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Community Rail Lancashire Newsletter

November 2026



Welcome to our November Newsletter!

As the summer months tend to be a quieter time for the Community Rail Lancashire team, there has still been plenty happening behind the scenes as we prepare for the months ahead.

Our education team has been busy planning for the new academic year, introducing a new booking and feedback form to help us manage school visits and gather valuable feedback. With rail safety now included in the primary PSHE curriculum, we are also anticipating an increase in requests for our educational sessions and are looking forward to working with even more schools to help young people stay safe around the railway.

We have also been busy celebrating our achievements, submitting a number of entries for the Community Rail Awards, which take place next March. We will find out in December whether any of our entries have been shortlisted, so fingers crossed!

The Bunker has been temporarily closed throughout October and November following an issue with the damp-proofing. We are currently waiting for new flooring to be installed and look forward to welcoming visitors back once the work is complete.

Meanwhile, the popular Yorkshire Dales Explorer service and Lancashire Rail Ramblers guided walks continue to attract plenty of interest, offering fantastic opportunities for people to explore the countryside by rail and enjoy the many destinations on our doorstep.

As always, thank you to our volunteers, partners and supporters for everything you do to help make community rail such an important part of Lancashire. We hope you enjoy catching up with all our latest news and activities!

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

Share your Passenger Assistance journey experience

Community Rail Lancashire is working with TransPennine Express to gather feedback from passengers about their experience of booked Passenger Assistance, from making the booking through to arriving at their destination.

We're keen to hear from people with different levels of rail confidence and experience, including those who have never used Passenger Assistance before.

Participants will take a TransPennine Express journey and share what worked well and what could have been better. Feedback can be given in different ways, including a short form, conversation or audio note.

Interested in taking part?

Complete our short interest form https://forms.gle/7kzEAnqwgR2JptPB6

For more information, email Katie.Douglas@communityraillancashire.co.uk

Please share this opportunity with anyone who might be interested.



Tracks of Life Colouring Competition

Saturday 15 August saw the winners of the All Aboard Children's Colouring Competition return to Clitheroe Castle Museum to receive their prizes. The competition was linked to the Tracks of Life: Trains, People and Places exhibition and attracted some fantastic entries from young railway enthusiasts.

Seven-year-old Arthur, a keen railway enthusiast with an impressive collection of Thomas the Tank Engine trains, generously loaned some of his favourite Thomas and Friends trains to the exhibition. These have created a fun train-spotting activity for younger visitors. Arthur also took on the important role of judging the colouring competition back in June.

To see photographs of the winners and find out more about the competition, click on the link below.
https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/tracks-of-life-colouring-competition-winners/



Voices of Lancashire – Celebrating 25 Years of Community Rail

As part of our 25th anniversary celebrations, the Voices of Lancashire project is bringing together people's experiences, memories and stories to explore what rail means to them and the role it plays in connecting communities.

The project has two creative strands. Community members, volunteers, station adopters and partners have been invited to share their thoughts and reflections, which are being brought together by commissioned poet Ajaz Qureshi to create a poem celebrating 25 years of Community Rail in Lancashire. The poem will form the basis of a permanent train-shaped artwork at Accrington Station, creating a lasting legacy of the anniversary year.

Alongside this, musician and artist Nick Hall has been working with Year 10 students from The Hollins in Accrington on a songwriting project. Together, they are creating two original songs exploring the importance of the railway in Lancashire over the past 200 years, reflecting on its history, its impact on communities and the role it continues to play in people's lives.

Together, these projects celebrate the people, places and connections that make community rail special. They will culminate in a special Lancashire Day celebration on 27 November, when the poem and song will be shared and the new station artwork unveiled.

You can read more about the poetry train here:
https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/the-crl-poetry-train/



Beaverbrooks volunteers help St Anne’s station shine

St Annes-on-the-Sea railway station is looking brighter thanks to a fantastic partnership between local jewellers Beaverbrooks and the Friends of St Annes Station.
Through its community programme, Beaverbrooks colleagues regularly join the station’s dedicated volunteers to help with gardening, planting and general station improvements. One of their first projects involved transforming discarded golf bags into colourful planters, creating an eye-catching display ahead of the AIG Women’s Open at Royal Lytham & St Annes.
The additional helping hands have enabled larger tasks to be completed more quickly, while bringing new people together and strengthening community spirit. There is even time for a welcome brew and a slice of cake along the way!

Click here to read more -
https://communityraillancashire.co.uk/news/beaverbrooks-help-st-annes-station-shine/



Platform Pete Takes Third Place in the Great Scarecrow Hunt!

There was cause for celebration at Accrington Eco Station as Platform Pete finished an impressive 3rd overall out of more than 50 entries in the Hyndburn Connected Great Scarecrow Hunt!

Our very own scarecrow made quite an impression after being displayed in the Eco Station garden over the half term holidays, attracting attention from visitors, families and railway passengers.

