



Railfuture Limited

17th Annual General Meeting

St Michael's Church Centre, Stoke Gifford, Bristol



Saturday 16 July 2022

Meeting starts at 11:00 with National Chair's Welcome

Rail User Group Awards 2022

Roger Blake

Railfuture Director and Awards Organiser



RUG Awards Judging Panel

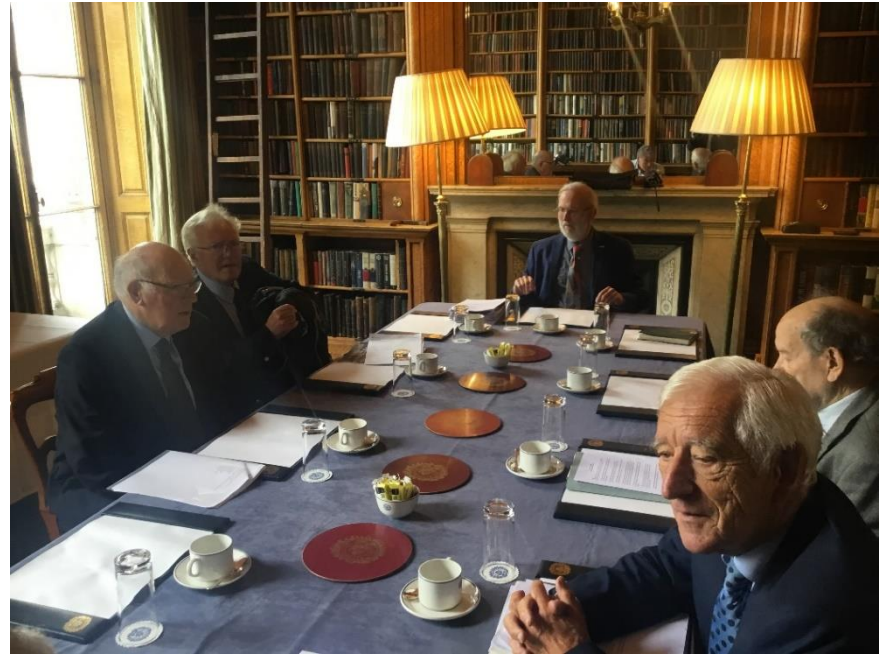
Comprising seven Railfuture Vice Presidents

For these 8th awards the judges were again encouraged to visit nominees, as has been the practice since the 6th awards in 2017.

Thanks to one of the judges, judging for the 2022 awards took place on Wednesday 29 June at the Reform Club in London.

The judges were Ian Brown CBE, Roger Ford, Chris Green, Chris Irwin, Adrian Shooter CBE, Stewart Palmer, Alan Williams.

Photo shows Roger Blake and four of the judges, before everyone had arrived. Photo by Ian Brown CBE.



RUG Awards 2022 presentation

Two sets of nominations into one set of awards because of the pandemic.

36 nominations, from 15 groups and for 7 individual campaigners, across 11 of Railfuture's 14 branches in Britain, and in all three nations.

- Seven awards
- 17 Award winners
- 10 Commendations

Presentation by Stewart Palmer
Railfuture Vice President



RUG Awards 2022: 1 – Best Newsletter



The inaugural *Paul Abell Award* –
in memory of a former Vice-President and
RUG Awards judge.

- Gold Award x 2
- Silver Award
- Commendations x 2

Best Newsletter: joint Gold Award

South East Northumberland Rail User Group (SENUG)

Fen Line Users Association (FLUA)

Judges' comments:
*"the benchmark to
beat"*



Reston Rejoices

Reston, a small village 9 miles north of Berwick has a new station making it possible to visit the area directly by TransPennine services from stations in Northumberland. The new station opened on May 23rd 2022 - the former station having closed in 1964. The station cost £20m and is magnificent. It has two platforms, each long enough to accommodate an Azuma train, with lifts and an overbridge allowing for easy access. The station isn't staffed but there are both passenger shelters and a ticket machine. The car park can accommodate 70 cars and 11 of the bays include charging facilities for electric vehicles. Cyclists are served by a covered rack that should allow, so long as they bring their own lock, for secure and dry storage of their bikes.

TransPennine have arrived at Reston. Photo by Dave Shaw

Reston Village has around 450 residents but the station will serve a much larger hinterland and there are already reports of developers wanting to build new houses in the area.

The station facilities will attract those who wish to 'Park and Ride' from a wider area but the rest of us, who may not have access to a car, haven't been forgotten. The two existing bus services (Berwick to Edinburgh and Berwick to Duns) already allow some access to the coast at Eyemouth from Reston Village, albeit only 4 times a day, and now call at the station itself - despite the ScotRail poster suggesting that you will have to take a short walk to the village and the nearest bus stop. Having said that, when SENUG members took a trip to Reston on the opening day at least one of the services didn't divert into the station forecourt. These traditional bus services have been supplemented by a new type of service that could take the rail passenger directly from the station to a wide range of destinations including St Abbs, Cockburnspath, and Coldstream.

