

## THE CUMBRIAN RAILWAYS ASSOCIATION

### Cumbria's Railway History Group - What we are about (Our Mission Statement)

1. The Cumbrian Railways Association was founded in 1976 with the aim of providing a common forum for the discussion and open exchange of information between those interested in the history of the railways and related industries of Cumbria, and also for those interested in recreating those railways in model form. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century this remains the principle aim of the Association. In support of this – and to meet its responsibilities as an educational charity – the Association also works to achieve the important objects below.
2. The collection and preservation of archive documents, photographs and other relevant material (but not artefacts) relating to the history and development of the local railway system, its management and operation, and about the individuals involved at all levels, from the original promoters and directors of the railway in Cumbria right through to front-line employees engaged in its everyday operation and maintenance.
3. The encouragement and facilitation of research into the historical railway in Cumbria, how it was related to the growth and development of towns and industry in the county, and how the railways have been operated and served the Cumbrian community over the last two centuries.
4. The publication of the results of such research through the media of books and journals published by the Association, through its website, and by encouraging publication elsewhere in all types of media, to educate the public and to create greater awareness of the key role which the railways have played in the life and development of the county.
5. The promotion of public awareness and education about the railway history of Cumbria by means of conferences, meetings and other activities to disseminate information, by participating in activities and events promoted by other organisations, and by providing an information and enquiry service to individuals, the media and other organisations.
6. The Cumbrian Railways Association is also concerned to see the wider preservation of records and information relating to the railway history of the County, and for the future protection of important relics and buildings which represent part of that history. The Association does not campaign on matters relating to the standard or provision of current rail services in the County, though the decisions and resulting changes affecting the railway immediately become part of our local railway history.

In support of the above objects the Cumbrian Railways Association offers to its members:

- A twice-yearly full-day conference at various locations around the County, backed up by field visits to sites of historic or current railway interest,
- A four-times yearly high-quality full-colour journal, *Cumbrian Railways*, plus *Lakes Express*, our members' newsletter,
- An extensive publicly accessible collection of archive documents backed up by a large photographic and drawings archive, much now available in digital form.
- An openly available email group to facilitate discussion and open exchange of information on the past, present and future of railways in and around Cumbria.