



# East Lancashire & Clitheroe Line CRPs Activity Plan Update 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 Richard Watts Partnership Secretary & Chair Community Rail Lancashire





## Key updates

- **Accreditation** – the (re)accreditation meeting took place on Monday with thanks to Mike and Caroline for their help in preparing and attending the meeting.
- **Activity Plan 2025 and Rail 200** – work is starting to develop the 2025 Activity Plan to cover the work of the 4 Lancashire CRPs and CRL. It is important that any new projects are captured in the Activity Plan. The Plan will also look at what we can do to contribute to Rail 200 and to Community Rail Week in May.
- **The Value of Community Rail** – this is a new report that has just been published by the Community Rail Network and can be viewed here:  
<https://communityrail.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/VoCR-report-24-FINAL-FOR-WEB.pdf>
- **Mini timetables** – new mini timetables will be produced for the timetable change starting on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

## YDE update

- Up to 5<sup>th</sup> October
  - ✓ 1500 passengers CLH to RHD – 327 on a guided walk & 437 walking
  - ✓ 830 RHD to CLH
- Winter guided walk programme by FoSCL
- Events programme to encourage usage
- LRR developing walk programme from Easter 2025
- DalesBus links
- Website continually updated
- Social media used to promote walks and events
- Promotional leaflet
- Project group meets regularly
- Entered into Community Rail Awards





## Promoting the Ribble Valley Line:

- **Eco Escapes**
- <https://www.discoverbowland.uk/activities/ecoescapes/>
- **Explore Lancashire By Rail**
- <https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/lancashire-by-rail/>
- **YDE**
- <https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/lines/yorkshire-dales-explorer/>





# Recent events at Accrington



Scott Breton CIHCM MIOl · 1st  
Labour Cllr, Hyndburn BC Cabinet Member for...  
8m · 🌐

Hidden under Accrington Railway Station is something special... 🤖

Last week I had the pleasure of visiting the **Community Rail Lancashire's** community room at Accrington Railway Station, and I was absolutely blown away by the fantastic facilities and the incredible projects they support. 🚂🌟

The community room is not just a space; it's a hub of innovation and collaboration. From eco-friendly features like solar power and grey water collection to the use of recycled materials, this facility is a shining example of sustainability in action. 🌱☀️

But what truly sets it apart are the amazing projects they support. From educational programs to local art initiatives, Community Rail Lancashire is making a real difference in the community. 🎨📖

I encourage all community groups to come and explore what Community Rail Lancashire has to offer. Whether you're looking for a space to host your next meeting or want to get involved in their fantastic projects, this is the place to be. Let's come together and make a positive impact! 💪💖

✉️ Contact **David Savage** to find out more how your community group, school, charity or organisation can visit and use these wonderful facilities.

**#CommunityRailLancashire #EcoFriendly #CommunitySupport #Accrington #GetInvolved #Hyndburn #Lancashire**



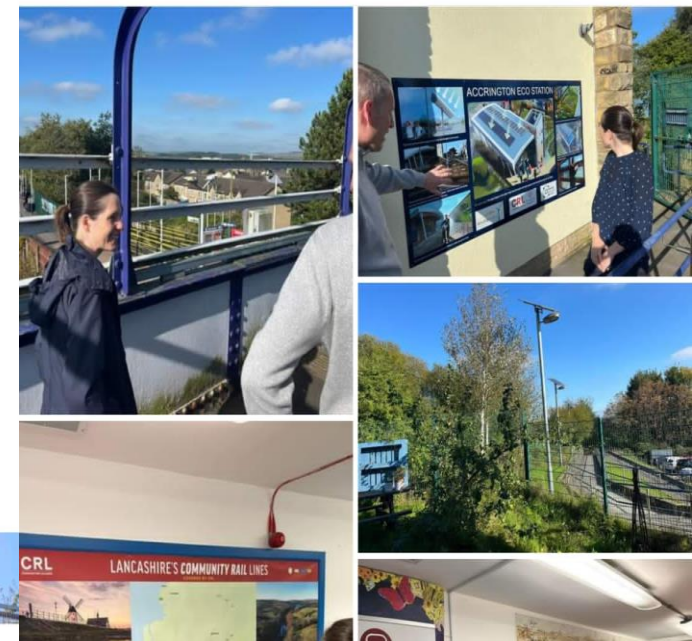
Sarah Smith MP  
15h · 🌐

Did you know how great Accrington Railway Station is?

