



EAST LANCASHIRE & CLITHEROE LINE CRPS

Action Plan update

12th October 2022

API: Development (CRDS pillars 1 & 3)

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

The East Lancashire & Clitheroe Line CRPs regularly update 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 is a member of ComREG. Reports about the CRP activities are sent to Richard Watts, who co-ordinates these for the Central Area CRPs. The last meeting was held on the 24th August and the next meeting is scheduled for the 19th October.

The meeting on the 24th August covered, amongst many other things, the following:

1. Stations as a Place – members received an in-depth presentation from Stephen Bond about Northern's vision for stations. The project is at an early stage in its development but seeks to place stations at the heart of their communities and to be a catalyst for growth.
2. Two seed corn applications were received one from the Bishop Line CRP for 'New Writing North' and the other from Community Rail Lancashire for Let's Go (Evaluation). Both applications were approved.
3. Under AOB Richard Watts raised the issue of the new CRL '4 Year Strategic Education Plan' and sought the involvement of ComREG in its development. For example, what areas do you want to see covered by the Plan and how would you like to see the plan presented.
4. Also under AOB the issue of Anti-Social Behaviour was raised. It had been noted that many CRPs and station groups had noticed an increase in ASB. It was noted that Karen Hornby, the new CRO for the Calder Valley CRP, has formed a group to look into this issue and to identify actions that CRPs, station groups can take and that a seed corn bid is being developed with Community Rail Cumbria to help fund a person to co-ordinate and work with CRPs etc to find ways to combat ASB.

The next meeting of ComREG will include regional reports so the East Lancashire & Clitheroe Line CRPs will provide one to Richard Watts. **(Melanie to note!)**

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.

2. DfT Afternoon Tea event London 28th September 2022

CRL was represented by Richard Watts, Karen Bennett and Shahiasta Raja at this event. Shahiasta gave a presentation on her work with Syrian and Afghan refugee groups in East Lancashire and Manchester. A best practice report has been produced and can be forwarded to anyone interested in this topic.

3. Community Rail Awards 6th October 2022

The Community Rail Awards took place on Thursday 6th October in Manchester. Three projects covering the East Lancashire and Clitheroe Line CRPs were shortlisted namely:

Rachel Kay Shuttleworth under Involving Children & Young people;
Explore Lancashire by Rail under Most Effective Communications Campaign, which includes the walk between Rufford Station and Burscough Junction/Bridge along the Rufford and Leeds Liverpool Canals.

Stations of Welcome under Best Community engagement Project.

Unfortunately none of the projects received an award on the night.

4. Accreditation

The Accreditation meeting for CRL and the West of Lancashire CRP took place on Monday 3rd October and was attended amongst others by Melanie Taylor, Richard Watts, Caroline Holden and Simon Clarke.



Accreditation meeting taking place at Accrington Eco Station

AP2: Funding

Core funding 2022/23:

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

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

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		Completed
Church & Oswaldtwistle pocket map	2,475	2,475 CEL grant funding	2,475	Completed
Making Connections	53,720	53,720 DfT (TLwT)		On-going
Mini timetables	1,000	450		May completed Dec in preparation
DalesRail	2,500		2,448	Completed
Blackburn subway	10,972	SAF £3,500 CRDF £2,740 DfT (TLwT) £4,732		On-going
East meets West	2,196	£2,196 CRN small grant	£2,196	Completed
Burnley Central (apprentice project)	1,000	1,000 SAF		On-going

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 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 namely Arts2Heal, Rose Grove Neighbourhood Watch, Burnley Football Club in the Community, Brave Church and Community Solutions North West. There is more information about the individual projects in AP5.

In addition, CEL also supported 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)

I. Manchester Recovery Task Force (MRTF)

Information about the December 2022 timetables is now available and can be viewed on Real Time Trains (amongst other locations).