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<https://www.senrug.co.uk/blog/index.php/newsletters/>



From the Editor...

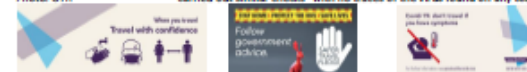
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Passenger confidence will be an important factor in encouraging us back onto stations and safe, clean trains. Independent laboratory tests have found that the COVID-19 virusicide being used on our Great Northern trains as part of a regular enhanced cleaning programme is successfully working. Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR), who also operate services for Southern and Thameslink, randomly selected carriages from all eight of its train fleets up to 23 days after the carriages were treated with the long-lasting virusicide and all tested negative. Swabs were taken from areas in the train carriages frequently touched by passengers and staff - such as grab rails, tables, toilet handles, door buttons and the driver's power controls. Greater Anglia has carried out similar checks "with no traces of the virus found on any test to date."

Photo: GTR



<https://www.flua.org.uk/>

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railfuture

Best Newsletter: Silver Award

Felixstowe Travel Watch

Judges' comments:
*“a welcome
interest in travel
and transport
generally, not
exclusively rail”*

<http://ftw.onesuffolk.net/about-us/newsletters/>



Chairman's Editorial



Graham Newman
(Graham.Newman.FLX@gr
writes...

Dear Members. So... into
and Covid is still with us -
upsetting the patterns of
transport, not to mention c
or desire to use it. Not exactly the best way to
the 50th year of Felixstowe Travel Watch's
predecessor in title - East Suffolk Travellers' Ass

After the fares rise - How it affects your local journeys

TRAIN FARES AND JOURNEY TIMES FROM FELIXSTOWE

Destination	Single		Anytime Return		Off-Peak Return		Advance Single		Typical Off-Peak Journey time
	Adult	with Railcard	Adult	with Railcard	Adult	with Railcard	Adult from	with Railcard	
Ipswich	£5.30	£3.45	£7.00	£4.60	£6.30	£4.15	-	-	26min
Colchester	£9.70	£6.40	£15.30	£10.05	£12.80	£8.40	-	-	1hr
Woodbridge	£5.90	£3.85	£9.00	£5.90	£7.20	£4.75	-	-	1hr
Lowestoft via Saxmundham	£16.10	£10.60	£24.80	£16.35	£20.80	£13.70	-	-	2hr 15m
Bury St Edmunds	£11.90	£7.85	£18.40	£12.10	£15.70	£10.35	-	-	1hr 27m
Cambridge	£16.20	£10.65	£24.70	£16.30	£10.40	£13.45	-	-	2hr 13m
Peterborough	£33.00	£21.75	£50.70	£33.45	£28.50	£18.80	-	-	2hr 11m
Norwich	£18.40	£12.10	£28.50	£18.80	£20.40	£13.45	-	-	1hr 22m
London Liverpool St	£57.50	£37.95	£89.70	£59.20	£48.80	£32.20	£16.00	£10.55	1hr 51m
London Day Travelcard	-	-	-	-	£55.00	£36.30	-	-	-
Gatwick Airport	£87.00	£57.40	£130.00	£85.80	£62.20	£41.05	£25.50	£16.80	3hr 6m
Heathrow Airport *	£63.00	£43.45	£100.70	£70.20	£55.80	£39.20	£21.50	£16.05	2hr 56m
Stansted Airport **	£78.00	£51.45	£127.90	£84.40	£64.70	£42.70	£23.90	£15.75	2hr 59m
Anglia Plus Ranger	-	-	-	-	£25.00	£16.50	-	-	-

Best Newsletter: joint Commendations

Huddersfield Penistone Sheffield Rail Users Association and Tarka Rail Association



<http://www.tarkarail.org/>

Judges' comments:

“in this day and age newsletters / magazines really need to be online too”

RUG Awards 2022: 2 – Best New Group

The Oliver Lovell Award

in memory of the founder of the Cotswold Line Promotion Group

- Gold Award
- Commendation

Best New Group: Gold Award

ACE Rail campaign (Atlantic Coast-Exeter Railway)
now part of Tarka Rail Association <http://www.tarkarail.org/>

Judges' comments:

*“in making
these awards
we are setting
the standard
for the future.”*

Tarka Rail Association links with ACE Rail

The Tarka Rail Association is supporting ACE Rail in its aims and objectives to see the re-opening of the rail route from Barnstaple to Bideford which saw its last scheduled passenger service in 1965. This adds to the support already received from local councils and also from Railfuture.