I met with Dave from Community Rail Lancashire who runs workshops for young people to educate them about the railways

As one of the country's few eco-stations they use a rainwater harvesting system, run a community garden, is built with sustainable materials and have solar panels!

We also discussed the need for a better-connected Lancashire. This is why I'm supporting the Government's Railway Services Public Ownership Bill, so that places like ours are no longer forgotten about 🌹





# STATIONS OF WELCOME

It began when Shahiستا Raja, from Community Rail Lancashire, invited a small group to meet up and socialise at the station in 2021 after Covid-19 restrictions were eased.

# railwatch

Published by RAILFUTURE Campaigning for a bigger, better railway No 181 £3 October 2024



Pictures: Northern

## Volunteers boost pride in town station

A group of women have volunteered to take care of Accrington station in the Lancashire town they are proud to call home.

Around 20 women have adopted the station, which is operated by Northern and used by more than 465,000 people a year.

The initiative began when Community Rail Lancashire's Shahiستا Raja invited a small group to meet up and socialise at the station in 2021, after Covid 19 restrictions were eased.

They welcomed an opportunity to form an adoption group so they could meet on a regular basis and work together to improve the station.

"It is not something you would usually see a minority community get involved in," said Neilam Iqbal, treasurer of the group.

"But looking after the environment and looking after our community is something we have been taught to do as part of our culture, so when we saw this was open to us we jumped at the chance."

The women clean the platform every week, work on artwork projects, and look after the floral displays and station garden.

They have taken also taken groups of schoolchildren to visit their mosque.

"The station is a big part of Accrington as so many people use it, so we want to look after it and showcase our town," added Ms Iqbal.

"We want people to see this place and remember it, because there is so much to be proud of here.

"The ladies look forward to this every week. This is a nice space where they can be themselves, enjoy time with their friends and learn something new."

Ms Raja said: "I do not think there is another group like this one and I am willing to bet it is

the only station adoption group in the country made up of South Asian Muslim women. Every Tuesday morning you can see women in hijabs and high-vis on the platform. For me it is a really nice sight.



"A lot of these women went to school together but lost touch when they got married and got busy with other things. But now they have come back and reconnected. It has become a friendship group."

Northern operates more than 500 stations and over half of them have adoption groups. It is looking for volunteers for the other 250. More info: [adopters@northernrailway.co.uk](mailto:adopters@northernrailway.co.uk)

Throughout Britain, volunteers are helping the railway to be more attractive and useful for both passengers and rail workers.

**Buses volunteer army blossoms: Page 2**



The Green Travel artwork was created by artist Gosha Gibek and coloured in when pupils from Peel Park, St Mary Magdalen's and Woodnook Primary schools visited the Eco Station Open Day during Community Rail Week 2024.



# East Lancashire Stations







## **Railway 200**

### **4 key themes:**

- **Innovation, technology and environment**
- **Education and skills**
- **Celebrating railway people**
- **Culture, heritage and tourism**

**Full details on the railway 200 website:**

**<https://railway200.co.uk/>**

**Or watch this short video**

**<https://youtu.be/W6IHVcGuaLI>**



## Rail 200 – Events throughout 2025

- Rail 200 launched in Darlington on 19<sup>th</sup> September
- Jake Kelly, Managing Director of Network Rail Eastern, encouraged organisations and communities to embrace **Railway 200**, a once-in-a-generation opportunity to celebrate the railway's far-reaching impact on how we live our lives and how it's shaping a more sustainable future.
- Year long series of events planned key highlights include:
  - ✓ The Community Rail Network is planning a Railway 200 themed **Community Rail Week** in May – ***we need to plan events for this across the 4 Lancashire CRPs.***
  - ✓ **Touring train** – a special 4 coach train will be touring the country and inviting schools, community groups and individuals to get involved. This will celebrate the past, present and future of rail and will include a careers carriage.
    - The train will tour the UK for a year probably from June 2025.
    - It will visit major stations and heritage railways – programme to be announced shortly.
    - We need to plan to take groups to visit this.
  - ✓ **What can your group do to contribute to celebrating Railway 200?** Share your ideas with Richard Watts and Caroline Holden.

# **EDUCATION UPDATE**