



## **EAST LANCASHIRE & CLITHEROE LINE CRPS**

### **Action Plan update**

### **13<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

#### **API: Development (CRDS pillars 1 & 3)**

##### **I. ComREG (Northern's Community Rail Executive Group)**

The CL & EL CRPs regularly updates ComREG on the activities of the CRPs. Reports can cover all the good news of which there is plenty as well as any issues that the CRP and/or station partnerships are facing. Richard Watts sits on ComREG as the representative for the Central Area CRPs which includes both our CRPs as well as the adjoining South East Lancashire and the new Calder Valley CRPs. The last meeting was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> June and the next meeting is scheduled for the 24<sup>th</sup> August.

The meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> June covered, amongst many other things, the following:

1. There were two excellent presentations. The first was from the Year In Industry students who have been working on the Bentham Line to produce an 'Access for All' guide for the line. Full details can be found using this link: [https://thebenthamline.co.uk/access\\_for\\_all/](https://thebenthamline.co.uk/access_for_all/). The second was by Felicity Machnicki about the Bishop Line 'Creative Journeys' project. Copies of the presentations are available on request to [richard.watts.crl@gmail.com](mailto:richard.watts.crl@gmail.com).
2. Anti-social behaviour was reported affecting many lines across the north of England including Nelson and Church & Oswaldtwistle in East Lancashire. Karen Horny invited CRPs to join her meeting with the BtP where these and other concerns could be discussed. The meeting is taking place on 6<sup>th</sup> July.
3. Concerns were raised about the fragility of some services including our own DalesRail.
4. The future of stations was raised and the next meeting will hear about Northern's 'Stations as a Place' project.
5. CRPs are urged to respond to the latest consultation from the GBRTT (Great British Railways Transition Team).

Full details about the meeting can be forwarded to anyone wanting to find out more. Just email Richard Watts at [richard.watts.crl@gmail.com](mailto:richard.watts.crl@gmail.com). If you have any issues you want raising at the next meeting again email them to Richard Watts.

#### **AP2: Funding**

##### **Core funding 2022/23:**

The East Lancashire and Clitheroe Line CRPs received contributions to its core funding from:

<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount £</b>
<b>Northern</b>	<b>62,006</b>
<b>Trans Pennine</b>	<b>1,137</b>
<b>Avanti (pro rata)</b>	<b>3,580</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>66,723</b>

## Other income and projects

The table shows the projects and grants received for the 2022/23 year.

Project	Budget £	Grant £	Outturn £	Notes
Preston station 3c & 4c	9,950	9,950 Avanti Community Rail Fund	9,950	Project being led by LCC with the grant transferred to LCC.
Lancashire Connects Football Communities	1,500	1,500 CEL grant funding		In progress
Church & Oswaldtwistle pocket map	2,475	2,475 CEL grant funding	2,475	Completed

### Notes:

CR Community Rail  
CRDF Community Rail Development Fund  
CRN Community Rail Network  
CEL Connecting East Lancashire

The table does not show the costs of maintaining the branded boards, for costs of posters and for maintain the suite of websites/social media channels etc..

### Let's Connect the Community

Connecting East Lancashire (CEL), in partnership with Community Rail Lancashire (CRL), set up a one-off funding stream in order to support local community projects along the East Lancashire and Clitheroe lines. It is pleasing to report that 5 groups were awarded grants through this fund including Arts2Heal, Rose Grove Neighbourhood Watch, Burnley Football Club in the Community. Amanda Jenkinson will be able to update on the progress being made with these projects.

In addition CEL is also supporting a CRL/ELCRP project called '**Lancashire Connects Football Communities**' involving the Blackburn Rovers Community Trust, Blackburn Youth Zone and Preston North End Community Trust.

## AP3: Timetable developments (CRDS pillar 4)

### 1. Manchester Recovery Task Force (MRTF)

As reported to the last meeting CRL responded to the consultation by the MRTF to the proposed December 2022 timetables. At the time of writing this no response to the comments has been received.

