

Cumbrian Railways Association

The County's Railway
History Group

*Our Electronic Newsletter, keeping
you informed of CRA activities and
other aspects of Cumbrian Railways*
ELX 30 - Summer 2025



Photograph © Alan Johnstone

Chairman's Musings

As ever, life at the CRA is busy with much going on and it always seems there is even more that can be done!

Our New website – Time has arrived to give our website a makeover.. A great deal of effort has been put into drawing up a specification for the new site, to send out to various companies. Eventually we narrowed the field down to three and submitted some supplementary questions to ensure that they were all quoting for the same work. By the time you read this we should have made our final selection and the work should be well underway to give us a website that is easier to use and with a more up to date feel.

50th Anniversary – 2026 will mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the CRA and we are looking for ways to celebrate this milestone - although time is moving far too quickly and next year will be quick in arriving. The venue for the March 2026 meeting is confirmed, speakers are being booked and this event will mark the start of our celebratory 50th year. Other events will follow. There is also the prospect of a couple of new CRA publications coming out too, with our Publication Team working hard to try and get us back on course of publishing two books per year.

Historic Records - Our Archives and Photographic teams have expanded with new members coming forward to digitally clean images, maps and drawings ready for publication and generally to enhance those that may be of poor quality but are of historical importance. All this being done whilst the original image and scans are retained untouched. Future software improvements may mean that they can be revisited and even better results obtained.

Philip T Tuer Chairman



Stockton & Darlington Railway 200 Exhibition

This exhibition, celebrating the Stockton and Darlington Railway 200 anniversary, moved on Monday 2nd June from Penrith to the Kirkgate centre in Cockermouth for 2 weeks, with CRA members helping to set the exhibition up and also provide guides for visitors to the exhibition. The photograph shows part of the overall exhibition layout. The display starts with an initial geographic overview and then follows the course of the line from West Auckland to Penrith, Workington and Barrow. The display is continuing to move to different venues associated with the route of the line and will feature at the CRA Conference in Penrith next November. The CRA is delighted to have been able to assist the display organisers by providing some of the images on show.



CRA Autumn Meeting 8th November 2025

The CRA is delighted to announce that our Autumn Meeting on Saturday 8th November, at Penrith, will be a special one, celebrating 200 years since the opening of the Stockton & Darlington Railway (S&DR).

Our guest speakers will reflect this theme:

- Chris Rowley "Crossing the Northern Pennines: How the Stockton & Darlington Railway Succeeded Where Others Failed and What it Meant for the North"
- Mike Thompson "The Fall and Rise of Kirkby Stephen East"
- Neil Mackay (Chairman, North Eastern Railway Association) - 'West (In)Side Story - More Photos and Tales'

For further details please contact Dave Stubbins on: 07807 836591 or email: meetings@cumbrianrailways.org.uk

Capture this QR code on your smart phone, and it will take you to our web site.



<https://www.facebook.com/cumbrianrailways>

Contact us :

For further information, go to our website at <https://cumbrianrailways.org.uk> or contact Don by email on publicity@cumbrianrailways.org.uk

<https://cumbrianrailways.org.uk/>

The Transport Library - images acquired for the CRA

The CRA Photo Team is exploring several different ideas for collaborating with The Transport Library (<https://www.thetransportlibrary.co.uk/>) in ways that will benefit both parties, and we're delighted to say the first fruits of one project are now appearing.

Among their many resources, they have an extensive archive of uncatalogued, individual negatives, mostly pre-35mm. Before sale they must be catalogued – a big task. We visited them in March and with a limited look unearthed over 400 negatives which they have now scanned for us. Over 90% have turned out to be of CRA interest, dating from the 1920s to the early 60s, which we have catalogued. They will soon add the images to their website for sale, but CRA now has high-resolution digital copies for internal use - at no cost to the Association.

Pictured is an example of what we've acquired showing LMS ex-LNWR Cauliflower 18" Goods 2F 0-6-0 58409, with wooden tender cover for snowplough work, waiting, on 17th March 1953, in Carlisle Citadel station to take the 6-10 pm stopping passenger to Penrith.

In due course the images will be made available for searching and viewing by CRA Members as one of our Restricted collections.



CRA Sales Stand Outings

- Kirkby Stephen East station - 23 & 25 August S&DR 200 celebrations. Live Steam!
- EXPO EM North - 30 & 31 August. Kettlethorpe School, Sandal, Wakefield. WF2 7EL
- Furness – 11 & 12 October **NEW** Venue Chetwynde School, Rating Lane, Barrow-in-Furness. LA13 0NY.
- Workshopwise - 25 October. Village Hall, Stannington, Morpeth. NE61 6EL
- Workington – 15 & 16 November. Energus Bld, Lillyhall, CA14 4JW
- Manchester – 13 & 14 December. The Sugden Centre, Sidney Street, M1 7HB

The CRA will be supporting all these events. Come and see us on our stand. It's good to talk!

Cumbria Local History Federation meetings

The Cumbria Local History Federation (CLHF) has a full program of meetings around Cumbria, covering all aspects of our history. For their programme, visit their website : <https://www.clhf.org.uk/events-diary/>.

Developments on the Settle & Carlisle Line

It is understood that the new connection at Horton-in-Ribblesdale from the Down main into the quarry at the south end of the station is ready for operation with a ground frame released by Settle Jn. On Tuesday 17th June 2025, a test train hauled by 60 087 Ingleborough, was loaded with limestone from the new private sidings at Horton in Ribblesdale, running round at Blea Moor, and then routed via Blackburn and Wigan to Tuebrook Sidings at Liverpool. It is expected that most of the new traffic will run via the Leeds area to a new siding at Agecroft, west of Salford Crescent station. The new rather dominant footbridge with lifts was installed at Horton as part of the safety requirements for the new siding connection – although it also improves overall accessibility at the station.

