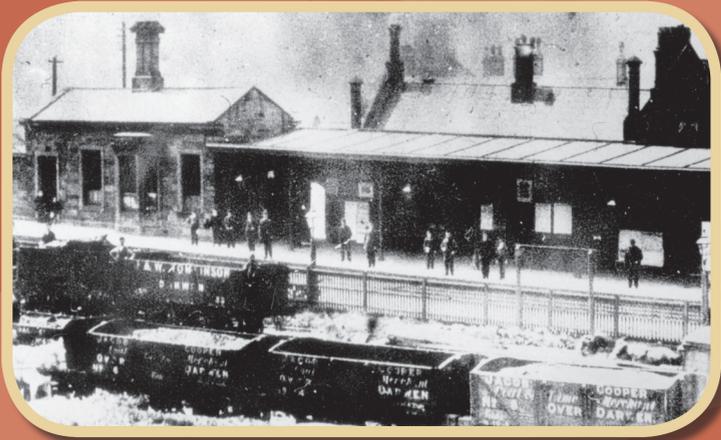
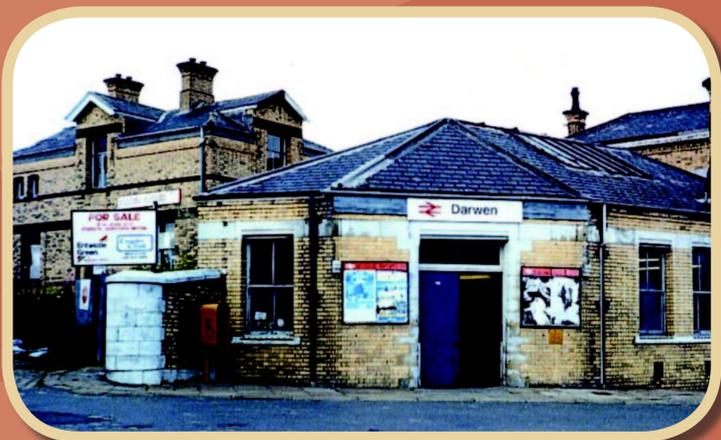


# EAST LANCASHIRE'S HISTORICAL COMMUNITY STATIONS

## DARWEN STATION



Darwen Station circa 1875 - photo courtesy of L&YRS



Darwen Station 1986 - photo courtesy of Brian Haworth



Darwen Station 2012 - photo courtesy of Simon Clarke



Darwen Station 2012 - photo courtesy of Simon Clarke

### DARWEN STATION

Darwen Station was planned by the Blackburn, Darwen and Bolton Railway Company who held their first meeting in Blackburn to discuss the building of the railway and after much deliberation made a decision to construct the line as a double track railway in 1844. Charles Vignoles was appointed as chief engineer and the first sod was cut at Darwen by the chairman of the Railway Company W.H. Hornby.

In 1847 The Blackburn, Darwen and Bolton Railway Company amalgamated with The Blackburn, Clitheroe and North Western Junction Railway Company to form The Bolton, Blackburn, Clitheroe and West Yorkshire Railway. This rather long title changed to the Blackburn Railway in 1851. During March in 1847 locomotive no. 1 a Hawthorn 0-6-0 was delivered to Darwen by horse and cart for use on the line. The section of line between Blackburn and Darwen opened on 3rd August 1847 running just beyond Darwen to Sough. In the first 22 days of service between Blackburn and Sough 24,453 passengers were carried. On 6th June a train pulling 4 carriages left Blackburn at 12.15pm arriving at Bolton at 1.00pm. At the time of opening there were three stations in Darwen, Lower Darwen, Over Darwen and Sough.

Over Darwen became the Darwen station we know today located four and a half miles from Blackburn. Darwen station was described as a Tudor style stone building with a platform length of 79 feet. Lower Darwen engine sheds situated between Blackburn and Darwen opened on 2nd November 1881 to replace an older shed built at Blackburn. By the turn of the century Darwen station had facilities to deal with passengers, goods, horse boxes, livestock and furniture vans. There were also several private sidings for Darwen Corporation, Darwen Iron Company, Whitakers and Co. and Wigan Coal and Iron Company. The goods yard boasted a ten ton crane.

In later years the station buildings were demolished with just the Station Master's house still standing, now in private ownership. The station was refurbished in the early 1970s and in the Spring of 2012 Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and National Stations Improvement Programme funding was used to enhance the passenger waiting environment and information systems.

The current station is served by an hourly service Mondays to Sundays by trains running between Clitheroe and Manchester Victoria. This service is enhanced at peak times when trains operate at half hourly intervals between Blackburn and Manchester on Mondays to Saturdays.

