

Chair's Report 2024 / 2025



- **A positive year for the lines!**
- **Continued contributions from partners**
- **Raising the profile, improving the environment, involving local communities**
 - **Both lines playing a vital part**
- **Re-Accreditation obtained in November 2024**

Ongoing service disruption throughout 2024

- **Performance and reliability issues**
- **Accrington and Burnley Manchester Road highest annual usage**
 - **Build back of demand for rail really encouraging**
 - **Base to build future patronage**



CRL

Community Rail Lancashire



Community Rail
Accredited Partnership
2022-23



Integrated Sustainable Travel Fund

- Completed May 2024 and funded by CRN / CRL
 - Promote active travel by walking and cycling
- Linkages between Accrington Bus and Rail stations
 - New highways wayfinding signs and maps
 - Giving passengers confidence
- LCC funded bus services serving railway station stop
- Parallel input into Burnley's town centre signage project

Community Rail Week May 2024

- “More Than a Railway” theme
 - Guided community rail walk to the Singing Ringing Tree
- Accrington Eco Station Open Day: 80 students participating
 - production of artwork with the theme of green travel





Yorkshire Dales Explorer

- Launched on Saturday 8th June
- Linking GM and Lancashire with the Yorkshire Dales
 - Clitheroe Line CRP working with partners on promotion, marketing and awareness
- Special thanks to Lancashire Rail Ramblers and Ribble Valley Rail
- 3000+ passengers travelling on the service in 2024
 - Reverse direction travel into Ribble Valley

Awards 2025

- Community Rail Awards 2nd Place “Tourism and Leisure” category
- Rail Business Awards Shortlisted “Regional Initiative of the Year” category



Preston 3c / 4c project



- October 2024 saw the project completed with Avanti West Coast
 - 6 hanging baskets and flowers
 - Poster cases for East Lancashire line
 - Additional seating – which is well appreciated!

Stations of Welcome

- Looking after Accrington station planters and garden
- Visit to Silverdale and learning about conservation
 - BBC Sunday Morning Live appearance





From Church and Oswaldtwistle to Accrington and Beyond: By Train, Foot and Bicycle

- Creation of artwork by local schoolchildren from St Andrews C of E Primary Years 2 and 5
 - Rotakids programme
 - Showcases the “Hyndburn Greenway” route
- Linking local stations by sustainable transport modes
- Builds on “This is Us!” and “Steam to Green” projects
- Complements clearance work undertaken and planting
 - Encourages people using it to look after it



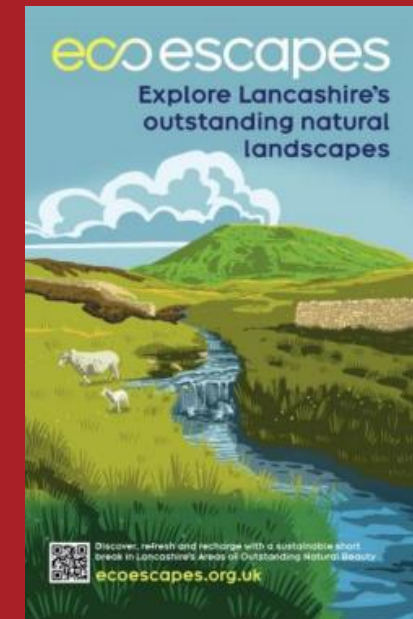
The Clitheroe Line – A Picturesque Railway Journey



- Launched at Blackburn Market Place in March 2025
- Arts 2 Heal : vulnerable adults, mental health and social isolation through art-based products
- Brought people together and has built confidence in rail travel
- Photography and poetry: capturing individual insights

Forest of Bowland National Landscape

- EcoEscapes project awarded funding
- Linking the Ribble Valley line with events, destinations and activities
 - Programme of guided walks into the Forest of Bowland
- Itineraries based on Whalley and Clitheroe stations developing
 - Discover Bowland Guide launched in February 2025





Thank you!

- All members of the CRP and Friends of Groups
- Looking after station environments in all weathers
- Bringing colour and life to thousands of rail journeys every day
- Rail industry partners who are always on-hand for support
 - Community Rail Network colleagues

Looking forward into 2025/26

- Completion of EcoEscapes project
 - Nelson subway artwork
 - Burnley Central youth art project
- Ribble Valley Line Guide production
- Activities to commemorate Railway 200
- Special meeting for station adopters at County Hall in May
 - Community Rail Week 19th – 25th May

