



# East Lancashire & Clitheroe Line CRPs Activity Plan Update Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026

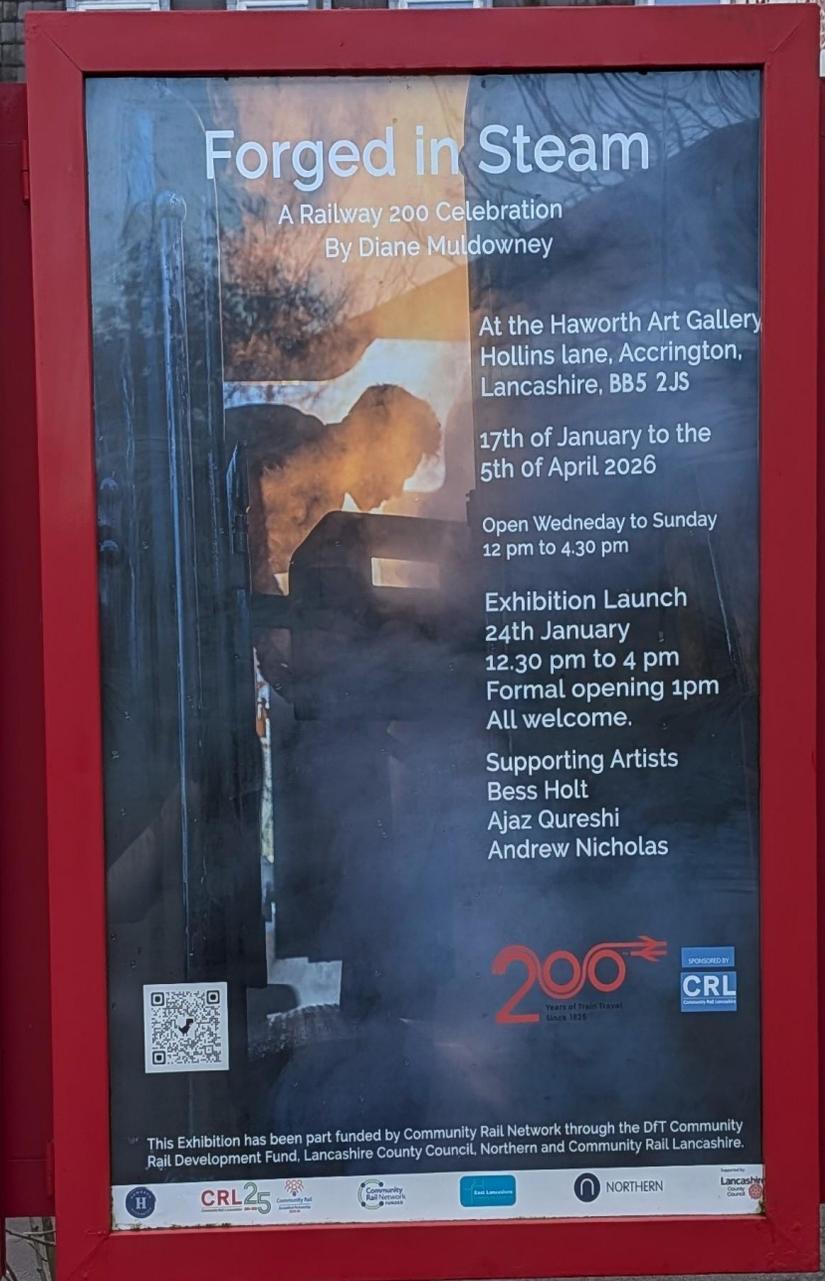


## SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January – launch of the Forged in Steam project atv Haworth Art Gallery
- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February – start of the new Community Rail guided walk programme
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February – 1230 launch of the ‘Explore the Clitheroe Line – Line Guide & Timetable at Clitheroe Castle as part of the ‘All Aboard Family Fun Day’
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May – 1035 Special 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Community Rail in Lancashire walk from Burscough Jct to Rufford
- Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May – 1030 Special Lancashire Station Adopters meeting at County Hall, Preston.
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May – World Museum Day
- Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May – World Bee Day to be marked at Accrington
- Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June to Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June – Community Rail Week: IDEAS PLEASE
  - ✓ Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June: Wrong Tracks talks by Susan Brownrigg
  - ✓ Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June: Manchester Oiccadilly with SEL CRP
- **Look out for:**
  - Guided walk programme for the YDE
  - 4<sup>th</sup> April – start of the service 80 from Ribblehead Station to Hawes connecting with the YDE.