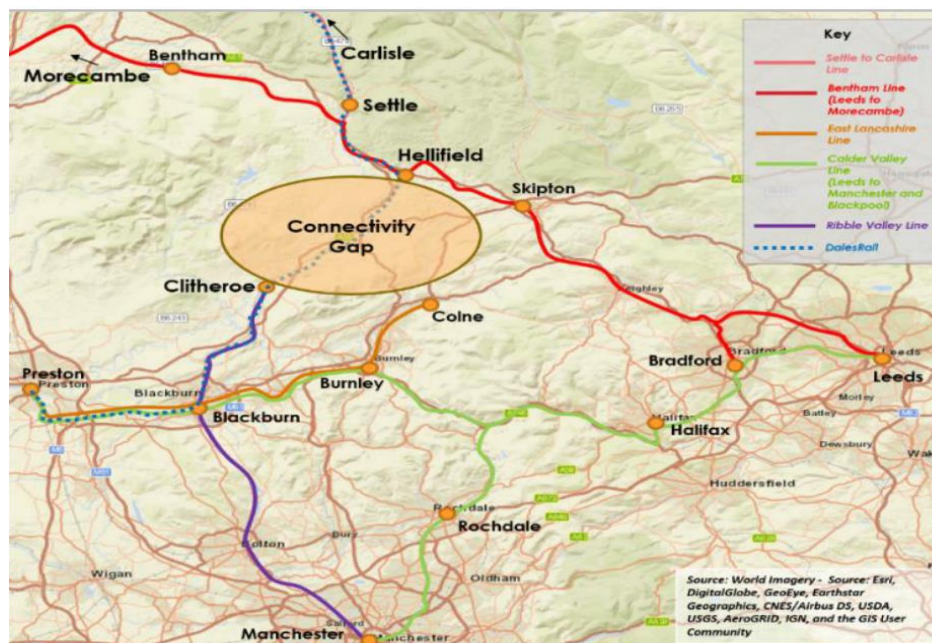
Key changes are as follows:

- On Mondays to Saturdays the Preston to Colne service reverts to being hourly all-day and is linked at Preston to the Preston to Ormskirk service. The Blackpool South service becomes stand alone. On Sundays the Colne service remains 2 hourly and is linked through to Blackpool South.
- On Mondays to Saturdays the 1719 Blackpool North to York service makes additional calls at Lostock Hall, Bamber Bridge and Mill Hill thus maintaining the 2 tph calling at these stations in the evening peak period.
- On Mondays to Saturdays the Clitheroe to Manchester/Rochdale service gains an additional train at 0652 giving peak departures at 0620, 0652 and 0722 then hourly as now.
- On Mondays to Saturdays the full hourly Blackburn to Manchester/Rochdale is (re) introduced providing two trains per hour between Blackburn and Manchester/Rochdale via Darwen. Entwistle remains a request stop for the time being.
- On Mondays to Saturdays the Blackburn to Kirkby via Manchester Victoria service reverts to being hourly all day.

3. Restoring Your Railway (RYR)

Clitheroe – Hellifield – 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. However, as the next item shows all is not lost!



4. Developing East Lancashire services

CRL is working with LCC, Blackburn with Darwen, Burnley Council and Ribble Valley BC to commission a series of studies from Northern to look at a range of service improvements. These include:

- An additional hourly service from Clitheroe,
- An additional hourly service between Blackburn and Manchester via the Todmorden West Curve,
- An additional hourly service between Blackpool/Preston and Leeds/York, and
- Options for the development of services between Clitheroe and Hellifield.

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

Lancashire DalesRail 2022

The last DalesRail of the 2022 season operated on Sunday 11th September carrying around 115 people. This has been a mixed season. Of the 18 trains booked to operate 6 were cancelled and 2 were part cancelled. Despite these setbacks over 1000 people travelled on DalesRail and took advantage of the excellent guided walk programme and coach links put on by the Lancashire Rail Ramblers.

It has to be remembered that the walk leaders are all volunteers and willingly give up their Sundays to lead walks in some of the UK's most iconic countryside. However, this is now the second year that has been affected by the erratic performance of the service trying the patience of walk leaders and those planning days out in the Dales.

Passengers who join DalesRail from London and other major centres have not been able to do this again. Why use DalesRail when they could go to Leeds? Simple it provides a convivial and friendly atmosphere with bespoke guided walks.

Plans for 2023

- More of the same BUT
- Expanding the Reach of DalesRail – the Wensleydale & Swaledale link will not be progressed with the Dales & Bowland CIC.

AP5: Station & other developments (CRDS pillar 3)

Preston

Route Crime/ Safety Awareness Event

This event took place on Thursday, August 25th 1 – 4pm and was supported by Community Rail Lancashire. The new Arlo rail safety books were distributed during the event to passengers and was a great event for connecting to passengers and promoting rail safety in all its facets.

Preston Station: Improvements to Facilities at Platform 3c & 4c

The project continues to be progressed through the necessary stages for installation to take place. Avanti West Coast have identified a project manager and, Lancashire County Council and CRL continue to work through the rail industry approvals. Contractors have produced the necessary documents (risk assessments/ method statements) to support the installation for when clearance is given.