Tarka team on target for Bideford



RESTORE OUR RAILWAY: (left to right) Okefai's Kevin Ball, Bideford Railway Heritage Centre director Tim Steer, Railfuture's Roger Blake, Bideford Mayor David Ratcliff, Mayoress Philippa Ratcliff, BRHC volunteers Steve Trowbridge, Karen Harley and Spencer Taylor, and Andrew Toon with Torridge District councillor Peter Christie of the Green Party
By Roger Blake
MP Chris Heathon-Evans was rail
Bideford to Barnstaple Railway
Freight continued to Bideford until 1982 when the last special rail tour ran.

Saturday 9th July 2022, 7pm
North Devon Yacht Club,
Marine Parade, Instow.
FREE with RSVP

ACE Rail: Getting back on track...

Learn about the proposal to recommission the Bideford to Barnstaple Railway: with presentations from ACE Rail and OkeRail

Hosted by the North Devon Liberal Democrats
RSVP northdevonlibdems.org.uk/ace_rail

North Devon
**Liberal
Democrats**

Best New Group: Commendation

Lewes Rail Users Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/LewesRailUsers/>



Lewes Rail Users Group

Public group · 109 members

Join Group

About

Discussion

Topics

Events


Media

About this group


This is the Facebook page for rail users in the Lewes area. This is a place to, amongst other things, discuss issues, timetable changes and to ... [See more](#)


 **Public**

Anyone can see who's in the group and what they post.

 **Visible**

Anyone can find this group.

 **Lewes, East Sussex**

 **General**

 **History**

Group created on 12 January 2020. Name last changed on 4 April 2020. [See More](#)

RUG Awards 2022: 3 – Best Social Media

- No winners but
- Two commendations

Judges' comments:

*“concerns
about limited
followings and
contributors to
some
nominees'
Facebook
sites”*

Best Social Media – joint Commendations

Witney Oxford Transport Group and Friends of Reddish South Station

Judges' comments:

“both have made effective use of social media in pursuing their campaigns successfully, with healthy numbers following and engaged.”



@DavdotFo

<https://www.facebook.com/witneyoxfordtransport/>

@witneyoxfordtransport · Community organisation

<https://www.friendsofreddishsouthstation.co.uk/>

RUG Awards 2022: 4 – Best Website

- Gold Award
- Silver Award x 2
- Bronze Award x 2
- Commendation

Best Website: Gold Award

westhighlandline.org.uk

Friends of the West Highland Lines

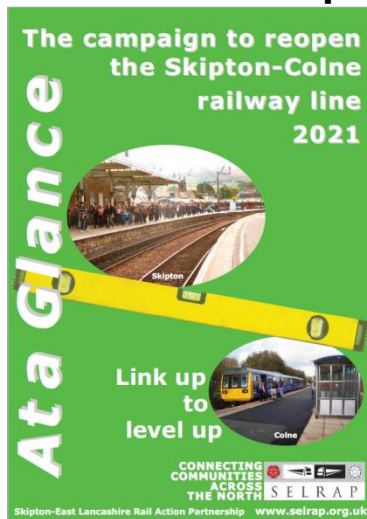


Judge's comment: *"The Friends have an amazing and very photogenic line to promote, a task which they have fulfilled to a very impressive extent."*

Best Website: joint Silver Awards

www.selrap.org.uk

**Skipton and East Lancashire
Rail Action Partnership**



www.senrug.co.uk

**South East Northumberland
Rail User Group**



Judge's comments: "*SEN RUG in particular has a very comprehensive and compelling website and have shown that by being well-informed and relentless you can often achieve your main objective.*"

Best Website: joint Bronze Awards

www.mrug.org.uk

Melksham Transport User Group



www.friendsofreddishsouthstation.co.uk

Friends of Reddish South Station



Best Website: Commendation

www.magorstation.co.uk

Magor & Undy Walkway Station



RUG Awards 2022: 5 – Best Campaign

- Gold Award
- Silver Award x 2
- Bronze Award
- Commendation x 2

Best Campaign – Gold Award

Cooksbridge Station Partnership

(formerly Cooksbridge Area Rail Action Group)

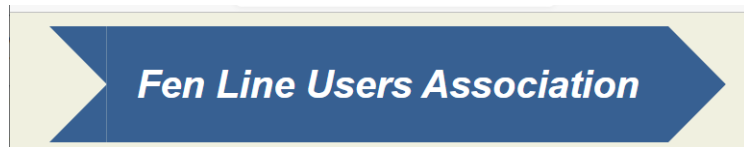


Judge's comment: *"key to their success has been their collaborative approach."*

Best Campaign – joint Silver Awards

Fen Line Users Association

**South East Northumberland
Rail User Group**



Judges' comment: *"The full-size FLUA poster at all their stations is affirmation of the durability of their campaign and quality of relationship with their operator"*

Judges' comment: *"the final test of SENUG's pivotal campaign is that we shall all be able to travel on the re-opened Newcastle to Ashington line within the next couple of years"*

Best Campaign – Bronze Award

Friends of Reddish South Station



Judge's comment: "a Restoring Your Railway service campaign!"