## CRL UPDATE:

- Special year as we mark 25 years of Community Rail in Lancashire
- We have responded to:
  - ✓ The LCCA consultation on the Local Transport Plan (LTP)
  - ✓ The Bus Service Improvement Plan Initial (BSIP) Consultation
- Coming up:
  - ✓ Consultation on the LTP Implementation Plan
  - ✓ BSIP formal consultation
  - ✓ Consultation on the Forest of Bowland Management Plan 2026 to 2031
  - ✓ Community Rail Week 1st to 5<sup>th</sup> June
- Continuing: highlights
  - ✓ Tracks for Life at Clitheroe Castle
  - ✓ Forged in Steam at Haworth Art Gallery, Accrington
  - ✓ Guided walk programme
    - ✓ New programme starts 10<sup>th</sup> February
    - ✓ Special 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary guided walk Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May
    - ✓ Special Community Rail Week walk Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June
  - ✓ Community Rail Awards – Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup>



**Forged in Steam**  
A Railway 200 Celebration  
By Diane Muldowney

At the Haworth Art Gallery  
Hollins lane, Accrington,  
Lancashire, BB5 2JS

17<sup>th</sup> of January to the  
5<sup>th</sup> of April 2026

Open Wednesday to Sunday  
12 pm to 4:30 pm

Exhibition Launch  
24<sup>th</sup> January  
12.30 pm to 4 pm  
Formal opening 1pm  
All welcome.

Supporting Artists  
Bess Holt  
Ajaz Qureshi  
Andrew Nicholas

**200** Years of Train Travel Since 1825

SPONSORED BY  
**CRL**  
Community Rail Lancashire

This Exhibition has been part funded by Community Rail Network through the DFT Community Rail Development Fund, Lancashire County Council, Northern and Community Rail Lancashire.

Logos: H, CRL 25, Community Rail Network, East Lancashire, NORTHERN, Lancashire County Council

## Passenger data East Lancashire and Clitheroe Lines for 2024/25

- Rising stars
  - ✓ **Accrington up 6.3% to 503,794**
  - ✓ **Burnley Manchester Rd up 12% to 583,322**
  - ✓ **Blackburn up 4.3% to 1,297,980**
  - ✓ Burnley Central up 21.5% to 114,562
  - ✓ Church & Oswaldtwistle up 26% to 59,450
  - ✓ Colne up 15% to 82,154
  - ✓ Darwen up 14.5% to 345,590
  - ✓ Bromley Cross up 18.3% to 311,940
  - ✓ Pleasington up 26.5% to 9,764
- Problem areas
  - ✓ Clitheroe down 1.4% 264,536
  - ✓ Langho down 2.7% to 36,914
  - ✓ Ramsgreave & Wilpshire down 4.7% to 91,780
  - ✓ Whalley only station to record a rise upm 4.2% to 81,118
  - ✓ Other downs in East Lancashire include Cherry Tree, Mill Hill, Huncoat

## The results of investment

Station	2014/15	2024/25	Key events
Burnley Manchester Rd	273,000	583,322	<p><b>2014</b> New Booking Office opened + expanded car park</p> <p><b>2015</b> New Blackburn to Manchester service introduced</p> <p><b>2023</b> (March) LCC open new 67 space car park</p>
Accrington	382,678	503,794	<p><b>2010</b> Accrington Eco Station opens with enhanced car park</p> <p><b>2015</b> New Blackburn to Manchester service introduced.</p>
Rose Grove	43,176	73,300	<p><b>2015</b> New Blackburn to Manchester service introduced</p> <p>XXXX Improved passenger facilities</p>

# RAILWAY 200 – INSPIRATION TRAIN

<https://railway200.co.uk/>



## Inspiration Train:

North West 6<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> January

Possible locations:

- ✓ Preston: Ribble Stream Railway 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> January
- ✓ Southport 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> January
- ✓ Crewe 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> January
- ✓ East Lancashire Railway (Bury) 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> January

Possible return to NW later in the year with Manchester & Stockport potential locations.

# Explore the Clitheroe Line – new line guide & Timetable

Launch Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February  
At Clitheroe Castle

Available NOW!

**Clitheroe**  
The station forms part of Clitheroe Interchange with bus services radiating to most parts of the Ribbles Valley. Links to the Forest of Bowland National Landscape and Pendle side make it possible to explore these beautiful areas. Eco Escapes provides car free itineraries to explore the area. To find out more about Eco Escapes scan the code.

**Whalley**  
A town that boasts some very fine church buildings of which the best known is Whalley Abbey, a former Cistercian Abbey. Cistercian monks settled in Whalley in 1296 and started to build the Abbey Church in 1330. Whilst nearby stands the ancient church of St Mary's and All Saints, also 4th century. Equally impressive is Whalley Viaduct carrying the railway over the River Calder. It is 670 yards long, has 48 spans and was made from 7 million bricks.

**Langho**  
Take a short walk from the station to Old Langho to visit the church which was partly built using stones from Whalley Abbey. The name Langho derives from the Celtic *Bilengahoh*.

**Blackburn**  
Blackburn station has some fascinating artwork around the station created by local schools and groups. On platform 4 there is also the steel artwork depicting famous people connected with the town including Barbara Castle and Mahatma Gandhi. There is plenty to see in Blackburn. Take a look at the Cathedral which is opposite the station, the Market and events at King Georges Hall.

