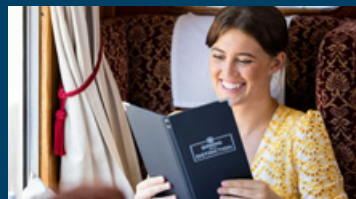
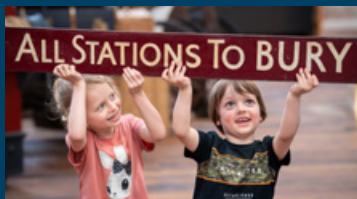




EAST LANCASHIRE RAILWAY

Days Out, Events and Experiences

*There's always something
exciting happening on the
East Lancashire Railway*



The History of ELR

Every journey on the East Lancashire Railway is a step back in time filled with the sights, sounds and smells of the region's rich heritage.

This magical slice of living history hasn't happened by accident or overnight, but has been the result of efforts by **hundreds of people** over decades.

So how did it all begin? The very first section of the line we use today opened in **1841** in Heywood and was extended three years later to bring the railway to the Irwell Valley.

The towns of the Irwell Valley relied greatly on the line - which they called the North-South route back then - as they grew during the **Industrial Revolution**.

The East Lancashire Railway Line was first used as a term in **1846**, although it disappeared after just 13 years when the line merged with the Lancashire And Yorkshire Railway.

Fast forward 100 years and diesel was replacing steam on the railway - while many passengers were ditching the train altogether in favour of the car.

In **1963**, the infamous **Beeching Report** was published and whilst the Bury to Manchester line was reprieved, services to Rawtenstall were all but gone by the end of the decade.

Station buildings and bridges were demolished up and down the line during this time, in one of the darkest periods for rail travel in the UK.



However, all was not lost. In 1970, the **East Lancashire Railway Preservation Society** was founded with the aim of one day running trains on the line again. When a disused goods shed became available in 1972, the **Bury Transport Museum** opened to place a focus on the region's heritage and raise funds for restoration.

A decade later, the **ELR Trust** came into being, assuming control for the track and buildings that were still in existence along the line. This momentum led to the proud day in **1987** when a passenger train once again set off from Bury heading to Ramsbottom. In that first - short - season the ELR line was re-opened with more than **35,000 passengers**.

By the **1990s**, the line extended once more to Rawtenstall, with new and restored buildings and bridges along the way.

A further extension to Heywood from Bury meant visiting steam engines could ride the heritage line too and annual visitor numbers passed **100,000 then 200,000** as the calendar of events put on by our amazing team of **volunteers and paid staff** keeps people coming back.

Now with regular services in the peak season and regular events attracting families, foodies, day trippers and rail enthusiasts – not forgetting Santa! – **there is something for everyone.**

Full steam ahead!

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Bury Transport Museum

The **Bury Transport Museum** is about so much more than trains, it tells the stories of cars, trucks and buses too with some incredible and unique exhibits.

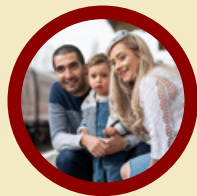
The development of the region in the 19th and 20th centuries coincided with dramatic changes in the way people travel - and at the museum you get up close to trams, coaches, cars, trucks and other vintage vehicles from the horse-drawn to steam and petrol powered.

Each one has a story to tell - the horse-drawn tram that was once a chip shop or the holiday coach that took sun-seekers from industrial Lancashire to the coast for a well-earned summer break.

No visit to the ELR is complete without a tour of this collection, all housed inside the restored **Castlecroft Goods Warehouse**, which dates from 1848.

There are hands-on exhibits, opportunities to dress up in period costume and special events across the year, including in the school holidays.

You will find the museum directly across the road from Bury Bolton Street Station. It's a short walk to transport yourself back to experience modes of travel through the ages across the region. Follow the signs to find us.



"A real treat! This museum combines very well with a trip on the East Lancs Railway, whose Bury Bolton Street station is directly opposite. This really is a little gem!"



Heritage Pubs

In need of refuelling? There are two destination pubs at our stations that are well worth a visit - The Trackside and Buffer Stops.

In Bury, **The Trackside** is our pride and joy. Located on platform 2 of Bolton Street Station, this is an award-winning pub with a real point of difference. Where else is the beer garden an actual, working railway platform?

