

# EAST LANCASHIRE'S HISTORICAL COMMUNITY STATIONS

## ACCRINGTON



Accrington Station - General view looking north - photo courtesy LYRS



Accrington Station - General view looking south - photo courtesy LYRS

### ACCRINGTON STATION

Accrington Station was built originally for the East Lancashire Railway Company and was considered a very important station. The station was built on a triangular junction. The line from Blackburn opened on 19th June 1848. Mr J.A. Donaldson and Mr J.S. Perring were the resident engineers. The line from Stubbins Junction to Accrington, which was tendered for and awarded to Mr John Brogden on the 13th October 1845 at a cost of £105,000, formed the second line to arrive in Accrington. Opening on 15th August 1848 the line plummeted two miles from its summit at Baxenden 771 feet above sea level into Accrington down the notorious Baxenden Bank on gradients of 1/110, 1/71, 1/47 and 1/40. One of the last slip coaches in the northwest operated on this line into Accrington. An engine shed, carriage shed and turntable were situated in the centre of the railway triangle. The goods yard situated outside the triangle was served by an eight ton crane and the local council had its own private corporation siding.

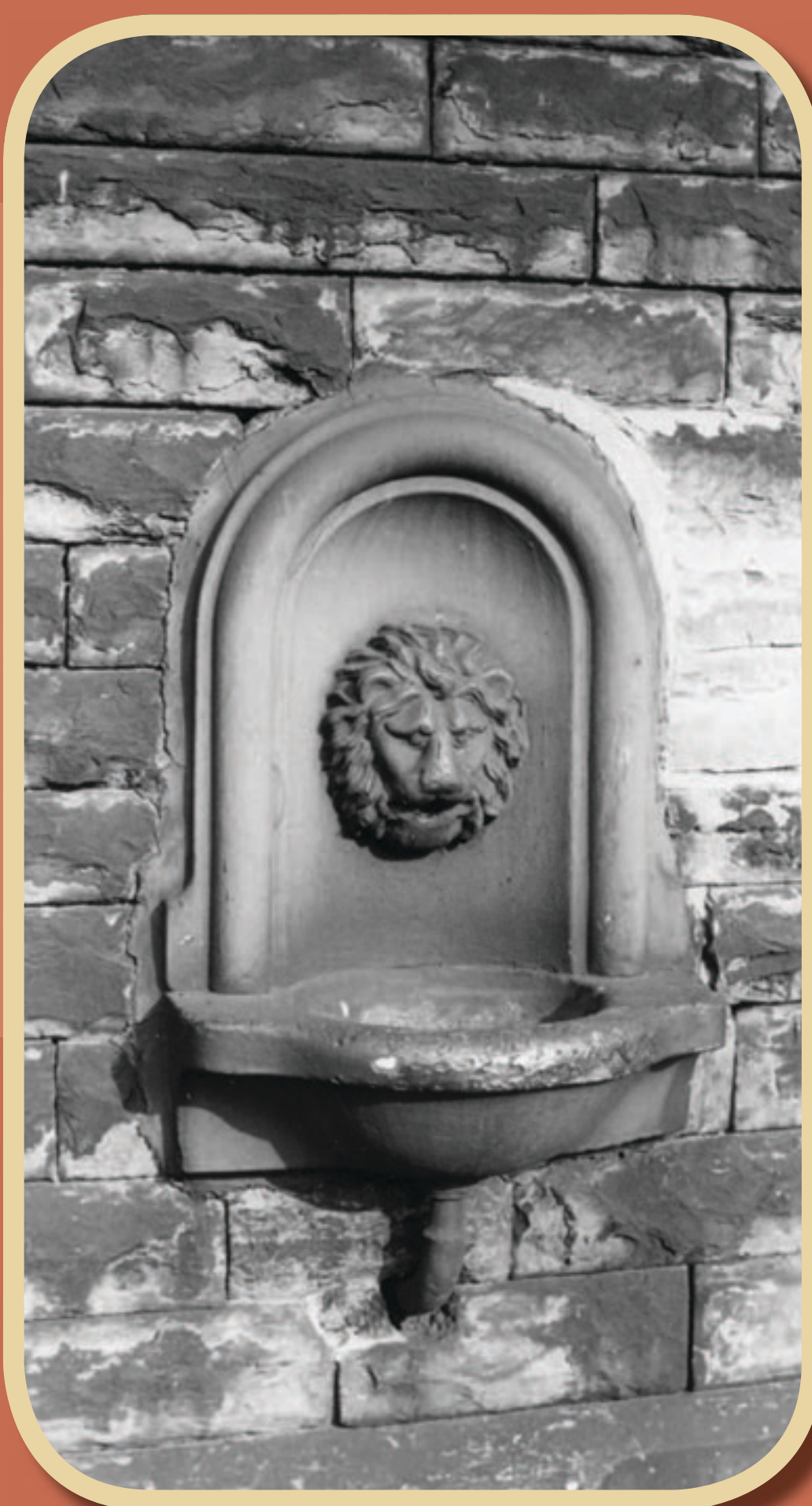
When built the station boasted a large four dial clock at the centre of the roof but had no refreshment rooms. The platforms were very low and the station was very awkward and inconvenient both from operational and passenger point of view. The line from Accrington to Burnley opened on the 18th September 1848 as far as Burnley Westgate (later to become Burnley Barracks).

Adjacent to Accrington Station on the line to Burnley is the magnificent curved Accrington Viaduct. Twenty one arches with 40 foot spans built of brick and stone carry the line 60 feet above the town on a curve of 40 chains radius.

During construction four piers sank and were demolished and re built. In 1866 problems again emerged with the viaduct and remedial work was completed by 1867. The original engine shed was removed from the centre of the triangle and rebuilt on the outskirts of the town towards Blackburn. The line from Stubbins Junction to Accrington closed on 5th December 1966.

A brand new booking office opened in 2010 to serve the station. Built using recycled local stone the building features photovoltaic panels in the car park and on the station roof producing about 17% of the electricity required by the building; a rainwater harvester; solar hot water and many other eco features.

To find out more about Accrington station and its eco features go to [www.eastlancashirecrp.co.uk/stations/accrington](http://www.eastlancashirecrp.co.uk/stations/accrington).



Accrington Station - Drinking fountain - photo courtesy LYRS



Accrington Station - July 2010 - photo courtesy Brian Haworth



Accrington Eco Station - August 2010 - photo courtesy Richard Watts

