



Community Rail Lancashire Newsletter

July 2025



Welcome to the latest edition of the Community Rail Lancashire Newsletter!

It's been an incredibly busy few months since our last update. The education team has worked with hundreds of students, delivering engaging sessions across the region. We've also been out and about, attending a range of conferences and festivals to showcase our work, and took part in a packed programme of activities during Community Rail Week.

We're also proud to share that we won an award at the Hyndburn Business Awards – more on that below!

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

 [CRL News Updates](#)

Double Celebration for Community Rail Lancashire

Community Rail Lancashire (CRL) is delighted to announce that it has been named **Winner of the Not-for-Profit Business Award** at the **2025 Hyndburn Business Awards** – a proud moment recognising the team's dedication to making a positive impact across the region.

But the celebrations didn't stop there!

The following evening, CRL's very own Richard Watts was honoured at the Church & Oswaldtwistle Rotary Awards, receiving a Paul Harris Fellowship – a prestigious accolade awarded by Rotary Clubs to individuals who have demonstrated exceptional commitment and service to their communities.

 [Read more on our website](#)



Community Rail Week 2025

We've had an amazing time celebrating Community Rail Week 2025, which embraced the national Rail 200 theme marking 200 years of railways in the UK!

More than 200 visitors joined us at Accrington Eco Station throughout the week to enjoy a fantastic programme of events. Highlights included rail safety sessions, hands-on gardening, a community bazaar, a special World Bee Day workshop, Rail 200-themed art activities, and even a live theatre performance — a real celebration of community and creativity!

Beyond Accrington, Community Rail Lancashire was active right across the region. We supported Leeds Station Safety Week, ran a joint stall with Martin Mere Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Manchester Piccadilly, and launched a 'Chatty Bench' at St Anne's-on-the-Sea to encourage conversations and combat loneliness. We also led a wellbeing walk with Z's Academy Senior Asian Ladies Group, helping to promote physical activity and connection.

 [Read more about our Community Rail Week celebrations here:](#)
<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/cr-week-2025>



Yorkshire Dales Explorer Marks First Anniversary

The Yorkshire Dales Explorer is celebrating a successful first year of operation, having brought over 2,500 passengers into the heart of the Dales since its launch on 8 June 2024.

Running every Saturday from Manchester to Ribblehead via Settle and Horton-in-Ribblesdale, the service is designed for leisure travellers, helping to support local businesses and boost rural tourism in one of the region's most remote areas.

The initiative has proven popular and impactful, encouraging sustainable travel and wider access to the beautiful Yorkshire Dales.

[!\[\]\(cbe2492b119e39e02a1dab2af4a4b296_img.jpg\) Read more here](#)



Wrong Tracks to Rufford Primary School

The West of Lancashire Line was tooting when local author, Susan Brownrigg visited Rufford Primary school on 5th June to talk about her newly published children's book, Wrong Tracks. Susan researches deeply the history around her topics, in this case, the Rainhill Trials – stories all focussed in the North and then makes her story about the history is finds and her creative ideas of an exciting book. She's certainly done that in this story by the reaction to the Rufford Primary school pupils!

Read more about the visit here: [Wrong Tracks to Rufford Primary School](#)



Education Update

Lancashire Science Festival

The award-winning Lancashire Science Festival returned in style to the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) in Preston from 15–17 May, and the team was proud to be there for all three action-packed days!

This vibrant celebration of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) attracted over 10,000 visitors, offering a wide array of hands-on activities, exciting demonstrations, and interactive exhibits designed to inspire the next generation of scientists and engineers. The first two days were dedicated to school groups, where the CRL team engaged with hundreds of Year 5–7 pupils from across the North West. The final day was open to the public, and the CRL stand welcomed families eager to learn more about how rail plays a role in everyday life – and future careers.

 [Read more on the TrainEd website](#)



200 Stories of Railway Pride Launches for Pride Month

Community Rail Lancashire has launched *200 Stories of Railway Pride* to celebrate LGBTQ+ Pride Month and the national Railway 200 anniversary.

The anthology, funded by CrossCountry and the Community Rail Development Fund, shares a diverse range of stories from LGBTQ+ individuals and allies in the rail industry – from heartfelt to humorous.

This is the third book in CRL's series, following *100 Women, 100 Journeys* (2021) and *100 More Women, 100 More Journeys* (2024). The stories were compiled by Karen Bennett, highlighting voices from across the railway community.

 [Read more here](#)



Stay Connected with the Latest News and Events!

Our education team is always on the move—bringing you fresh updates, inspiring stories, and event highlights. Don't miss a thing!

- 👉 Follow us on Facebook: [facebook.com/trainedbycrl](https://www.facebook.com/trainedbycrl)
- 👉 Check out our blog for more news: trained.website/insights-events

Stations

Station Adopters Meeting 2025

On Tuesday 27 May 2025, Community Rail Lancashire hosted its annual Station Adopters Meeting in the Exchange Suite at County Hall, Preston.

The event brought together station adopters, rail partners, and community groups to share updates, celebrate successes, and discuss future plans. It was a valuable opportunity to connect, learn, and recognise the important work volunteers do across the network.

 [Read more here](#)

Through the Seasons with White Ash School

Year 5 and 6 pupils from White Ash Special School in Oswaldtwistle took part in a creative art project exploring the Hyndburn Greenway across the four seasons. Working with local

artist Gosha Gibek and Sonja Bottomer from the Prospects Foundation, the pupils learned about the local flora and fauna before creating vibrant artwork reflecting Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter on the greenway.

The finished pieces are now on public display at Church & Oswaldtwistle and Accrington railway stations, celebrating nature, active travel, and the accessibility of the greenway from the station platforms.

More details: communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/through-the-seasons-with-white-ash-school



[Contact us](#)

Community Rail Lancashire

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