



Fringe activities in support of the Community Rail Awards 2025

Pre-Awards Welcome Event – hosted by Lumo

Our Headline Partner Lumo will be hosting a complimentary pre-Awards welcome event, which is open to all Awards attendees who will be in Newcastle on the evening of Wednesday 12 March. Full details to be confirmed, so please check our [Community Rail Awards](#) webpage for updates on this event and how to book your place.

Community rail and other wonders of the North-East - You may want to book a few days in the region!

While you're in the North-East, take some time to discover what makes this region and the people who live here so well loved.

The local community rail partnerships (CRP) including Bishop Line, Esk Valley Railway, Tyne Valley (and the anticipated new CRP for the Northumberland Line) will be on hand at the Awards to showcase the best of community rail in the North-East.

Newcastle makes an ideal base for exploring the region, so why not take some extra time during your visit and discover what the area has to offer.

Take a trip around the city and onwards to the coast on board the **Metro**, looking out for iconic art along the route.

Travel west from Newcastle along the **Tyne Valley Railway** to Haltwhistle, the central most town in Britain, and see the work of the Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership (CRP). Visit the Old Booking Hall, now used by the CRP as an education space, and see reproductions of the classic railway tickets invented on this line in 1830's, known as Edmondson tickets. Nearby you'll see more impact of the CRP's work as you enjoy a bite to eat at the [Water Tower](#) cafe, recently converted by the CRP and explore the fascinating exhibitions in the waiting rooms and the new offices and studios transformed from redundant station buildings. Haltwhistle is a gateway to the area's Roman history which is easy to reach with the AD122 bus from the station to [Hadrian's Wall](#), [Vindolanda](#) and [The Sill National Landscape Discovery Centre](#). Alternatively, leave the train at Wylam to visit Stephenson's birthplace and for a memorable evening, join the [curry train to Corbridge](#). You could even take a ride north on the new **Northumberland Line**

In 2025 we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of the railway and you'll be in the best place to explore where it all began. En route to Newcastle take a trip along the **Bishop Line**, from Darlington and discover the area's rich history. Less than half an hour from Darlington and you'll be at the end of the line at Bishop Auckland. Here you're invited to step back in time as you experience 2,000 years of history with [The Auckland Project](#) home to Auckland Castle, The Spanish Galley and Auckland Tower. Leave the train at Shildon to see how the railways have progressed throughout the ages with a visit to [Locomotion](#), home to the largest undercover collection of historic railway vehicles in Europe. Back on the train and one stop later you can visit the newest attraction in the North East, [Hopetown](#). This site boasts over 7 acres where each building has a unique and interesting story to tell, including North Road Station Museum, The Carriage Works, The Stores, Darlington Locomotive Works and Skerne Bridge, known to be the oldest operating railway bridge in the world.

Staying for longer? Make sure you take a trip east from Darlington via Middlesbrough, on the **Esk Valley Railway**. You'll soon see why it's known as 'The Pretty Line' as you journey through North Yorkshire Moors National Park, passing Roseberry Topping and taking you to the historic seaside town of Whitby to enjoy some of the area's famous fish and chips. Along the way, be sure to look out for the amazing station display by the Nunthorpe and Marton Knitters.

More information will be made available over the coming months, so keep an eye on our [Community Rail Awards](#) webpage.