

Please complete, detach and return this part of the form with your cheque or Postal Order for £4 Individual, £10 Corporate membership, payable to “Copeland Rail Users’ Group” to:-

Mr N Gilligan  
Membership Secretary  
Copeland Rail Users’ Group  
Gateside  
Whicham  
MILLOM  
LA18 5LU

Subscription .....£.....

Donation.....£.....

Total .....£.....

Chairman  
Mr C A Potts  
5 Highfield Court  
Hillcrest  
WHITEHAVEN  
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# Copeland Rail Users’ Group

*Funded by all ten Copeland Neighbourhood Fora*

Working with

**Northern Rail, Network Rail and Cumbria County Council**

to promote, protect and preserve

**The Cumbrian Coastal Line**

**(Barrow-in-Furness - Whitehaven - Carlisle)**

**We do this by campaigning to :-**

**Increase awareness**

**Improve services (especially on Sundays)**

**Provide more and better trains**

**Develop the line**

**Our aspirations include :-**

**Through trains to destinations off the line,  
eg Newcastle-upon-Tyne**

**A better Sunday service, especially  
south of Whitehaven**

**Barrow-in-Furness to Carlisle**

- Carlisle
- Dalston
- Wigton
- Aspatria
- Maryport
- Flimby
- Workington
- Harrington
- Parton
- Whitehaven
- Corkickle
- St Bees
- Nethertown
- Braystones
- Sellafield
- Seascale
- Drigg
- Ravenglass (for Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway)
- Bootle
- Silecroft
- Millom
- Green Road
- Foxfield
- Kirkby-in-Furness
- Askam
- Barrow-in-Furness



Promoting the Cumbrian Coastal Railway

## Why do we need a rail users' group?

For many years, lines such as ours have been regarded as being peripheral to the railways' main operations. Consequently, the service offered has been what the various authorities wished to provide, not what would be beneficial to the area. In the absence of any considered local opinion and involvement, management had no incentive to improve the service.

Although some individuals tried to suggest improvements to the service, scant regard was given. A determined group of rail users, whose efforts are focused *via* a recognised point of contact, however, ensures that passengers' views are taken into account.

## Why do we need a train service when most people have cars?

Surveys show that in this area, 70% of households have access to one or more cars. However, half that 70% do not have access to the family car during the working day. This means that 65% of the population needs some form of public transport to be available. In addition, the increasing amount of road traffic generally, the high rate of death and serious injury on Cumbria's roads and difficulty in finding parking space in the larger towns mean that the train is becoming more of an alternative.

As many places which lost their train services as a result of the Beeching axe in the 1960s discovered to their cost, once a town disappears from the rail network map it becomes out of sight and out of mind insofar as the rest of the country is concerned. Inward investment to bring employment is therefore much less likely. This is why so many such places have fought to have their train service restored. Our view is that we don't want to lose ours, nor have it cut back in the first place!

The best way to ensure retention and improvement is to encourage more use of the existing service and to work with the various authorities to ensure that the level of service offered is attractive to users.

## What is CRUG and what does it do?

Copeland Rail Users' Group (CRUG) was founded in 2003 by a group of people concerned about the future of our local train service. We now have almost 100 Individual and Corporate members. These consist of regular and occasional users, would-be users, and railway employees, all of whom have an interest in our local railway, which is a vital link between West Cumbria and the rest of the United Kingdom. We negotiate with the various bodies to achieve our aspirations for the line, which include through trains to and from the North East and a better Sunday service.

## Improvements obtained so far include :-

- the provision of a ramp at Whitehaven Station to allow easier access for wheelchairs and prams
- allowing the Young Persons' Railcard discount on the 0951 train from Whitehaven to Carlisle and the introduction of two new tickets with no time restriction
- the allocation of some additional rolling stock to services to help prevent overcrowding
- having the platforms at Ravenglass raised to a more convenient level

## What can I do to help?

CRUG has been recognised by Northern Rail, Network Rail and Cumbria County Council as the voice of railway passengers in West Cumbria. However, we cannot do everything by ourselves. The more members we have, the stronger our voice with the various authorities, so join us now!

CRUG meets on the third Wednesday of each month in Drigg and Carleton Village Hall at 7 pm.

Annual membership runs from January to December and costs £4 for individuals, £10 for corporate members.

Please complete this tear-off portion and send it with your subscription to Mr N Gilligan, Membership Secretary, Gateside, Whicham, Millom LA18 5LU.

*Yes, I wish to join **CRUG** and help it to achieve its aims for the benefit of the local area.*

Name.....

Address.....

PostCode .....

Telephone ..... E-mail.....

***(Your details will not be passed on to any other organisation)***

I use/would like to use *(please delete the inapplicable)* the local train for

commuting (to.....)

shopping (to.....)

tourism (to.....)

other reason (please state)