### 2. Sunday services:

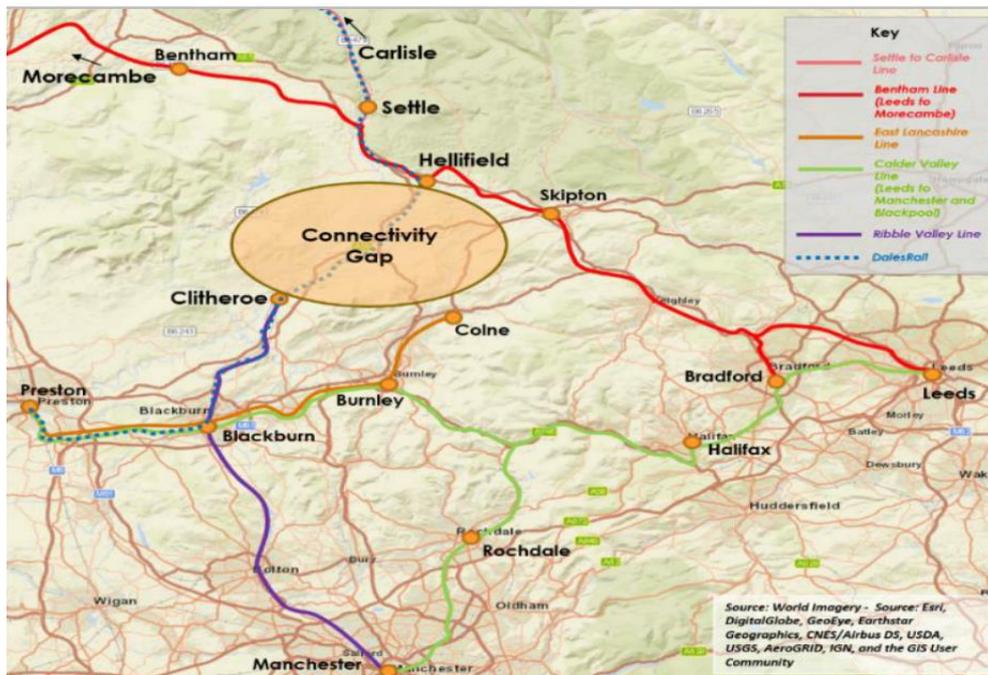
The Sunday DalesRail service is already having a very mixed season with a number of services already fully or part cancelled. A weekly update is put out on @crl\_live and by the Lancashire Rail Ramblers to let walkers know if it is running. Thanks to Owain and the team for the weekly update on this.

Full details can be viewed at <https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/lines/dalesrail/> or [www.dalesrail.com](http://www.dalesrail.com) where the 2022 brochure can be viewed and downloaded.

### 3. Restoring Your Railway (RYR)

Clitheroe – Hellfield – Ribble Valley Borough Council

Finally the outcome of the Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) came through and it is disappointing to report that the project is not being progressed to the next stage in the RYR process. To look at options and potential next steps a meeting with Ribble Valley BC, LCC and CRL took place on the 8<sup>th</sup> July.



#### 4. Developing East Lancashire services

LCC convened a meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> June with Burnley Council and CRL to discuss potential service enhancements across the East Lancashire network. Mike Cliffe will be able to provide more information about this project which looks like it may now include developments on the Ribble Valley Line following the outcome of the RYR application reported above.

### AP4: DalesRail (Blackpool North to Carlisle) (CRDS pillar 2)

#### DalesRail 2022

Full details about this year's season can be found here:

<https://communityrail Lancashire.co.uk/news/lancashire-dalesrail-2022/>

<https://communityrail Lancashire.co.uk/lines/dalesrail/>

There is a comprehensive guided walk programme and also once again some bus links are being provided by the Lancashire Rail Ramblers that extend the reach of DalesRail. Also great news the fares for 2022 have been frozen – many thanks to Northern for this. As reported above the service has already suffered a number of cancellations and this is seriously affecting passenger confidence in the service.