Newly restored and featuring guest ales and ciders, as well as a classy pub grub menu, The Trackside is a one-off experience you and your friends will be talking about for a long time to come.



If that's wet your whistle, then jump on the next train and head up the line to Rawtenstall for a pint in **Buffer Stops**.

Here at the end of the line you can also enjoy a drink in the cosy surroundings of our traditional style waiting room, or if the weather is kind, alongside the tracks on the station platform.

There are award-winning ales, great wines and a full range of bar snacks to keep you going on your visit to the ELR.

Family Events

We bring so many classic kids stories to life across the year. Just watch your little ones' eyes light up when they visit on one of our special days.

From character days with **Thomas, Peppa, Peter Rabbit** and **Paddington**, to an exciting afternoon with the quirky characters of **Wonderland**, these are days for the whole family to make memories.

For slightly older children, the connection between steam trains and a certain boy wizard makes our **Wizarding events** a hit every time we stage them.

With a packed calendar, you'll never be stuck for something to do in half term or the summer holidays either.



When the decorations and trees go up, for generations of folk that means just one thing – the **Santa Specials at ELR!**



Enthusiast Events

The passion for the railway is what drives us all and across the year we celebrate that love for heritage and 'the good old days'.

Our enthusiast events draw big crowds to enjoy the best examples of classic locomotives.

Keep an eye out for big name visiting guests too – like the **Flying Scotsman** and the **Lady of Legend** in 2023.

We also blend our heritage trains with other classic models - cars - at our annual **Classic Car Show** where enthusiasts show off their beautifully restored motors.



Special Events

Visitors enjoy stepping back in time among the music, dance, outfits and uniforms of the heyday of steam at our hugely popular **1940s weekend**.

Or for something completely different, try our themed evenings. Our **Murder Mystery** experiences see visitors solve a case while riding the rails and enjoying a hearty dinner. While there are laughs aplenty in between courses at our popular **Comedy Nights**.

HALLOWEEN GHOST TRAINS

When **Halloween** comes around, there is nowhere to compare to our spook-tacular event that will give the family a trick and a treat.



Our Stations

Want to know where to begin your journey?

Just pick any of our stations, because every stop is a start on the East Lancashire Railway.

Scan here for our pre-planned itineraries.



www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk/plan-your-day-out/itineraries/



Bury Station

Bury is a busy market town, just a few miles from Manchester City Centre. It's the home of the Bury Transport Museum and our ELR operations.



Summerseat Station

Whatever time of year you visit, Summerseat is a picturesque village that would be right at home on any vintage railway postcard. It's the place to stop for stunning countryside views.



Irwell Vale Station

An ideal stop for those looking for tranquil walks and stunning scenery, Irwell Vale Station is perfect for walkers, cyclists and anyone who wants to learn a little more about the area's history.



Heywood Station

The most easterly point of the ELR is Heywood Station, and it's a great place to start your journey if you want to ride the line from end to end.



Burrs Country Park Station

The newest station along the East Lancashire Railway, it's the place to hop off if you want to explore Burrs Country Park or if you're staying at Burrs Caravan Park.



Ramsbottom Station

A perfect midpoint on the ELR line, Ramsbottom Station is your stop for a lively town with artisan markets, rustic pubs, delightful cafés and wonderful local shops.



Rawtenstall Station

The northern end of the line for the ELR, Rawtenstall Station is a great place to start your day if you're travelling from North Yorkshire or North Lancashire.



"We have had many interesting and enjoyable days out on the East Lancashire Railway over the years. An all day ticket for the line is very good value. The staff and volunteers are all very friendly and helpful!"

DINING WITH DISTINCTION

Join us at the East Lancashire Railway for a lunch, afternoon or evening of Dining with Distinction, as we transport you back to a time of effortless elegance, style, sophistication and first class service hauled by one of our historic steam locomotives. It's some of the best fine dining in Greater Manchester.



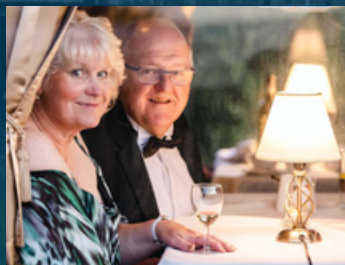
Premium Nights

What finer way to enjoy the traditional pullman dining experience than stepping into the glitz and glamour of our opulent black-tie experience.