Best Campaign – joint Commendations

**Magor & Undy
Walkway Station**



Judges' comment: *"Magor & Undy have demonstrated flexibility and pragmatism"*

**Witney Oxford
Transport Group**



WOT

Witney Oxford Transport

Judges' comment: *"WOTG has demonstrated the importance of pursuing all-party support"*

RUG Awards 2022: 6 – Best Campaigner

The Clara Zilahi Award

in memory of a stalwart Railfuture campaigner

- Gold Award
- Silver Award x 2
- Commendation x 2

Best Campaigner – Gold Award

Nick Farthing

Chair of the Three Rivers Rail Partnership

For his leading role in the long-running campaign for the Waterside Line

threeriversrail.com



Best Campaigner – joint Silver Awards

Andy Shackleton

Communications Officer
and Newsletter Editor
for Skipton & East Lancs
Rail Action Partnership



Judge's comments:

"Andy has shown persistence and focus"

Dennis Fancett

Chair of South East
Northumberland
Rail User Group



Judge's comments:

"Dennis has demonstrated the benefits of adopting a professional approach"

Best Campaigner – joint Commendations

Graham Ellis

Melksham Transport User Group

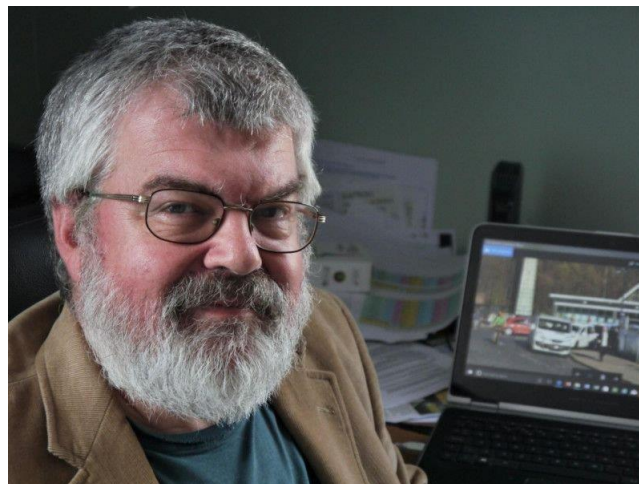


Judge's comments:

"Graham in particular has displayed innovation and a broad approach to transport not just rail."

Stephen Waring

Halifax & District Rail Action Group



RUG Awards 2022: 7 – Judges' Special Award

- One Award

Judges' Special Award: OkeRail

The forum of representatives from a variety of stakeholders which has campaigned successfully for the re-introduction of the passenger service between Okehampton and Exeter – the Dartmoor Line.

OkeRAIL

okerrail.org.uk/

Judge's comment: *"I have no doubt that the addition of OkeRail to the roll of honour would be appropriate. At a local level, OkeRail's inspired and targeted lobby work built the institutional support necessary to trigger the project in the first place. The need for that sort of work should be the key lesson for other RUGs aspiring to develop the network."*



RUG Awards 2022

- Congratulations to all Award winners & Commendations
- Slides for all years are available at www.railfuture.org.uk/RUG+Awards
- Keep in touch with all our rail user groups at www.railfuture.org.uk/Rail+User+Express
- Why not nominate your own RUG next time?

GUEST SPEAKERS: JUDGES' SPECIAL AND GOLD AWARDS WINNERS

- ❑ Fraser McDonald, Friends of the West Highland Lines
- ❑ Michael Ireland, Chair, and Kevin Ball, OkeRail
- ❑ Nick Farthing, Chair, Three Rivers Rail Partnership
- ❑ Mark Collins, Fen Line Users Association
- ❑ Tim Steer, Tarka Rail Association's ACE Rail campaign
- ❑ Robert Baughan, Cooksbridge Station Partnership