Below is a photo of Langwathby station, (courtesy of Mason Morrison). It shows one of the new station running in boards on the Up and Down platforms in 1950s BR LMR style. They are quite effective. It is understood that all the stations on the S&C will be provided with them as part of a project by the S&C "family" funded by the Friends of the S&C (FoSCL).



Cumbria Industrial History Society Programme 2025

The Cumbria Industrial History Society (CIHS) has a full programme of meetings around the County, covering all aspects of our history. For further information about any meeting please contact cihs@cumbria-industries.org.uk.

Forthcoming events include :

Guided walk : Tebay, Saturday 16th August 2025, 10.30a.m.

Guided walk : Greenside lead mine, Sunday 21st

September, time TBA. Meet outside Glenridding Tourist Information Office

Steamale meetings

Our Transport-related slide show and talks take place on the third Tuesday in the month, September to May. The venue is the Ex Services Men's Club, Victoria Place, Carlisle, 19.30 - 22.00. Cost is £5.00 (to include sandwiches). Please check our website for further details: www.steamale.co.uk.

Would you like to come and talk to us? New speakers are always welcomed. If you are interested in giving a talk – or just attending, contact our organiser Philip on 07719035650

Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway 150th Anniversary Gala

The Bank Holiday weekend of Saturday 3rd to Monday 5th May saw the Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway holding a gala weekend to celebrate their 150th anniversary, with both visiting locomotives from other railways and several resident locomotives returning home for brief appearances from long-term loans.

The railway's five "big" steam locomotives were all in service throughout the weekend – *River Irt*, *River Esk*, *River Mite*, *Northern Rock*, and *Whillan Beck*, alongside museum resident *Synolda* and resident diesel locomotives *Perkins*, *Lady Wakefield*, station shunter *Cyril* and workshop shunter *Les*. *Greenbat*, the railway's battery-electric locomotive that has just been released from overhaul after more than two decades out of traffic, was also in operation.

Visiting from the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway were Greenly Pacific No. 1 *Green Goddess* (itself celebrating its centenary this year) and Ravenglass resident *Shelagh of Eskdale*, currently running as RHDR No. 15. From the Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway came the returning No. 24, which has just undergone an overhaul at John Fowler Engineering, Bouth, and Ravenglass resident *Bonnie Dundee*, which hauled its first Ratty passenger trains for 20 years.

Each day was capped off with a grand finale in the form of *Green Goddess* and *Whillan Beck* double-heading on Saturday, a triple-header of *Shelagh of Eskdale*, *Lady Wakefield* and *Perkins* on Sunday and the "Big Five" Ratty steam locos together on Monday as seen in the top photo below by Archie Dixon. The lower photo by Peter Timming shows the 'big five' crossing Green Goddess at Irton Road.

The Gala weekend also provided the ideal opportunity for the R&ER Preservation Society (R&ERPS) to open their new hub at Ravenglass station and to launch "The R&ER Guidebook" – a 20 page brand new full colour publication. Priced £2.50, this book is available at Ravenglass and Dalegarth booking offices or via the R&ERPS website sales page : <https://rerps.co.uk/>.



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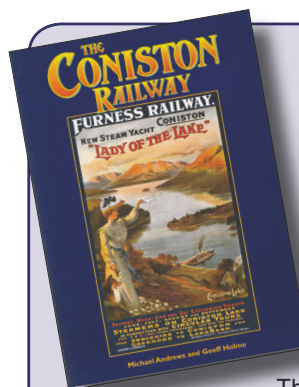
CRA Publications

Book Focus

The Coniston Railway

Michael Andrews & Geoff Holme

The first book produced by the Association covered the history of the Coniston Railway.



This edition has been sold out for a number of years and because of the popularity of this interesting line, a revised and much enlarged version of the book was produced.

Since this book was produced, a second impression was published, with some minor additions and corrections to the text.

The fascinating story of Major Hext's famous garden railway in the village of Coniston has also been brought up to date and more detail of the final days of the branch have been added, including the process of lifting of the branch.

If you have copies of the original books, this version is essential to finish off the story of the Coniston Railway.

The book is priced at £9.00 post free.

Details of other books published by the Association can be found on our website: <http://www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk>

Looking for information about the fascinating history of the railways of Cumbria? Why not go to our website (www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk) and browse the many illustrated and authoritative publications the CRA has produced. If you see what you are looking for, then you can purchase it on-line. Why not give it a try!

For example, the following book titles and maps are in our current listings :

The Kendal and Windermere Railway **£16.50**
Oxenholme – Trains and train working in BR Steam **£8.00**
Lancaster's Line to the Sea **£15.00**
Dalton-in-Furness: **£ 8.45**
Millom: a Cumberland Iron Town and its Railways, **£14.00**
An Introduction to Cumbrian Railways, **£ 9.95**
The Bigrigg Branch and Iron Ore Mines, **£7.50**
The Pilling Pig, **£15.00**
A North Lancashire Railway Album , **£14.50**
The Ulverstone & Lancaster Railway, **£6.75**
The Coniston Railway, **£ 9.00**

Map, The Railways of Cumbria, **£20.00** incl. p&p
Map, The Knott End Railway, **£20.00** incl p&p

Book Purchases : Either Buy on-Line via our web site or orders and enquiries for **books and CDs** to: Cumbrian Railways Association, 1 Brierydale Lane, Stainburn, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 4UH.

Orders and enquiries for the **maps** to the Chairman : Mr. Philip T. Tuer 24 Carlton Gardens Carlisle Cumbria CA3 9NR

Please make cheques payable to 'Cumbrian Railways Association'.