There are handy bus links from Clitheroe Interchange into the Forest of Bowland including:

- Service 81 Clitheroe to Carnforth via Bolton, Haslingden, Poulton-le-Ferry, and Poulton-le-Ferry
- Service 82 Clitheroe to Little and Great Wharton via Bolton, Haslingden, Poulton-le-Ferry, and Poulton-le-Ferry
- Service 83 Clitheroe to Nelson via Bolton and Poulton-le-Ferry

**EXPLORE**  
**The Clitheroe Line**  
Line Guide and Timetable  
FROM 14 DEC 2025 TO 16 MAY 2026

Manchester to Clitheroe and the Yorkshire Dales Explorer

**CRL25**  
Community Rail in Lancashire 2001-2026  
2025-26

## YORKSHIRE DALES EXPLORER Every Saturday

Full details can be found here:

[https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/lines/yorkshire-  
dales-explorer/](https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/lines/yorkshire-<br/>dales-explorer/)

### For 2026:

- ✓ We will continue to work with partners to support the YDE
- ✓ The 2026 Guided walk programme by the Lancashire Rail Ramblers and FoSCL
- ✓ Explore the Ribble Valley Line line guide and timetable with full YDE timetable included
- ✓ Support bus links including service 80 from Ribblehead to Hawes
- ✓ Leaflet promoting the guided walk programme.



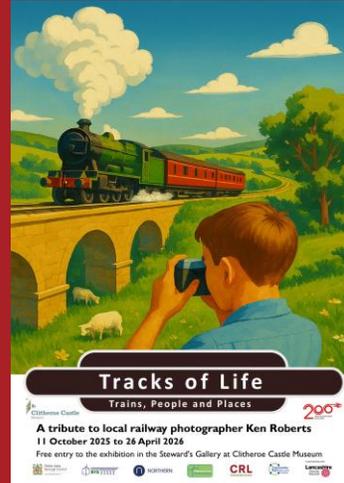
# East Lancashire & Clitheroe Line CRP Exhibitions

**Picturesque Railway Journey – exhibition continues In Nov at Blackburn Library**

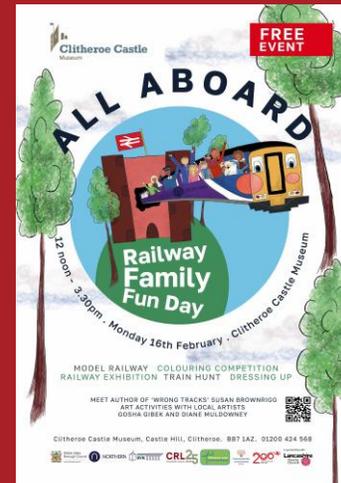


**Planning future exhibitions in 2026 including with SEL CRP**

**Tracks of Life: Trains places People At Clitheroe Castle Museum now until end of June**  
**Exhibition now on until end of June**

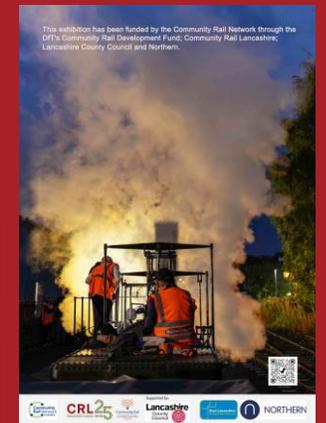


**15<sup>th</sup> Nov 25**  
Susan Brownrigg's talk on the Rainhill Trails – 40 people attended



**16<sup>th</sup> Feb All Aboard**  
Family Fun Day & Launch of the new Clitheroe Line Guide and Timetable at 12:30

**Forged in Steam at Haworth Art Gallery Launches 24 Jan at 1pm.**  
**All welcome**



**First Community event took place on 21<sup>st</sup> Jan with Stations of Welcome – Workshop with Diane**  
More to follow plus school events



# Hyndburn Greenway & Woodnook Trail

New self guide walk from Church & Oswaldtwistle  
To Haworth Art Gallery via Accrington  
3.5 kms

Leaflets at Accrington station and Haworth Art Gallery



## KEY POINTS

- **Northern Education Network:**
  - To find out more contact Catherine Kingdom on [catherine.kingdom@communityraillancashire.co.uk](mailto:catherine.kingdom@communityraillancashire.co.uk)
  - Next meeting 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026 venue County Hall, Preston
- **Try The Train - <https://trythetrain.org.uk/>**
  - To find out more and to make a booking contact Catherine Kingdom email address above.
- **Rail Experience – developed for SEND groups**
  - To find out more see slide below or contact Sophia Sanderson at [sophia.sanderson@communityraillancashire.co.uk](mailto:sophia.sanderson@communityraillancashire.co.uk) OR
  - *Book your group via this form: <https://forms.gle/dGwL3uZ39tUuNXZf8>*
- **All Aboard – Activity Booklet**
  - This is being developed with KS2 pupils in mind when they are out and about on rail trips.
- **Inspiration Train - part of Railway 200**
- **Feel Good Futures – Linked to Railway 200**
  - Aimed at students aged 14 to 18 – see slide below. Contact: Dave Savage at [dave.savage@communityraillancashire.co.uk](mailto:dave.savage@communityraillancashire.co.uk)