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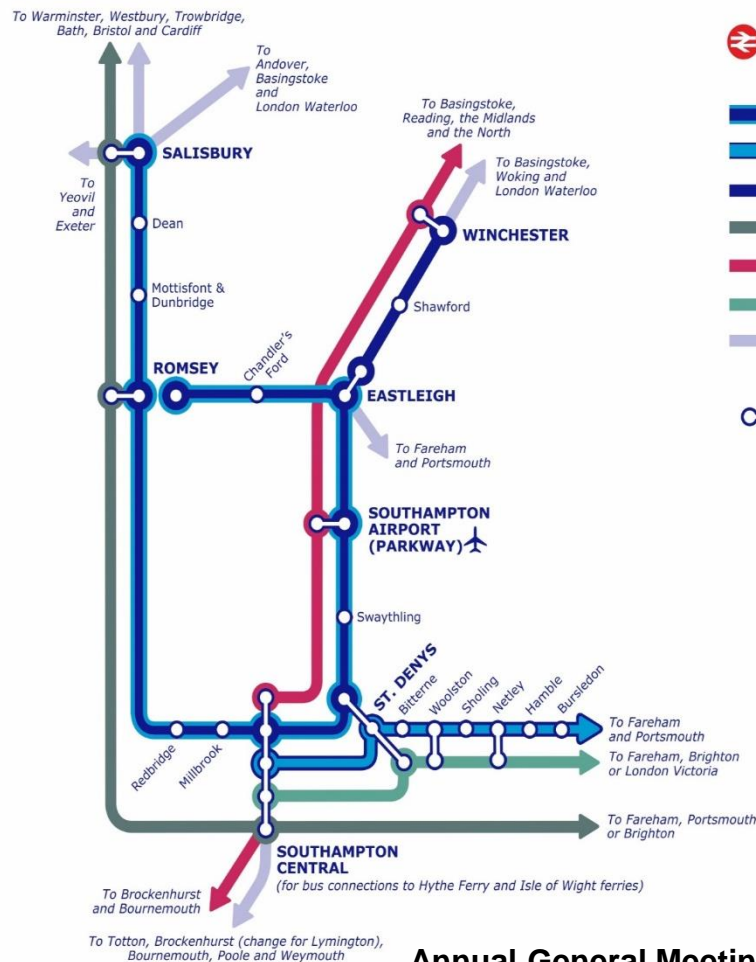
Bringing Passenger Trains back to The Waterside



Nick Farthing

Chair

Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership



Stations and services

- South Western Railway - Salisbury to Romsey service
- South Western Railway - Southampton to Portsmouth service
- South Western Railway services between Eastleigh and Winchester
- Great Western Railway services
- CrossCountry services
- Southern services
- Connecting rail services
- Railway stations
- ⊕ Interchange stations



Network map



Line History



- Railway originally planned by LSWR in 1902
- Totton Hythe & Fawley Railway Company formed 1921
- Project transferred to LSWR in 1922
- Route pegged out March 1923
- Robert McAlpine won contract to build 4th October 1923 - £117,276
- Rail Inspector approval 8th July 1925
- Modern Refinery built 1951
- Lack of capacity meant loss of passenger service 14th February 1966

- Pipelines took over from rail
- Gas and other products withdrawn
- Railfreight to/from Refinery withdrawn December 2016



Still Open for Business



Rail traffic to/from Marchwood Military Port



Restoring Your Railway



- Reversing Beeching Application successful in first phase
- Fawley Special 28th July 2020



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The Project

- Line Speeds and signal upgrades



Marchwood Station upgrade



Waterside Wanderer

Getting to Hythe and the Waterside area by public transport just got easier...

Three Rivers Community Rail Partnership, South Western Railway, Bluestar buses, Unilink buses and Hythe Ferry have joined together to bring you a new, multi-modal ticket for a great day out!