#### Plans for 2023

- Expanding the Reach of DalesRail – the Wensleydale & Swaledale link will be progressed with the Dales & Bowland CIC.

## **AP5: Station & other developments (CRDS pillar 3)**

### **Preston**

#### **Platforms 3C & 4C**

From December 2022 the Colne service will be linked to the Ormskirk service except on Sundays. Northern has confirmed that the service will continue to use platforms 3C & 4C at least until HS2 remodelling of platforms 3 & 4 takes out the 2 bays. To improve the environment at this 'lonely' part of the station CRL & Lancashire CC have been successful in securing a grant for the provision of seats, planters, hanging baskets and information panels for these platforms.

#### **Artwork Update:**

A small-scale postcard project has been completed by a Supported Internship Student group that works out of County Hall, Preston. A larger project is also being developed to display artwork on the entrance to the station from the Butler Street car park.

#### **Dick, Kerr Ladies: Preston Station**

Katie Douglas, CRL's Accessibility & Inclusion Officer, has worked with a group of Supported Internship Students based at County Hall Preston to create a series of postcards about the Dick, Kerr Ladies. The postcards have now been printed and the group enjoyed handing them out at Preston Station this quarter and are currently writing and delivering handwritten postcards to people in the community.



**Sample postcard and at Preston station handing them out**

There will be a showcase of the film taking place on August 3rd, 2022 thanks to additional funding from Connecting East Lancashire (CEL). As a result of this, CRL is now collaborating with Blackburn Rovers Community Trust (community and youth groups) who will travel by train and bus to Preston North End to attend the premier and raise their confidence with the use of public transport. CRL has been connected with About Time Dance Company who have created a dance about the Dick Kerr Ladies 'Unfit for Women' which will be shown also at the premier of the film. There will also be a football related dance workshop with young people from BRCT before seeing the dance which will cover the important issues for women following the ban of professional women's football in 1921, reinstated 50 years later in 1971. This is an opportunity for groups from Preston and Blackburn to get

together and learn from each others' stories around the DKL. The film 'Granny' was screened at the London International Film Festival and has been archived by the North West Film Archive.

In the lead up to the event (in July) Katie Douglas will be taking the Blackburn Rovers youth group to the Football Museum in Manchester, by rail, to see the Dick, Kerr Ladies exhibition.



(photo credit; Gail Newsham)

## **East Lancashire Line:**

### **Mill Hill**

CRL has been approached by someone interested in adopting the station. To understand more about what is involved they will be visiting one of the C&O station working parties. ICG have also been briefed and will be doing some PR to try and encourage others to volunteer to look after this station.

One for Network Rail – the condition of the rail side at the station was highlighted and is in need of a lot of de littering as the sample photo shows. Can this be arranged?



**One for Network Rail:  
Mill Hill - lineside rubbish needs removing**

## Blackburn

On **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022**, a small celebratory event took place at Blackburn Railway Station, where local stakeholders were joined by the local artist Alastair Nicholson and the young people from Newfield School to admire and thank all who contributed to this fantastic artwork.



**Chartered Institute of Transport & Logistics visit to Accrington and Blackburn during Community Rail Week 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

## Church & Oswaldtwistle

ICG has suggested spotlighting stations in East Lancashire with Church & Oswaldtwistle being the first trial one.

The Station Volunteers remain very active meeting every Saturday at the station and keeping the station looking very presentable. They took part in a major litter pick between the station and Accrington as evidenced in the picture below.

Like Nelson the station has also had some of its flower displays tampered with.

