CELEBRATING 150 YEARS PASSENGER TRAVEL ON THE SETTLE–CARLISLE LINE

KIRKBY STEPHEN EAST
20th May – 9:40 am
Kirkby Stephen Station
Explore historic Kirkby Stephen East station, opened in 1861 and run by volunteers. Meet at 9:40 am for a presentation, refreshments, train ride, shed tour, and signal box visit. A 2.5 mile walk to Stanmore, or a longer 6 mile via Podgill and Merrygill viaducts. Limited parking available.

GARSDALE REMEMBERED
1st July – 11 am
Garsdale Station Yard
Who was Ruswarp? Meet at Garsdale station yard (formerly Hawes Junction) for a station tour, a walk to Hawes Junction chapel (1876) and Dandry Mire viaduct. Includes a talk by Pete Shaw on restoration, a 2.5 mile walk to the chapel or 6 miles on to Scale Quaker burial ground.

ARMATHWAITE
12th August – 10:15 am
Armathwaite Station Yard
From Armathwaite station we take a seven mile walk through Coombs Wood to the Eden Benchmarks sculpture above the River Eden, then visit Christ and St Mary church, before finishing at the traditional signal box museum.

PROGRAMME 2026

6th May	Lost Village of Thorns
20th May	Stainmore Railway and Viaducts
3rd June	Limestone Botany
17th June	Navvy Hike
1st July	Garsdale Remembered
15th July	Rocks and Rails
29th July	Limestone Botany
12th August	Armathwaite and Signal Box
26th August	Navvy Hike
9th September	Lost Village of Thorns
23rd September	Shanty Site Tour

Group bookings welcome
ribblehead@settle-carlisle.com

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Weather at Ribblehead changes rapidly. Bring warm clothing, sturdy boots, waterproofs, food, water, and sunscreen. We may refuse poorly dressed participants, alter routes in severe weather, and we accept no responsibility for individuals or property. **For safety, children under 10 cannot join walks.** Under 18s and vulnerable individuals must be accompanied by a responsible adult. **No dogs are allowed on our walks** but are welcome at the visitor centre.

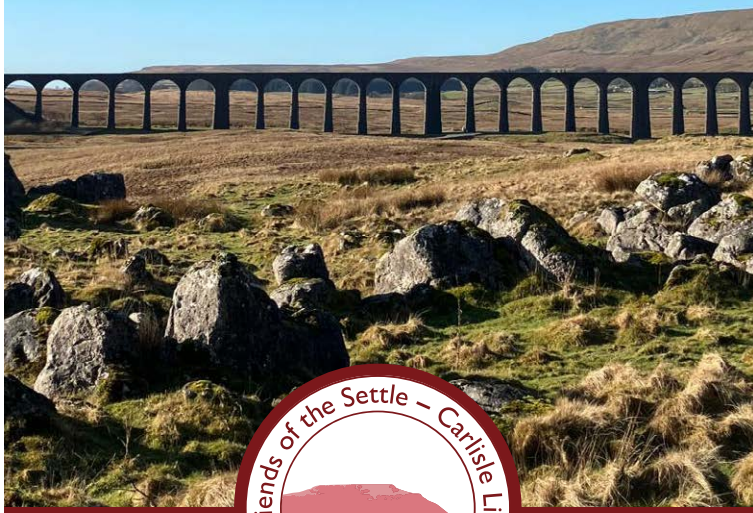
Train times and information
www.northernrailway.co.uk

FRIENDS OF THE

• FOOTSTEPS IN TIME •

SETTLE-CARLISLE LINE

RIBBLEHEAD & BEYOND 2026
Free Events May – September



Friends of the Settle – Carlisle Line

Scenic. Historic. Sustainable.