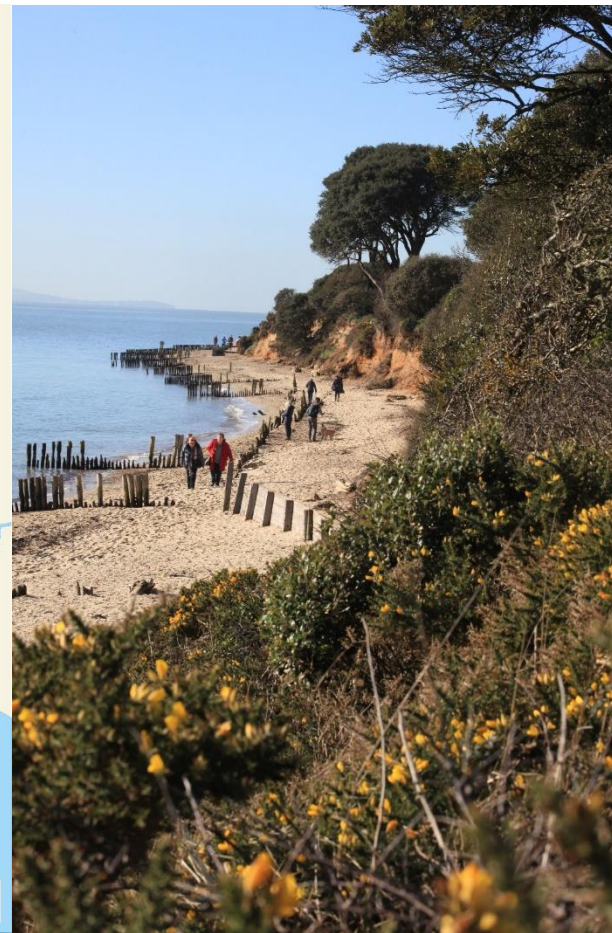


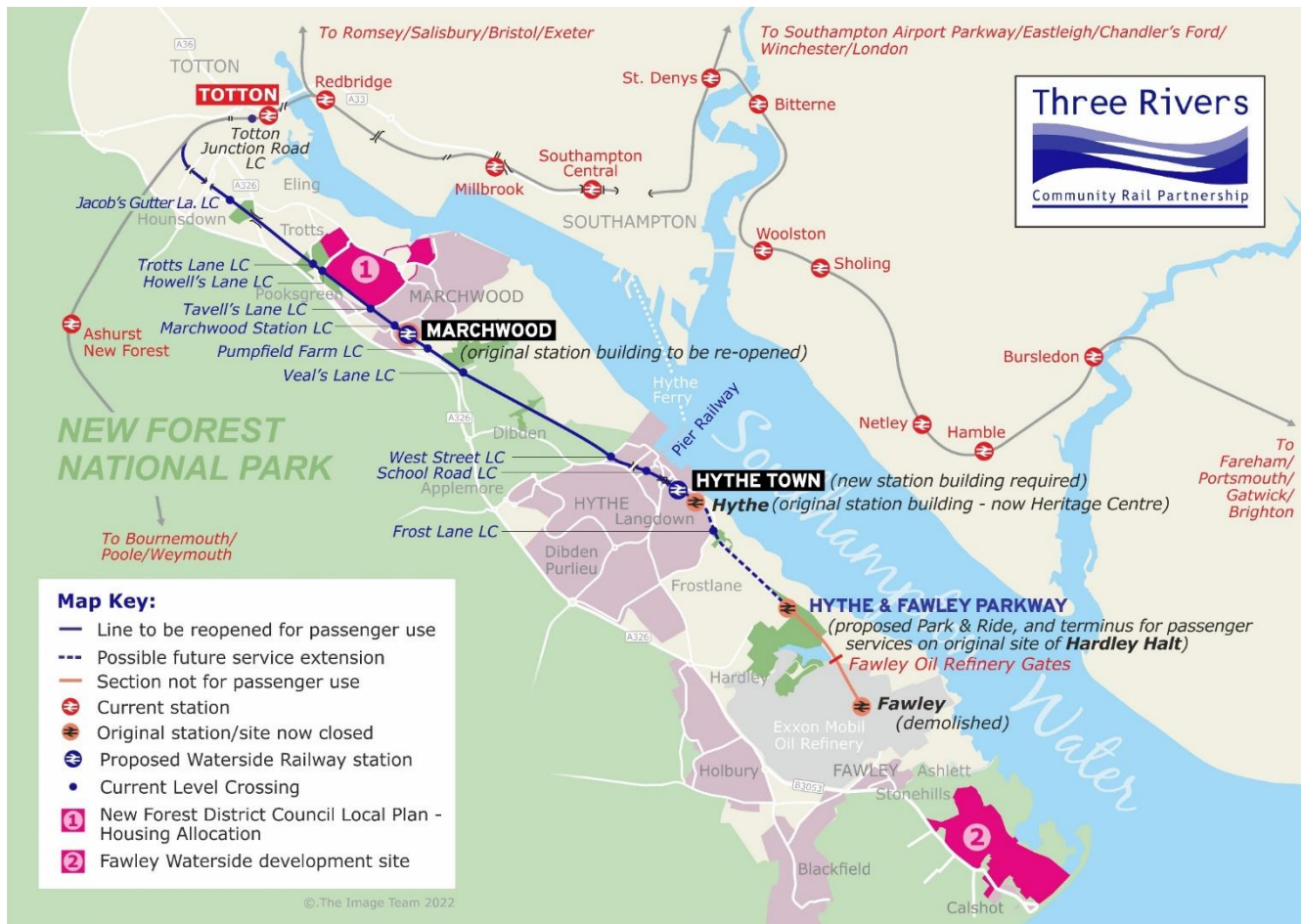
With the Waterside Wanderer you can travel around and explore all day.