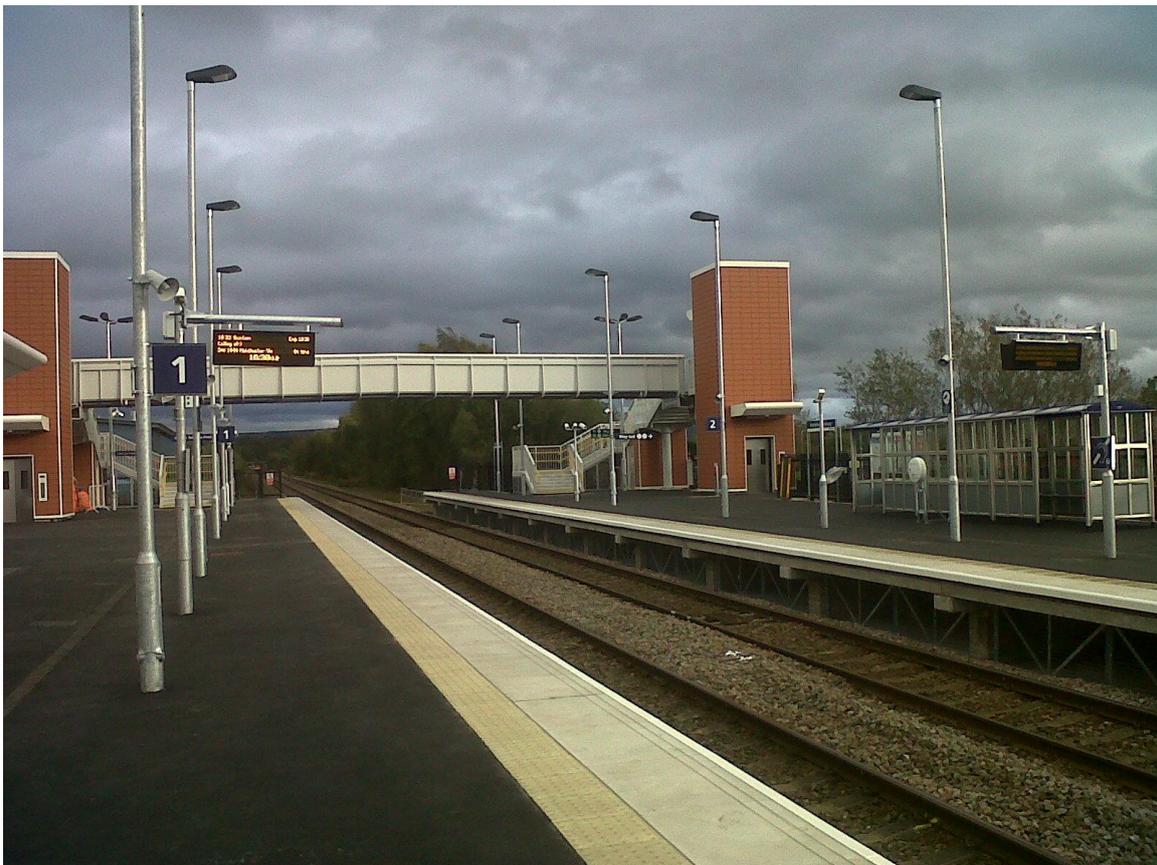


**A results of a litter pick between C&O and Accrington**

### **Accrington**

The improved ramp from Paxton Street to platform 1 is making excellent progress – CRL & the ELCRP look forward to its completion.

LCC has submitted its Levelling Up Fund bid to Government which includes an Access for All (AfA) scheme to provide a new bridge, steps and lifts at the station. If successful the scheme might look something like the one provided at Buckshaw Parkway when the station opened. CRL has supported this project.



**Step free access at Buckshaw Parkway**

CRL sent a letter of support to LCC for the scheme and also has arranged with ICG to do some publicity in support of it. Let's hope the bid is successful and finish the work started with the new booking office and community room back in 2010.

### **Burnley Central**

CRL is working with a new group of Northern apprentices who started in October 2021 and they are planning a community based project based around Burnley Central station.

### **Burnley Manchester Rd**

Progress continues with the extension to the car park being developed by Lancashire County Council. It is anticipated that this will open later this year.