Dressed smartly in his Northern uniform and proudly sporting his Accrington Stanley scarf, Pete was more than just a friendly face in the garden. He helped Community Rail Lancashire promote important railway safety messages and encouraged children to discover more through free copies of the Arlo's Adventures rail safety book, available from the station ticket office.

Pete certainly proved he was made of strong stuff, surviving the challenging weather brought by Storms Austen and Boelo! Despite the wind and rain, he remained standing proudly in the garden throughout the competition.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported Pete, visited him and cast a vote. Achieving 3rd place from over 50 fantastic entries is a brilliant result, and we're delighted that Platform Pete helped raise awareness of railway safety while bringing a little fun to the station over half term.



Discover Lancashire on Foot with Community Rail Lancashire

Community Rail Lancashire (CRL), supported by the Lancashire Rail Ramblers, is inviting walkers to explore the beautiful Lancashire countryside through its programme of regular guided walks, running until January 2027.

The walks offer a great opportunity to discover some of the county's most attractive countryside, historic villages, reservoirs, canals and scenic viewpoints. With routes ranging from easy to moderately strenuous, there are opportunities for walkers with a variety of abilities to get involved.

The walks encourage people to combine rail travel with walking, offering an enjoyable and sustainable way to explore the local area without relying on the car. Led by experienced volunteers, they are also a great opportunity to meet fellow walkers and enjoy the outdoors.

Whether you are a regular rambler or simply looking to discover somewhere new, why not join a walk and explore more of Lancashire by rail and on foot?
To view the latest programme, including walk dates, routes, distances and train times, visit:
Community Rail Lancashire Guided Walks (August 2026 to January 2027).

Education Update

As we settle into the new term, the Education Team have been busy attending careers fairs, delivering safety talks, running Try the Train trips and taking groups out on Rail Confidence experiences.
Alongside these activities, we continue to offer free educational sessions at Accrington Eco Station, giving students valuable hands-on learning opportunities and an insight into the world of rail.
Our new enquiry form is now available, making it easier than ever for schools and groups to get in touch and arrange a visit.
Although the bunker has been closed throughout October and November while new flooring is installed and damp-proofing issues are addressed, this hasn't slowed the team down! We've continued to keep busy visiting schools, delivering sessions and taking groups out on trips.
📚 **Find out more about our educational sessions and book a visit here:**
https://trained.website/sessions/register-your-interest/

Northern Education Network – Liverpool Meeting

On 14th October, we held our final Northern Education Network meeting of 2026 in Liverpool. A big thank you to Marion at Merseytravel for kindly arranging a room for us at Mann Island and helping to make the day possible.

The meeting brought together CRP officers, CRN staff and Friends of groups for a day of learning, sharing experiences and exploring the world of social media.
We were delighted to welcome Nicole Pyper from Northern, who led an informative and engaging social media workshop. The session provided a valuable insight into how Northern manages its social media channels, with plenty of useful tips, ideas and practical advice that attendees can take away and put into practice within their own groups.
There were some great discussions throughout the day, with everyone having the opportunity to share experiences, exchange ideas and learn from one another.
It was a positive and informative way to conclude our network meetings for 2026.
Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to making the day such a success!

Dates for your diary for the meetings in 2027:- 11th February, 13th April, 7th July, 14th October



Inspiring the Next Generation – Careers in Rail

Since September, Community Rail Lancashire has been out and about at careers fairs and educational events across Lancashire and beyond, engaging with thousands of young people and showcasing the exciting opportunities available within the railway industry.

Highlights include the Accrington Futures event, reaching around 1,000 Year 11 students from schools across Hyndburn, and the Blackburn Inspire Event, attended by approximately 2,000 students. The team has also taken part in World of Work days at primary schools in Clayton-le-Moors and Chorley, as well as careers fairs further afield in Hull and Crewe.

From engineering and infrastructure to biodiversity, environmental management and sustainable transport planning, the railway offers a wide range of careers that can make a real difference to our greener future.

By raising awareness of these opportunities, Community Rail Lancashire is encouraging young people to consider a career in rail and become part of a more sustainable transport network.
Find out more about careers in rail: https://trained.website/project/careers-in-rail/



Seat-y of Culture: Young talent takes to the tracks!

Thirteen-year-old Khyreece, from Oastlers School, has seen his colourful, Bradford Live-inspired artwork transformed into a bespoke train seat design!

His winning design, selected from more than 500 competition entries, now features on 26 seats aboard an LNER InterCity 225 train.

The project brought together Bradford 2025, Community Rail Lancashire, LNER, Camira and Diamond Rail Services to celebrate Bradford's creativity, local pride and cultural heritage.

A fantastic achievement for Khyreece and a wonderful way to showcase young talent across the railway network!
Read the full story:
https://trained.website/seat-y-of-culture-launched/



Stay Connected with the Latest News and Events from the Education Team!

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

👉 Check out our blog for more news: trained.website/insights-events

Contact us

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