



## **READING BETWEEN THE LINES CHRISTMAS SPECIAL 2019**

It has been some time since CRL issued a 'Reading Between The Lines' so I thought that as well as sending Season's Greetings to you I would also enclose the traditional lengthy Christmas letter. It is deliberately a long read for those long nights so with your feet up, mince pie close by, mulled wine to hand, enjoy catching up on the activities of CRL and its 4 Community Rail Partnerships (CRPs). Also I would like to extend a big thank you to the Directors and staff of CRL, all the Lancashire CRPs and to the many station and community volunteers – you do a great job which is fully appreciated. Also a very big thank you to Northern without whom none of this would be possible. Looking forward to 2020 and all that it may bring. Wishing everyone a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year

**Richard Watts, Chair, Community Rail Lancashire, Christmas 2019**

### **Accreditation Meeting**

As part of the DfT's new Community Rail Development Strategy all CRPs need to be accredited to show they are competent organisations and to enable them to continue to access funds such as the Community Rail Development Fund. The accreditation meeting for CRL and its 4 Community Rail Partnerships took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> October. The meeting took place at Accrington and covered a wide range of topics. We wait for the formal notification of the out-come of this process from the DfT which is now held up until after the General Election.

### **Community Rail Awards 2019 and the National Diversity Awards**

CRL was thrilled to be recognised at the 2019 Community Rail Awards, with First Place in 'Projects under £500' for *Bringing Sunshine to Morecombe*, First Place in 'Engaging Children and Young People' for *Stand Clear of the Closet Doors!*, and Second Place in 'Involving Diverse Groups' for *On Track To Train*. We were also delighted with a Certificate of Recognition from the National Diversity Awards, a selection made out of 28,000 nominees.

### **What's been happening at Accrington – the home of CRL?**

#### **Near Neighbours and the Big Conversation at Accrington**

Recently 'the Bunker' has hosted a series of Near Neighbours meetings which Shahiesta Raja, one the CRL team, has helped organise and taken part in. The Near Neighbours finds out what people think of their neighbourhood – from what people love about it to areas where more could be done. This was the prelude to the Big Conversation which took place on the 20<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **Broadfield Specialist School, Accrington**

The station is benefiting from the adoption work being carried out by Broadfield Specialist School at the station. Three groups of pupils with diverse needs attend the station twice a week. Some of the pupils are working towards the Duke of Edinburgh Volunteers Award.

#### **The Sister's group**

The Sister's group, organised by Neilam Iqbal, has also adopted Accrington station this time they will be working on the platforms and tending the flower tubs.



### **Memorable Journeys**

Shahiesta Raja and Alastair Nicholson are working with two Accrington primary schools on a project called 'Memorable Journeys'. The project was recently awarded a grant from the Community Rail Development Fund (CRDF) and will start in earnest in the Spring Term.

### **Northern Apprentices**

CRL is working with a group of 10 apprentices and will be helping them develop projects around the theme of 'Destination Green'. The key areas covered are energy and water reduction, improved recycling rates and biodiversity. Part of the project will involve the replacement of the fading banner at Blackburn station through a project involving homeless young people aged between 16 & 24 who stay with Nightsafe.

### **DalesRail**

This year DalesRail operated on 17 Sundays and carried nearly 2,000 passengers. The volunteer walk leaders from the Lancashire Rail Ramblers organise the guided walk and coach link programme. Over 70 guided walks took place ranking it as one of the largest rail-based programmes in the country. Plans for the 2020 season are now well underway. For more details visit [www.dalesrail.com](http://www.dalesrail.com) and for a summary of the 2019 season go to [www.communityrail Lancashire.co.uk/dalesrail-2019/](http://www.communityrail Lancashire.co.uk/dalesrail-2019/). CRL would like to extend a big thank you to Craig Ward and his team for all that they do to support and promote DalesRail.



**A DalesRail guided walk at Austwick Beck**

### **Access for All - Mid-Tier programme**

Physical access to stations is very important and many stations can be difficult for able bodied people to use let anyone who has a mobility impairment. To try and improve the situation at three stations CRL has been working with Northern to develop schemes for Accrington, Burnley Manchester Road stations and Squires Gate stations.

### **Connect East Lancashire**

As part of the Connect East Lancashire (CEL) project the team are co-ordinating a number of station projects in East Lancashire. Two of the more notable are taking place at **Brierfield and Ramsgreave & Wilpshire stations**. At both stations art projects aim to make the stations more visible and attractive to users. Pupils from Ribblesdale High School, Clitheroe are actively involved in Ramsgreave & Wilpshire project and recently went on a train trip to Manchester.