### **Brierfield Rail Station**

In partnership with Connecting East Lancashire, CRL liaised with a whole host of stakeholders including Pendle Borough Council, local childminding groups, Friends of Pendle Station (to name but a few) to provide Brierfield station with this beautiful, pictured cycle shelter to promote the East Lancashire section of the Pennine Cycleway. The cycle shelter was launched last December however as part of Community Rail Week, a bike ride was organised on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022** from Brierfield Rail Station to promote the link between rail and active travel. Participants enjoyed a bike ride and refreshments that took in the beautiful sights of the Pennine Cycleway.



**Andrew Stephenson MP, Minister of State for Transport, heads the group taking part in the cycle ride**

Lastly Network Rail has completed a trackside litter pick at the station, The Friends of Pendle Stations extend their appreciation to Danielle Lahan and the Network Rail team.

### **Nelson**

As reported at the last meeting there has been a rise in anti-social behaviour at Nelson station. To try and help the situation the BtP are looking to increase patrols calling at the station particularly during the evenings and Sundays and CCTV is to be installed on the platforms but Northern is unable to

confirm a date for when the cameras will be installed – the columns are already in place. CRL has approached Nelson and Colne College to see if it can arrange for a volunteer working party to visit the station to help tidy up the platforms and restore the floral displays. This may also be an area that Our Lancashire could potentially help with.

In the meantime, ICG has done some media work covering the issue and Richard Watts went on Radio Lancashire to speak about the work of the station volunteers. And the issues they have faced.

Network Rail has also played its part and cleared the litter from the track – a big thank you.

## **Clitheroe Line**

### **Along the line**

Peter Eastham reports that station adoption work has progressed well at Ribble Valley stations with a variety of teams carrying out composting and planting at Clitheroe, Whalley, Langho and Ramsgreave & Wilpshire. The latter being undertaken by Craig Ward on behalf of Wilpshire Parish Council. Craig will be familiar to many of you as he Chairs the Lancashire Rail Ramblers who organise the comprehensive DalesRail guided walk programme.

### **Clitheroe**

As previously reported the Chester Avenue P&R is no longer free to rail and bus users. The link to the news item below sets out the new arrangements.

<https://communityrailancashire.co.uk/news/clitheroe-station-car-parking/>

### **Whalley**

It is very pleasing to note that a resolution to the long running car park problem may well be in sight. Mike Cliffe will be able to update on this.

### **Entwistle**

The neighbouring South East Lancashire CRP (SELCRP) is working with CRL/CLCRP to look at the feasibility of developing a recreational hub at Entwistle station.

The Ribble Valley Rail team have visited the station to weed and sort out the platform planters.

See also AP6 below 'Explore Lancashire By Rail' for news about our exciting new film.

## **AP6 Marketing & Promotion (CRDS pillar 2)**

### **Community Rail Week 23<sup>rd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

A full resume of all that took place during the week can be viewed by clicking on this link: <https://communityrailancashire.co.uk/news/successful-community-rail-week-in-lancashire/> this includes a film show the weeks highlights. If you want a sneak preview click this link: <https://youtu.be/OgzaWiax7BQ>



**Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May saw the launch of the Rachel Kay-Shuttleworth project at Padiham Green School with special guest Miss Rachel herself!**

### **Explore Lancashire By Rail**

This is the name being given to a series of mini films describing easy walks that can be reached using our local lines. There are currently five films available to watch, see Collectors Corner for links, they show:

- a walk from Rose Grove along the Padiham Greenway,
- a walk from Burscough Junction to Rufford along the Leeds & Liverpool and Rufford Branch canals,
- a linear walk from Lytham to St Anne's,
- a circular walk around Turton & Entwistle and Wayoh Reservoirs and
- the launch of Community Rail Week 2021 at Burscough Junction.

Other films in the pipeline include a walk from Darwen station to Darwen Tower and the West Pennine Moors.

