

A Decade of Engaging the Passengers of the Future



A Decade of Engaging the Passengers of the Future



Shows
Northern
Apprentices working
with pupils from Reedley
Primary School, Burnley
who are producing
artwork for the Burnley
Manchester Road
banner in 2018.

The
2018 team
of Northern
Apprentices who
worked on projects at
Burnley Manchester Road
and Blackburn pictured
here at Burnley
Manchester
Road.



Foreword

It has been a privilege to watch over and foster the development of the educational programme that is today, delivered by Community Rail Lancashire. It is with great pleasure that I can look back at over a decade of community rail in Lancashire engaging with schools, colleges and many other groups. How did it start? Like most things it was good luck and having the right people in place. The initial spur though came from the late Mike Billingham a committee member of the East Lancashire and Clitheroe Line Community Rail Partnerships (CRPs). The idea took off for real at Daisyfield Primary School, Blackburn and has never looked back!

This document traces the developments, projects and successes of the team in 'Engaging with the Passengers of the Future'. In recent years this has expanded through programmes such as the Railway Confidence Programme and On Track to Train to help guide young people towards careers in the railway. Even now new developments are in the pipeline through our engagement with local mosques and a growing number of specialist schools.

Lots of people have helped get us to the point where we have a base at Accrington railway station and an educational team of 4 professional teachers who are at times assisted by the two Community Rail Development Officers. There are a lot of people who have contributed to this but mention must be made of the invaluable contribution made by Brian Haworth and Marjorie Birch who between them over a period of 10 years have engaged with nearly 10,000 school children – no mean achievement. The project has also received considerable support from Dax Byrne-Turner, who works for the BtP (British Transport Police).

The value of CRL's approach has long been recognised by Northern, in its many guises, who have given considerable encouragement and assistance to the team. The step change came with refranchising in 2016 which saw substantial sums committed to supporting community rail along with the setting up of a body known as ComREG (the Community Rail Executive Group). A big thank you to Dr Paul Salveson and Jerry Swift who set up ComREG, saw the worth of CRL's educational project and secured our first tranche of additional funding. More recently this has been developed and expanded by Craig Harrop and Carolyn Watson. Despite the Operator of Last Resort taking over the franchise it is good to see the commitment to supporting the education team remains.

I hope you find the journey through the developments of the last 10 years interesting, stimulating and inspirational. At the time of writing we are all in lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It has once again highlighted how innovative the team can be. With schools, colleges and all other groups closed, the team have been working on educational packages that can be undertaken by parents at home with their children. Our website and social media links proving invaluable and to support other CRPs, during this crisis, the Education Network is now meeting virtually every fortnight.

I commend this document to you.

Richard Watts
Chair, Community Rail Lancashire
April 2020

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Introduction

“Community Rail Lancashire is one of our leading community rail partnerships and has been pioneering the movement’s engagement with young people. This work which started over a decade ago initially focused on local primary schools teaching these children safe, responsible and enjoyable rail travel for life. For many of these children it was their first introduction to rail travel. Making use of old railway equipment such as signals, oil lamps, uniforms etc, the children benefit from interactive sessions which allows them to get to wear and handle railway equipment and are introduced to rail safety. And crucially the children also enjoy escorted rail journeys where they undertake a range of activities from data collection to art.

Today Community Rail Lancashire continues to push boundaries, with thousands of children benefiting from the various initiatives. They have ensured that young people with additional needs and disabilities are having access to similar opportunities. The many projects undertaken with young people have led to the transformation of many local railways with their artwork bringing much needed colour to the station environment. Their continued innovation in this area is an exemplar of best practice for others.

I wish Community Rail Lancashire every success in their engagement with the passengers of the future and their efforts to attract the next generation of rail users to local lines.”

Kulvinder Bassi MBE

Community Rail Team Leader, Department for Transport

“Community Rail Lancashire has been at the forefront of community engagement, notably with young people since its inception. Northern is proud to have supported its work, through the individual Community Rail Partnerships and more recently with the establishment of the education team.

We’re delighted to have been with CRL every step of the way, through the rail safety work introducing young people and their families to rail, and projects and initiatives that continue to break down barriers for those who may otherwise be isolated or marginalised.

CRL is inspiring young people to realise that the rail industry holds a world of opportunities for them directly as a potential employer but also by being a means of getting to education, employment, social and leisure prospects. Just as importantly it is challenging Northern and industry colleagues to look at how we engage directly with our passengers and potential employees of the future. Ground-breaking projects such as the Railway Confidence Programmes and the Autism Friendly Railway Line are influencing our own approaches to recruitment, responsible employment and how we drive improvements in customer experience for all. CRL is also providing valuable and rewarding experiences for Northern colleagues who support this work.

The Community Rail Lancashire team is delivering pioneering work and sharing best practice amongst the community rail sector and beyond. Long may they continue, so congratulations to the team past and present, and we look forward to working with them in the decades to come.”

Carolyn Watson

Community and Sustainability Director, Northern

Community Rail Lancashire Education Timeline



The Early Years

- ✓ **Department for Transport 2007 Commendation**
Marketing Strategy Award
- ✓ **Community Rail Awards 2009**
Involving Young People
(Explore the Ribble Valley Teachers' Pack)
- ✓ **Community Rail Awards 2009**
Passengers Matter
(Ribble Valley Line Blockade - Bus Replacement)
- ✓ **Community Rail Awards 2010 Commendation**
Community Art Schemes
(Great Wall of Daisyfield)

2010

Accrington built and opens as an education hub,
British Transport Police involvement starts.

Accrington Eco Station

- ✓ **RICS Awards North West 2011**
1st Sustainability
- ✓ **Community Rail Awards 2011**
2nd Station Development
- ✓ **National Transport Awards 2012 Commendation**
Rail Station of the Year

Meet Me at the Station

- ✓ **Community Rail Awards 2010**
3rd Involving Young People

2013

Hands on Huncoat

- ✓ **Community Rail Awards 2013 Commendation**
Best Station Volunteers' Project (Small)

Darren's Day Out

- ✓ **Community Rail Awards 2013 Commendation**
Involving Young People

2014

Passport to Safe Rail Travel

- ✓ **Community Rail Awards 2014**
1st Involving Young People

All Change at Cherry Tree

2015

The Distance Between

- ✓ **Community Rail Awards 2015**
3rd Involving Young People

2018

Women Who Wander

- ✓ **Community Rail Awards 2018**
1st Community Engagement

Together we are tRAILblazers!

Blackpool Back On Track

Twin Tracks

Stand Clear of the Closet Doors!

- ✓ **Community Rail Awards 2019**
1st Involving Children and Young People

The Railway Confidence Programmes

- ✓ **National Autistic Society Awards 2018**
1st Best Community Project
- ✓ **Community Rail Awards 2018**
1st Involving Diverse Groups

2019

On Track to Train

- ✓ **Community Rail Awards 2019**
2nd Involving Diverse Groups

Women Who Wander; a Female Future

Ticket to Pride

Autism-Friendly Railway Line

Connecting East Lancashire

#BeeFreeMCR

Hidden Gems

National Literacy Trust Trips

- ✓ **Community Rail Awards 2019**
1st Small Projects Award (Bringing Sunshine to Morcambe)

2011

Community Rail Websites
Rail Partnerships'
Community Rail Exhibition

Lancashire Community Rail
Schools Project

- ✓ **Community Rail Awards 2011**
1st Involving Young People (Greening the East Lancashire Line)
- ✓ **Community Rail Awards 2012**
1st Community Rail Image (My Mill Hill)

2012

Community Rail Exhibition
Community Food Growing

2016

National Rail Awards

- ✓ **National Rail Awards 2016 Commendation**
HC Outstanding Teamwork Award

The Wrangling Project

Rose Grove Revived

- ✓ **Community Rail Awards 2016**
1st Involving Young People

All Together Now

- ✓ **Abellio Challenge 2015**
1st Delivering Equality and Diversity
- ✓ **Community Rail Awards 2016**
3rd Involving Diverse Groups

2017

Revitalising Burnley Central

Welcome to Langho

Heyhouses

www.downtheline.org.uk

Northern Apprentices

2020

Aawaz

The Sisters Club

Bonded Together with a Prayer Bead

Horizons

Seats to Sacks

Reasoning Express

Slings on Trains

Accreditation

Women in STEM

Education

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

Community Rail Lancashire strives to engage children when they are young, in order to ensure that railway is a passion for life. Introducing children at the ages of 4 and 5 will ensure they know how to travel safely later in life, as well as attracting their families to use the railway.

A key focus in EYFS is Understanding the World, part of the Development Matters guidance. The relevant Early Learning Goal is; “Children know about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things. They talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another. They make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur, and talk about changes.” CRL ensures this goal is the focus during EYFS sessions, maximising the benefits to students and teachers, and creating passengers for life in the very youngest students.

Primary

Primary schools are where CRL’s education involvement began; a legacy of engagement which continues to this day. Working with all ages in primary schools, we aim to ensure safe, responsible and enjoyable rail travel for life.

Our sessions are extremely ‘hands on’, using old railway equipment such as signals, oil lamps, uniforms etc; the children get to wear and handle railway equipment and are introduced to rail safety. The children are also escorted along their local line, to a wide range of destinations in Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and Yorkshire, using this journey to complete activities ranging from data collection to art.

Sessions are entirely tailored to the needs of pupils and teachers; our primary school engagement remains our most popular programme and has thousands of participants each year.

CRL is a recognised national pioneer across education, diversity and inclusion, and as such has delivered multiple workshops, speeches and sessions across the Department for Transport, rail operators and community rail to communicate best practice.

Apprentices

CRL has developed a series of programmes to engage rail apprentices; most notably a 12-month programme with Northern. The aims of the programme are to engage with the apprentices and to introduce them to the community rail industry.

The scheme teaches participants how to plan, manage and deliver a project in the community rail world. Apprentices spend a week's induction with CRL to understand community rail, meet other CRPs and begin project planning workshops to present a business case with their ideas.

