



ON TRACK FOR SUCCESS THE CHALLENGES AHEAD

RAILFUTURE AUTUMN 2014 CONFERENCE

Afternoon Session

RAIL USER GROUP (RUG) AWARDS 2014

Roger Blake
Railfuture Director and
Awards Organiser



RUG AWARDS JUDGING PANEL

Performed by some of the Railfuture Vice Presidents

Roger Ford mentioned his involvement in his November “Informed Sources”

“As an honorary Vice-President of Railfuture I get invited to join the judging panel for their annual awards. These include categories for things like user group newsletters and web-sites and, for the first time this year, a photographic competition.

One entry was a super picture of a Deltic in full flight, leaning to the curve at the head of a charter train. Did it win? My lips are sealed.”



Roger Ford, Transport Journalist of the Year, Chartered Institute of Logistics & Transport

RUG AWARDS PRESENTATION

Five awards this year
presented by

Christian Wolmar
Railfuture President



RUG AWARDS 2014

Award No. 1

Best Website

■ Silver Award – 2 Joint Winners

Judges' comments:

“both well reflect their particular local community's issues”

■ Gold Award

BEST WEB-SITE Silver Award 1

www.trains4deal.com/ and
<http://trains4kentcoast.co.uk>

Trains4KentCoast

Promoting The New High Speed Loop Trains Between
London And East Kent, Starting In 2015

82 mins from London!
About the new loop...

Starting in January 2015, hourly High Speed Javelin trains between London and Dover will extend round the coast to Faversham (then back to London) - giving many "firsts":



HELP US KEEP UP THE FIGHT

Victory! Deal and Sandwich to get hourly
HS1 services plus new Kent coast rounder

PACKED MEETING SHOWS SUPPORT, CONCERN AND DETERMINATION



BEST WEB-SITE Silver Award 2

South East
Northumberland RUG

www.senrug.co.uk



Newsletters

Chairman's Blog

Press Releases

Documents We've Issued

Our Campaigns

[Re-Open Ashington Blyth & Tyne Line](#)

[Newcastle - Cramlington - Morpeth Local Service](#)

[More Intercity Trains at Morpeth](#)

[North of Morpeth Local Service](#)

[Station Facilities](#)

[Bus/Rail Integration](#)

[Simpler Fares](#)

[How We Campaign & What We've Achieved](#)

[JOIN US](#)



Help Us To Help You
Add your voice to ours

[CONTACT](#)



Email, Phone or
Facebook SENRUG

[COMPLAIN](#)



Or Comment about a
Station or Journey

[CAMPAIGN](#)



Useful Contacts and
Other Groups

BEST WEB-SITE Gold Award



Sevenoaks Rail Travellers Association

<http://srta.org.uk>

Useful Links

- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Sevenoaks Departures Board](#)
- [Engineering Work](#)
- [January 2015 timetable](#)
- [401 bus timetable](#)
- [452 bus timetable](#)
- [Centaur Coach timetable](#)
- [Other Regional Rail Groups](#)

Judges' comments:

“easy to navigate, relevant and engaging with latest news, a rail user's one-stop shop”

There are about 4.8 million passenger journeys a year to and from the Sevenoaks area, according to the latest ORR data.

“Meet the Manager” at Sevenoaks Station

There is a special “[Meet the Manager](#)” event at Sevenoaks station between 1630 and 1830 on Monday 27 October. This event is intended to focus on passengers’ concerns about the London Bridge rebuilding programme and [the changes to rail services](#) from 22 December.

(Still) no news on London Bridge ticket flexibility

Posted on 20 October 2014 by Secretary

During the London Bridge rebuilding services will be overcrowded. Sevenoaks passengers need the flexibility to get onto any London train they can, and then use tubes or buses to get to their normal station. Yet despite years of planning for the engineering work, Southeastern, Transport for London and the Department for Transport have still not sorted out this vital detail.