Full details of all the films can be viewed here:

<https://communityrail Lancashire.co.uk/lancashire-by-rail/>

CRL has been working with ICG Strategic Marketing Agency to help promote the films and Simon Clarke has become a 'regular' on the programme hosted by Maria Felix Vax. Simon will shortly be doing an interview about the Entwistle Reservoir walk.



### **Guided walks**

The Lancashire Rail Ramblers have started a programme of walks from stations along the East Lancashire and Clitheroe Lines running from the 18<sup>th</sup> January to 7<sup>th</sup> June 2022. The programme can be downloaded here: <https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/CRL-Guided-Walks-spring-2022.pdf>

Details of other guided and self-guided walks can be viewed here:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/walks/>

### **Amazing Women By Rail**

We continue to work with adjoining CRPs to promote this project. To find out more click on the link below:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/amazing-women/>

This also has the film produced by Huckleberry Films about **Ethel Carnie Holdsworth** who is one of the women featured in the booklet. Why not watch the film? It tells the remarkable story of Ethel, who was born in Oswaldtwistle, a great author and champion of women's rights as well as highlighting the working conditions in the Mills of the time.

### **Mini timetables**

Mini timetables will be produced for the May 2022 timetable changes::

- Ribble Valley Line – Manchester – Clitheroe; and
- Blackburn to Manchester/Kirkby - Todmorden curve service along with timetable posters.

In addition timetables will also be produced for the:

- Preston – Ormskirk; and
- The south Fylde Line - Preston – Blackpool south.

Grateful thanks to the volunteers who help distribute the timetables.

### **Branded Boards**

CRL has 89 branded structures with a total of 242 panels for either poster displays or community use.

## AP7: Web Development

Website Statistics – 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2022

Full details in Appendix 1.

### Main CRL site:

8,847 users

11,749 visits

25,606 page views

### Top 10 pages

1. Home page
2. DalesRail
3. DalesRail/timetable
4. DalesRail/walks
5. DalesRail/fares
6. News
7. Bentham Line
8. News/job-opportunity
9. Walks
10. Walks/guided-walks

### Twitter

1,152 followers

50 Tweets

5,974 profile visits

51 new followers

## AP8 & 9: School, college, university & apprentice engagement & Diversity & Inclusion

This is covered in the attached education update report.

Below is a summary of what we have been doing to develop the Autism friendly Line:



Below is a summary of recent developments:

- Northern Accessibility Fund to create 360 degree tours of Manchester Victoria and Blackburn Stations.
- CRL has created 10 station walk through films for each of the stations called at by the Blackburn to Manchester Todmorden Curve service.
- Partner in a 'Serious Game' project to create a virtual station environment – funded through the DfT's A-TRIG (Accessibility - Transport Research & Innovation Grant) programme.
- Collection of interviews with people with lived experience to celebrate Autism Awareness Week.
- CRL is also involved in a further project being funded through the DfT's FOAK (First of a Kind) scheme.

Recently the project was awarded a CRDF grant details can be viewed here:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/funding-success-for-the-autism-friendly-line/>

To highlight autism an event was arranged at Todmorden station as part of autism acceptance Week.

See: <https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/autism-acceptance-week-cake/>

## COLLECTORS CORNER

Have you read our Best Practice papers? If not click here

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/best-practice/>

Memorable Journeys – Accrington

Along the Line – Ramsgreave & Wilpshire

Back on Track - Darwen

Have you watched the Let's Connect films produced by Huckleberry Films? If not click here:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/lets-connect/>

Other films to watch:

Padiham Greenway

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/padiham-greenway/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IYaq8Wisk8E> (avoids the closed bridge over the River Calder)

Entwistle Reservoir Walk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZIajo2idXA>

Rufford to Burscough Junction along the Leeds and Liverpool & Rufford Branch canals:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8CkGdwUC7KE>

The DalesRail taster can be seen on the homepage of [www.dalesrail.com](http://www.dalesrail.com)

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/lines/dalesrail/>

The Virtual DalesRail call to action film:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/tales-from-dalesrail/>

By the way its not too late to send in your favourite story, picture or anecdote about DalesRail to

[communityraillancashire1@gmail.com](mailto:communityraillancashire1@gmail.com)

### West Lancashire Audio Tapes

The audio files are from a project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund around ten years ago for The Lancashire Society called 'The Noise We Mek' which focused on the way people speak around Lancashire. The files remain the copyright of the Lancashire Society and may not be used without permission.