Preston Station School project anticipated

Submission of a grant application to Avanti West Coast and CRNF for this project is being prepared. CRL had a meeting today, 28 September with Network Rail to discuss the location for the artwork, and there is general approval for this. Discussion of whom would be most suitable to install the Dibond was discussed, and Caroline Holden is to investigate with Avanti, Danielle Lahan will do so for Network Rail. Avanti's Joanne Buckley has connected CRL with the contact to support with the organisation of careers talks/ visits which will be part of this project - 'Steam to Green – Tracking Careers'.

Dick, Kerr Ladies (DKL)

- There has been much positive feedback from the Dick, Kerr Ladies showcase that took place on 3rd August 2022 which includes the following from a football and non-football organisation that connected with the event through the 'call-out poster' at Preston Station:
 - John Pluckwell, Veterans Project Officer of Burnley FC said of the event *“On behalf of Daniella, myself and the veterans in attendance on Wednesday, a massive thank you for an outstanding event. From our initial meeting to the time we left, we were felt most welcome and very much included in the event. The dancing was spectacular, I don't know how they remember so many moves and dancing over such a long period must be exhausting! The video was excellent and sparked a great deal of debate and reflection from us all.”*
 - Patricia Harrison, Chair of Friends of Winckley Square said, *“It was a pleasure to meet you and to be there yesterday (3rd Aug). We didn't know quite what to expect and we were blown away with the quality of what we saw. I won't list the 'highs', it was all excellent!”*



- The Blackburn Rovers Remember took a trip to the National Football Museum on 31st August with Katie Douglas by train which was very well received. Further trips are being discussed with other organisations which have been connected through this project. (see a photo below)
- CRL were invited by Avanti to present the Dick, Kerr Ladies project at their conference that took place on 20th September 2022 and was positively received.
- This project has connected CRL with new Preston contacts and continues to keep contact with them. Arlo's adventures – a new rail safety book has been shared with our Preston organisations for distribution to the young people they work.

East Lancashire Line:

Blackburn

Connecting East Lancashire and CRL supported the 'Arts 2Heal' project at Blackburn through the 'Let's Connect the Community' project mentioned earlier in this report. The project sought to help people who have high levels of anxiety, stress or depression to be able to confidently use public transport and the local railway.

The project benefited from the support CRL's Shahiesta Raja was able to provide. Through escorted trips she was able to demystify travelling by train and help participants develop the confidence and desire to travel independently using public transport. Through this collaboration Arts2Heal is now working with CRL on its 'Making Connections' project which is reported in more detail in the Education Team update and is part of the DfT's initiative of 'Tackling Loneliness with Transport'.

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.



Brave Church

Connecting East Lancashire and CRL supported Brave Church, based in Church & Oswaldtwistle, through the 'Let's Connect the Community' project mentioned earlier in this report. The Church organised a variety of trips bringing people and groups together. One participant hadn't travelled on a train for 27 years.



A video showing one of the trip can be viewed using the attached link:

<https://youtu.be/JQj2oQ7Tisk>

Accrington

The improved ramp from Paxton Street to platform 1 was formerly launched on Monday 10th October.

The CRL team has taken part in two events in Accrington. The first was the Eco Fest on Saturday 13th August and the second was the Fun Palace which took place in Accrington Library on Saturday 1st October. Both were great opportunities to meet members of the public and to hand out 'Arlo's Adventures, There and Back' book which is all about how to use the railway safely. The book has been great hit and we have had willing volunteers who have dressed up as Arlo as you can see in one of the pictures.



Eco Fest



Fun Palace

Community Solutions North West

Connecting East Lancashire and CRL supported Community Solution North West (CSNW) through the 'Let's Connect the Community' project mentioned earlier in this report. The project organised rail trips for people who had never travelled by train including some who had never travelled outside Hyndburn. The aim of the project was to build confidence in travelling by train and volunteers' confidence in leading group trips. Trips were organised to London for the Queen's garden Party; the National Rail Museum at York; the art trail at Hebden Bridge; a seaside trip to St Anne's etc.



CSNW – arranged a series of group trips from Accrington

Rose Grove

Connecting East Lancashire and CRL supported the 'Art on the Move' project at Rose Grove through the 'Let's Connect the Community' project mentioned earlier in this report. The project was successfully launched on the 6th July in the car park at Rose Grove station.



6th July saw the launch of the 'Art on the Move' project at Rose Grove station

Burnley Central

CRL is working with a group of Northern apprentices who started in October 2021 who 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.

Burnley FC in the Community

Connecting East Lancashire and CRL supported Burnley FC in the Community through the 'Let's Connect the Community' project mentioned earlier in this report. The group has taken 31 veterans escorted by 3 staff members from Burnley FC in the Community to Blackburn Rovers Community Veterans Social Club, Accrington Stanley Community Trust, Preston North End Community, the Weir Nit and Natter and education Trust etc.