RUG AWARDS 2014

Award No. 2

Best Newsletter

- Commendation
- Silver Award
- Gold Award

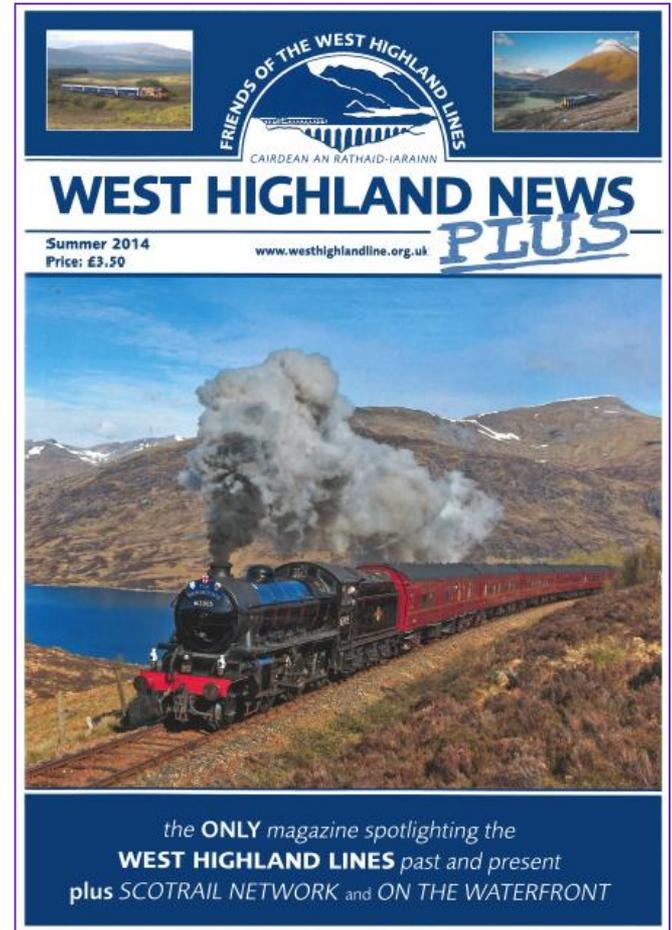
BEST NEWSLETTER Commendation

Friends of the West Highland Lines

www.westhighlandline.org.uk

[newsletters not available online]

Judges' comments: "a quality magazine"



BEST NEWSLETTER Silver Award

South East Northumberland RUG

www.senrug.co.uk

[newsletters online]

Newsletters

Click on the link below to download any of our Newsletters as a pdf document.

If you would like to submit ideas or comments for a future Newsletter, or simply give feedback as to whether you like the latest issue, found it interesting or not, use the [Contact Us](#) page to contact our Newsletter Editor

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March 2014	Newsletter 23
October 2013	Newsletter 22
July 2013	Newsletter 21
March 2013	Newsletter 20
December 2012	Newsletter 19
June 2012	Newsletter 18
December 2011	Newsletter 17

Ashington, Blyth and Tyne Update

By Dennis Fancett



NORTHUMBERLAND County Council finally held its Stakeholder Meeting on the Ashington Blyth & Tyne Line Re-opening Project, a move SENRUG had been pressing them to make for some time – on 27th May 2014. Committee Member Andrew Carmichael represented SENRUG.

SENRUG

NEWSLETTER 24 AUTUMN 2014

SOUTH EAST NORTHUMBERLAND RAIL USER GROUP



LOCAL RAIL SERVICE – THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW

By Dennis Fancett

THE Department for Transport is now consulting on the specifications for the new Northern and TransPennine Express rail franchises, which will start from February 2016. The new franchises will run for 8-10 and 7-9 years respectively.

The franchise specifications include the minimum train service and facilities the new train operator must legally provide. It is therefore vitally important that requirements for better rail services in South East Northumberland are included in the DfT specifications. The consultation represents a once in a decade opportunity to win a better rail service for this area.

These franchises cover a significant geographical area and the DfT is likely to receive conflicting and competing demands from a number of sources. SENRUG is urging as many statutory and stakeholder groups and other interested parties to respond to the consultation. SENRUG's own bold proposals were set out in Newsletter 21 Summer 2013 (page 2) – available at www.senrug.co.uk. SENRUG has also produced a separate leaflet setting out its aspirations.

The consultation document is on the DfT website* and along with both an email and postal response address.

Responses must be received by 17th August 2014.

For both the recent East Coast and CrossCountry franchise consultations, Northumberland County Council did not make any response directly to the DfT, and in each case the new specification subsequently published by the DfT called for fewer services than this region currently had. We now have a new transport policy team at the Council and they have assured us they will be submitting a robust response to the DfT. SENRUG is also urging other organizations to do the same to maximise the chances of securing rail service improvements in South East Northumberland.