On a monthly basis the apprentices visit CRL to continue with the development of their project. Ideas have involved artwork, signage, clearance, sculptures and dementia friendly stations. The projects feed into the students' academic studies and cover up to 20% of their apprenticeship programme.



Railway Confidence Programmes



Young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) can often struggle to access public transport for a range of reasons, from sensory or physical needs to a lack of confidence: "Unexpected changes when taking public transport can be overwhelming. 79% of autistic people tell us they feel socially isolated, and for some, the fear of unexpected changes could mean not even leaving the house." (National Autistic Society, 2018). A large number of the young people engaged in this programme had never travelled by train before; meaning every stage of a confident and comfortable journey from finding the station, to purchasing a ticket, locating the platform and the process of travelling had to be learned.

With this in mind, Community Rail Lancashire developed two programmes; the Railway Confidence Programme (RCP) and the Railway Confidence Employment Experience (RCEE); the former to develop confident rail use in young people with SEND aged 4-18, and the latter to provide young people aged 15+ an employment experience to assist them in considering rail and community rail career options.

By giving young people the opportunity to access rail, with tailored activities for their group, we are encouraging passengers for life, and building a more inclusive industry and society. Through addressing a range of factors that may prevent rail use, and providing strategies for overcoming these issues; such as visualising disruptions or planning journeys, we can enable independent rail use.

The Railway Confidence Employment Experience (RCEE) gives young people with SEND the opportunity to experience rail employment. For the future equality, diversity and inclusion of both rail and community rail, it is vital that all young people are given the opportunity to have positive experiences within the industry.

Working in close partnership with fantastic Northern and British Transport Police staff members, the young people travel to a key station location by train, and meet rail staff from a range of sectors within the industry. They are given the opportunity to understand the roles, to experience some of the responsibilities within the roles and to ask any questions they might have about rail employment. They also have the opportunity to learn about community rail roles and activities, and complete a wide range of skills-based activities. They finish the day with a certificate for their record of achievement; a key part of recognising their learning.

Following the RCEE, 93% of participants said they would consider applying for a job in rail or community rail, with a 99% score of full marks (10/10) for enjoyment, excitement and usefulness.

The young people involved are able to develop skills and strategies for use of and employment within rail and community rail. Into the future, with a staff member now being hired within CRL specifically for these programmes, we look forward to engaging with many more SEND pupils in the years to come; enabling meaningful use of rail for all, and increasingly diverse rail and community rail industries.

The Education Network

The purpose of The Education Network is to share ideas, thoughts, and feedback in relation to educational engagement amongst community rail partnerships.

Community Rail Lancashire aims to open more opportunities for partnerships to support each other and use these ideas to implement a higher level of successful engagement. The Education Network facilitates a programme of sessions relevant to the members of the network, focussing on specific elements relating to education through meaningful workshops.

The key objectives:

To share best practice in educational engagement across Community Rail Partnerships

To provide a tool for communication and support

Delivering meaningful workshops to develop innovative thinking on how different levels of education can help serve community rail further and vice versa

Trialling new methods of engagement and sharing successes within the network

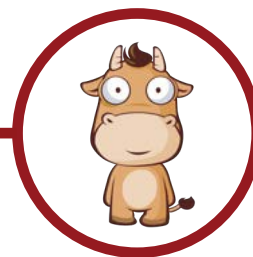
The network has also recently begun to offer training sessions from those outside rail and community rail to the members of the network, as well as visits to other CRPs, to develop and showcase best practise.

www.downtheline.org.uk was developed and launched in 2016, featuring CRL's headline education projects and engagement advice.

To
date, Community
Rail Lancashire has had
over 10,000 young people
participate in our various
programmes and projects;
expanding our key message
of safe, responsible, and
confident rail use, and
inspiring the next
generation.

2006-2009

The Early Years of Education



Project Leads: Richard Watts, Simon Clarke, Brian Haworth, Marjorie Birch

- ✓ **Department for Transport 2007 Commendation**
 - HC Marketing Strategy Award
- ✓ **Community Rail Awards 2009**
 - 1st Involving Young People (*Explore the Ribble Valley Teachers' Pack*)
- ✓ **Community Rail Awards 2009**
 - 3rd Passengers Matter (*Ribble Valley Line Blockade - Bus Replacement*)
- ✓ **Community Rail Awards 2010 Commendation**
 - HC Community Art Schemes (*Great Wall of Daisyfield*)

Educating the passengers of the future has been a key feature of the activities of Lancashire Community Rail Partnerships (CRPs) for over a decade now. It was recognised that working with schools would have benefits both for the railway in terms of reduced trespass and vandalism as well as potentially increasing awareness of the benefits of rail travel. The ELCRP (East Lancashire CRP) and the CLCRP (Clitheroe Line CRP) were lucky to have an enthusiastic exponent for this approach through Mike Billingham, an early member of both CRPs. Initial meetings took place with Network Rail and it was clear that the priority for them was to reduce trespass and vandalism. However, Mike considered that this was too narrow a focus from a CRP perspective and he advocated widening the scope to include aspects that related to the National Curriculum such as citizenship, environmental issues and geography.

As with any new idea it took some time to find a school that wanted to engage with the CRPs but we were lucky as Mike Billingham was able to strike up a relationship with Peter Fenton, the Head of Daisyfield Primary School. The school is adjacent to the Clitheroe Line and Network Rail were aware of trespass incidents in the area. The school itself was at the time made up of pupils of whom 98% were Asian ethnic and 1.5% Polish. It was also very apparent that many of the pupils had not travelled far from Blackburn and that the overwhelming majority had never travelled on a train or along the Blackburn to Clitheroe line.

Daisyfield School was very enthusiastic to be involved with the CRP and through the CRP to the railway industry. Mike Billingham was unable to progress the project due to ill health and passed the project onto Brian Haworth and Simon Clarke, the Community Rail Development Officers (CRDOs). They were soon joined by Marjorie Birch who had an educational background and volunteered to work with schools on behalf of the CRPs.

Lessons were learnt from this early engagement. From the schools perspective it was good to have a briefing on the dangers of trespass but better still to have this linked to school activities and the National Curriculum; from the railway point of view it enabled them to engage with new schools and for the CRPs it was an opportunity to engage with the passengers of the future by taking them out by train to an interesting destination. The foundations of the engagement with primary schools especially at key stage 2 level (KS2) were being firmly laid.

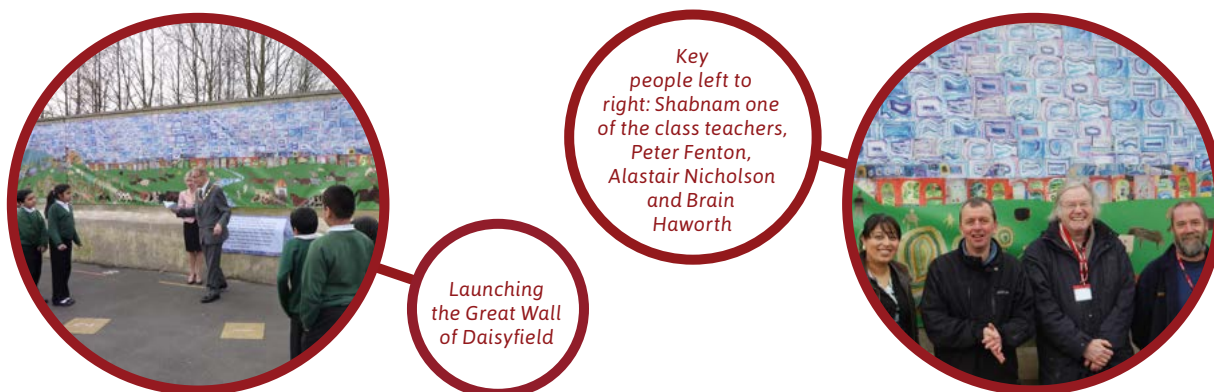
Returning to Daisyfield School during 2007 the two CRDOs visited the school and were soon invited into lessons to show pupils a range of rail related artefacts and to tell something of the history of the local railway between Blackburn and Clitheroe. From this the idea of producing a DVD to highlight the history, features and places along the Ribble Valley line was born.

The DVD was to be called 'Explore the Ribble Valley Line' and was a team effort. The script was written by CRP Partnership Secretary, Richard Watts, straight after the Community Rail Awards held in Bexhill in 2008 from a hotel room overlooking the beach! The package was expanded to include a fully illustrated teacher's pack that contained the DVD, the full DVD script, a glossary of terms especially aimed at non rail professionals, a route map, a timeline and classroom activities.

What about the DVD itself? It follows one of Northern Rail's sprinter diesel trains on a journey from Blackburn to Clitheroe and introduced pupils to the cartoon character 'Brian the Bull' who features throughout the film and provides the commentary. Brian the Bull went on to feature in a further DVD 'Greening the East Lancashire Line'. More of that later.

The DVD was launched at Daisyfield Primary School on Wednesday 25th March, 2009. The DVD was shown to an invited audience including representatives from the railway industry, ACoRP, local government but especially to all key stage 2 pupils at the school. In addition to showing the DVD the pupils had on display artwork they had produced in connection with the Network Rail Play Safe campaign and they also showed a PowerPoint presentation they had prepared setting out the 5 golden rules for rail safety. All the pupils left the launch proudly wearing Brian the Bull badges and stickers.

The engagement with Daisyfield Primary School continued and led to the production of the first significant piece of artwork and also to an on-going relationship with local artist Alastair Nicholson who we refer to as our 'Artist in Residence'. Known as the 'Great Wall of Daisyfield' it involved pupils in the school designing under Alastair's guidance various elements for the Great Wall including sky, fields, buildings which were then brought together in several sheets of vinyl and displayed on the playground wall that backs onto the Clitheroe Line. The project was launched in February 2010 by Cllr James H. Hirst, the Mayor of the Borough of Blackburn with Darwen. Also present were representatives from the CRPs, the rail industry as well as the pupils, teachers and Peter Fenton, the Head Teacher. The illustration below shows the Mayor speaking to the pupils at the launch of the Great Wall of Daisyfield.