Your 'Waterside Wanderer' Day Rover ticket includes:

- **Unlimited** rail travel within the ticket zone after 0900 Mon-Fri, anytime weekends and Public Holidays
 South Western Railway trains:
 Romsey-Southampton-Chandler's Ford service (Calling at all stations). Daily every 60 mins.
 Bursledon-Netley-Southampton service (Calling at all stations). Daily every 60 mins.
 Winchester-Southampton service. Daily, frequent.
 GWR trains:
 Romsey-Southampton service. Daily every 60 mins.
- **Unlimited** travel on any Bluestar 8 or 9 bus
 Bluestar 8 buses:
 Southampton Central station-Hythe-Calshot.
 Mon-Sat every 60 mins daytime. Sunday 4 journeys to Hythe (See Bluestar 9 for Calshot on Sundays).
 Bluestar 9 buses:
 Southampton Central station- Hythe- Langley/Fawley.
 Mon-Sat every 20 mins daytime, and every 60 mins evenings.
 Sunday every 30 mins daytime to Hythe, and every 60 mins evenings. Extends every 60 mins to Lepe/Calshot Suns & Public Hols.
- One return journey on the Quayconnect shuttle bus
 Southampton Central station-Town Quay (for Hythe Ferry) Daily up to every 30 mins daytime.
- One journey on the Unilink U1C (NOCs) bus
 Southampton Central station-Town Quay (for Hythe Ferry) Daily up to every 15 mins daytime.
- One journey on the Unilink U1A (Airport) bus
 Town Quay-Southampton Central station
 Daily up to every 15 mins daytime.
- One return journey on the Hythe Ferry
 Southampton Town Quay-Hythe Pier head
 Daily up to every 30 mins. Crossing time approx. 10 mins.
- One return journey on the Hythe Pier Railway
 Hythe Ferry Terminal - Hythe Pier head
 Daily up to every 30 mins.







Overview



- Railway still insitu and in use to Marchwood
- Developments on Waterside will support the reopening
- Solent Freeport Status
- Network Rail Solent Capacity Study supportive
- *Restoring Your Railway* programme supportive
- Fawley Special – high level support
- DfT Special May 21
- Project Costs circa £45m
- Outsourcing the project
- Cost effective construction methods
- Rolling stock opportunities
- Funding streams – other options
- Partnership approach
- DON'T GIVE UP!!!!



WATERSIDE RAILWAY

BRINGING PASSENGER TRAINS BACK
FOR THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



Thank You and Questions...

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railfuture

Contact Details

Three Rivers



Community Rail Partnership

Nick Farthing

Chair

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w threeriversrail.com

f facebook.com/threeriversrail

t twitter.com/threeriversrail

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Photo: GTR



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railfuture

FEN LINE USERS ASSOCIATION

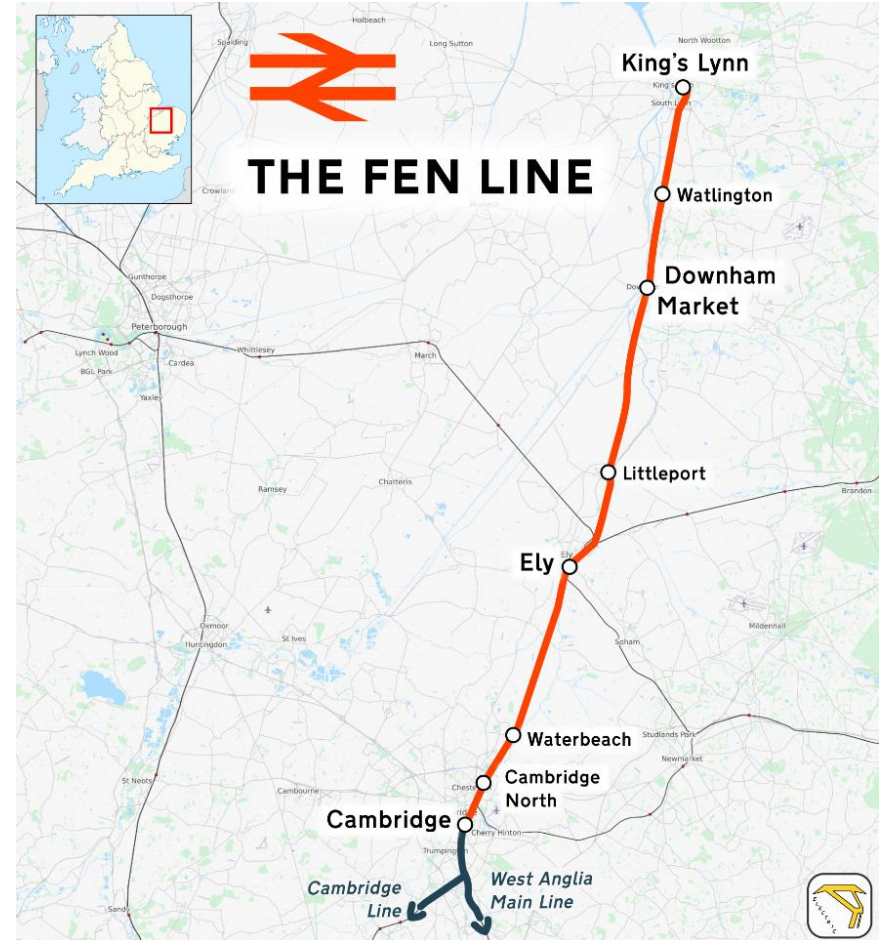
Mark Collins

The Fen Line has seven stations, plus Cambridge.