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF THE LINE
40 Years Reopening Small Stations

Walks • Trails • Talks • Exhibitions
Meet the Navvies • Navvy Hike • Rocks & Rails
Quarry Botany • Lost Village Of Thorns
Fossil Hunt • Viaduct Builders • Shanty Site

• www.foscl.org.uk •

Support the Leeds-Settle-Carlisle Line by joining our events to explore, discover, relax and enjoy the magic of Ribblehead. Plus, our recently refurbished café and visitor centre will open at the end of April.

We welcome railway enthusiasts, historians, walkers, photographers, geologists, cake-eaters and anyone looking for a great day out.

Walks start from Ribblehead Station Yard and we aim to return by 3:45 pm.

Shanty Site Walk	12:30 pm	4mi	Moderate
Rocks and Rails	11:00 am	5mi	Moderate
Navvy Hike	11:00 am	8mi	Hard
Thorns Walk	11:30 am	6mi	Moderate
Quarry Botany	12:30 pm	4mi	Moderate

Artwork Courtesy of Selina Thorpe

SHANTY SITE TOUR

Discover the perils of an 1870's Victorian railway builder and visit the famous viaduct to see how locally quarried stone was transported, cut and dressed for the build.

BOTANY IN THE LIMESTONE

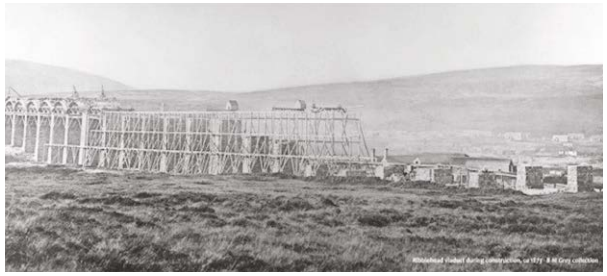
Meet botanical artist, Selina, see her work in the visitor centre followed by identifying the flora at Ingleborough quarry & Gauber pasture: all flourishing in the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

MEET THE NAVVIES

An event not to be missed, see Sarah and Ken from the Settle Graveyard Project bring history to life with the Navvy Hike drama 'Mysteries in the Graveyard' and 'Mischief in the Navvy Hut' at the Batty Green shanty site.

NAVVY HIKE

Walk beside the dramatic limestone pavement, enter the Gauber longhouse, take a break at Great Douk Cave then descend to Chapel Le Dale. Hear the folklore tale of the Bogard of Hurtle Pot and enjoy the scenic meadowland views towards the iconic Ribblehead Viaduct and the Shanty site, once home to the navvies.



NEW EXHIBITS 2026

Engineering drawings from the Hawes Branch line, taken from the Book of Bridges, courtesy of Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes. Meet Tony Freschini, Operations Manager on the viaduct restoration in 1990.

THE LOST VILLAGE OF THORNS

Thorns is now a desolate and haunting place of natural beauty with its decaying buildings, field kiln and packhorse bridge in the shade of mature trees. Once a thriving settlement on a drovers route until the rise of the railway and enclosure acts led to it being abandoned in the late 19C.

ROCKS AND RAILS

Life teemed in the clear warm waters at Ribblehead 325 million years ago. Explore the landscape around the railway and shanty site for geological evidence and how it challenged building the railway. Source the black limestone used in the 104ft viaduct build.

VIADUCT FOSSIL HUNT

Search the viaducts' black limestone blocks for fossilized corals, crinoids and brachiopods once living in the shallow tropical seas during the carboniferous period.

NAVVY MEMORIAL

Navvy Memorial will be held at Saint Leonard's Church on May 3rd, celebrating 150 years since the navvies built the line. Many navvies and their families including Job Hirst, subcontractor on the Ribblehead a.k.a Batty Moss Viaduct, are buried there. All are invited to 'Mysteries in the Graveyard' by Settle Graveyard Project (1:15 pm), followed by the memorial service.

OPENING HOURS

Ribblehead Visitor Centre & Café	10:00 am – 3:30 pm
Event Talk and Introduction	11:00 am
Displays & Exhibitions	11:00 am – 3:00 pm