What happened next?

This was only the start. The CRP team had begun to plan further school engagements mainly with primary schools at KS2 level. The project came to be known as '**Educating the Passengers of the Future**'. Its aim was to introduce young people to rail travel to make them aware of the opportunities that rail offers. For many years the key focus was to work with primary children at key stage 2 (KS2) in the National Curriculum. As we have seen to be successful the package has to work for the school, which means meeting the requirements of the National Curriculum, whilst at the same time delivering CRL's and the CRPs objectives which are set out below. So to ensure it is a win win it is important to visit the school, talk to the Head and staff who will be involved and develop an educational package that works for them. It is also important to remember that for many children and teaching staff this may well be the first time they have travelled by train. So the experience needs to be memorable. The package and approach is also very adaptable and has been successfully used with EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage) as well as with secondary pupils and groups outside formal education.

Looking at the project in a bit more detail the CRPs set out some of the objectives they hoped to achieve through engaging with schools. Here are a few of them:

1. To introduce young people to rail travel and to make them aware of its benefits.
2. To develop a curriculum-based package that is attractive to teachers and thus encourages schools to get involved.
3. To visit schools and talk to pupils in their classroom about the railway through showing artefacts, dressing up and some local railway history.
4. To provide pupils and teachers /parents with an escorted trip along their local line to break down barriers and enhance understanding of how to use the railway.
5. To make pupils aware of rail safety issues and the effects of trespass and vandalism/graffiti on perceptions of rail travel.
6. To provide them with 'take away' information to encourage their family to try the train.

This is what Caroline Walmsley, Year 4 teacher, Farrington Moss Primary School, said about the programme:

"Thanks for our fantastic visit to Accrington Eco Station last week. After a very exciting lead up to the visit the children were not disappointed. They really enjoyed the train journey and because of your school visit prior to the trip they were able to point out areas of interest along the way. As some of the children had never been on a train before it was a very valuable experience. Once at Accrington the children were able to link our curriculum work with ease. They enjoyed the selection of activities, which covered a wide range of experiences such as literacy (poetry writing), numeracy (working with timetables), geography (mapping the journey), history (train memorabilia and artefacts) and our wider topic of looking at ways to improve the environment concentrating on greener facilities. We have been able to do lots of follow up work and the children have been really enthusiastic and engaged. A really super trip, which was well organised, very informative and interesting."

A big step forward for the project came in October 2010 with the opening of Accrington Eco Station, an EU funded project and part of the SusStations Interreg IVb initiative led by Lancashire County Council, with its purpose-built classroom where school groups could be taken. The picture of Audley School shows the classroom, affectionately known as the Bunker, in use. With this facility things really began to develop quickly.



One last facet of this period relates to Brian Haworth, the CRDO, who did much to develop the school engagement work. Brian was an engineer by profession not a teacher and he was surprised to find himself in a new role which, as it turned out, he really enjoyed. Brian was ably assisted by Marjorie Birch, who freely volunteered her time to help with this work. Her educational background was a great asset in finding the way through the National Curriculum and adapting it to deliver for schools as well as the railway.

2010

Accrington Eco Station



Project Leads: Richard Watts, Simon Clarke, Brian Haworth, Marjorie Birch

 **RICS Awards North West 2011**

 *Sustainability*

 **Community Rail Awards 2011**

 *Station Development*

 **National Transport Awards 2012 Commendation**

 *Rail Station of the Year*

One of CRL's most crucial landmark events took place on Thursday 9th December, 2010, with the official opening of the new Accrington Eco Station. This exciting partnership project involved Lancashire County Council, owner of the Eco Station, Northern Rail, operator of the Station and the East Lancashire CRP.

The project achieved high levels of sustainability and is an example of best practise for the future design of railway stations. The project was led by Lancashire County Council and successfully attracted a major European grant through the SusStations Interreg IVB project. The station has achieved an Excellent BREEAM rating.

Through the opening of the station, CRL was able to develop their 'Passengers of the Future' classroom, which became a key hub and model for education across community rail, and remains one of the most impressive and well-used education hubs within community rail nationally.

Meet Me at the Station



Project Leads: Brian Haworth, Marjorie Birch

 **Community Rail Awards 2010**

 *Involving Young People*

The Community Rail Exhibition; held at the Platform Gallery Clitheroe, the Arts Centre for the Ribble Valley was to celebrate the work of the children who were involved in the Meet Me at The Station Project. It was the culmination of a six week project which involved schools who had been involved with the "Brian the Bull" project, with the addition of Hillside Specialist School. The Partnership Officer and the Vice-Chairman for of the Clitheroe Line CRP worked with local artist Alastair Nicholson to create a huge number of 'mini-me' models and the five stations along the line between Blackburn and Clitheroe out of plasticine. Alastair then used all of the 300 'mini-me' models and the stations to produce a short animation. The DVD ran constantly as part of the exhibition. Visitors to the exhibition were encouraged to get involved by making their own 'mini-me' model and adding it to the outside 'platforms' below a specially created vinyl banner. On the opening day many of the children involved brought their parent and grandparents to the exhibition and made more models to put outside. It was also well supported by the staff of the school' involved with many of them visiting the exhibition during the half-term holiday.

One of the aims of the project was to take the artwork out of the gallery and link it to the railway. An unused area of the old platform at the back of the gallery adjacent to the running lines was tidied up and a display area was created for poetry and mini-me models. Recordings of the poetry played on loop which could be heard on the station platforms. A small version of the "great wall of Daisyfield" was produced and fit to the station fencing bringing a wonderful splash of colour to the station.

The Meet Me at the Station project was expanded to include a photographic exhibition with the same theme. Over fifty photographs were on display the oldest dating from 1912 going right through to 2010. This theme worked particularly well with many different photographers sending in contributions. Perhaps it was because this was an exhibition rather than a competition.

2011

Community Rail Websites

Project Leads: Simon Clarke, Richard Watts, Brian Haworth



A major step into the online world was marked in 2011 with the creation of Lancashire's Community Rail websites - a family of seven sites including the five CRPs, DalesRail and an over-arching parent site. The websites were designed to provide visitors with up to date information about timetables, engineering works and news about the partnerships. There was also a large repository of downloadable publicity and links available on the easy to navigate sites.

The main site also had a learning zone where teaching staff can find information about the educational projects carried out by the CRPs.

Much of this content is now archived and can be found at communityraillancashire.co.uk or downtheline.org.uk

Rail Partnerships' Community Rail Exhibition

Project Leads: Brian Haworth, Marjorie Birch, Simon Clarke



Rail Partnerships' Community Rail exhibition was officially opened by a small group of children from Whalley Primary School on Friday 19th August (*but were on display previously*). The exhibition was the fifth annual Clitheroe Line & East Lancashire Community Rail Partnership celebration of the work carried out with children from local schools.

It had two main displays; the first was the story behind Whalley Primary School's project to create a piece of artwork to be attached to a fence at Whalley railway station and also to produce a self-guided walk around the village to see the places of importance shown in the artwork. The walk was supported by a leaflet designed by the children linked to QR codes in the world.

The second display showed work carried out by children who have visited the new Eco Station at Accrington based on sustainability - particularly in recycling and the use of recycled materials. There is also some work from a recent project that saw the disused railway track bed through Padiham reopened as a greenway for cyclists and walkers. Both displays are linked by a railway theme and the work on display reflects this.

The exhibition, in the Platform Gallery Clitheroe, opened to the public on Saturday 20th August. The Gallery was open Tuesdays to Saturdays between 10.00 & 16.30 and along with the exhibition children could get involved in making 'junk art' models out of recycled materials and also making origami birds from recycled library books.

Lancashire Community Rail Schools Project



Project Leads: Brian Haworth, Marjorie Birch

✓ **Community Rail Awards 2011**

1st Involving Young People (*Greening the East Lancashire Line*)

✓ **Community Rail Awards 2012**

1st Community Rail Image (*My Mill Hill*)

A headline year for education within CRL, seeing the Lancashire Community Rail Schools Project take centre stage.

The Lancashire Community Rail Schools Project embraced all that is excellent about teamwork and partnership working. The project encompassed aspects of the My Mill Hill artwork project and the continuing work of the Clitheroe Line and East Lancashire CRPs with schools at Accrington Eco Station.

Mill Hill, a small station on the outskirts of Blackburn, was historically a hotspot of antisocial behaviour including trespass and vandalism and had become very run down and unloved. Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council working with Northern Rail recently installed CCTV cameras at the station and this has seen the antisocial behaviour decrease significantly.

James Syson, Chair of the Joint CRPs and officer with Blackburn with Darwen also wanted to do something to enhance the environs of the station and it was agreed to get a local school involved in a project that would see artwork installed on the station. The project quickly escalated and three schools, a youth group and a senior citizen's group all got involved.

Community Rail Development Officer, Brian Haworth and CRP Vice Chair, Marjorie Birch worked with Alastair Nicholson, CRL's Artist in Residence, on the project and visited the schools to help in the classroom with the artwork and also to show 'Greening the East Lancashire Line' the second Brian the Bull DVD and to introduce the children to the history of the line through a 'hands on' railway memorabilia session.

The children all then visited Accrington Eco Station class by class on the train, courtesy of Northern Rail. Once at Accrington the children got involved in activities with a recycling theme. They also had a walk-round quiz that introduced them to the eco technology used at the station.

The children continued with the efforts to produce the artwork and once completed comprised of a 30ft vinyl banner featuring the artwork of the children with a safety theme, two panels of graffiti art produced by the youth group and a number of descriptive panels explaining the project and with written memories of local people.

"Wow, hugely inspiring. Fabulous poetry and so well read! Kaos rock!"

**Kul Bassi, Department
for Transport
Women in STEM**



"We just wanted to say a huge thank you taking us out yesterday. The boys had an amazing time. For two of our pupils never to have been on a train before it was just fantastic to see their faces. I am sure other pupils will want to be a part of this experience in the future so it will not be the last you see of us."

