FRIENDS OF THE

VOLUNTEERING

SETTLE-CARLISLE LINE

VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTION
SETTLE – CARLISLE LINE 2026

On 11 April 1989, The Minister of State at the Department of Transport asked the Friends of the Settle Carlisle Line (Friends) to **'co-operate vigorously in supporting and promoting the line'.** We have undertaken this task assiduously for the past 36 years entirely though volunteers – we have no paid staff. We do this in partnership with the Settle and Carlisle Railway Trust, the Settle and Carlisle Railway Development Company and many others in the statutory and informal sectors.

We are accountable to our members (c.2500) as the 'independent champion of the line' as well as being the Rail User Group. All our activities contribute towards our primary aim **to increase the number of passengers and journeys made every year**. By doing this we seek to facilitate investment in timetables, rolling stock and essential infrastructure to support future growth in use of the line.

We fulfil our remit by:

- promoting train travel as a reliable safe and environmentally friendly way to commute, attend appointments, education, social visits or just to enjoy the scenery, towns villages and countryside. This underpins everything we do
- providing visitors with safe warm cafes serving refreshments, a hearty welcome and local information – including train services – at Horton and Ribblehead
- running shops – Appleby & Settle – providing information, refreshments, books, souvenirs, maps and memorabilia to help mark their visit to the Settle Carlisle Line
- showcasing restored and well maintained preserved signal boxes at Armathwaite and Settle to help visitors gain an insight into the world of levers bells and whistles
- presenting all 10 stations from Settle to Armathwaite in their best light with beautiful gardens, baskets & tubs – with furniture and signage in heritage colours. Our teams are a vital link with often remote and small communities via local station adoption
- sharing information about the line – its history, geography, environment and strange but true stories via a team of On Train Guides – on popular trains and coach trips
- offering free weekend walks from all stations on a 'turn up and go' basis. Guided walks are started from stations on the Line and most participating walkers arrive by train and typically can include 20+ people. Some walks use rural buses and we bring welcome business to local shops, cafes and pubs across the Line – many will revisit the line with friends & family
- celebrating the railway, its builders and its history alongside the social and environmental impact on landscape and communities, then and now, through walks, talks, theatre and exhibits. This is our "Footsteps in Time" programme which makes use of Northern trains
- marketing the line via our website, social media presence & displays – and by producing a family of leaflets & guides which we deliver across the north of England
- facilitating access for people with dementia, family carers, special needs, neurodivergence, autism, mobility, sensory impairment. Plus strong links with schools, scouts & guides
- arranging 'packaged' days out for various community groups including train travel, rural buses, visits and refreshments to enable them to experience the line first hand
- working with partners to raise funds for purchase & lease of redundant railway buildings so they can be brought back into use to generate income for the line
- recording and promoting the built heritage of the Settle Carlisle Railway Conservation Area – website, social media, photos – all freely available to the public
- sponsoring rural bus services, local walking routes and cycling towards our goal of having local joined up transport systems serving the area covered by the line
- keeping partners in the Train Operating Company and Network Rail informed of user experiences as the local Rail User Group & independent champion of the line
- campaigning for a better timetable stopping at all stations, more through trains, better rolling stock and sufficient capacity to match supply to demand at peak and busy times
- working to create a single powerful voice for the line through the Leeds Settle Carlisle Association to ensure our voice is heard by politicians & decision makers
- raising funds through commercial activities and maintaining sound finances to support & promote the line e.g. rural buses, ride2stride, small grants etc
- staying true to our roots as a membership organisation (2500+) and growing this to reach into surrounding urban communities - West Yorks, East Lancs and Cumbria
- providing an excellent renovated holiday let at Dent – England's highest station

Horton in Ribblesdale
Station
RHS It's Your Neighbourhood Award
Outstanding

LANDORE LOCKER
TRANS
PENNINE
PULLMAN

Our volunteer contribution in numbers

Annually: **155** Volunteers, **30,265** hours, **43,000** visitors/participants, **£10,000** in donations
Estimated monetary value – using Northern Railways rate per hour = c.**£540,000** per annum

Service	Hours	Description
Access and Inclusion	800	Bringing under represented groups/communities to the Line
Appleby Station Shop	300	Providing refreshments, memorabilia, maps, help and advice
Armathwaite Signal Box	450	Showcasing unique insights into the workings of a signal box
Conservation Area	120	Recording, photographing and promoting the built heritage
Dent Holiday Let	600	Restoring, upgrading and running Dent Station Holiday Let
Guided Walks programme	4425	Free guided walks using trains, rural buses and local services
Keeping people safe	400	Helping to ensure we provide a safe environment for all
Heritage Tours	3440	Showcasing scenic areas of the line with local expert support
Horton Station Cafe Bar (new)	1020	Providing food and drinks to walkers, visitors and locals alike
Packaged Visits to the Line	100	Bringing new groups of people to enjoy all the line can offer
Integrated transport	300	Working to promote local integrated transport networks
Marketing and Publicity	980	Through websites, social media, leaflets and displays
On Train Guides	950	Helping people to enjoy the line through detailed knowledge
Ribblehead Visitor Centre/Cafe	4800	Providing food and drinks to walkers, visitors and locals alike
Settle Station Shop	2000	Providing refreshments, memorabilia, maps, help and advice
Settle Signal Box	1000	Showcasing unique insights into the workings of a signal box
Station Gardens	1750	Ensuring our stations have beautiful gardens plants & flowers
Station furniture, heritage & signs	600	Presenting the stations and their heritage to a high standard
Supporting volunteering	4800	All the tasks required to support 155 volunteers in the field
Working with local communities	350	MPs, Councils, YDNP and many local stakeholders

Find out more online **foscl.org.uk**
or simply pop into one of our stations

Friends of the Settle – Carlisle Line