



WEST OF LANCASHIRE LINE CRP Action Plan update 12th July 2022

API: CRP Development

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

The west of Lancashire CRP regularly updates ComREG on the activities of the CRP. 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. Both Richard Watts and Marion Atkinson are members of ComREG. Reports about the CRP activities are sent to Dawn McGough, Community Rail Cumbria, who coordinates these for the West Area CRPs. The last meeting was held on the 29th June and the next meeting is scheduled for the 24th August.

The meeting on the 29th 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/ . 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.
2. Anti-social behaviour was reported affecting many lines across the north of England including Nelson and Church & Oswaldtwistle in East Lancashire. Karen Hornby invited CRPs to join her meeting with the BtP where these and other concerns could be discussed. The meeting is taking place on 6th 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 . 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 West of Lancashire CRP has so far received core funding from:

Source	Amount £
Northern	31,003
Merseytravel	10,000
Trans Pennine	1,137
Avanti	3,580
Total	45,720

Please note some numbers have been rounded up.

Other income

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	In progress
Rufford Station to Mere Sands Wood	7,085	3,542 CRDF	7,085	Completed
Croston with Trinity St Michael's	4,116	2,058 CRDF 2,058 Seed Corn		In progress
Mini timetables May 2022	422		422	Completed
Total				

Notes:

CR Community Rail
CRDF Community Rail Development Fund
CRN Community Rail Network

The table does not show the costs of maintaining the branded boards and for some of the posters displayed in them.

AP3: Timetable developments

I. Manchester Recovery Task Force

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

Mini timetables

The CRP reintroduced its mini timetable for the May timetable change for the Preston to Ormskirk line (see also AP6) – anyone wanting some for local distribution please contact Richard Watts on richard.watts.crl@gmail.com.

Many thanks to the volunteers who help to distribute the mini timetables – we can't do it without your help.

AP5: Station & other developments

Preston

Platforms 3C & 4C

As you see from AP3 the Ormskirk service will be permanently linked to the Colne service from December 2022. 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 is being undertaken 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 Special Educational Needs Officer, has worked with a group of Supported Internship Students based at County Hall 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 other's 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)

Preston to Ormskirk Line:

Croston

Friends of Croston station

This active group continue to make a very positive impact on the station, including the disused platform.

Croston Geocache

Once again the CRP is working with a local primary school this time in Croston, Trinity St Michael CofE & Methodist VA Primary School. The school are creating a Geocache trail around Croston which will start at the station. It is hoped to have it completed and launched in time for the school summer holidays. The CRP is also delighted to have received a grants towards the project from the Community Rail Network's CRDF and Northern's seed corn. More details next time!

A little more information about the project can be found by clicking this link: <https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/croston-geocache-trail/>

Rufford

Rufford Station to Mere Sands Wood: The CRP has just completed a project linking Rufford Station to Mere Sands Wood. The project involved a variety of partners including Rufford CofE Primary School, the station friends' group, Rufford Village Society, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, who manage Mere Sands Wood, community artist Karen Allerton and Northern. The project involved the creation of artwork by the Y6 pupils to show the route from the station to Mere Sands Wood about a mile away. This was then converted by Karen Allerton into an attractive leaflet as well as the artwork now proudly displayed in the cycle shelter, see picture, as well as on panels which are displayed on the other platform. The project was launched on 22nd April and forms part of the bigger 'Make A Bee Line for the West Lancashire Line' which aims to promote the attractions that can easily be reached from the train.

As mentioned above the project was launched on the 22nd April at Rufford Station to an invited audience as well as the excited young artists for the school! A news item about this can be viewed by clicking this link: <https://communityrailancashire.co.uk/news/rufford-to-mere-sands-wood-walks-leaflet-launched/>. This also includes a link to the very attractive leaflet.



Rufford station to Mere Sands Wood artwork displayed in the Cycle shelter

Burscough Junction

Community Rail Week 23rd to 29th May at Burscough Junction

A lot took place across the Lancashire network during this week with the focus on the West Lancashire Line taking place Wednesday 25th May. A working party consisting of the CRP, volunteers from Network Rail and Burscough St John's Catholic Primary School blitzed the disused platform.



Community Rail Week: Burscough Junction tidy up during (left) and after (right).

A full resume of all that took place during the week can be viewed by clicking on this link: <https://communityraillancashire.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>

On the used platform the Friends of Burscough Stations look after the planters and generally keep the area tidy.

Wigan Wallgate to Southport line

Burscough Bridge

A history poster is being written by CRP member Phil Benzie.

As part of the Burscough Art Trail this attractive poster by artist Amanda Anderson has been displayed at Burscough Bridge station at the start of the footpath to the Martin Mere Wetland Centre.



Bird mosaic by artist Amanda Anderson displayed at the start of the footpath to Martin Mere

The CRP is looking at how it can promote the footpath link from Burscough Bridge (not forgetting Burscough Junction) to Martin Mere.

AP6 Marketing & Promotion:

Community Rail Week 23rd to 29th May 2022

See AP5 above for the blitz on the disused platform at Burscough Junction during Community Rail Week.

A full resume of all that took place during the week can be viewed by clicking on this link: <https://communityraillancashire.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/OgzaVWiax7BQ>

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 Cornet 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://communityraillancashire.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 recently recorded the canal walk from Burscough to Rufford.



Make a Bee Line for the West Lancashire Line

This is the title of the new leaflet and poster launched on the 13th October 2021 at the start of last years Community Rail Week at Burscough Junction station.

The leaflet highlights attractions along the line from Preston to Liverpool with ideas for short or longer days out. If you would like to help distribute these contact Richard Watts at Richard.watts.crl@gmail.com or Caroline Holden at caroline.holden.crl@gmail.com. Simon Clarke has toured the area installing the posters in CRL's branded boards.

To find out more about the '**Make A Bee Line**' campaign and to download the leaflet click on the following link: <https://communityrail Lancashire.co.uk/make-a-beeline-for-the-west-lancashire-line/>

Mini timetables

Mini timetables for the May timetable change have been produced for the Preston to Ormskirk line and have been distributed by local volunteers.

AP7: CRL website update: <https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/>

Website Statistics – 2nd Quarter 2022

Full details in appendix I.

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 and Inclusion

This is covered in the attached education update report.

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/>

Explore Lancashire By Rail - a series of films illustrating great walks from stations across Lancashire. To view them all click on the link below:

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

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=YZlajo2idXA>

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

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

Lytham to St Anne's linear walk

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bC7CtK2ZjJ0>

The DalesRail taster can be seen on the homepage of 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 it's not too late to send in your favourite story, picture or anecdote about DalesRail to

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)

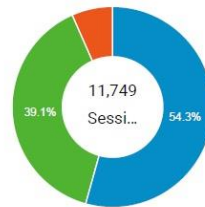


Which City did they come from

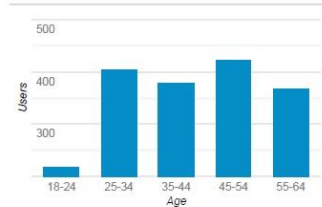
City	Sessions	Pages/Session
London	1,648	1.94
Blackburn	1,091	2.76
Preston	514	2.73
Manchester	435	2.24
Leeds	414	1.76
Burnley	266	2.35
Birmingham	236	1.66
Liverpool	236	2.05
Accrington	210	2.70
Blackpool	195	2.58

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 Hellifield 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