



Community Rail Lancashire Newsletter

January 2026



Welcome to the first Community Rail Newsletter of 2026 – and Happy New Year!

This year marks an important milestone as Community Rail in Lancashire celebrates **25 years of connecting communities by rail**. From the establishment of the West of Lancashire Community Rail Partnership in 2001 to the formation of Community Rail Lancashire in 2016, community rail has continued to grow, strengthening partnerships with local communities and the rail industry across the county.

Throughout 2026, a programme of events will take place to celebrate this anniversary, involving partners from across Lancashire and the wider North of England. Please keep up to date via our website and social media channels as we share news and updates throughout this landmark year.

Read more about our anniversary year here -

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/25-years-of-community-rail-in-lancashire/>

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

 [CRL News Updates](#)

Beth Nolan joins the team

In November 2025, Community Rail Lancashire (CRL) welcomed a new member of staff. Beth Nolan, who previously worked with CRL as a facilitator on the *Try the Train* project, joined the team at the beginning of November. Beth has taken on the role of West of Lancashire Community Rail Officer.

👉 You can read more about the team on the TrainEd Our Team page

<https://trained.website/about/our-team/>



Community Rail Awards 2026

Community Rail Lancashire and its partners are very pleased to be able to announce that it has been successful in being shortlisted for a number of entries for the National Community Rail Awards 2026.

Community Creative Projects & Station Arts (Large Groups)

- CRL & Arts2Heal – *The Clitheroe Line: A Picturesque Railway Journey*

Tourism & Leisure

- CRL, Forest of Bowland National Landscape & LCC – *Eco Escapes: Tracks to Trails*

Influencing Positive Change & Sustainability

- CRL & Lancashire Archives – *The English Queen*

Railway 200 Legacy Award (Large Groups)

- CRL & Girl Guiding NE England – *The Railway Challenge Badge*
- CRL – *200 Stories of Railway Pride*

It's Your Station – Silver

- Friends of Church & Oswaldtwistle Station (Rotary Club)

The awards ceremony will take place in Derby in March 2026, celebrating the amazing contributions of communities and volunteers across the UK rail network.

To see the full shortlist click the link here: communityrail.org.uk/shortlist-announced-for-community-rail-awards-2026/



Inspiration Train at Blackpool North

From 4–7 November, Community Rail Lancashire (CRL) played a key role in welcoming the Railway 200 Inspiration Train to Blackpool North, celebrating rail travel and careers in the industry. CRL arranged visits for over 300 students aged 7–18 from 15 schools across Blackpool, Manchester, Preston, Chorley, Accrington, and Burnley, with most arriving by public transport thanks to free travel provided by Northern. Families and rail enthusiasts also joined the event, inspiring the next generation and highlighting the benefits of sustainable travel.

👉 **Read more:** <https://trained.website/inspiration-train-at-blackpool-north/>



Railway 200 show returned to the bunker!

On 22 November, Community Rail Lancashire (CRL) welcomed back Gare du Nord for two performances of their Railway 200 show. Guests enjoyed an educational and entertaining journey through the last two hundred years of rail travel, delivered with both insight and humor.

We are also thrilled to announce that the show has been nominated for an award at the 2026 Community Rail Awards in Derby later this year—a well-deserved recognition of its creativity and impact.



On Track Survey

Community Rail Lancashire is currently involved in a project, called On Track, which is doing some work to better understand disabled people's experiences of travelling by train, and we'd really appreciate your help. Your experiences will help inform future work and support improvements based on lived-experiences.

We're inviting disabled people to take part in a short survey to help us learn what works well, what can be difficult, and what could be improved to make rail travel more accessible and inclusive. The survey takes around 10 minutes to complete. All responses are anonymous and you can skip anything you'd rather not answer.

The survey closes on Sunday 25th January: <https://app.impactreporting.co.uk/pwa/mZDd18>

Education Update

The education team have been busy 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/trainedbycr/
- 👉 Check out our blog for more news: trained.website/insights-events

Forged in Steam

Forged in Steam is a collaboration project intended to celebrate the birth of the passenger railway as part of the national Railway 200 events.