**Railway Confidence
Employment Experience**

"Thank you for organising all this for us, it is going to make a huge difference to some really vulnerable people including myself and my children... All of us thoroughly enjoyed and learnt great deal about traveling on train."

**Rasema Bakkali, Parent
Champion
Railway Confidence
Programme**



"A huge thank you [...] It has been so valuable and I'm sure you'll agree that the knowledge gained in that short time was immense."

**Fiona Halyburton, Lecturer
Trafford Hospital
Supported Internship
Programme**

"I thoroughly enjoyed my trip on the UK's first autism-friendly rail service. I commend Northern Rail and everyone at CRL for this excellent initiative that will allow autistic people to travel without stress."

**Julie Cooper MP
Autism Friendly
Line**

2012

Community Rail Exhibition

Project Leads: Brian Haworth, Marjorie Birch, Simon Clarke



The East Lancashire and Clitheroe Line CRP's established an annual Community Rail Exhibition in the Platform Gallery, Clitheroe. This eagerly anticipated event in the town's calendar displayed artwork and artefacts on a railway theme. The theme this year was 'Railway Journeys' displaying what local school children have seen through the train window on journeys along the East Lancashire Line to Accrington.

Community Food Growing

Project Leads: Richard Watts, Simon Clarke, Brian Haworth, Marjorie Birch



Community Rail Development Officer Brian Haworth also worked with Ian Hodgson, Community Food Growing Co-ordinator, and a group of volunteers from The Prospect Panel on a project to grow vegetables and fruit at Accrington's railway station.

After a good first year's crop additional work saw fruit bushes planted and a rustic arch manufactured on site to facilitate climbing vegetables such as beans and peas. One of the raised beds was used to introduce young children visiting the Educational Resource Centre to food growing.

Hands on Huncoat

Project Leads: Brian Haworth, Marjorie Birch

 **Community Rail Awards 2013 Commendation**
 **Best Station Volunteers' Project (Small)**



What do you do with an unloved semi-urban station? Hands on Huncoat - working with the local community, the East Lancashire CRP and Northern Rail - transformed Huncoat station making the station experience for passengers brighter and safer. Overgrown and litter-strewn areas were cleaned up and both formal and wild flower gardens were created, considerably lifting the station ambiance. Links were forged with the local primary school and the local community praised the transformation. Anti-social behaviour has disappeared giving the station a much more pleasant feel for waiting passengers.

Local school children took the train from Huncoat to Blackburn to visit Lancashire's last remaining foundry to see their own artwork and designs being cast – which were then put on display at the station.

The project supported the hard work of the local station friends group who worked tirelessly to transform the station.

The children produced artwork in the form of paintings which were then photographed to produce a large vinyl banner for the platform at the station. A QR code was been printed on the corner of the banner which displays an animated version of the banner.

The station was transformed to be seen as a community asset to be looked after. The local primary school was actively involved in learning about the railway and how to use the train - the children are now 'railway ambassadors' with timetables and able to confidently take the train.

School visit with a difference. KS2 students visit a working forge to see their work being cast.

Since the station was adopted usage of the station had climbed upwards by about 10% per annum.
Hands on Huncoat



Darren's Day Out

Project Leads: Brian Haworth, Marjorie Birch

 **Community Rail Awards 2013 Commendation**

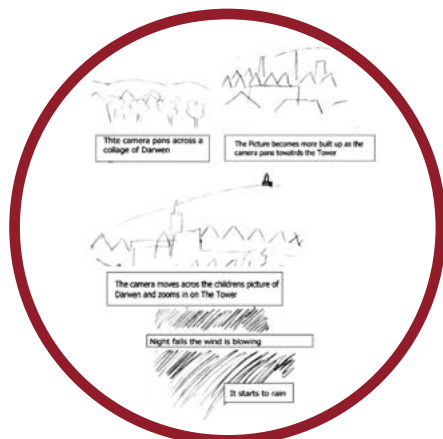
 **Involving Young People**



People, Planet Film is a project that culminated in the Darwen Film Festival in February 2013. This project involved over 150 pupils from a number of schools in Darwen, Blackburn and Accrington and resulted in an animated film that was screened at a special premier to launch the Film Festival. The idea behind the film was the loss of the top part of Darwen Tower. The story developed into Darwen tower going on a train to the hat shop in Accrington that sold extra large hats. He met lots of characters (Brian the Bull) and The new Memorial spitfire that had been newly put up in Darwen, along the way. Darren was the name chosen by one of the children for the tower; Darreners is the name for Darwen residents. Archive material from Graham and Brown Wallpaper Company was used as background in some of the shots. The film can be accessed through YouTube channel at this address:

Darren's Day out <https://youtu.be/reDugt2QVD0>

Pupils from Lower Darwen school hard at work creating art work for animation.



An example of the original storyboards produced for the project.

2014

Passport to Safe Rail Travel

Project Leads: Simon Clarke, Brian Haworth, Marjorie Birch, Richard Watts

 **Community Rail Awards 2014**

 **Involving Young People**



Community Rail Lancashire young person's Passport to Safe Rail Travel evolved following five years of experience and knowledge developed whilst working with over 5,000 primary school children to 2014. The children experienced over 6 hours of education about rail history, use of timetables, safe travel and railway related safety issues.

The challenge was to try to encourage pupils to travel with their parents by train. Whilst working with St. Anne's and St. Josephs School the children talked about going shopping and visiting Blackpool, when the majority travelled by car, even though they lived very close to a railway station.

We felt that there may be an opportunity to acknowledge the hard work the children had done and combine it with some form of free ticket. The children were then set the task of producing something that would fit the brief. Following class discussions they all decided on a passport style document; Joshua and Jacob's design was selected as the one to be developed.

Northern had always supported the educational programme by providing free rail travel to schools visiting the bunker, but CRL asked them to go one step further by asking them to agree to the children having free travel on Off-Peak services for three months, when accompanied by a fare paying adult. This was a first for a Train Operating Company (TOC) making such a financial commitment to this continuing programme.

The project won 1st place in 'Involving Young People' at the Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP) awards. ACoRP is now known as Community Rail Network.



The
creators of
the Passport
to Safe Rail
Travel.

"As
a school working
with Community
Rail Lancashire has also
increased our awareness of the
opportunities that the local rail
network can provide as a facility
for the school."
S Crosier, Headteacher,
Huncoat Primary School.
**Passport to Safe Rail
Travel**

An
exciting
development for
the passport concept
was its adoption by
the Pays de Loire
region of France
in 2015.



All Change at Cherry Tree

Project Leads: Brian Haworth, Marjorie Birch



All change at Cherry Tree established Cherry Tree Station as a gateway to the local community and to the nearby Witton Country Park. Litter was removed by a local Community Payback team supported by public service students from Blackburn College who managed to clear over 10 tons of rubbish and weeds. Following clearance, Year 6 pupils from St Francis Primary School, and local Scouts, Cubs and Beavers from the Feniscowles pack along with their parents planted over two thousand daffodil bulbs on site to ensure a colourful spring show. Stanley Grange - a local group which works with adults with learning needs - gave advice on further planting at the station as well as supplying plants and assisting on planting days.

Linking the station to the local Witton Country Park was achieved using an innovative imaginary story line which was enthusiastically taken up by the school and scout group who produced colourful artwork for the station reflecting the story line. An overland route following the old mine workings was established and marked with QR codes which when activated play one of the 'songs' left behind when the mine was worked out. The music was written and recorded especially for the project by young musicians from two local youth groups at Strawberry Bank and Mill Hill.

Another group of students from Blackburn College produced bird boxes and insect shelters and installed them around the station approach road.

The children from St Francis Primary School worked with the CRP officer to learn about the history of Cherry Tree Station and then produced a 'spot the difference poster' for display at the station

Alongside this, a CCTV system to monitor activity at the station was installed alongside new shelters and the repair and repaint of station fencing. The CRP also provided new branded notice boards and running in boards.



"This is the best project we have ever done, the children have enjoyed it so much and the artwork looks fantastic!"
Gill Coyne, Class Teacher
Welcome to Langho

"Fantastic service that will change families' lives and will put people at ease!"
Chris Taylor, Northern Autism Friendly Line

"A truly inspirational event. It's fantastic to see so many young women enthused about the rail industry. Aim high!"
Nina Harding, Hitachi Rail Women in STEM



"May I congratulate you on producing something so comprehensive and educational. I loved all the facts regarding the bee symbol [...] with a real meaning to represent hard working people of Manchester. All the easy to understand bee jokes add extra fun and creativity to it. I as a parent of two children with disabilities feel that through literature just like yours, we can create a society that is even more educated, accepting and compassionate to our disabled citizens both young and old."
Rasema Bakkali, Parent Champion Bee Map

"The entirety made me smile, feel so included, and above all I felt inspired by a room full of winning women of all ages in their celebrated glory, to be proud of myself too. I thoroughly enjoyed watching and listening to the entries come to life with so much courage and pride – a side to women I am clearly not used to seeing often enough!"
Elena, young participant, Proud Trust Young Women's Health Project
Women in STEM



2015

The Distance Between

Project Leads: Richard Watts, Simon Clarke, Brian Haworth, Marjorie Birch

 **Community Rail Awards 2015**

 **3rd Involving Young People**



A national first for community rail was celebrated this year, with an international education project that was part of the European Union's Interreg IVb Citizens' Rail initiative.

'The Distance Between' was a project that developed into an amazing educational, cultural and community experience.

Burnley Manchester Road was the backdrop for one of its most heart-warming stories; when the European partners visited the completed station building in July 2014, our Lancashire partners went the extra mile. They arranged for pupils from Padiham Green CE Primary School to welcome their continental visitors with an educational play about the local railway (complete with historical hats and moustaches), followed by presentations about each of the Citizens' Rail partner regions, including samples of their speciality foods.

