



Community Rail Lancashire Newsletter

April 2025



Welcome to the Second Edition of the Community Rail Lancashire Newsletter!

We're excited to bring you the latest news, highlights, and updates from across our projects and partnerships.

First, a warm welcome to Sophia Sanderson, who has recently joined the CRL team! Sophia will be working three days a week, focusing on supporting Special Educational Needs (SEND) groups and helping us further develop our inclusive community rail initiatives.

We're also proud to announce the release of our **Annual Report for 2024**, which highlights our achievements and milestones over the past year. You can view the full report here:

[!\[\]\(faf942dc3e59ce8eb64b4ac481eca7e0_img.jpg\) View the Annual Report](#)

Stay up to date with all the latest CRL news and stories by visiting:

[!\[\]\(d3102649f02e825ddb76dc3de0190154_img.jpg\) CRL News Updates](#)

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.

Girlguiding Railway Challenge launched

On the 27th of September, 1825, George Stephenson's steam-powered *Locomotion No. 1* made its historic 26-mile journey between Shildon, Darlington, and Stockton, carrying between 450 and 600 passengers. This pioneering event marked the beginning of train travel, which rapidly spread across the globe. To celebrate this monumental anniversary, Girlguiding North East England has created a Railway Challenge Pack, honoring the rich heritage of the railway in our region.

Catherine Kingdom has been part of the team working on this exciting challenge for the past nine months, in collaboration with Network Rail and Railway 200. On Saturday 29th March, the badge was officially launched at Hopetown in Darlington. Over 750 girls, aged between 4 and 18, along with their leaders, gathered for the event. They were joined by staff from Network Rail, Community Rail Network, Railway 200, Penistone Line Community Rail Partnership, the BBC, and more.



Education Update

CRL team enjoy a day out at Parliament!

The Community Rail Lancashire (CRL) team were very pleased and excited to be invited to a Parliamentary Reception in January to celebrate the success of Avanti West Coast's (AWC) Feel Good Field Trips project.

You can read more about this project by clicking on the link below.

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/fgft-best-practice-paper/>

Dave is now working with Avanti West Coast on a follow up project called 'Feel Good Futures'. This project will be focusing on high school and college students (14-18 years old), offering trips that have a railway focus and are aligned with the four themes of Railway 200. The trips will include visits to, Alstom train depots, and the London Transport Museum, among other exciting opportunities.



Stay Connected with the Latest News and Events!

Our education team is constantly bringing you the latest insights, updates, and event highlights. Stay informed and inspired by checking out our blog!

👉 [Visit the blog here](#)

Stations of Welcome During Ramadan

Throughout Ramadan, the Accrington Railway Station adopter group, with support from Northern, brought a special touch of community spirit to local stations. Every Tuesday, the group handed out bottles of water and sweet treats to passengers and staff at Accrington and Blackburn stations.

The initiative offered a warm welcome to everyone traveling during the holy month, sharing kindness and fostering community connections.



Community Rail Awards

Community Rail Lancashire Wins Silver at National Awards

Community Rail Lancashire attended the Community Rail Network Awards in Newcastle on 13th March, joining over 500 guests from across the rail and transport sectors.

We are proud to announce that, alongside our partners, the Yorkshire Dales Explorer project was awarded Silver in the Tourism & Leisure Award category. The project promotes sustainable travel and encourages visitors to explore the beautiful Yorkshire Dales by rail.

Congratulations to everyone involved!

[Read more here.](#)



Stations

Clitheroe Line: A Picturesque Journey

On Saturday 15th March 2025, a unique art exhibition opened at Blackburn Market Place, celebrating the work created through the Arts 2 Heal community-led project. Featuring photographs, poetry, and drawings, the exhibition showcases the beauty and character of the Clitheroe Line and its surrounding communities.

The project aims to promote local rail travel while building confidence, creativity, and connections among participants. It also encourages visitors from outside the area to discover the charm, heritage, and hidden gems along the route.

Read more about this inspiring project [here](#).



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](mailto:richard.watts.crl@gmail.com)

Events

15th - 17th May - Lancashire Science Festival- Preston

19th - 25th May - Community Rail Week

27th May - Station Adopters Event - Preston

[Contact us](#)

Community Rail Lancashire

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