

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 31 - Winter 2025



Photograph © Alan Johnstone

A Song For Edmondson – A Tyne Valley CRP Railway 200 Project

As one of Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership's projects celebrating Railway 200 and future pioneers and careers in the rail industry, they have collaborated with singer songwriters, Gareth and Bronwen Davies-Jones, Hallbankgate Village School, and Lanercost CoE Primary School. Entitled "A Song for Edmondson," the project introduced the children to many new skills and experiences based on Brampton in Cumbria's railway heritage.

This culminated in the premiere on the 1st of July of new songs performed by children and teachers in the beautiful Lanercost Priory. CRA Chairman Philip Tuer and Publicity Officer Don Jary were delighted to be invited to the event.

Workshops in the weeks prior to the event helped the children write lyrics to songs featuring Brampton Railway Station and its stationmaster in 1836, Thomas Edmondson, the pioneer of railway ticketing, when the station was called Milton.

Many of the children were able to have the first experience of rail travel as they visited Haltwhistle to see the racks of Edmondson tickets in the Old Booking Hall and see how tickets were sold in the 19th century.

The photograph below by TVCRP shows Children and teachers from Hallbankgate Village School performing in Lanercost Priory.



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

Chairman's Musings

Well, it seems like I have only just sent the last reports to the editor when he asked for this one! Where did the time go? 2025 just seems to be flying past!

Changes and more changes: The year is being marked by a number of key changes within the CRA. One of the most significant, is the work being undertaken to completely revise and update our website. A new website provider has been selected, and we are now immersed in the process of getting the new website prepared and the training completed for those of us who will manage the site. We will get the new website up and running as soon as we can, but we have a few more training and preparation sessions before then (patience please!). We hope that all our members and other users will appreciate the changes which we expect will go live just before the start of the CRA's 50th anniversary next year. Associated with the new website will be our new Webmaster, Tim Saunders, who succeeds Dave Ball who has now retired after many years of sterling work developing and maintaining the current site. Many thanks to you, Dave, from us all.

Another piece of really good news is that a member has volunteered to take on the key role of Journal Editor when the time comes for Mike Peascod to hand over the reins. Welcome Dougal Hare and very many thanks for stepping forwards, or as somebody else might say "not stepping back quickly enough." Dougal has written a number of rail articles for our Journal, usually about the Maryport and Carlisle Railway. He comes with experience of editing publications in his field of work so knows what he is taking on. At present he is going to be our Associate Editor, working alongside Mike, learning how we do things and getting a feel for our publishing programmes etc. A steep learning curve but one I'm certain he is looking forward to.

Other changes are that John Pickup has stepped up to take on the role of Photo Archivist; Dave Stubbins, a former accountant, has been persuaded to assist Barry with our finances and the Publicity sub-committee (PSC) has recruited several of our current volunteers to join them, a big thank you to Les Gilpin, Barry Stephenson, Eliot Andersen and Dave Stubbins. Eliot has taken on the role of Social Media Tsar!!!

All of this is very encouraging and shows the commitment and enthusiasm of the people we have as members of the Association. An encouraging position as we now prepare, in 2026, to move into our second half century since we were founded in 1976 and celebrate this, starting at our March meeting next year. More about that in future editions!

Philip Tuer, Chairman



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

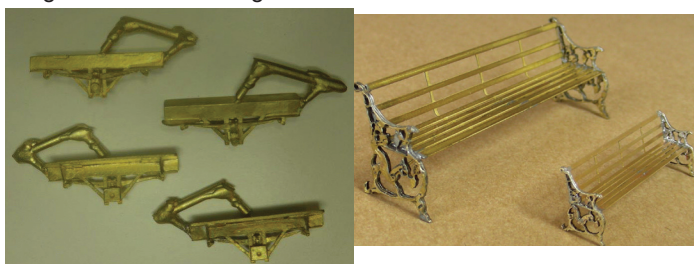
Modelling Cumbrian Railways

Spreading our wings! For the first time, the CRA will be represented at the Manchester Model Railway Exhibition on the 13th & 14th December. If you are going, please take the time to visit us on our stand. We will be delighted to see you and have a chat. It's always good to talk! We also expect to have on display models from our Shillcock/Pochin collection.

Modelling Items : These superb brass axle box and spring 4mm scale castings (below left) are suitable for a range of Cumbrian (and other railway) carriages. Price £8 per set of four.

The Furness Railway squirrel seat kits are still available priced at £4 per pair in 4mm scale and £7 per pair in 7mm.

Below right is an image of both 4 and 7mm scale assembled seats. The etches for each set of ends need to be laminated together before adding the seat etch.



4mm Scale carriage springs in lost wax brass. These were used on 27' 6" under frames for both 1st, 2nd and 3rd class coaches on the Stockton and Darlington Railway and also the Cockermouth, Keswick and Penrith railway. They were also fitted on the smoking saloons, composites, 2nd brakes and clerestory brakes. To make use of the springs modellers will also need the Saddle Ends, which are available from Prickly Pear Products. Cost - £5.00 for a set of four springs.