The partners were hugely touched by the effort and imagination that the children had invested. They responded with a spontaneous invitation for them to visit Aachen, Germany and Parkstad Limburg in the Netherlands. Within months, they made it a reality. On their four-day stay in Autumn 2015, the Padiham Green pupils received an official welcome at Aachen City Hall, took part in singing lessons with their new friends at Aachen's Cathedral Domsingschule, scaled viewpoints where they could see three countries at once and even visited the zoo. Many of the children had never been abroad before, and one of the teachers described the trip as the highlight of her career.

As part of the trip the two schools developed artwork for display in Lancashire, Germany and the Netherlands. It was based on the theme of 'The Distance Between' and shows scenes from the three countries in the form of a labyrinth.

Citizens' Rail had other benefits as well. It directly benefited lines in Lancashire and Devon. Burnley Manchester Road's soaring blue "fin" was a French idea, contributing to a 12% increase in passengers. Donated Dutch tulips brightened Devon stations and an international student workshop led to an innovative promotion on First Great Western's on-board Wi-Fi. Equally importantly, thanks to this team, community rail developed strong roots abroad.

Padiham Green School launching the new station facilities in front of the partners of the Citizens' Rail project which led to the invite to visit Aachen and Heerlen.



The Distance Between poster and pupils from Padiham Green at Burnley Manchester Rd.



2016

National Rail Awards

Project Leads: Richard Watts, Simon Clarke, Brian Haworth, Marjorie Birch

 **National Rail Awards 2016 Commendation**

 **Outstanding Teamwork Award**



BTP officer PCSO Dax Byrne-Turner submitted CRL Education Programme in the Outstanding Teamwork Category at the National Rail Awards, and was successful in being awarded a Highly Commended. The judges' comments were: The results so far have been remarkable, with 15 active schools, reaching 500 pupils per year. Unintended positive effects have also resulted, such as BTP reaching minority communities that are often suspicious of the uniform and trespass and vandalism has decreased. " The enthusiasm, imagination and effort of the team impressed the judges with exceptional results and setting a model for others to adopt."

The Wrangling Project

Project Leads: Brian Haworth, Marjorie Birch



The Wrangling Project involved Community Rail Lancashire engaging the local primary school, St Luke's, which is situated less than 10 minutes' walk from the then-new depot at Blackburn and looked at various aspects of the development of the facility, the history of the site, and rail safety issues in the area (it has been a trespass and cable theft hot spot). Working with CRL and an artist the children created artwork which forms an illuminated sculpture situated on the depot entry road.

Rose Grove Revived

Project Leads: Richard Watts, Brian Haworth, Marjorie Birch

 **Community Rail Awards 2016**

 **Involving Young People**



In 2016 the unloved station at Rose Grove received a two prong make over. First as part of the Burnley & Pendle Growth Corridor, managed by Lancashire County Council, saw the renewal of the station facilities as part of the upgrade of facilities connected with the new Todmorden Curve service to Manchester. Then secondly as part of a multi school project which added the finishing touches and colour to the project. Padiham Green and Lowerhouse Primary Schools engaged with CRL, the East Lancashire CRP and artist Alastair Nicholson to design artwork for the station. What theme to use?

Inspiration came when the local school children learned that sticklebacks could be found in steam train water tanks from Rose Grove. This was because the water was drawn from the Leeds-Liverpool canal, sucking the fish up as the tanks filled. The art at the station was all themed around this, alongside a special story named "Operation Stickleback", written and illustrated by the children. It tells the story of a young stickleback named Small Fry who travels to Manchester via the Todmorden Curve. The book was also turned into a DVD - <https://youtu.be/mpjarGyG7Do> - with the story of Small Fry told by the children. A further development was the production of a z-card for door to door distribution in Rose Grove and Padiham which showed how to get to the station and times of the trains. The art work for this was all designed by the school children.

All Together Now

Project Leads: Brian Haworth, Marjorie Birch

 **Abellio Challenge 2015**
1st Delivering Equality and Diversity

 **Community Rail Awards 2016**
3rd Involving Diverse Groups



'All Together Now' shows how teamwork can rejuvenate a neglected station on the East Lancashire Line. The 2015 Abellio Challenge looked for projects that demonstrated equality and diversity and was the catalyst that led to 'All Together Now' - a project that was developed by Marjorie Birch and Brian Haworth. The project won the Challenge and at the same time raised funds to help develop it.

Over 12 months a huge range of groups took part in the project;

1. Stanley Grange - is a residential organisation where people with various levels of learning difficulties, including cerebral palsy and autism, reside as a community. The community was keen to explore opportunities to get their residents out into the community so 'All Together Now' was a brilliant opportunity, getting involved in clearing vegetation and planting the new flower tubs.
2. Young Weavers, a local club that encourages families and individuals to become more active, spotted that the station could also benefit from the promotion of onward walking and cycling opportunities. A cycle route from the station to Witton Country Park and the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and the group produced a colourful map illustrating this ride. Younger members of this group then went a stage further and developed a 'pirate' themed version of the map - complete with a book called the 'Pirates of Pleasington' and DVD of the same. QR codes located strategically along the route also tell the story.
3. Feniscowles Primary School also became involved in the project. Inspired by the Young Weavers, the pupils produced their own artwork which this time took the rural setting of the station as its theme to produce artwork illustrating the four seasons and the different birds to be seen around the station. The 'four seasons' artwork was developed into bespoke running in boards.
4. Birds (and insects!) need homes so Stansfield Centre, a day care centre in Blackburn for people with learning difficulties made nesting boxes for the birds and bug hotels for the insects! They were helped by Nightsafe Platform 5, an organisation close to Blackburn station that provides emergency accommodation for homeless young adults.
5. The Night Safe Witton project, situated close to Witton Country Park, is a charity that offers medium stay, supported housing for young women aged 16 to 18 who need to gain skills and confidence in order to live independently. This group helped produce artwork that has now been displayed in the waiting shelters.
6. THOMAS ('Those on the Margins of Society'), an organisation that works with people from prisons and/or hospital who require detox and residential rehabilitation also produced some of the artwork displayed at the station.

The finishing touches were provided by Northern Rail who gave the shelters a deep clean and all the fences and barriers were repaired and repainted. As a final finishing touch, CRL also installed two branded notice boards.

A group of volunteers then came forward to adopt the station. 'All Together Now' is an outstanding example of how teamwork can transform a neglected rural station on a busy line.

Revitalising Burnley Central

Project Lead: Daisy Chapman-Chamberlain



The 'Revitalising Burnley Central' project was carried out as part of the 'Young Arts Arriva' workstream. The initial aim of the project was to revitalise and brighten Burnley Central station in a way that would be relevant to those who currently, and will in the future, use it.

By engaging with local schoolchildren at Burnley St. Peter's school, we ensured that all the artwork would reflect the interests of local 'passengers of the future'. Considering the number of languages spoken in Burnley, we decided, in partnership with the University of Manchester's 'Multilingual Manchester' research unit, to create a project which would reflect the rich diversity and heritage of the area, through use of these languages. The children chose the languages they wanted to use, including English, Urdu, Punjabi, Chinese, Hungarian and Spanish.

They undertook sensory train journeys 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 at www.downtheline.org.uk. Artist Alastair Nicholson then led the children through the creation of abstract artwork, where they used colours and shapes that reflected the words they had chosen.

Welcome to Langho

Project Leads: Brian Haworth, Marjorie Birch



'Welcome to Langho' involved a number of partners including the Friends of Langho Station, Langho in Bloom, the two village primary schools and villagers, all of whom wanted to make the station more of a gateway to the village and the surrounding countryside. Each school designed a set of logos for the friends' group which were then used to create two colourful and vibrant running in board style panels for the station.

Heyhouses

Project Lead: Emily Elliott



St Anne's is the destination for one of Community Rail Lancashire's combined school engagement and artwork projects. St Anne's - with its golden sands and clean beaches - is the home of the international kite festival. Now passengers arriving at the towns station are greeted by the colourful artwork and bird boxes produced by Heyhouses school which feature the town's attractions and celebrate the annual kite festival. The station friends have also been part of the project on top of keeping the station in great condition.

Project Leads: Daisy Chapman-Chamberlain, Simon Clarke, Brian Haworth



www.downtheline.org.uk is a unique, innovative website, which highlights how community rail can work within education facilities. Schools, colleges and universities work with Community Rail Lancashire and local CRPs to complete projects and education programmes; which are uploaded to the site. This generates a creative, living record, open for everyone, which celebrates work by CRPs and CRL, created by young people and updated by following generations. The website supports CRPs in launching their own education programmes through the online 'Toolkit', aimed at Key Stage 2 pupils. It also engages students with Community Rail through our 'Get Involved' page.

A key resource featured on the website is the toolkit, featuring innovative rail and curriculum-linked activities and sessions, which was created by Janet Ennis. The toolkit is aimed at CRPs and rail groups who wish to lead their own rail education programmes.

Northern Apprentices

Project Leads: Daisy Chapman-Chamberlain, Richard Watts, Simon Clarke, Brian Haworth, Karen Bennett, Shahiesta Raja



This year also saw CRL begin to work in the world of apprentices; over the course of 2017-2018 Community Rail Lancashire worked in partnership with Northern to introduce apprentices to the Community Rail industry. For the first time, Northern apprentices and CRL adopted stations in Lancashire to plan and manage an innovative Community Rail project with a fully comprehensive programme developed and delivered by CRL.

As a part of the programme the apprentices developed their own station project; they carried out market research to understand local needs, worked with social groups and contacted partners to develop a project that enhances and reaches out from the railway station into the local community. The apprentices developed a broad range of skills;

Creativity and innovation
Customer insight
Disability, dementia and equal opportunities awareness
Project management
Team working
Leadership
Influencing and negotiation
Confidence building
Communication
Online skills
Procurement and production
Interpersonal skills
Customer service
Rail safety



"A truly inspiring event: wonderful girls and great writing. I will be a Woman Who Wanders!"