Greeted by live classical music, a platform magician, and freshly prepared canapés, you can be sure that your evening of elegance is tailored for you from the outset.

Expect a sparkling prosecco welcome drink upon arrival and a sumptuous four course, silver served meal along with a table magician, followed by coffee and after dinner chocolate. With your own personal waiter/waitress for the evening you can relax knowing every aspect of your experience will be catered for to the highest standards.

The dress code is formal black-tie/ball-gown.



Red Rose Diner

A perfect way to relax on board our opulent restored pullman style carriages, with polished panelling, luxurious seating, and crisp linen.

Whether wanting to dine with friends, family, or to just enjoy a quiet evening with a loved one, this is the ideal way to soak up the atmospheric steam hauled journey through the beautiful Irwell Valley.



Murder Mystery Nights

Have you got the super-sleuth skills to find and solve the clues? The detective persona to interrogate the suspects? The judge and jury deliberation to identify the killer? Then our murder mystery evenings are the perfect way to enjoy delicious food and an evening of murder, puzzles, questioning and solving the ultimate 'whodunnit'. Provided by the award winning entertainment company *After Dark Entertainment* this is sure to fill you full of suspense and intrigue whilst being steam hauled through the beautiful Irwell Valley.



Comedy Night

Jam packed full of laughter and song, our comedy evenings are expertly scripted and acted out by the award winning entertainment company *After Dark*.

Watch your on-screen favourites come to life while you indulge in fine cuisine accompanied by continuous mayhem, action, and barrels of laughs!



Scan here
for food &
drink menus

[www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk/
experiences/dining-experiences/](http://www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk/experiences/dining-experiences/)



Tasting Nights

Join us on a journey through the botanical world of fine gins or standout wines. Our experts from Kwoff will start the evening with a prosecco welcome, before pairing each course to an exquisite selection of fine wines from around the world suited to the season. Or alternatively an exquisite selection of gins and garnishes.

With a descriptive guide to each drink served, the opportunity to chat to the experts and to purchase a bottle to take away. This is the perfect way to indulge in the elevated class of our dining experiences.



Sunday Lunch

With polished panelling, luxurious furnishings, and crisp linen it's a perfect way to dine with family and friends while enjoying a traditional Sunday dinner.

Expect a sparkling welcome drink upon boarding and a sumptuous three course, silver served meal followed by coffee and after dinner chocolate. With your own personal waiter/waitress for the afternoon you can relax knowing every aspect of your experience will be catered for to the highest standards.

Afternoon Tea

What better way to enjoy a traditional Afternoon Tea than being hauled through the beautiful countryside by a heritage steam locomotive?

Midweek Lunch

A luxuriously furnished carriage is the perfect setting to dine with family and friends whilst enjoying a locally sourced, classic English lunch.

Christmas Lunch

Dig into a traditional Christmas meal and celebrate the season to be jolly in true style with a festive lunch aboard one of our historic steam trains.



Christmas Dinner

The weather outside is frightful, but our festive dining experiences are delightful!

Step on board our festively decorated, beautifully restored pullman carriages while being steam hauled through the picturesque Irwell Valley. Our traditional carriages are the perfect setting to enjoy delicious Christmas fare and to get into the spirit of the season!



Dining with Distinction Times & Dates

Premium Nights
Starts at 6:45pm and finishes at approximately 10:15pm.

Red Rose Diner
Starts at 7:30pm and finishes at approximately 10:15pm.

Murder Mystery Nights
Starts at 6:45pm and finishes at approximately 10:15pm.

Comedy Nights
Starts at 6:45pm and finishes at approximately 10:15pm.

Christmas Dinner
Starts at 7:30pm and finishes at approximately 10:15pm.

Gin Tasting Nights
Starts at 7:30pm and finishes at approximately 10:15pm.

Wine Tasting Nights
Starts at 7:30pm and finishes at approximately 10:15pm.

All Dining services depart from
Bury Bolton Street Station

Afternoon Tea
Starts at 12:45pm and finishes approximately 3:00pm.

Sunday Lunch
Starts at 12:10pm and finishes approximately 3:10pm.

Midweek Lunch
Starts at 12:45pm and finishes approximately 4:00pm.

Christmas Lunch
Starts at 12:30pm and finishes approximately 3:45pm.



CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES
dwd@eastlancsrailway.co.uk
www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk
0333 320 2830

"A fantastic day on the steam train with a delicious 3 course Sunday lunch. Really friendly staff and very professional from start to finish. Would highly recommend and will definitely be coming again".



- Premium Nights
- Red Rose Diner
- Murder Mystery Nights
- Comedy Night
- Gin Tasting Nights
- Wine Tasting Nights
- Christmas Dinner
- Afternoon Tea
- Sunday Lunch
- Midweek Lunch
- Christmas Lunch

	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
MAR	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	27	28	29	30	31	1	2
APR	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
MAY	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
JUN	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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	29	30	31	1	2	3	4
JUL	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
AUG	26	27	28	29	30	1	2
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SEP	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
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OCT	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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NOV	28	29	30	31	1	2	3
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DEC	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
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	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
JAN	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
FEB	30	31	1	2	3	4	5
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MAR	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
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APR	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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Birthdays, Weddings, & Corporate Events

Head for **PLATFORM FUN** to host an event like no other at the East Lancashire Railway!

Whether you're planning a **wedding, wedding reception, a birthday, anniversary** or other celebration, we will give your guests an occasion they'll never forget.

Our event team can create your unique wedding day specifically around your requirements, whether you wish to get married at our quaint **Ramsbottom Station** or beautiful **Bury Station** we have the perfect location!

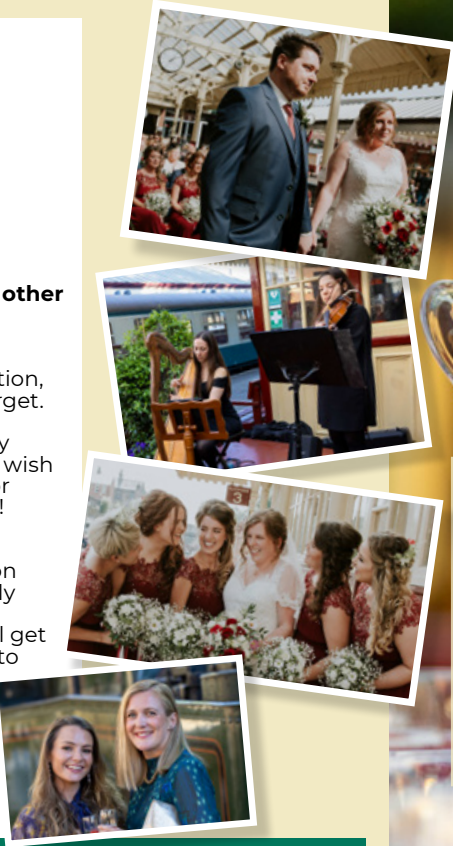
From hosting your wedding breakfast on our dining trains, or canapés and champagne in our observation saloon to your full evening reception in the extremely unique Bury Station platform or **Bury Transport Museum**. Whether you're intending a small informal get together or a large lavish wedding we have a space to suit.

Alternatively, the ELR is also available for hire as a **corporate venue**.

Get your team out of the office and away from the usual bland hotel meeting rooms and into the unique surroundings of our heritage railway.

Our main meeting room overlooks the hall of the **Bury Transport Museum** with its range of heritage exhibits providing a stunning backdrop for you and your team.

CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES
events@eastlancsrailway.co.uk
www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk
0333 320 2830



Imagine tying the knot on the platform before a gleaming steam train rolls into the station. You will enjoy your wedding breakfast on a beautifully restored heritage carriage before taking your first dance together and partying the night away to the classics amidst the unique surrounds of a vintage railway station.

Catering by our dedicated team is carried out to the highest standards and full service bars will keep your guests in the party spirit all evening long.

Whatever your event, make it unique by choosing to host it at the ELR.

SANTA SPECIALS

EAST LANCS RAILWAY

For generations of families, Christmas means one thing - a ride on the **ELR Santa Special!**

Bigger and better than ever with Bolton Street Station transformed into a **Winter Wonderland** this is a memory you and your children will treasure forever.

Immerse yourself in our magical festive atmosphere and enjoy **Christmas carol sing-alongs, presents, mince pies, elves** and of course a selfie with the big man himself all aboard one of our beautiful **heritage steam locomotives** as it winds its way through the Irwell Valley.

CONTACT FOR ENQUIRIES

customer.services@eastlancsrailway.co.uk

www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk

0333 320 2830



Scan here
for tickets
and details