



West of Lancashire CRP Activity Plan Report 31st 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.

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 18th March in Swansea. CRL and the Lancashire CRPs had a number of projects shortlisted including East Meets West for the East Lancashire & West of Lancashire CRPs. 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 West of Lancashire lines can be viewed in the CRP Activity Plan. Look at the figures the data set covers the

years from 2015/16 to 2022/23. There is much for all of us to do to promote our lines.

West of Lancashire 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 and OPSTA will comment on this in their updates, 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 10th February will see the unveiling of the new Preston station history poster. This has been developed by Billy Burton, a 6th 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 10th November along with the Railway Chaplain, BtP, Avanti WC, TP and Northern.



CRL attended the Remembrance service held at Preston Station on the 10th November 2023.

Burscough Junction & Rufford

We are sorry to see Dhiren Patel leave the Community Payback team. Through Dhiren the Payback Team has supported our adoption of the disused platform at Burscough Junction and also helped out Sue and Gordon at Rufford. A letter of thanks has been sent to Dhiren.

Burscough Bridge

December 6th 2023 saw the launch of the first part of the 'Through Here to Martin Mere' project to help promote the walking route from the station to W&WT reserve at Martin Mere. A special event was held at the station with the pupils from Burscough Bridge Methodist Primary School and invited guests. To come is a film describing the walk which will for part of our series of walking films promoted as 'Exploring Lancashire By Rail'.



For more information use the following link:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/through-here-to-martin-mere/>

The project has been funded with the help of a grant from the Community Rail Network's CRDF.

Other items

Mini Timetables

Once again, many thanks to volunteers who helped to distribute the new mini timetables for the West of Lancashire line that started on the 10th December 2023.

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

<https://communityrailancashire.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 30th 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://communityrailancashire.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://communityrailancashire.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 our local lines and there are resources you can use to help do just that. For more information click on the link below:

<https://communityrailancashire.co.uk/make-a-beeline-for-the-west-lancashire-line/>

If you would like any of the leaflets shown please email Richard Watts on richard.watts.crl@gmail.com.

Looking ahead:

What's happening over the next 6 months? Here are a few things taking place and some dates for your diary:

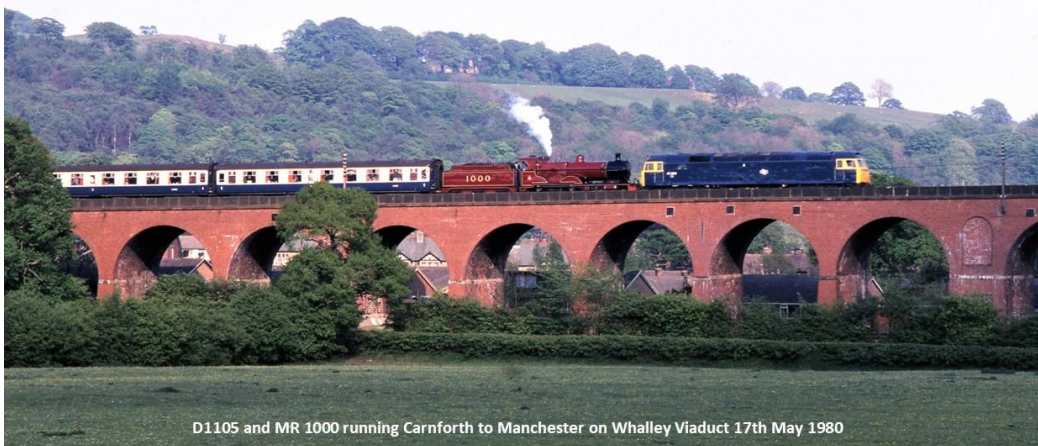
1. **World Hijab Day 1st February:** an event is planned in the Community Room between 1100 and 1400 on platform 4 at Preston station to mark World Hijab Day. Come along to find out more.
2. **Launch of the Preston Station History Poster Saturday 10th February:** A special event is planned at Preston station to launch the new History poster about the station.
3. **Community Rail Walk Tuesday 20th February:** please join the guided walk between Ormskirk and Rufford starting at 1041. Full details see https://communityrail Lancashire.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/19610-CRL-East-Lancashire-Guided-Walks-Leaflet-Jan-Jun24_v2.pdf the walk will be led by an experienced walk leader from the Lancashire Rail Ramblers.
4. **Community Rail Awards 18th March:** this important event that celebrates the best of community rail is taking place in Swansea. Shortlisted is East meets West that was organised by the East Lancashire and west of Lancashire CRPs during last years Community Rail Week. For more details see: <https://communityrail Lancashire.co.uk/news/community-rail-awards-2024-shortlistings/>
5. **Community Rail Walk Saturday 13th April:** please join the guided walk from Croston to Chorley that starts at 1023. Use above link to find out more.
6. **Community Rail Week 20th to 26th May** – planning is well underway for this year's event. Please send any ideas to Richard Watts at richard.watts.crl@gmail.com.
7. **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.
8. **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 30th January.

9. **Community Rail Walk Saturday 29th June** – the Lancashire Rail Ramblers have organised a coach link from Clitheroe Interchange to take passengers into the Forest of Bowland AONB.



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

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

In partnership with:

Lancashire
County Council