One participant commented "It's been really good to get out of the house..." and another "I'm the one that always asks for a lift to football training, but now I know I can jump on the train from Burnley to pretty much all the other Teams in the NW League".

The group intend to organise further trips in the future using the railway



Burnley FC in the Community setting off from Burnley Manchester Rd

Colne

Once again CRL supported the Great British Rhythm & Blues Festival in Colne over the Bank Holiday Weekend 26th to 28th August. A colourful poster was displayed at stations along the East Lancashire Line.



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 see:

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

Plans are being developed for a project based around Clitheroe Castle. Caroline has the details.

Entwistle

With help from the South East Lancashire CRP it is hoped to have a new group looking after the station. See also AP6 below 'Explore Lancashire By Rail' for news about the exciting film showing a walk around the Entwistle and Wayoh reservoirs..

AP6 Marketing & Promotion (CRDS pillar 2)

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 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 18th January to 7th 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 December 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 – 3rd Quarter 2022

Twitter

Tweets 48

Impressions 28,844

Profile visits 8,721

Website

Users 7,223

Visits 9,825

Pages 20,213

Top 10

1. DalesRail
2. Home
3. News
4. Bentham Line
5. DalesRail Timetable
6. News/DalesRail
7. DalesRail Walks
8. DalesRail Fares
9. Walks
10. Clitheroe Line

Full details in appendix I.

AP8 & 9: School, college, university & apprentice engagement & Diversity & 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/>

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=YZlajo2idXA>

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

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

The Virtual DalesRail call to action film:

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

By the way its 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 Jul 2021 - 30 Sept 2021

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

All Users
100.00% Sessions

Users

7,223

% of Total: 100.00% (7,223)



New Users

6,937

% of Total: 100.00% (6,937)



How many visits this year

9,825

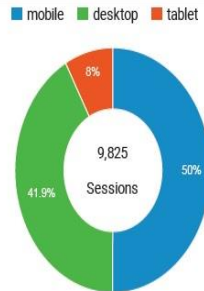
% of Total: 100.00% (9,825)



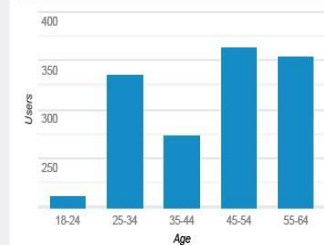
Which City did they come from

City	Sessions	Pages/Session
London	917	1.81
Blackburn	881	2.56
Preston	576	2.68
Manchester	490	1.91
Liverpool	229	1.99
Leeds	208	2.16
Blackpool	196	2.10
Lytham St Annes	190	2.39
Glasgow	189	1.72
Shanghai	188	1.01

Desktop or mobile



Age of visitors



Where did they come from

Source/Medium	Users	Avg. Session Duration
google / organic	3,901	00:01:45
(direct) / (none)	1,473	00:01:44
traffic24.xyz / referral	343	00:01:04
m.facebook.com / referral	273	00:00:20
baidu / organic	242	00:00:00
bbc.co.uk / referral	215	00:01:41
bing / organic	215	00:02:13
settle-cartisle.co.uk / referral	184	00:01:57
t.co / referral	118	00:01:06
wnoforum.co.uk / referral	68	00:00:33

Most popular news

Page Title	Unique Page Views	Avg. Time on Page
News Community Rail Lancashire	877	00:00:27
DalesRail 2021 Community Rail Lancashire	505	00:02:17
Skelmersdale To Become Rail Linked Again Community Rail Lancashire	156	00:06:40
DalesRail Sunday 12 September 2021 Community Rail Lancashire	118	00:01:59
DalesRail Sunday 4 July 2021 Cancelled Community Rail Lancashire	116	00:00:46
Sunday 8 August Sees DalesRail Cancelled Again Community Rail Lancashire	106	00:00:49
Make A Bee Line For The West Lancashire Line Community Rail Lancashire	95	00:02:32
DalesRail Sunday 15 August 2021 Community Rail Lancashire	94	00:01:24
DalesRail Sunday 25 July 2021 Community Rail Lancashire	87	00:01:42
DalesRail Sunday 1 August 2021 Community Rail Lancashire	80	00:01:18

Top 10 most popular pages

Page	Page Views	Unique Page Views
/lines/dalesrail/	3,027	2,126
/	2,672	1,690
/news/	988	719
/lines/bentham-line/	979	771
/dalesrail-timetable/	890	764
/news/dalesrail-2021/	680	505
/dalesrail-walks/	488	418
/dalesrail-fares/	481	406
/walks/	366	250
/lines/clitheroe-line/	335	280