



# Community Rail Lancashire Newsletter

October 2025



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

Welcome back to a new academic year!

Over the summer, the Education team took a well-deserved break and have been planning an exciting year ahead. With schools and colleges quickly booking activities, it's shaping up to be a busy and inspiring term!

We're thrilled to welcome Beth Nolan to Community Rail Lancashire. Joining on a part-time basis, Beth will focus on the West of Lancashire line—watch this space for more details in our next newsletter.

There's plenty to celebrate too! From success at the Make a Difference Awards to recognition at the National Rail Awards, our team has had a fantastic summer.

Looking ahead, preparations are in full swing for the Inspiration Train visit to Blackpool in November. The team will be supporting Northern and Network Rail by coordinating school visits—be sure to stop by and say hello!

And don't forget, Gare Du Nord is returning to the Bunker for two more Rail 200 shows. Details are below!

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

 [CRL News Updates](#)

## Stations of Welcome Awards Success

Accrington station's adoption group, Stations of Welcome has recently won an award in the BBC's Making a Difference Awards. The award was for a community group that has made a difference to it's community.

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/stations-of-welcome-awards-success/>



## National Rail Awards

Northern had two shortlisted entries at the National Rail Awards in London on 19 September.

The Try the Train project – delivered in partnership with Community Rail Lancashire – was awarded Highly Commended in the Accessibility Achievement of the Year category. In the Small Station of the Year category, St. Annes-on-the-Sea station was also Highly Commended, recognising the dedication of the Friends of Stations volunteers, led by Tony Ford, Chair of the South Fylde Line Community Rail Partnership.

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/celebrations-at-the-national-rail-awards/>



## The Railway 200 Inspiration Train is Coming to Blackpool North!

From Tuesday 4th – Friday 7th November, the Railway 200 Inspiration Train will be visiting Blackpool North!

Community Rail Lancashire and the TrainEd team will be supporting the visit.

- School groups: allocated viewing from 10 AM – 2 PM each day
- Public access: 2pm - 5pm

The train showcases the past, present, and future of the railway – a fascinating experience for all ages!

- ➡ Book your free tickets here: [Railway 200 Inspiration Train](#)
- ➡ School booking enquiries: Dave Savage – [dave.savage@communityraillancashire.co.uk](mailto:dave.savage@communityraillancashire.co.uk)



## Railway 200 show to return to the bunker!

The hilarious, fascinating, and educational show from Gare Du Nord is back! After wowing crowds in May, they're returning to the Bunker at Accrington Eco Station for two unmissable performances:

🕒 3 PM & 7 PM | Saturday, 22nd November

➡ FREE tickets – grab yours now!

[Book here](#)



## Have your say on rail in Lancashire

Rail travel means different things to different people. We're collecting a range of stories and experiences from people across the county to understand both the barriers and the

opportunities rail presents. Whether you use the train every day, sometimes or never at all your insights can help us build a clearer picture of rail in Lancashire.

The survey is open to everyone aged 16+, is anonymous, and takes about 15 minutes to complete. Results will be shared with the rail industry to inform future decisions. Thank you.

<https://forms.office.com/e/ytekv5Chnj>



## Yorkshire Dales Explorer Duo Fare

The Yorkshire Dales Explorer is continues to be a popular service on Saturday's. There were 42 planned walks between 17th May and 20th September attracting 285 participants.

Northern have now introduced a duo fare on the Yorkshire Dales Explorer service. offering two adults a 25% discount on off-peak day returns when they travel together for their full journey.

## Picturesque Railway Journey On The Move

The Clitheroe Line – A Picturesque Railway Journey was an Arts 2 Heal mobile exhibition that showcased photography, drawings, and poetry inspired by the towns, landscapes, and heritage along the Clitheroe railway line. After being displayed at Blackburn Market Hall, it moved to the Platform Gallery at Bolton Station (Platform 5), where it ran from 4th to 31st August 2025.



## The Rail Experience – Confidence on the Rails!

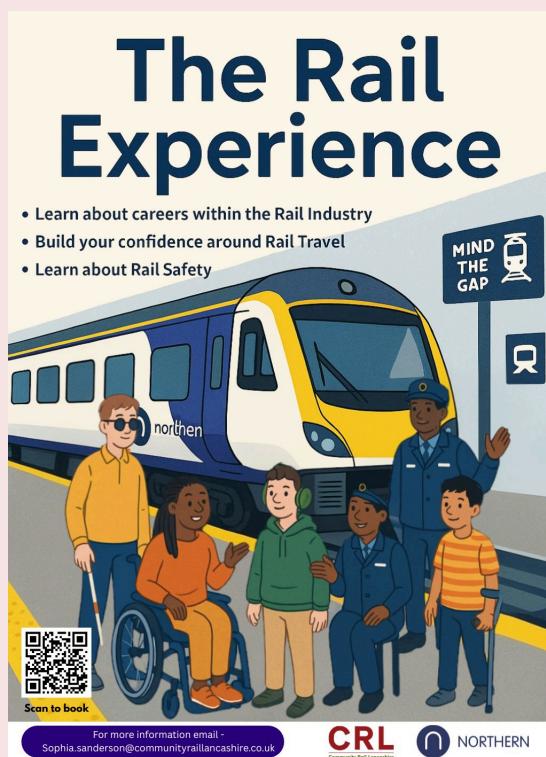
Community Rail Lancashire, in partnership with Northern Rail, is proud to offer The Rail Experience project lead by Sophia is designed to help SEND and Neurodiverse young people and adults feel confident when travelling by train.