**Councillor Janet Looker,
Lord Mayor of York
Women in STEM**



"As a parent this autism-friendly line gives me confidence that my son can travel safely and have staff on the trains that he can approach for help and understanding if needed!."

**Tina Hindle, Parent
Autism Friendly
Line**

"It was a lovely day the students really enjoyed it."
**Tina Earlam, Work
Experience Coordinator,
Broadfield Specialist
School
On Track to Train**



"I've been a teacher for 29 years and this is the best school trip I've ever been on!"
**Railway Confidence
Programme**



Women Who Wander

Project Lead: Daisy Chapman-Chamberlain

 **Community Rail Awards 2018**
 **Community Engagement**



Women Who Wander raises awareness of the gender imbalance in rail and gives women and girls an opportunity to enhance their writing and life skills and an important experience in influencing transport groups to create change, as well as demonstrating to other young women that their views are valid, and that they have a place both comfortably using and employed within transport.

By using the medium of writing, we ensure that all women and girls are able to participate, including those with special educational needs and disabilities, to ensure the project was as representative and balanced as possible in representing and communicating all views from a range of communities across the North West. Whilst using rail, the participants discuss their views of rail use and debate the gender imbalance in the industry. Some participants are also able to speak to female staff members within rail and community rail to hear their views. Following these journeys, the participants are led through a writing session to produce a piece in their chosen style, and with their own views.

Through projects such as Women Who Wander, and in 2020, Women in STEM, we can not only raise awareness of the steps still to be taken within rail and community rail for equality, diversity and inclusion, but we can encourage not only current and future passengers, but also potential female employees and volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds.

As one young participant said, "Yes I can!"

Together we are tRAILblazers!

Project Lead: Daisy Chapman-Chamberlain



Together we are tRAILblazers! was a photography project which took place on the Wigan-Kirkby-Moorfields line. The project engaged the young people of Kirkby High school and Hope school to travel the line, taking photos that represent their views and perceptions of rail travel, visiting locations that they would encourage their peers to use rail to access, and responding to the Community Rail Strategy Consultation.

They promoted safe and responsible use of the line for other young people, as well as giving them locations to visit that provide free or discounted youth activities. The young people of Hope school also underwent the Railway Confidence Programme. The photos taken were used to create artwork which was on display at every station along the line.

Blackpool Back On Track

Project Leads: Simon Clarke, Emily Elliott



Blackpool Back On Track aimed to rejuvenate a run-down and neglected 'end of the line' station in the deprived South Shore area of Blackpool. The South Fylde Line CRP approached Thames Academy, a local primary school, with a view to developing a project at Blackpool South station - the project used artwork designed by the children to showcase the attractions of Blackpool that are accessible using the South Fylde Line between Preston and Blackpool South. These panels were fixed to the fence line at the station; a colourful poster was also displayed in notice boards along the South Fylde Line and other local lines.

Twin Tracks

Project Lead: Daisy Chapman-Chamberlain



The young people of Burscough Junction RC Primary were engaged in an international writing and artwork swap with a school in West Lancashire's twinned German town of Erkrath. Community Rail Lancashire connected the school to Sechseckshule in Erkrath and facilitated a bilingual programme of letter and artwork swapping, centred around our local areas, including nature, farming and transport. This work was used to produce signage which is installed at the station. The schools were delighted to be connected, and have continued the twinning, with projects both independent of and in partnership with Community Rail Lancashire.

Stand Clear of the Closet Doors!

Project Lead: Daisy Chapman-Chamberlain

✓ **Community Rail Awards 2019**
1st Involving Children and Young People



'Stand Clear of the Closet Doors!' meaningfully and creatively engaged young LGBT+ people in rail; giving them the opportunity to feel confident on public transport, but also to create writing and artwork pieces that visually represent the LGBT+ community along the relevant rail lines.

Working with the Proud Trust, Community Rail Lancashire worked with the group to create a rail-linked guide to LGBT+ people, history, events and places, along with spectacular artwork, to fully represent a traditionally marginalised group and educate the general public on key LGBT+ issues and to signpost points of access for further learning.

The Railway Confidence Programmes

Project Leads: Daisy Chapman-Chamberlain, Katie Musgrove

✓ **National Autistic Society Awards 2018** 1st Best Community Project
✓ **Community Rail Awards 2018** 1st Involving Diverse Groups



The Railway Confidence Programmes were also developed in this year, encompassing confidence and employment programmes for young people with additional needs and disabilities. This programme is explained in detail at the start of this booklet.

On Track to Train

Project Leads: Daisy Chapman-Chamberlain, Katie Musgrove

 **Community Rail Awards 2019**

 *Involving Diverse Groups*



Community Rail Lancashire and the Mid-Cheshire Community Rail Partnership developed 'On Track to Train', specifically aimed at engaging underrepresented groups in rail employment options. For the future equality, diversity and inclusion of both rail and community rail, it is vital that all young people are given the opportunity to have positive experiences within the industry.

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; these sessions can take from 3 to 7 days to complete, and the programme is flexible to reflect group learning needs and specific interests. This is delivered in partnership with the Mid-Cheshire Community Rail Partnership, Merseyrail, Merseytravel, Northern, Virgin, TransPennine Express and Network Rail; with an astonishingly high level of cooperation and coordination across these rail groups and education facilities characterising the programme. The sessions are concluded with a presentation by the participants outlining their learning and next steps, and their own recommendations to the programme partners for adaptations within rail to encourage diversity.

Women Who Wander; a Female Future

Project Lead: Daisy Chapman-Chamberlain



Women Who Wander; a Female Future also took place in this year, continuing the great success of the programme from 2018.

Ticket to Pride

Project Lead: Daisy Chapman-Chamberlain



Ticket to Pride involves working with the British Transport Police, major train operators in the North West including Northern, 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 – giving everyone permission and confidence to report anti-LGBT hate crime. This includes interventions with young people, production of artwork and posters, and a school toolkit which teachers can use to teach students how to identify and report a hate crime.

Autism-Friendly Railway Line

Project Lead: Daisy Chapman-Chamberlain



Community Rail Lancashire, in partnership with Northern and working with the National Autistic Society, delivered the UK's first Autism-Friendly Railway Line in the summer of 2019. This project specifically aims to address some of the needs that autistic people, and people with less-visible disabilities, face when travelling by rail, including ensuring greater provision of information, staff training, and available resources.

This outstanding project originated from an identified local need through work with special needs schools in the Blackburn and Accrington areas, where school staff identified a reluctance, and in some cases a deeper worry, on the part of parents and guardians regarding taking young people with disabilities on the railway network.

Without public understanding, autistic people and their families are at risk of being isolated and developing mental health problems. Autism is much more common than many people think; there are around 700,000 people on the autism spectrum in the UK – more than 1 in 100; and this figure is rising. If you include their families, autism is a part of daily life for a minimum of 2.8 million people.

It is vital that autistic people and their families are able to experience and access all opportunities within society; this includes confident use of public transport to access leisure, healthcare, employment and education.

Working closely with multiple groups of young people with less-visible disabilities, their families, and the National Autistic Society, Community Rail Lancashire developed the project with a number of features designed to inspire confident, independent and comfortable rail travel. These features include line guides for the route between Blackburn to Manchester Victoria via Todmorden, giving comprehensive travel and accessibility information for each station, as well as linked local businesses that feature autism-friendly facilities. These line guides also include activities for young people at a range of ages, and were comprehensively reviewed by young people and adults with lived experience to ensure they contained all the information that may be required to travel confidently by rail.

Another key aspect of the project is the staff training, delivered to Northern staff by the National Autistic Society, ensuring that staff are well-equipped to assist every passenger and communicate as effectively as possible. The staffed stations along the route were also stocked with ear defenders and sunglasses, aiming to give passengers the option of mediating sensory changes in the environment.

The feedback was superb, with 100% of the 55 attendees (largely families with lived experience) to the inaugural autism-friendly service saying that the trip was well-planned and easy, that they will use the line in the future and that the resources helped them or their family to feel more confident or that they would help other families. In particular, the line map identifying the location and length of tunnels was seen as particularly useful in managing stressful situations relating to sensory change.

"Actually brilliant, can't fault it. Please, when I have left college, I would love to work for Northern."

**Railway Confidence
Employment
Experience**



"The ladies really enjoyed themselves and learned a lot from the experience. Most of them had never travelled by train before and felt that they could now buy a ticket and ask for help with confidence. This was a very helpful session and we look forward to working with Community Rail Lancashire again."

**Mrs Farooq, Aawaz
Aawaz**



"This program could help millions of people become more confident in reporting hate crime because they will know it's the right thing to do and know it will get sorted."

Ticket to Pride



"Thank you very much for embarking with us to Liverpool, it was a very enjoyable and informative experience. We all learned a lot and consider it a very valuable asset for future reference. I will let you know whenever I plan out my first independent travel journey.."

**Student
On Track to Train**

"An inspirational event! Well done to all."

**Marie Addison,
Northern
Women in
STEM**

Connecting East Lancashire

Project Leads: Simon Clarke, Katie Musgrove, Caroline Holden



Connecting East Lancashire focussed on delivering art interventions in the local community, by exploring the history and geography of Ramsgreave and Wilpshire, Brierfield and Accrington. They aimed to connect communities to the railway by bringing people together through a season of artist led workshops.

Alongside this, in partnership with Connecting East Lancashire, three art projects have taken place to help raise the profile of three station with and beyond their local communities.

Ramsgreave and Wilpshire: artist Karen Allerton has worked with students from Ribblesdale High School and Blackburn College as well as the Friends of Ribble Valley Stations to explore the local history and environment of the station at Ramsgreave and Wilpshire. They decided to focus on the railway as a route to future careers and enjoyed asking commuters about their work. There will be a number of artworks on display at the station that will bring some colour to the area.

Brierfield: artists Sam Rushton and Rob Parkinson worked with arts collective In-Situ to develop a fresh approach to the Brierfield Station, which sits in the shadow of the new Northlight complex, and promote travel routes to and from the station. They held a number of workshops for the local community that included printmaking, clay sculpture and creative writing. The project culminated in a community-centre exhibition and is part of a larger programme to develop the area around Brierfield Railway station and Northlight.