## Bamber Bridge & Lostock Hall

CRL is working with South Ribble Borough Council, the South Ribble Pensioners Association and the Brothers of Charity to develop projects at both stations. The work at Bamber Bridge is part of an ongoing project and will hopefully see a community dementia garden at the station. Lostock Hall is a new project and will help to make the station a more welcoming place as well as highlighting the history of the area.

## Action station on the South Fylde Line

The Friends of Squires Gate station have been granted of Licence by Network Rail for use of disused platform area at Squires Gate Station. Within just a few days the Friends Group had uncovered a large section of the platform area and tidied it up, a fence was temporarily repaired and brushwood and other vegetation was removed to allow easier access.

At other stations along the South Fylde Line judges from the RHS NW In Bloom organisation not only voted St Anne's Station as **OUTSTANDING** in the **In Your Neighbourhood** category but also presented the St Anne's Friends Group with the **Best Station Award**. Lytham Station was also classed as **OUTSTANDING**.

Several stations along the line have contributed to the theme of Remembrance. Lytham has made use of two of the **Silent Soldier** templates and added red foliage whilst Friends of Ansdell & Fairhaven Station have created a poppy out of painted pebbles. At Squires Gate a large banner accompanied by two 'Silent Soldiers' was placed on the recently repaired fence on the reclaimed derelict Platform 2 to commemorate Remembrance.



UR Potential, based in Blackpool who are making improvements at Pleasure Beach Station were shortlisted in the ACoRP Community Rail Awards held recently in Telford.

Moss Side Station has had a makeover thanks to Katie Warburton and her grandfather railway enthusiast and author Peter Fitton. Unattractive concrete fencing panels have been painted up and have transformed the look of the platform.





## Action Station in West Lancashire:

**Rufford:** Work continues with Rufford CE Primary School, with the year 5/6 class undertaking CRL's artefacts and railway safety session. The group have also travelled by train to Preston and visited the Harris Library.

**Burscough Junction:** Burscough RC Primary School are continuing to plan their work for the year ahead, adopting the disused platform at Burscough Junction. The school will be continuing planting work as well as looking into potential new artwork programmes to enhance the station environment.

**Croston:** The Friends of Croston station continue to make the station environs extremely attractive. As the judges commented in the 'It's Your Neighbourhood Awards' "The Friends Group are involved in ensuring that the station is being maintained to a very high standard. The station is a credit to all concerned". One can only agree.



Floral displays at Croston

## Make A Bee Line For The Station

This is a marketing initiative for the Preston to Ormskirk line and the attractive leaflet is designed to encourage greater use of this vital local service and encourage visitors to use the train to visit Croston Village, Rufford Old Hall, walk along the Rufford Branch of the Leeds – Liverpool Canal or take the path from Burscough Bridge station, a short walk from Burscough Junction, to Martin Mere.



Launching Make A Bee Line at Croston Station on the 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2019



## Snapshot of the work of the Education Engagement Team

### Women in STEM

Women Who Wander 2020 is well under way, with a STEM focus, especially involving our partners at Network Rail and through rail operators. We are excited to be working with the Museum of Science and Industry's STEM ambassadors, as well as the Girls' Network.

A fantastic trip took place with Merseyrail staff where young women from Kirkby High were given the opportunity to meet women working in rail, and to informally interview them about their careers.



The project will also feature toolkits for other CRPs and CR groups to lead groups of young women, and will launch in March 2020.

As part of *Women Who Wander: Women in STEM*, a trip with Jenny Dempsey, project manager for Fleet Refurbishment Programme in Northern was arranged. A group of girls from Keighley travelled to Skipton to find out what it's like to be a female engineer in the industry. As part of the day they compared trains before and after refurbishment.

The launch will take place at the National Railway Museum on 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2020.

### @beefreemcr (Bee Map Project)

Katie Musgrove has been working with Astley Park SEND Primary School and a Manchester-based SEND youth group to create artwork and research local history to include in the project. Having been approved by the Greater Manchester Parent Champions and Astley Park School the resources are now ready to be used by groups visiting Manchester. Each of the activities are branded with the appropriate Skills for Life logo. Skills for Life is a Manchester Council initiative that are keen to promote CRL's educational work.



Astley Park SEND Primary School will be piloting the project in November 2019.