Part of the project has been to create a walking & cycling leaflet that takes you along the Hyndburn Greenway all the way to the Haworth Art Gallery where an exhibition called Forged in Steam will be displayed from 17 January to 5 April 2026. You can download the new walk leaflet on this link: <https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Hyndburn-Greenway-Walk-Leaflet.pdf>



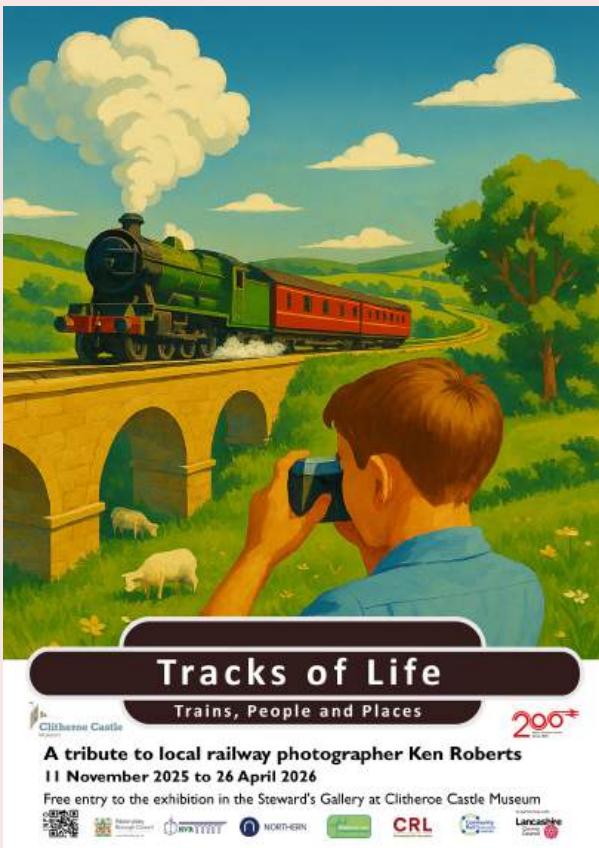
Tracks of Life: Trains, People and Places at Clitheroe Castle

11 October 2025 – 26 April 2026

As a celebration of Railway 200 – 200 years since the start of passenger railways, there is a wonderful photographic exhibition on at the moment at Clitheroe Castle Museum's Steward's Gallery by the late Ken Roberts.

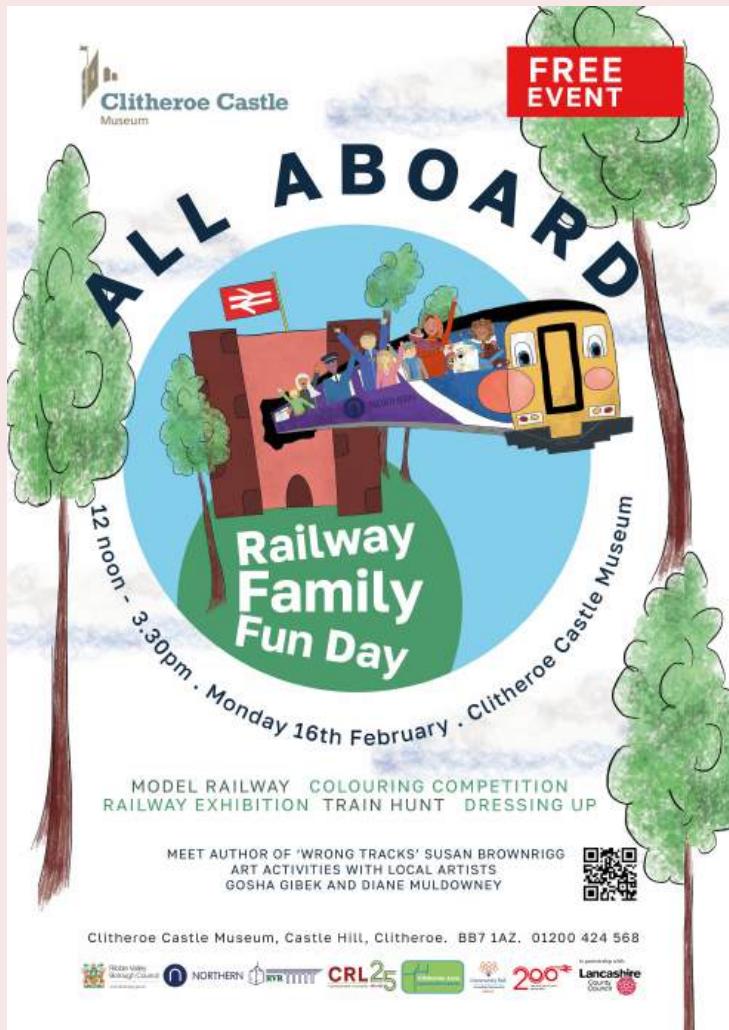
👉 Find out more:

<https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/tracks-of-life-talk-at-clitheroe-castle-museum/>



Clitheroe Castle - All Aboard Railway Family Fun Day

Clitheroe Castle will be hosting a Railway Family Fun Day on Monday 16th February, marking the start of the half term holidays. Families are invited to enjoy a fun filled day with lots of activities for children to take part in, all inspired by the theme of railways. It's the perfect way to kick off half term with hands on fun and creativity in a historic setting.



On 16th February we will also be launching the 'Explore the Ribble Valley Line' line guide and timetable at Clitheroe Castle - part of the Family Fun Day.



[Contact us](#)

Community Rail Lancashire

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