Orders and enquiries to Philip Tuer : modelling@cumbrianrailways.co.uk. Cheques payable to: - Cumbrian Railways Association or Buy On-Line via our web site.

Clifton bridge (West Coast Main Line) works compound

Below is a photo taken recently, by Mason Morrison, from the south-west side of the huge works compound showing the construction of the new bridge so far. It shows Pendolino 390126 working 9M56 12.52 Edinburgh - Euston travelling south over the existing M6 bridge with the new metal bridge taking shape to the left with a couple of HGVs on the north bound M6. The new railway bridge is scheduled to be moved into place in January 2026.



Naming of Locomotive 66791 "Settle and Carlisle 150"



The naming of GB Railfreight locomotive 66791 as "Settle and Carlisle 150" took place at Horton Quarry on 21st August 2025 – celebrating the start of freight services on the Settle – Carlisle line 150 years ago. The locomotive also carries a Settle & Carlisle line emblem. The unveiling was undertaken by Bryan Gray, Chair of the Settle & Carlisle Railway Trust and Becky Murphy, Regional Director North, Heidelberg Materials - the quarry operators. They are shown in the attached photo (courtesy Don Jary) accompanied by GB Railfreight CEO, John Smith (on the left). A replica naming plaque was presented to Bryan Gray, who received it on behalf of the S&C Trust, FoSCL and the S&C Development Company.



RCTS Furness, Lakes & Lune Branch Programme 2025-26

Wednesday 5th November 2025: **The Building of a G5 – The Story so Far** by Roger Womersley

Wednesday 3rd December 2025: **AGM & Videos – Germany, S & C Diversions, Manchester** by Colin Kennington

Wednesday 7th January 2026: **Journeys from Porthmadog** by David Fowler

All meetings take place at the Royal Station Hotel, Carnforth at 7.30 pm.

For further information: Telephone 01524 34840, e-mail alan.sattenstall@tiscali.co.uk or Website: www.rcts.org.uk

Steamale meetings

Transport-related slide shows and talks on the third Tuesday in the month, September to May.

Venue is the Ex-Services Men's Club, Victoria Place, Carlisle, 19.30 - 22.00.

Cost £5.00 (to include sandwiches). Please check the website for details: www.steamale.co.uk.

New speakers and visitors are always welcomed. Would you like to come and talk to us? Please contact Philip at philip@steamale.co.uk if you would like to talk or just attend.

News From The South Tynedale Railway At Alston



As its contribution to the Railway 200 program of events, the railway ran 2 Gala weekends in July which featured a visiting locomotive as well as a number of the railway's own locomotives.

Hunslet 4-6-0 (Works Number 1215 of 1916) visited from the Apedale Valley Light Railway Staffordshire and, with the STR's own Green Dragon, "topped & tailed" all the services on each of the 4 days of the Gala (see photo above).

1215, one of 145 locomotives ordered by the government for the War Department Light Railways from Hunslet left the factory on 12th August 1916, immediately entering service in France. It was later restored following post-war service on Australian Sugar Cane railways and repatriation to the UK by the War Office Locomotive Trust in 2005.

Its most recent restoration was supported by a HLF grant resulting in a return to steam in 2018 at Apedale where it is currently based.

The STR's Polish built steam loco "Naklo" (Chrzanow Poland 1957) has been the subject of an extensive restoration which was completed in time for the locomotive to be in light steam at Alston during the gala and should be seen hauling service trains toward the end of the current operating season (See photo below).



Cumbria Industrial History Society Programme 2025

The Cumbria Industrial History Society (CIHS) has a full program of meetings around the County. For further information about any forthcoming meetings, please contact cihs@cumbria-industries.org.uk. For their program, visit their website: <https://www.cumbria-industries.org.uk/cumbria-industrial-history-society/programme/>.

Cumbria Local History Federation meetings

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

Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway Preservation Society Update



Having celebrated the 150th anniversary of the R&ER at the railway's very successful Gala Weekend at the start of May, the R&ERPS has been supporting other anniversary events around the UK.

Firstly, R&ERPS-owned, 1966-built 2-8-2 steam locomotive *River Mite* paid a visit to the Tallylyn Railway (TR) in mid-Wales for their Awdry Extravaganza weekend in July. *Mite* was in the guise of *Mike*, one of the Isle of Sodor's 'small engines' from the fictitious Arlesdale Railway, created for his books by Rev. W. Awdry who based it on the R&ER. The gathering had been arranged to celebrate the eightieth anniversary of the first publication in 1945 of the first book in the Railway Series. *Mike* was hauled up and down the length of the TR on a flat wagon, delighting the child and adult attendees alike. See photo above by Matthew Pye.