Participants can take part in:

- Workshops covering ticket buying, rail safety, and rail industry careers.
- Supported train journeys to practice travelling independently with guidance every step of the way.

This project helps build skills, confidence, and independence for train travel.

Sign up or find out more: <https://forms.gle/TrwokMKCjemffkFaA>



## Education Update

Although the summer holidays are usually quieter for the education team, they've been hard at work preparing for the new academic year. Over the past weeks, the team has been attending career fairs, delivering safety talks, running Try the Train trips, and taking groups out on rail confidence experiences.

In addition to these activities, we continue to offer free educational sessions at Accrington Eco Station, providing students with hands-on learning opportunities and an insight into the world of rail.

📚 Learn more and book a session here:

[Discover Accrington Eco Station Workshops](#)



## 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](https://trained.website/insights-events)

## Clitheroe Castle Events

### All Aboard with the Ribble Valley Live Steamers

**Saturday 11 October 2025**

Join us for a special day with the Ribble Valley Live Steamers model engineering club!

See a fantastic selection of steam, diesel, and electric trains on display, plus live and static steaming demonstrations outside.

This free, family-friendly event is perfect for train enthusiasts of all ages — just drop in anytime between 12 and 3pm!

👉 Find out more: [Clitheroe Castle Museum Event Page](#)

### Tracks of Life: Trains, People and Places

**11 October 2025 – 26 April 2026**

In this Railway 200 year, this exhibition is curated in partnership with Ribble Valley Rail, Clitheroe Castle Museum and Community Rail Lancashire, with funding thanks to

Community Rail Network/ DfT. The exhibition celebrates the life and work of talented, professional local railway photographer Ken Roberts (1928–2024). Ken was a founding member of Ribble Valley Rail, established in 1986 to campaign for the reopening of the Blackburn to Clitheroe passenger line. The images selected for the exhibition reflect the breadth of Ken's interests and lifelong passion for railways. Also included are a selection of model trains and memorabilia. Free entry to the Steward's Gallery at Clitheroe Castle Museum.

👉 Find out more:

<https://www6.apps.lancashire.gov.uk/w/webpage/event-details?eventid=2725115>

### Full Steam Ahead! An Author Talk with Susan Brownrigg

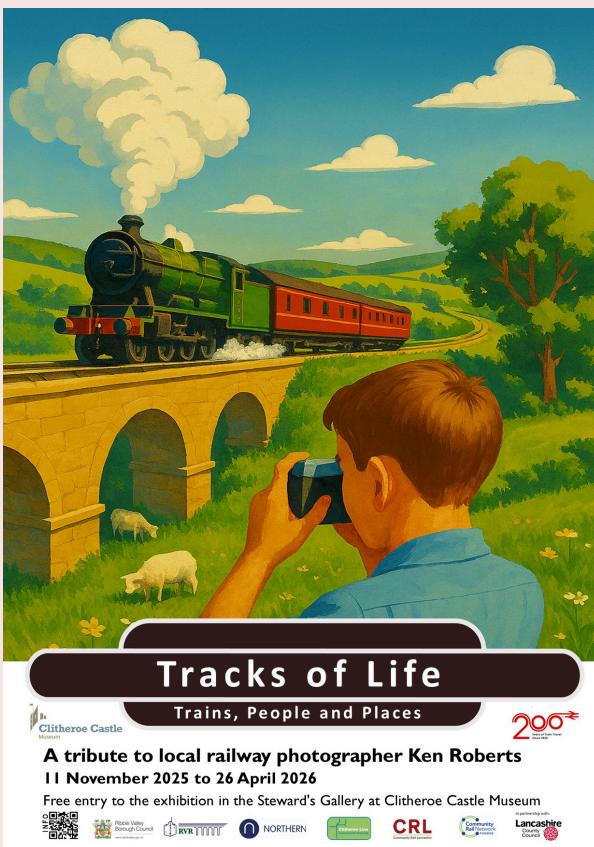
Join Lancashire author Susan Brownrigg for a captivating talk exploring the true events of the Rainhill Trials — the historic competition that shaped the future of railways. Discover how these remarkable stories inspired her critically acclaimed children's book, *Wrong Tracks*.

🎫 Tickets: £6 per person (*booking essential*)

☕ Includes refreshments and a free museum pass valid for 30 days (issued on arrival).

Don't miss this engaging journey into railway history — full of invention, intrigue, and inspiration!

👉 Book your place now: [Clitheroe Castle Museum Event Page](#)



## Sprucing up Blackpool Pleasure Beach

Thanks to funding from Northern Trains, the Friends of Blackpool Pleasure Beach were delighted to unveil a brand-new bench on 28th August 2025 at this busy station.

Made from recycled plastic, the bench is not only environmentally friendly but also provides much-needed seating for passengers. Even better, it doubles as a handy storage box,

keeping tools accessible for the dedicated Friends who work tirelessly to keep the station welcoming. This is a noticeable improvement since the group, which was set up last year, began their efforts.

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/sprucing-up-blackpool-pleasure-beach-station/>



[Contact us](#)



## Community Rail Lancashire

Accrington Railway Station, BB5 1LJ, Accrington

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