## **Seats to Sacks**

Karen Bennett's Seats to Sacks Project is now complete. All 50 sacks have been made by the Muslim Women In Prison Project. Throughout September and October, the women have met every Saturday to sew the sacks and fill them with the artefacts. They have also been on an accompanied trip to York and have a further trip planned for the end of the project. Their children are also due to take part in an art project at Eureka Museum. The launch for the project took place on October 31st in Bradford and the Mayor of Bradford was in attendance.

## **Hidden Gems**

Katie Musgrove's Hidden Gems is a photography and song-writing project that is involving a wide variety of SEND schools and community groups along the Liverpool-Southport, Southport-Wigan and Wigan-Liverpool lines. The groups have been exploring their local areas taking photographs of places and things of interest (the 'hidden gems') that are in walking distance from their train stations. To date 12 stations have had photography boards created for them, these are awaiting installation.

Since July a range of people have been involved from; Southport Community Centre, Crosby and Bootle libraries, Our Place SEND youth group, True Colours (SEND provision for adults), Deafness Resource Centre, CRISIS and Whitechapel and a number of schools.

## **Ticket to Pride**

Working with the with British Transport Police, Northern, TransPennine and Merseyrail, as well as Network Rail and LGBT+ young people in Manchester, Liverpool and Chester to address LGBT + hate crime and hate incidents, and enable LGBT+ people to feel safe and be visible in public space and public transport and give everyone permission and confidence to report anti-LGBT hate crime. We will also be working on a marketing campaign for rail access to Manchester, Liverpool and Chester Prides 2020.

This project has been funded by the Home Office's Hate Crime Prevention fund and Arriva Rail North's seed corn fund.

We will produce a poster campaign for trains, to encourage people to not be bystanders if they witness hate crime/incidents against LGBT+, and we will work with the BTP to assess the potential for officers/staff to wear an easily recognised badge/symbol which will increase confidence in report anti-LGBT+ hate crime.

We will also focus on working with the LGBT+ young people and non LGBT+ young people via schools and a community outreach programme, delivered by The Proud Trust staff. This will be a 'safer person' project, where LGBT+ young people and allies are trained to support each other, and report hate crime/hate incidents - changing them from being a passive bystander to an active supporter.



A School toolkit (physical with downloadable links) will be created with resources and lesson plans for use in schools KS1/2/3/4 level linked to PSHE/Citizenship/British Values that any teacher can deliver.

Using creative and motivating interventions we will work with LGBT+ young people across the three cities to produce public art that will be displayed in stations such as Manchester Victoria. This will raise the positive visibility of LGBT+ people in the North West and promote community cohesion. This work took place largely within two weeks of August, and we visiting a wide range of towns and locations including Chester, Manchester and Liverpool to discover LGBT+ history and create artwork around this.

### **Al- Hayat**

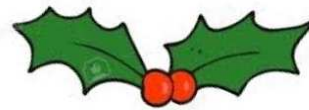
Al- Hayat Language Centre is based in Blackburn and helps people who have arrived from different countries to settle in the UK by providing English language and Life Skills classes. CRL is working with Al Hayat to help with their Transport and Culture modules. A main focus of our work will be to provide help and support for the many Syrian refugee families that have arrived in Blackburn and Hyndburn. So far we have delivered Rail Safety and Rail Confidence sessions to some groups and provided some trips out to Manchester and Todmorden.



### **Mill Hill Community Project**

Outdoors 4allTOGETHER is a recently formed Community Interest Company whose mission is as to improve the mental health and wellbeing of people of all ages and capabilities through contact with nature.

In partnership with CRL, Outdoors 4allTOGETHER will recruit up to eight Key Stage Three pupils at a time from local (Mill Hill) secondary schools onto a twelve week intervention programme that is primarily designed to: increase levels of self-esteem, reduce stress and anxiety, develop perseverance and teamwork and improve social intelligence. The young people who will be recruited onto this project will be those who are disaffected and/or at risk of exclusion.



## **AND LASTLY MINI TIMETABLES!**

CRL is developing a range of mini pocket-sized timetables for a number of its routes. To date there are timetables for the Todmorden Curve, west Lancashire, South Fylde and Clitheroe Lines. These handy timetables supplement other sources of information and are delivered by volunteers to local shops, offices, leisure venues, tourist attractions etc.



**The mini timetable**

**Hope you have enjoyed this and look forward to hearing from you in 2020.  
For all the latest news go to:**

[www.communityraillancashire.co.uk](http://www.communityraillancashire.co.uk)

[www.downtheline.org.uk](http://www.downtheline.org.uk)

[www.dalesrail.com](http://www.dalesrail.com)

or



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