

# East Lancashire & Clitheroe Line CRPs

## Activity Plan Report

### 25th January 2024



## Key Updates:

### Accreditation

It is welcome news that the DfT has (re)accredited the SFL CRP along with CRL and the other Lancashire CRPs. Full details can be seen here:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/crl-crps-gain-reaccreditation/>

### Activity Plan 2024

The draft CRP/CRL 2024 Activity Plan has been circulated and comments on it are invited. **This sets out the projects and initiatives that CRL and the Lancashire CRPs including the EL & CL CRPs plan to undertake during 2024.** Take a look and let me know if there are any projects that should be included or any errors that need correcting. We need to think ahead to this year's Community Rail Week and further ahead to Rail 200 in 2025 celebrating the opening of the Stockton & Darlington Railway in 2025. If you have any thoughts or comments please email these to me at: [richard.watts.crl@gmail.com](mailto:richard.watts.crl@gmail.com).

### Community Rail Awards

Just before Christmas the Community Rail network announced the shortlisting's for the Community Rail Awards. The ceremony is taking place on the 18<sup>th</sup> March in Swansea. CRL and the Lancashire CRPs had a number of projects shortlisted. Full details can be seen here:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/community-rail-awards-2024-shortlistings/>

### ORR Passenger Data

The latest ORR passenger data showing entries and exits from all UK stations was issued just before Christmas. The data for the EL and CL lines can be viewed in the CRP Activity Plan. Despite the reliability issues it is good to see the post covid recovery continuing on both lines. The star has to be Burnley Manchester

Road with over 500,000 journeys recorded – the first time it has been this high and Accrington is snapping hard at its heels! Clitheroe has also got back up to speed. There are, of course, areas of concern for example, take a look at the station figures between Blackburn and Bolton apart from Entwistle the others are still behind their pre covid numbers. The same is also the case for the local East Lancashire stations. Take a look at the figures the data set covers the years from 2014/15 to 2022/23. There is much for the CRPs to do to promote our lines.

### **EL & CL lines Reliability**

A report on the line cannot pass over the unreliability of the service in the weeks leading up to Christmas and the New Year with cancellations affecting passenger confidence. I am sure Owain will comment on this in his update, but I am certain we all hope that 2024 will see a significant improvement.

### **Station Updates**

#### **Preston**

CRL continues to work with Avanti West Coast to develop the Community Hub on platform 4 (behind Starbucks) at Preston station. It is a small space but has been made very attractive by the work of Arts2Heal a Blackburn based charity. If you want to find out more about the organisation, click on this link: <https://arts2heal.org/>.



## **Preston station history poster**

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February will see the unveiling of the new Preston station history poster. This has been developed by Billy Burton, a 6<sup>th</sup> form student, whilst on placement from Clitheroe Royal Grammar School with Lancashire Archives. The poster includes photographs provided by Peter Fitton and Lancashire Archives.

## **Preston Remembrance Service**

CRL joined the Remembrance service held at Preston station on the 10<sup>th</sup> November along with the Railway Chaplain, BtP, Avanti WC, TP and Northern.



**CRL attended the Remembrance service held at Preston Station on the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023.**

## Accrington – Steam to Green

The launch of the Steam to Green poster took place at Accrington station on the 27<sup>th</sup> September. The wonderful poster charts the development of the railways from the earliest times to the present day and looks a bit to the future. The artwork was developed by pupils from Hollins School, Accrington with help from Community Artist Karen Allerton. To find out more click on the following link and next time you are in Accrington take time to view it:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/steam-to-green/>



## **Accrington Station gains an Integrated Sustainable Travel Fund (ISTF) from the Community Rail Network**

CRL was successful in being awarded a grant from the Community Rail Networks ISTF to help improve links between the rail and bus stations (and vice versa). The project is a collaboration between the ELCRP, CRP, Northern and Lancashire County Council and is taking place over the next couple of months. To find out more about this click the following link:

<https://communityrail Lancashire.co.uk/news/integrated-sustainable-travel-grant-awarded/>



**Accrington Bus Station**

## **Accrington Eco Station**

New artwork developed by Alastair Nicholson featuring some of the eco features to be seen at the station has been installed on platform 1 at the station.



The project has been funded by the Community Rail Network's & DfT's CRDF and a Windfall Fund from the Prospects Foundation. For more information click on the link below:

<https://communityrail Lancashire.co.uk/news/new-artwork-installed-at-accrington-eco-station/>

This is only the start - there is more to come!

## **Other items**

### **Mini Timetables**

Once again, many thanks to Peter Eastham and the RV volunteers who helped to distribute the new mini timetables for the CL that started on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

**The Community Rail Events Guide** has been updated to include a wider range of events reachable by train see:

<https://communityrail Lancashire.co.uk/events/>

### **Clitheroe Castle:**

#### **On Track – A Glimpse into Lancashire's Railways Past & Present**

This exhibition which has been running since February 2023 is set to close at the end of this month so time is limited if you haven't been to view it yet. To end the exhibition on a high note two events have been arranged:

The first is called 'All aboard the Ribble Vallet Live Steamers' and the second is a talk being given by Peter Fitton called 'Railway Reminiscences from Lancashire and Beyond' which is taking place at Clitheroe Castle on the 30<sup>th</sup> January at 1100.

