news item here <https://www.communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/queen-marys-military-hospital/>



The memorial plaque near the hospital site



The artwork on display on Whalley station

The projects listed on the last few pages have received funding from a number of sources including: **Community Rail Lancashire, the DfT's Designated Community Rail Development Fund, ACoRP's Small Grants Fund, Northern's Seedcorn & Station Adoption Funds, Merseyrail, Merseytravel, Transport for Greater Manchester and Aviva.**

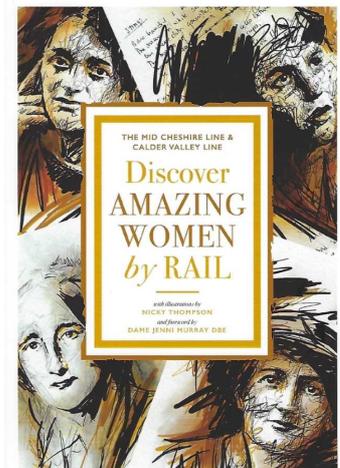
## SPONSORSHIP

Community Rail Lancashire supported local events taking place along its lines in 2018 through sponsorship.

In May the Clitheroe Line CRP sponsored the festival glasses at the Clitheroe Beer Festival and distributed timetables at the venue.

July saw two events on the South Fylde Line with the St. Anne's Town Carnival and the annual St. Anne's Kite Festival. The South Fylde Line CRP was able to contribute to the publicity for both events and produced posters for display in the town and at stations along the Colne to Blackpool South route.

August bank holiday sees the biggest Blues Festival in the country and CRL continued to get involved in the event albeit in a lower key than in previous years. The east Lancashire CRP sponsored the production of posters for the event and was also able to distribute fliers and help with the social media feeds for the weekend.



Community Rail Lancashire has also continued throughout 2018 to produce printed posters and pocket sized timetables to support the Todmorden Curve & Preston to Ormskirk services. A series of posters have also been produced to continue CRL's support for the Mid Cheshire CRP project 'Discover Amazing Women by Rail'.

## DALESRAIL AND RIBBLE VALLEY RAMBLER

The 2018 DalesRail season was very badly affected by a shortage of drivers working Sundays and around 50% of services were cancelled, leading to the eventual cancellation of the walks programme. The few services that did run carried 629 passengers with an average loading of around 105.

The winter Ribble Valley Rambler service that was scheduled to run between Preston and Hellifield has been suffering the same fate and on most Sundays has been operated as a bus replacement service.

Northern have promised that the 2019 season will see trains running every Sunday and are funding the publicity including a launch event, leaflets and posters.

## CRL GUIDED WALKS

The Community Rail Lancashire Guided Walks Programme saw guided walks twice a month throughout the year. These walks start and finish at a station on one of our community rail lines in East Lancashire and have been well supported by local walkers.

Community Rail Lancashire would like to thank both John Barnes and Craig Ward from the Lancashire Rail Ramblers for their continued support in preparing and leading the walks.

## WHO'S WHO

Richard Watts	Partnership Secretary & Chair Community Rail Lancashire Ltd.	communityrailandlancashire@gmail.com 07487 699341
Brian Haworth	Community Rail Development Officer	brian.haworth@lancashire.gov.uk 01254 386579
Simon Clarke	Community Rail Development Officer	comraillancs@gmail.com 07399 563599
Daisy Chapman- Chamberlain	Community Rail Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Lead	daisy.chamberlain@btconnect.com 01254 386579
Karen Bennett	Community Rail Education Development Officer	karenalisonbennett@btconnect.com 01254 386579
Katie Musgrove	Special Needs Education Officer	katie.musgrove@btconnect.com 01254 386579
Marjorie Birch	Chair Joint CL & ELCRPs	margebirch@icloud.com 01200 441549
Tony Ford	Chair SFLCRP	tonyford19@gmail.com 07831 415482
Marion Atkinson	Chair WoLCRP	marion.atkinson@merseytravel.gov.uk 0151 3301027

**Along with the core members of the management groups there are a number of other industry members who regularly attend the meetings along with representatives from local councils, Station Managers and from local Rail User Groups and Friends of Stations.**

Martin Keating	Regional Community & Sustainability Manager (West)	martin.keating@northernrailway.co.uk 07500 447392
Rebecca Styles	Regional Community & Sustainability Manager (Central)	rebecca.styles@northernrailway.co.uk 07786 174411
Chloe Britton	Community Rail Team, Network Rail	chloe.britton@networkrail.co.uk
Ian Davis	Operations Officer, North ACoRP	ian@acorp.uk.com 07376 124962

### And finally, coming in 2019:

- To set up an Instagram account
- Northern apprentice project at Clitheroe
- DalesRail returns for a full season
- Hidden Gems - a photography & music project in West Lancashire
- Launch of Make a Beeline to West Lancashire



**Photographs and other images in this report courtesy of: Simon Clarke, Brian Haworth, Richard Watts, Alastair Nicholson, Tony Ford, Daisy Chapman-Chamberlain, Source Creative, Nicky Thompson, Colne Town Council & Rufford Village Society**

This toilet has been  
**Twinned**  
By Community Rail Lancashire



with a school block at

---

Latitude: -16.90659 Longitude: 27.19069  
Choma, Southern Province, Zambia  
Latrine No. 45194

---



1 in 3 people worldwide don't have a loo. By supporting Toilet Twinning you are helping to flush away poverty.  
Tearfund is a Registered Charity Number 265464 (England and Wales) and Number SC037624 (Scotland).

[www.toilettwinning.org](http://www.toilettwinning.org)

F/76597

Toilet twinning is a water and sanitation initiative that is flushing away poverty, one toilet at a time  
find full details and twin your toilet on this site <http://www.toilettwinning.org/>