Click on the link below to find out more and to listen to the tapes:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/audio-files/>

### Coming soon:

The Clitheroe Line walk from Darwen Station to Darwen Tower and the West Pennine Moors.



# Appendix 1: web site statistics:

## Website performance dashboard

1 Apr 2022 - 1 Jul 2022

Some data in this report may have been removed when a threshold was applied. [Learn more](#)

**All Users**  
100.00% Sessions

### Users

**8,487**

% of Total: 100.00% (8,487)



### New Users

**8,354**

% of Total: 100.00% (8,354)



### How many visits this year

**11,749**

% of Total: 100.00% (11,749)

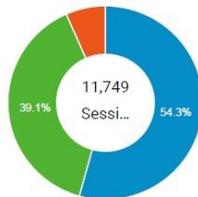


### Which City did they come from

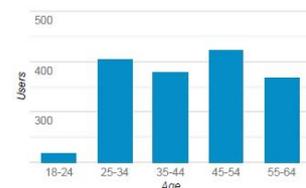
City	Sessions	Pages/Session
London	1,648	1.94
Blackburn	1,091	2.76
Preston	514	2.73
Manchester	435	2.24
Leeds	414	1.76
Burnley	266	2.35
Birmingham	236	1.66
Liverpool	236	2.05
Accrington	210	2.70
Blackpool	195	2.58

### Desktop or mobile

mobile desktop tablet



### Age of visitors



### Where did they come from

Source/Medium	Users	Avg. Session Duration
google / organic	4,017	00:02:04
(direct) / (none)	2,824	00:01:08
m.facebook.com / referral	574	00:01:11
lm.facebook.com / referral	285	00:02:17
bing / organic	276	00:02:32
t.co / referral	91	00:02:16
l.facebook.com / referral	90	00:01:29
discoverfyld.co.uk / referral	82	00:00:34
communityrail.org.uk / referral	66	00:02:01
yahoo / organic	45	00:01:06

### Most popular news

Page Title	Unique Page Views	Avg. Time on Page
News   Community Rail Lancashire	773	00:00:24
Fantastic Job Opportunity With Community Rail Lancashire   Community Rail Lancashire	486	00:07:09
Fantastic Job Opportunity At Community Rail Lancashire   Community Rail Lancashire	232	00:06:17
Lancashire DalesRail 2022   Community Rail Lancashire	146	00:00:25
Page not found   Community Rail Lancashire	128	00:00:30
Clitheroe Station Car Parking   Community Rail Lancashire	121	00:04:25
Skelmersdale To Become Rail Linked Again   Community Rail Lancashire	105	00:04:31
DalesRail Sunday 19 June 2022   Community Rail Lancashire	81	00:01:21
DalesRail Sunday 5 June 2022   Community Rail Lancashire	78	00:01:08
Restoring Your Railway – Clitheroe to Hellfield   Community Rail Lancashire	70	00:02:36

### Top 10 most popular pages

Page	Page Views	Unique Page Views
/	3,965	2,683
/lines/dalesrail/	3,679	2,376
/dalesrail-timetable/	1,399	1,111
/dalesrail-walks/	822	673
/dalesrail-fares/	775	645
/news/	753	564
/lines/bentham-line/	669	572
/news/fantastic-job-opportunity-with-community-rail-lancashire/	592	484
/walks/	533	387
/walks/guided-walks-2/	389	312