

Cumbrian Railways Association

The County's Railway History Group

An Electronic Newsletter to keep Local History Groups and the Press informed of our activities

ELX 4 - Spring 2018



Photograph © Andrew Naylor

Keswick to Penrith Line Tunnel Excavated



Many thanks to Metcalfe Plant Hire Ltd., for this photograph of their plant being used to excavate the tunnel under the A66 to the east of Keswick, on the old Cockermouth, Keswick and Penrith Line. This is the first time the portal has seen the light of day in 40 years and the stone work still appears to be in good condition. However, the structural integrity of the tunnel itself has yet to be checked. The excavation is not, sadly, a precursor of re-opening the line, but to identify if the footpath can be routed through it, as the boardwalk foundations are being eroded by the river. According to Richard Leafe, Chief Executive of the LDNPA " We do fully support the principle of re-opening this line. We have a policy within our Local Plan to safeguard disused railway lines for future use as sustainable transport links. However, the costs and technical difficulties of reopening the Penrith to Keswick railway must not be underestimated."

Why not join the CRA?

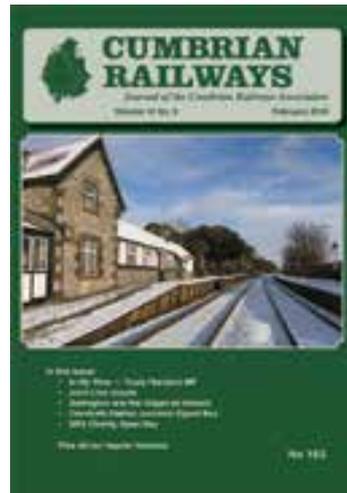
Discover more about the railways of Cumbria – their history, trains and the people who built and ran them.

For details see our website at www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk or contact Alan at membershipsec@cumbrianrailways.org.uk

Contact us :

For further information, go to our website at www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk or contact Don by email on publicity@cumbrianrailways.org.uk

Cumbrian Railways Journal



LATEST CRA JOURNAL – SPRING 2018 NOW AVAILABLE

This latest edition includes the usual fascinating and informative articles including:

- In My View – Trudy Harrison MP
- Railways & industry around Distington
- Refurbishing a Carnforth Signal Box
-and much, much more!

Copies available price £5.50 – at www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk

CRA Team To The Rescue!

The evening before the book 'Rail Cameramen' by the Rail Camera Club (RCC) went to the printers in early December, the publisher said that it would be good to include a picture of the commemorative plaque on Appleby Station to former RCC member Eric Treacy. A quick phone call to CRA member and Publicity Officer Don Jary by David Gibson, on behalf of the RCC, confirmed that he had a picture of the plaque. Within half an hour the image was with Silver Link Publishing. Job sorted!

This incident illustrates both the willingness of the CRA to help where it can and the value of the photographic archive material that it has available for members and non-members alike. We hope Silver Link (and others) will be reminded of should they require images in the future.



Rail Camera Club (RCC) Exhibition

The RCC has an exhibition at the NRM Shildon, County Durham, until Saturday 3rd March 2018. This is to mark the launch of the 100th Round of members folios. Photographs from the CRA collections of Pearsall, Peter W Robinson and other members will be on display. A book containing work of some members is also to be published.

The RCC has its origins in the Railway Photographic Society, formed in 1922 to further the standards of railway photography.

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



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

Forthcoming Events For Your Diary!

CRA Spring Meeting and AGM 2018

The CRA is pleased to announce that the Spring Meeting and AGM of the Association will be held on Saturday 17th March 2018, at the Carus Green Golf Club, Burneside Road, Kendal, LA9 6EB. Starting time is 10.30.

Following on from the success of our previous conferences, this promises to be another great day for enthusiasts of Cumbrian railways to get together, chat and hear interesting speakers. There will also be books and publications on sale.

