



# Community Rail Lancashire Newsletter

January 2025



## COMMUNITY RAIL LANCASHIRE Quarterly Newsletter – Edition 1

Welcome to the first edition of the **Community Rail Lancashire Newsletter!**  
We're excited to share updates, projects, and community stories from across our network.

### Station Adopters Call Out!

**Date for your diary - Tuesday 27th May.** Special station adopters day at County Hall, Preston with talks and activities from 10am-12. All station adopters welcome, formal invitation to follow. For more information email [richard.watts.crl@gmail.com](mailto:richard.watts.crl@gmail.com)

### Who We Are

Community Rail Lancashire (CRL) is proud to support **four community rail partnerships (CRPs)** in Lancashire and work closely with a neighbouring CRP in Yorkshire. Together, we cover a total of **eight rail lines**, making us one of the largest groups of CRPs in the UK.

Our dedicated team of **eight employees** is passionate about promoting local rail travel, improving accessibility, and engaging with communities to make railways a vital part of local life.

👉 **Meet the Team:** [Click here](#)



## Rail 200:

This year celebrates the 200th anniversary of the railway! Community Rail Lancashire and TrainEd are thrilled to support various activities throughout 2025 and into 2026. Teachers and group leaders can find a range of resources to celebrate Railway 200 here:

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

The Education team will conduct Rail 200 activities at the 'bunker' at Accrington Eco Station. (see photo below). These sessions are open to any school group and will cover rail safety, careers, and sustainability. Participation is free. A trip on a Northern train can also be arranged. For more information, please email:

[TrainEd@communityraillancashire.co.uk](mailto:TrainEd@communityraillancashire.co.uk)



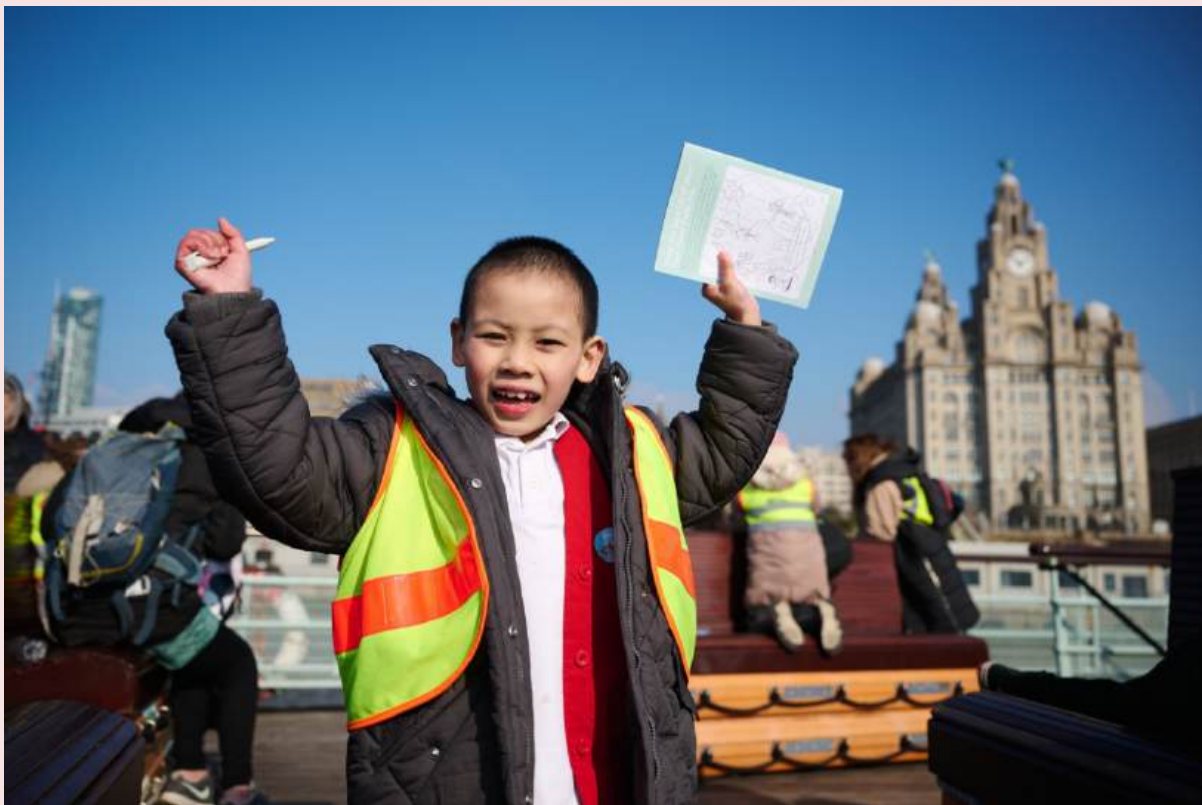
## Education Update

### **Feel Good Field Trips project completed**

The Feel Good Field Trip campaign funded by Avanti West Coast has been up and running since January 2023. The project has provided over 5200 school children aged between 4-18 with the chance to go on free, enriching and educational days out across the West Coast Mainline. The schools involved have higher than average pupil premium rates (24%).

For more information click the link below:

<https://trained.website/project/feel-good-field-trips/>



## **Northern Education Network**

TrainEd are hosting Northern's Education Network. This is made up of two activities – In person meeting across the network and supporting all the CRPs with their Education and Youth Engagement activities.

So far there have been meetings in Carnforth, Leeds and Manchester covering topics including an accessible simulator, using VR headsets and tablets to increase people's confidence to travel by train.

The next meeting takes place on 3rd April in Hope.

<https://trained.website/project/northerns-education-network/>



Stay informed about events and news through our education team's blog. Check it out here:

<https://trained.website/insights-events/>

## CRP News

### Yorkshire Dales Explorer

The Yorkshire Dales Explorer continues to run during the winter months and although there are only limited guided walks available there is still plenty to do and see both in the Dales and across the Ribble Valley and East Lancashire.

For more information click on the link below:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/lines/yorkshire-dales-explorer/>



## **Community Rail Awards 2025**

Community Rail Lancashire is extremely pleased to announce that they have had all four of their entries into the National Community Rail Awards 2025 shortlisted – see details below.

### **Category 3 – Community Creative Projects & Station Arts –**

Community Rail Lancashire and Oastlers School – Steeton and Silsden Artwork

### **Category 6 – Best Community Engagement Project -**

Community Rail Lancashire and partners Community Rail Cumbria – Soulful Days Out

### **Category 7 – Tourism & Leisure Award -**

Community Rail Lancashire and partners – Yorkshire Dales Explorer

### **Category 9 – Influencing Positive Change & Sustainability**

Community Rail Lancashire with Accrington & Rossendale College – Supporting students on NVQ Railway Maintenance Course

The team are looking forward to attending the awards in Newcastle in March.



## **Stations**

## ***Church & Oswaldtwistle to Accrington and Beyond – By Train, Foot & Bicycle***

On 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2024 RotaKids pupils from Oswaldtwistle St Andrew's CE Primary beamed into Church and Oswaldtwistle station for the unveiling of their artwork featuring the access directly off the station platform onto the Hyndburn Greenway – featured at Accrington station too.



## **Events**

11th March - My Whole Self Day

13th March - Community Rail Awards - Newcastle

19th - 25th May - Community Rail Week  
27th May - Station Adopters Event - Preston

[Contact us](#)

## Community Rail Lancashire

Accrington Railway Station, BB5 1LJ, Accrington

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