Accrington: artist Alastair Nicholson has worked with Peel Park Primary School and Hyndburn Park Primary School in Accrington have produced a piece of artwork for display at Accrington station. A significant focus of this project was the idea that certain journeys are special because they change lives. The pupils of both these schools come from diverse backgrounds, including some pupils who have recently migrated from Syria. Their memorable journey to gain refuge in the UK from a war torn country was a very different story from the memorable journeys to holiday destinations. Both are important and this project gave the pupils the opportunity to research the idea of a journey changing lives.

The children spent some time at Accrington Library researching the history of the communities that have migrated to Accrington over the last few decades. A majority of children who attend Hyndburn Park Primary School are of South Asian heritage. This project gave the pupils the opportunity to talk to their parents and grandparents about their memorable journeys to build a life for themselves and their families in Accrington.

#BeeFreeMCR

Project Lead: Katie Musgrove



With the success of the Railway Confidence Programmes, Community Rail Lancashire bring a significant amount of groups with special educational needs into Manchester city centre. These visits are primarily to consolidate learning and enable the young people to experience train travel first-hand. However, in order that the young people understand the purpose of travel it is important that they visit somewhere of interest at their destination.

#BeeFreeMCR is an activity booklet and walking tour that supports groups to explore, the often very busy, Manchester city centre. The illustrative map guides groups between Manchester Piccadilly and Manchester Victoria train stations and acts as a positive distraction from the busyness of the town centre for those who are sensitive to crowds and over-stimulation.

Hidden Gems

Project Lead: Katie Musgrove



Hidden Gems is a photography project that involved a wide variety of colleges, schools, youth, charity and community groups along the Liverpool-Southport, Southport-Wigan and Wigan-Liverpool lines. In the region of 200 people of all ages and backgrounds have taken part. They have worked with photographers and visual artists to explore their local areas; photographing the places and things of interest (the 'hidden gems') that are in walking distance from their local train station.

The photographs reflect and celebrate the diversity of the physical environments and the communities found along these lines, bringing previously undiscovered locations to both the local populations and those from outside: sweeping beachscapes, architectural/historical points of interest, areas of natural beauty, lively community centres, bustling town centres, and much more!

A total of fourteen Merseyrail and Northern stations were involved in displaying photography boards that celebrate their Hidden Gems.

With the success of the project St. Helens' College were keen to integrate a live-brief into their college course. As such, sixty college students have worked in small teams to create activity resources to support engagement with groups with SEND for each of the stations involved in the Hidden Gems project along the Wigan-Liverpool line. These resources were tried and tested by three focus groups – a Deaf Club, a SEND youth group and SEND college students – and will be available from the station tickets offices from spring 2020.

National Literacy Trust Trips

Project Lead: Karen Bennett



Community Rail Awards 2019

1st

Small Projects Award (Bringing Sunshine to Morecambe)



There is a strong link between high poverty and low educational attainment. Last year, one in three children in the Bradford region left primary school unable to read well. In some parts nearly half of adults (47.2%) have literacy skills lower than those expected of an 11-year-old (National Literacy Trust). Research shows that when parents and carers take an active role in their children's education it can transform their chances of success at school and beyond.

Community Rail Lancashire supported the National Literacy Trust in promoting an early love of reading with Bradford families and encouraging parents to engage in activities to improve literacy skills across the area. The Trust has set up a programme that aims to improve literacy attainment for children by supporting their parents to be more involved in their learning at school and at home.

To coincide with the launch of the Inspiring Parents programme by the Literacy Trust, Community Rail Lancashire organised two day trips to Morecambe for the Parent Champions, who will inspire their peers to spend more time taking part in literacy activities with their families. The trips not only encouraged parents to sign up to volunteer in the programme, they also demonstrated to families how enjoyable it is to spend time together playing games on a journey and promoted Friends and Family Rail Cards, which reduce the cost of travelling and can be a cheaper and more environmentally friendly alternative to taking the car.

As a result of going on the trip, the parents who attended gave some great feedback. Some 'really enjoyed it' and thought everything was 'super-duper'. One family have a car, but now realise 'going on a train is a different kind of entertainment'. One parent who suffers with anxiety commented that she 'felt relaxed as there were people to talk to'.

Further trips have been planned with other families in the area so they too can see the benefits of rail travel and gain new ideas on how to do literacy activities as a family.

Aawaz

Project Lead: Shahiesta Raja



Aawaz is a charity which was formed by South Asian heritage women in 1997. Aawaz means “Voice” in Urdu and is the “voice” of Asian women across Lancashire. The charity’s work revolves around the principle of self-help, equipping women and families to learn to help themselves, so that the culture of dependency can be broken down. Community Rail Lancashire is working with Aawaz to help with the group’s inhouse Confidence with Transport unit as part of their Life Skills course. As part of the course, women from Aawaz Access Point on Blackburn Road in Accrington came to the Railway station to learn how to travel safely and confidently by train. They learned how to read a timetable, buy a ticket, work out which platform to wait on and who to ask for help when needed. For many of the women, it was their first time at the station, so they were a little apprehensive. After meeting Steve at the ticket office, they felt at ease as he explained their options for travelling and helped them to buy tickets. The group then travelled to Nelson for an afternoon of shopping at the Bazaar.

Railway stations can be scary places, especially if English is not your first language. Awaaz Access point aims to help women who may not speak English as their first language to improve their chances of integrating into wider society by offering localised courses in English that teach life skills such as basic IT, English improvement and how to travel on public transport safely and with confidence.

The Sisters Club

Project Lead: Shahiesta Raja



A girls’ group known as the Sisters Club have adopted Accrington Railway station along with Broadfield School. The Sisters Club is usually based at Masjid As Sunnah- a mosque on Park Road, Accrington. The group runs sessions for young girls from ages 5-15 every Sunday to teach them various skills such as arts and crafts, storytelling and charity work. Sisters Club wanted to work within the community and decided to adopt Accrington railway station so that they could help look after this integral part of their community. Sisters Club holds an afternoon tea on the last Sunday of every month for women of all ages and faiths at the mosque and now also hold the afternoon tea at the station while they tend to the plants and flowers!

The girls from Sisters Club come to the station on Sundays and work with the CRL team to learn about the safety rules in order to work on the platform safely. They are planning artwork for the shelters on the platform as well as looking after the plants and flowers. Over Ramadan the group focus on the Islamic pillar of charity and try to raise awareness of the reasons for fasting in Ramadan by giving out information along with sweets, to the passengers at the station. Their aim is to encourage a sense of understanding and community cohesion.

Bonded Together with a Prayer Bead

Project Lead: Shahiesta Raja



Bonded Together with a Prayer Bead uses creativity to help overcome mental health barriers to participation, with the secondary aim to build confidence and valuable employability skills to re-engage with society in a meaningful way. It is focused on building projects which bring communities together to bring additional value both to the individual and to society.

The aim of Bonded Together with A Prayer Bead is to create understanding between communities by focusing on similarities through discussions, learning together, and creating an individual large 8cm bead - which on completion will form a 1000 bead, 100 metre prayer bead thread. This creative project breaks barriers and encourages new friendships, empowering individuals with confidence to start conversations in their communities.

As part of the project the participants have travelled on the train to various locations including Accrington, Burnley, Cambridge Eco Mosque and Manchester to deliver workshops on art and cohesion. Many schools and community groups have been involved and thoroughly enjoyed the aspect of meeting different people and decorating the beads as well as seeing them threaded together. It has helped to support members of Arts2Heal to travel independently and gain confidence with train travel. A future trip is planned for London to further celebrate the project.

Horizons

Project Lead: Karen Bennett



Community Rail Lancashire was delighted to collaborate with the art club of Carlton Junior and Infant School, Can Do Art and Transpennine Express on a beautiful mural to display at the Grade II listed station.

Pupils from Years 3-6 who are part of the school's art club wanted to create a piece that would encourage visitors to come and visit their wonderful town. After a visit to the station to discuss ideas, the pupils got to work on the design. It was decided something inspired by local artist David Hockey would look great and needed to include all the iconic buildings; old and new in the town. These include the town hall, mosque, church, viaduct, a mill, housing, greenery and of course a train. Each of the pupils in the art group designed what they thought the mural should look like and the artist came up with a design they could all work on together. One child suggested 'putting Dewsbury on the map' and therefore wanted to create a globe with an arrow coming from the running in board. Once the artwork was completed, it was turned into a digital image so it could be enlarged to display at the station.

On Friday 12th July 2019, the project was officially launched at the station. Guests included the Mayor of Kirklees, Cllr Gulfam Asif, Cllr Masood Ahmed, Tracy Brabin MP, Paula Sheriff MP and David Pearson, Deputy Lieutenant to the Queen.

Seats to Sacks

Project Lead: Karen Bennett



From Seats to Sacks is an innovative project striving to reduce social isolation whilst turning railway moquette into story sacks for primary schools. Striving to reduce social isolation, From Seats to Sacks has turned railway moquette into story sacks for primary schools.

In 2017, one in three children in the Bradford region left primary school unable to read well. In some parts of the district nearly half of adults (47.2%) have literacy skills lower than those expected of an 11-year-old.

A story sack is a large cloth bag containing a quality children's picture book with supporting materials to stimulate reading activities. The Muslim Women in Prison project supports those who are now living back in their communities, but are often ostracised, vulnerable and with low self-esteem often resulting in anxiety and self-isolation.

With expert sewing guidance, the group worked tirelessly on Saturday mornings to make the sacks and fill them with the artefacts; flags, whistles, books, toy trains and a hi-vis jacket. For the women, making the sacks went beyond learning new sewing skills. Friendships were formed and confidence grew, especially on the trips on the railway. One mother who took her children out with the group said it was the first time she had left the house with her family for seven years.