Full details can be found using these links:

<https://events.apps.lancashire.gov.uk/w/webpage/event-details?eventid=279629>

and here:

<https://communityrail Lancashire.co.uk/news/on-track-exhibition-to-close-soon/>

### **Guided walks**

The new CRL guided walk programme for the winter/spring 2024 period can be viewed at:

[https://communityrail Lancashire.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/19610-CRL-East-Lancashire-Guided-Walks-Leaflet-Jan-Jun24\\_v2.pdf](https://communityrail Lancashire.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/19610-CRL-East-Lancashire-Guided-Walks-Leaflet-Jan-Jun24_v2.pdf)

## Resources

One of the on-going roles for the CRP is to help promote and market the Clitheroe and East Lancashire Lines and there are resources you can use to help do just that.

For the Clitheroe Line take a look at this:

<https://communityrail Lancashire.co.uk/explore-the-clitheroe-line/>

For the East Lancashire Line take a look at:

<https://communityrail Lancashire.co.uk/lines/east-lancashire/> and  
<https://communityrail Lancashire.co.uk/acccrington-eco-station/>

## Looking ahead:

What's happening over the next 3 months? Here is a sample:

1. **Community Rail Week** – planning is well underway for this year's event.
2. **DalesRail**: CRL continues to work with Northern, Lancashire County Council, North Yorkshire Council, Rail North, DfT on this project. I hope it will be possible to say more about this very soon.
3. **Explore the Clitheroe Line** – the development of a new leaflet to highlight what can be done along the Clitheroe Line in conjunction with the SEL CRP, RVBC and others.
4. **This Is Around Us** – a new project with a new group of RotaKids from Church & Oswaldtwistle. It is hoped that the project will be part funded by a grant from the Speakers Art Fund which has the support of the local MP Sara Britcliffe.
5. **Special events** – take time to visit Clitheroe Castle to see the exhibition or attend one of the 2 special events before the exhibition closes. Below is a flyer for the final event taking place at 1100 on the 30<sup>th</sup> January.
6. The lovely artwork produced by local artist Gosha Gibek, which forms part of the Clitheroe Castle exhibition, is being taken to the Bunker at Accrington and is being digitised so it can be printed and displayed at other locations including, we hope, Blackburn.



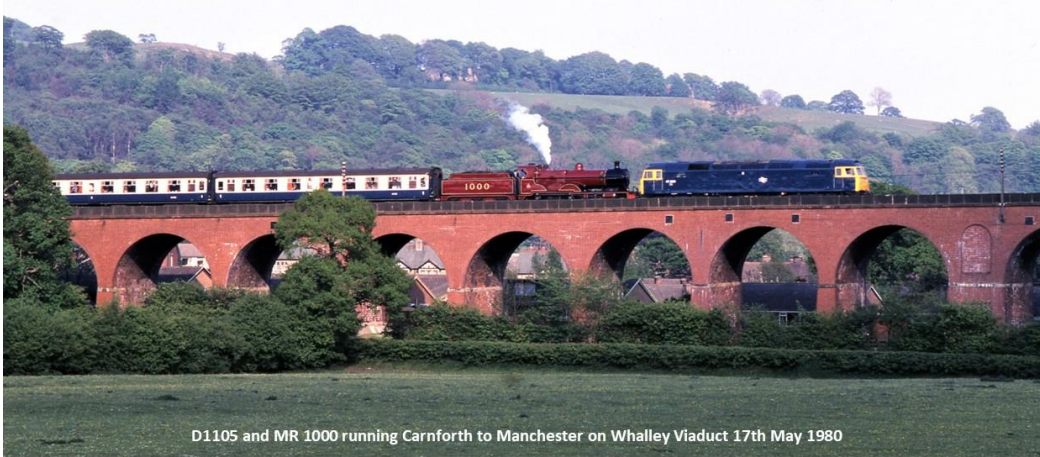
7. **Guided walks** – we continue to develop a series of guided walks from stations along the two lines.
8. **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June** – the Lancashire Rail Ramblers have organised a coach link from Clitheroe Interchange to take passengers into the Forest of Bowland AONB.
9. **Let's Connect Communities** – we will shortly be launching the two walk films from Burnley that are being produced by Huckleberry Films as part of this project – look out for details.
10. **Nelson** – we looking to develop a project in partnership with Lancashire County Council, a local college and Pendle BC.





**Clitheroe Castle Museum**

# **Railway Reminiscences of Lancashire and Beyond**



D1105 and MR 1000 running Carnforth to Manchester on Whalley Viaduct 17th May 1980

**An illustrated talk by railway photographer Peter Fitton**

**11am, Tuesday 30 January 2024**

**£3.00 with tea, coffee and biscuits**

Booking advised. Please book online by following the QR code.

Alternatively telephone or call into the museum shop

Tel: 01200 424568 Email: [clitheroecastle@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:clitheroecastle@lancashire.gov.uk)

**Why not visit the museum afterwards or call into the Steward's Gallery and see the hugely successful free exhibition On Track? Exhibition closes 30 January**



Ribble Valley  
Borough Council  
[www.ribblevalley.gov.uk](http://www.ribblevalley.gov.uk)

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