*See www.gov.uk/government/consultations/future-of-northern-and-transpennine-express-rail-franchise. Responses can be sent to NorthernTPEconsultation2014@dftrps.gov.uk or to the postal address given in the document itself. ■

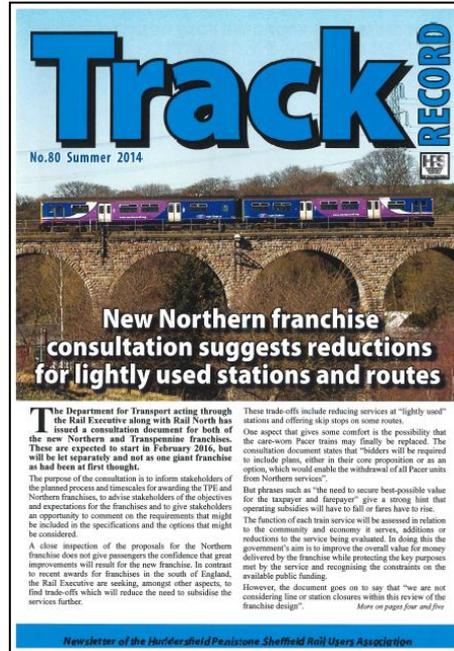
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Local Schools get involved with the campaign to re-open the Ashington, Blyth and Tyne line

BEST NEWSLETTER Gold Award

Huddersfield, Penistone &
Sheffield RUA
[no web-site]

Judges' comments:
“engaging, deals with range
of topics, addressed to wider
community and explains in
lay terms, passes 'the
platform test'!”



RUG AWARDS 2014

Award No. 3

Best Campaign

■ Gold Award

BEST CAMPAIGN Winner

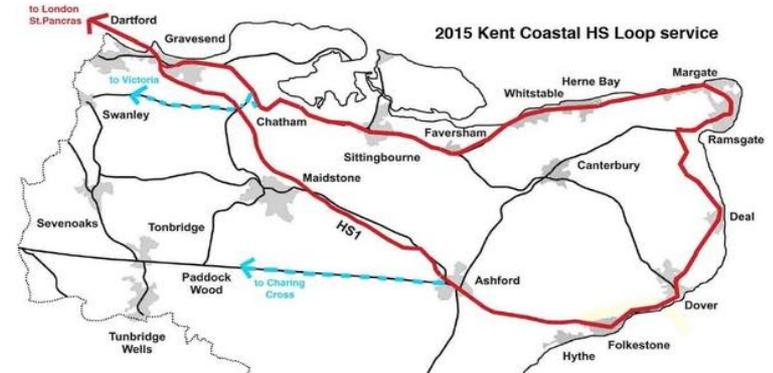
Trains for Deal/Kent Coast

www.trains4deal.com/ and

<http://trains4kentcoast.co.uk>

Judges' comments: “success in achieving key goal and identifies next steps to continue campaign”

Campaign coverage on ITV Meridian – Tom Rowland interviewed from Deal station



Victory! Deal and Sandwich to get hourly HS1 services plus new Kent coast rounder

RUG AWARDS 2014

Award No. 4

New Group – *Oliver Lovell Award*

in memory of the Cotswold Line Promotion Group founder who died in 2013

■ Commendation

NEW GROUP Winner

Friends of the Brigg & Lincoln Lines

<http://e-voice.org.uk/friendsofbrigg-lincolnlines>

[with Gainsborough Rail & Bus Group <http://grab.eavb.co.uk/>]

Judges' comments: "deserves recognition, look forward to hearing more in development of this local campaign."



Beirut would hate to be compared to this...

And to what many of us have known for years is now official - Gainsborough Central has been voted the worst train station in Britain.

A gentleman called Andrew Dowd, who has visited 2,546 stops and travelled along 21,000 miles of track across the UK, confirmed that Central was the worst he had experienced on the British rail network.

It's a new low for a station that in the past has been compared to war-torn Beirut by a rail magazine.

Personally, I always felt that was way too harsh. Too harsh on Beirut. As one of the Davy Jones letters this week suggests, perhaps the town is missing out on a



Gainsborough Central - the worst station in Britain?

Friends Of The Brigg & Lincoln Lines



RUG AWARDS 2014

Award No. 5

Judges' Special Award

■ Highly Commended

JUDGES' SPECIAL AWARD Winner

SENRUG Schools competition

<http://www.senrug.co.uk/2014SchoolsCompetition.php>

and winning entry from Hirst Park Middle School.

Judges' comments "quality campaigning engaging younger generation using one form of social media. This and another entry point to a new Awards category next year! "

In Spring 2014, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Closure of the Ashington Blyth & Tyne Line to passenger services, SENRUG organised a competition amongst local schools to create a 7 to 10 minute DVD setting out their business case for re-opening the line



The winning team from Hirst Park Middle School, with SENRUG Chair Dennis Fancett and Chair of The Arch Group Cllr Dave Ledger - News Post Leader / Morpeth Herald