Reasoning Express

Project Lead: Karen Bennett



This exciting project gives pupils the opportunities to learn and use their mathematical skills in a real-life context. The challenges explore areas of mathematics that underpin aspects of the railway industry. The Reasoning Express is a series of mathematical problems and investigations that are linked to the Year 4 and 5 Mathematics National Curriculum. During the Spring and Summer terms of 2020 there will be four challenges that your pupils can access. Each challenge has a clear set of instructions where pupils will select an entry from their class to put forward, which will compete with the other schools involved.

Each school that takes part will be able to take an assisted journey on the railway anywhere on Northern's network.

Slings on Trains

Project Lead: Karen Bennett



CRL organised three Slings on Trains events during 2019 and has several more planned for the future. Travelling by train is a lot easier with a sling than with a pram. A sling makes it easier to negotiate station steps, board the train and parents don't have to find somewhere to keep the pram on the train. In addition, babywearing encourages healthy mental and emotional development and research shows babies who are worn cry less.

The first two trips were hosted in collaboration with Morecambe Bay Slings. This library loans baby carriers to families and provides support in how to use the sling. The first trip to Clapham, which took place in May saw the group of parents travel from Lancaster to Clapham. After the walk from the station to the village, everyone enjoyed a cake and a drink in the sunshine. One of the mums commented that she would return to the village again in the summer now she knew how easy the journey was with a sling. Sometimes it can be lonely when a person is on maternity leave, so it is fantastic that these trips have helped to address social isolation.

In September, Community Rail Lancashire teamed up with CarryMoor Sling Library and Carrying Consultancy. After all the mums felt comfortable with their babies in the carriers, they headed off to Ilkley where they had refreshments at the Outside the Box cafe which were kindly paid for by Northern. Outside the Box offers a supported work environment that helps adults with learning disabilities gain real experience and develop new skills.

*One mum,
Sadie, said she was
"totally converted" to
babywearing after her
trip and looked forward to
making further journeys
with a sling.*
Slings on Trains

Accreditation

Project Leads: Richard Watts, Daisy Chapman-Chamberlain, Simon Clarke, Karen Bennett, Shahiesta Raja, Katie Musgrove



In early 2020, Community Rail Lancashire was pleased to announce that, along with its four constituent CRPs, it had received official accreditation by the Department for Transport.

Accreditation is formal recognition by the DfT that the Community Rail Partnership (CRP) operates to a high standard and that its objectives and activities are supported by the Government.

Accreditation is in place to provide reassurance to others, including potential funders and partners that the CRP operates to high standards of governance and financial propriety; adopts a collaborative approach; is worthy of trust by others; and is a suitable entity for receiving public funds. Further, the Government considers the CRP a good representative of the local communities.

Women in STEM

Project Leads: Daisy Chapman-Chamberlain, Karen Bennett, Katie Musgrove, Shahiesta Raja



The Women Who Wander group of projects began in 2018, and has now expanded into Women In STEM in 2020.

The rail and community rail industries are working towards making rail a more equal, diverse and inclusive place. By ensuring we promote and champion the voices of women and girls, we can shape the future of rail as an attractive option for travel and employment for all women.

A key aspect of this is engaging with women and girls from a wide range of backgrounds; not only encouraging them to consider rail and community rail career options, but using their opinions to inform and shape the future of these industries with their lived experiences in mind.

Women In STEM specifically looks to engaging women and girls in experiencing rail use and considering the STEM roles within the industry, producing inspiring writing and creative art pieces in a wide range of styles, expressing their views. These views are essential for building a genuinely inclusive transport industry now and into the future.

These published winning pieces were selected from hundreds of entries, and on the 9th of March 2020, the authors and artists attended the launch event at the National Railway Museum, to read their pieces to industry professionals and the Right Honourable, the Lord Mayor of York, Councillor Janet Looker.

We are also extremely grateful to Bernadette Kelly, Permanent Secretary at the Department for Transport, Karen Hornby, Head of Performance and Customer Relationship at Network Rail, and Carolyn Watson, Community and Sustainability Director at Northern, who were invaluable in selecting the final winning pieces.

The Future

“This document has shown how CRL has developed and expanded its educational engagement over the last ten years. From working mainly with primary schools, CRL now engages with special and secondary schools, colleges and apprentices. Yet that is only part of where we are today. CRL also works with other groups of adults; from parents with babies or vulnerable people with mental health needs, to those on the autism spectrum. This diversity is positively encouraged by Northern as well as by the Department for Transport’s Community Rail Development Strategy. It has been an exciting journey - but where will we be in 10 years time?

Writing this during the Covid-19 pandemic, I am getting a vision of the future of education and it is an exciting one for CRL. The use of various forms of social media is increasing and many parents are learning how to educate their children at home via the internet. It is clear that face-to-face contact with groups of people, young and older, will remain extremely important, but the role of virtual lessons will increase and this will help CRL to expand its reach through its contact with education professionals and the railway industry. It will be crucial to ensure that whoever we engage with become excited by the railway, so they become either the ‘passengers of the future’ or the future rail professionals.”

Richard Watts

Chair, Community Rail Lancashire

“One of CRL’s key aims is to support and advocate for people who need a little extra help to be safe and confident when travelling by rail. I’m proud to be part of this life-enhancing work and look forward to building on this in the years to come. My hope is that by 2030 (if not before!) the rail industry reflects the diversity of the people it serves and recognises the benefits a neurodiverse workplace. CRL has an important part to play in this cultural shift and believe that by working together it can be done!”

Katie Musgrove

Special Needs Education Officer, Community Rail Lancashire

“The future of CRL is one rooted in equality, diversity and inclusion. We have made great strides with a wide range of diverse groups; across the LGBTQIA+ community, with underrepresented groups of young women, those with special educational needs and disabilities, and many more. Continuing to engage marginalised groups in community rail and rail is crucial for the development of the transport industry itself, bringing diverse views and creative innovations to issues and opportunities, including across social and environmental sustainability. It is vital that we ensure all people in our communities have equal access to transport for employment, education, healthcare, socialising and all possible opportunities. CRL will continue to pursue this agenda, with increasing influence and as a leading best practice example, within and outside transport in a nationally significant context.”

Daisy Chapman-Chamberlain

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead, Community Rail Lancashire

“Ever since I joined Community Rail Lancashire back in September 2018, it has been a privilege to connect communities across the North with the railway. As an ex-teacher it has been particularly rewarding to work with many primary and secondary schools. Thinking towards the future, I can foresee a larger focus on inspiring young people to look towards a career in the railway industry and engineering in general. With so many large-scale rail projects being undertaken in the North, a highly skilled workforce will be required, and I want to ensure different communities and backgrounds are represented.”

Karen Bennett

Community Rail Education Development Officer, Community Rail Lancashire

“One of the original tenets of the first Community Rail Strategy back in 2004 was to increase ridership of the railways. CRL has, from the outset, taken this to heart and through its many schemes and projects has been keen to work with Key Stage 2 pupils to ‘educate the passengers of the future’. This has meant delivering the safety message as well as experiencing a train journey and learning about stations and tickets. Over the years this has developed to include older pupils and students and those who find rail travel intimidating.

Going forward CRL is keen to see more young women joining the rail industry and will continue its work to encourage ‘Women in STEM’. The work to deliver the safety message, to discourage trespass, anti-social behaviour, and to encourage more young people to come and work in community rail will continue and CRL intends to be at the forefront of this. ”

Simon Clarke

Community Rail Development Officer, Community Rail Lancashire

“Having only just joined the CRL team, I am particularly excited to start working along the South Fylde Line, creating station projects by engaging with existing and new groups and being inspired by what’s in the neighbourhoods and the communities and the ambitions they want to realise. I’m really interested in our railways being a force for inspiring local regeneration and look forward to working closely with local businesses, as well as organisations to not only encourage more use of the railway network, but for the stations to be a vital community resource too. Having promoted sustainable travel for many years, I hope the connections to be made with active travel - walking and cycling, alongside the use of public transport can be furthered and I am keen to begin work with our friends and adoption groups, as well as other Community Rail Partnerships (CRPs), to spread best practice and link projects together for the greatest possible impact.”

Caroline Holden

Community Rail Development Officer, Community Rail Lancashire

“It is a privilege to be part of an organisation and team that believes in enhancing the lives of the people in their communities. This document shows the extensive work done by Community Rail Lancashire but also the potential and scope of what can be done. My hope is that we continue to engage people from all communities to travel safely and confidently by rail and to introduce to them the amazing, often life changing work of Community Rail!”

Shahiesta Raja

Community Rail Education Development Officer, Community Rail Lancashire

With Thanks...

With thanks to all our partners, funders and sponsors over the years, current and former CRL team members and all our volunteers, and everyone who has been part of our journey so far. Special thanks also go to the Board of CRL whose positive encouragement makes all this possible and to Northern for all their ongoing support.

Lastly, it is impossible to give a roll call of everyone who has been involved in CRL's work, but special mention must be made of the invaluable contributions made in the early pioneering years by Mike Billingham, Peter Fenton, Brian Haworth, Marjorie Birch, Simon Clarke, James Syson, Alastair Nicholson, Janet Ennis and Dax Byrne-Turner. Also to Richard Watts who has superbly managed the team throughout, and of course to the educational team, which has comprised at various times Daisy Chapman-Chamberlain, Emily Elliott, Karen Bennett, Erin Dixon, Shahiesta Raja, Katie Musgrove and Caroline Holden. Finally, thanks go to Daisy Chapman-Chamberlain for compiling this excellent document which showcases what can be achieved with the right people, the right encouragement and sufficient resources.



Notes

[illegible]

This document showcases the fantastic work that has taken place for more than a decade within educational engagement at **Community Rail Lancashire**. From primary school children, college and university students, inspiring groups of young women, and young people in the LGBTQIA+ community, to local community groups, youth groups, apprentices, family groups and many more.

Community Rail Lancashire is an industry leader in community rail and rail education. For further information, please contact [**info@downtheline.org.uk**](mailto:info@downtheline.org.uk)

CRL
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