Then, over the first weekend of August, the part-restored, part-rebuilt R&ERPS Trust loco *Katie*, which is usually on static display in the Ravenglass Railway Museum, was in steam at the Railway 200 event The Greatest Gathering at Litchurch Lane Works in Derby, working a short, temporary 15-inch gauge railway especially built for the weekend. This 0-4-0 tank engine had returned near to its birthplace as it was originally built by Sir Arthur Heywood in 1896 at his Duffield Bank Railway Workshops seven miles north of Derby (for the Duke of Westminster's Eaton Railway at his Eaton Hall Estate outside Chester). After a spell at Ravenglass (1916-1919) in the early days of 15-inch gauge operation, the loco moved to Southport, then to Fairbourne where it was withdrawn and dismantled. Eventually its frames were passed on to the Narrow Gauge Museum at Tywyn before they arrived back at Ravenglass under the curatorship of the R&ERPS Trust who funded its restoration. See photo alongside by Sam Dixon.

Plans are underway to celebrate next year the 150th anniversary of the start of passenger services on the R&ER in 1876. Next year also marks the 50th anniversary since the introduction into traffic of the Ravenglass-built 2-6-2 *Northern Rock*. Further details of these celebrations will follow in due course.

David Sibson, Editor, The R&ER Magazine



CRA Publications

You'll have been thinking things have gone quiet regarding new CRA publications over the last couple of years but in the background, like the proverbial swan, the team has been working hard.

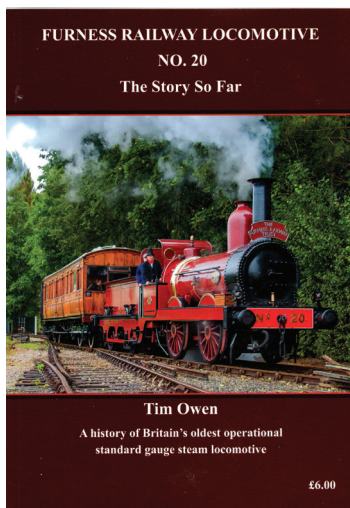
We are working hard on "The Cleator and Workington Junction Railway" book, preparing it for printing. This will prove to be a definitive work, thanks to author Dave Richardson.

Meanwhile I have a team working on the first of four books on Carlisle's steam sheds by John Hammond – Kingmoor. Setting has begun and from the sample pages I've already seen will be a very attractive book. Watch out for more details of price and publication date. Canal and Upperby sheds will have their own books with the remaining sheds, such as those at Currock, Durrhill and London Road being grouped together. These should appear through 2026 and into 2027.

Les Gilpin – Book Production Manager

Furness Railway Locomotive No. 20 – The Story So Far

Britain's oldest working steam locomotive gets a new biography!



A new book celebrating Britain's oldest working steam locomotive – and film star celebrity - has been launched at an event in Cumbria, at a station it used to serve. *Furness Railway Locomotive No. 20 – The Story So Far* has been written by Tim Owen, who chairs the Furness Railway Trust which has published the book. Appropriately, the launch took place at an original Furness Railway station – Kents Bank – where the locomotive, built in Manchester in 1863, would have frequently passed through.

The book tells the story of the locomotive from its early years operating mostly goods traffic on the Furness Railway in the Barrow area.

Eventually, No. 20 was retired. It was donated to a children's playground at George Hastwell School, Barrow, where for over twenty years local children enjoyed playing on the engine, pretending to be drivers!

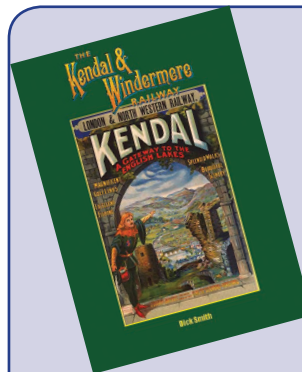
What happened next is the most fascinating part of the story. A small group of local enthusiasts got together to restore the locomotive to working order. In 1990 the Lakeside Railway Society purchased the locomotive, and the following year was passed on to the newly formed Furness Railway Trust. With help from what was then Vickers Shipyard (VSEL) the locomotive was restored to its original condition and first steamed in 1999.

Since then, the locomotive has operated at dozens of heritage railways around Britain and has starred in two major feature films.

The book is available from the **Furness Railway Trust**, cover price £6 or £8 including p&p – see www.furnessrailway.co.uk for details.

© Cumbrian Railways Association, October 2025
The Cumbrian Railways Association is Registered Charity Number 1025436.

CRA Book Focus



The Kendal & Windermere Railway by Dick Smith

To coincide with the 175th Anniversary of the completion of the line from Oxenholme to Windermere, Dick Smith has written a second and much enlarged edition of his original book telling the history of the Kendal and Windermere Railway. This second edition includes a new introductory chapter: 'The world the Railway changed', and two other new chapters. One deals with the succession of proposals to extend the railway beyond its present terminus at Windermere, the other looks at the railway connections with Cropper's paper mills in the Burneside area. The book is richly illustrated using photos from the CRA and other archives as well as the usual high-quality maps. The photographs, several not published before, show many of the different types of traction and the variety of liveries seen on the branch over the years. The book also includes specially drawn detailed signalling diagrams of the Windermere branch in the years before it was reduced to a single track.

The book has 104 pages, soft backed and priced £16.50 post free.

Copies are available from **CRA Book Sales : Cumbrian Railways Association, 1 Brierydale Lane, Stainburn, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 4UH.** and can also be ordered through our website at 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** 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'.