The speaker programme for the day includes:

David Spaven – “The Battle for the Borders Railway – and the Prospects for Extension”

Geoff Holme – “Major Hext’s Coniston Railway”

Peter Fitton – “1960s Northern Steam Memories”

As always, non-members are most welcome – please go to our website, www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk for further booking details and costs or contact our organiser, Ian, via email at meetings@cumbrianrailways.org.uk or on 01539 735886 to book your seat!

CRA Field Trip 17th June 2018 Furness Railway Piel Branch

For those who like to get out and see history “on the ground” as well as reading about it and watching videos, the CRA will be running a field trip on Saturday 16th June 2018. Led by CRA Member Howard Quayle, the visit will explore the remains of the Furness Railway’s Piel branch, which opened on 24 August 1846 as part of the original main line, and which closed on 6 July 1936. Walking distance from a point near Salthouse Junction to Roa Island, via the causeway from Rampside, is approximately 3 miles, with most of this being footpath or pavement (across the causeway). Adjacent to the listed Roa Island Hotel (no longer in use as licensed premises), the remains of the approach to Piel Pier will be inspected. Rampside station (also known as “Concle” station for a short period in 1868-1869) will be passed en route, although what remains has now been incorporated into a private house.

The field trip is open to all, not just CRA members. Non-members will need to be registered as a Day Member of the CRA, for which a charge of £1 will be made. Apart from that, the trip will be free apart from a nominal charge for any handouts and individual transport needs. Transport arrangements will be made available in due course. For further details and to register in advance, contact Ian Lydiatt via meetings@cumbrianrailways.org.uk or on 01539 735886.



Photograph POW030 from the Cumbrian Railways Association archive showing Piel Station on Roa Island c1910.

Modelling Cumbrian Railways

We have **Just Released** 4mm Scale carriage springs in lost wax brass. The Stockton & Darlington Railway built a large number of coaches using these 7' springs in the 1860's and 70's. They were used on 27' 6" under frames for both 1st, 2nd and 3rd class coaches as well as smoking saloons, composites, 2nd brakes and clerestory brakes. The coaches were used on the Stainmore line and ran on the Cockermouth, Keswick and Penrith Railway. Later they were taken over by the North Eastern Railway. At least one survives at Beamish Museum. The springs were also standard on coaches of lots of other railways of the time, including those that ran in Cumbria, so there is scope for lots of applications. To make use of the springs modellers will also need the Saddle Ends, which are available from Prickly Pear Products.

Cost - FIVE pounds for a set of four springs, post free, and they can be ordered through the CRA website at www.cumbrianrailways.org.uk



Cumbria Industrial History Society (CIHS) Program 2018

- Saturday 21st April 9.30am CONFERENCE AND AGM “Industry and Society”. Shap Wells Hotel CA10 3QU contact Peter Hearn 01229 889976
- Saturday 20th May 11.00am. WALK AROUND FLIMBY. Meet at Risehow Industrial Estate car park NY 025 343. For a walk led by Keith Thompson. Contact Roger Baker 01229 586573.

RCTS Lakes and Lune Branch Meetings

- Friday 2nd March 2018: The splendid Years of BR Steam 1958-1962 by John Sloane
- Friday 6th April 2018: Trains around Britain - Then and Now by David Bousfield
- Friday 4th May 2018: Carlisle Power Signal Box by Bryan Parker

All meetings are held at the Station Hotel, Carnforth starting at 7.30 pm. A donation of £2.00 members / £4.00 non-members is requested. Both Society members and non-members are very welcome to attend meetings. Further information telephone 01524 34840 or visit website www.rcts.org.uk.

Stephenson Locomotive Society Talks

Programme of talks:

- 1st March “Yorkshire Rail”. Railways in Yorkshire by Peter Fitton.
- 5th April. “Ireland”. An Illustrated tour of Irish railways by Michael Davies

Meetings are held on Thursday evenings at 7.15 for 7.30 pm at the St. John Ambulance Centre (just off Sandes Avenue, Kendal, LA9 4LL). All are welcome.

Further details from the Centre Organiser Philip Heyes : Telephone 01539 725658, e-mail : jphilipheyes@aol.com or go to the website at: www.stephensonloco.org.uk

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