FLUA, which was formed in the mid-1980s, has notice boards at all of the stations

It produces newsletters which are posted to members if they pay the full rate, email for a discounted rate

www.flua.org.uk



The Fenman

Newsletter of the Fen Line Users Association

Issue 1/2021

"Calling for the earliest delivery of the 'half-hourly' King's Lynn – King's Cross commitment"

King's Lynn

Watlington

Downham
Market

Littleport

Ely

Waterbeach

Cambridge
North

From the Editor....

Welcome to the first issue of 2021 and to an 8-page special to celebrate the introduction of 8-coach trains on the Fen Line. There's also good news on track upgrade work, signalling and further improvements to our stations too. Here at FLUA we get a regular reminder of just how long the pandemic has been with us with the arrival of Greater Anglia's weekly Covid Update of which Issue 56 has just arrived in our inbox. Like Great Northern, they keep us up to date on all they are doing to ensure rail travel is as safe as possible as we all look forward to the easing of restrictions and the return of travel freedom. Now we have those extra seats, cheaper fares and a more flexible approach to ticketing are going to be key to encouraging passengers to return to rail, especially with leisure travel likely to become more important in the future. At a recent rail industry conference Boris Johnson predicted normal work patterns would resume once the lockdown was finally lifted saying: "the British population will be consumed once again with their desire for the genuine face to face meeting that makes all the difference". Fen Line commuters to London who once spent 4 hours each day travelling might beg to differ and it's telling that the rail industry is exploring ideas such as "three days' travel in seven" seasons and others which would allow 12 days travel during a month. The March price rise of 2.6% won't have helped, adding £160 to the cost of an annual season ticket from King's Lynn to London, but in an unusually candid response to the increase the rail minister said "we do need eventually to encourage people back—but now, I'm afraid, we also need to remember that the taxpayer stood by the railways with £10.1 billion ... and they do need some money back". In this view of King's Lynn taken on a Sunday in February, when the line was closed for engineering work, four 8-coach trains await what should have been a busy morning peak the next day. With a total of 1,792 seats available one wonders how many of those seats were actually used that Monday morning. Great for social distancing but not for the Government's finances!



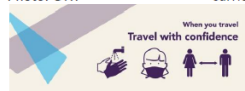
Trains test negative for coronavirus

Passenger confidence will be an important factor in encouraging users back onto stations and safe, clean trains.



Photo: GTR

Independent laboratory tests have found that the COVID-19 virus is being used on our Great Northern trains as part of a regular enhanced cleaning programme is successfully working. Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR), who also operate services for Southern and Thameslink, randomly selected carriages from all eight of its train fleets up to 23 days after the carriages were treated with the long-lasting virucide and all tested negative. Swabs were taken from areas in the train carriages frequently touched by passengers and staff – such as grab rails, tables, toilet handles, door buttons and the driver's power controls. Greater Anglia has carried out similar checks "with no traces of the virus found on any test to date."



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The Fen Line then and now

Back in British Rail days, it was thanks to the insistence of managing director Chris Green that the line from Cambridge to King's Lynn became part of his Network South East region which paved the way for the route to be included as a candidate for electrification. (As a reminder of those days, and with considerable input from FLUA and its then chairman Colin Sampson, the station at Downham Market was restored to the striking Network South



Photo: By kind permission of the RCTS Transport Archive

East colours of red, white and blue). However, despite the bright livery Fen Line services had reached a low point as this 1989 photo of an ageing 2-car diesel train waiting to leave King's Lynn shows. It will only travel as far as Cambridge where passengers for London will have to change. The steel mast in the background is an indication that electrification is on the way. Ironically, for much of the last 12 months a train of this length would have provided more than enough room for passengers even with social distancing.



The first 8-coach train in public service ran on 11th December 2020, two days before the new timetable, when the 10.42 from King's Cross also conveyed invited guests including our Chairman. The train is seen here at Littleport.

Photo: Mike Lampert



The launch was well publicised with all the local papers carrying features, along with local radio and regional television. FLUA's John Grant and Sarah-Jane Crawford from Network Rail herald the arrival of the longer trains at King's Lynn.



information system on the Class 387s is unable to recognise the direction of travel so wrongly advises customers to use the first 4 coaches when travelling towards King's Lynn too!

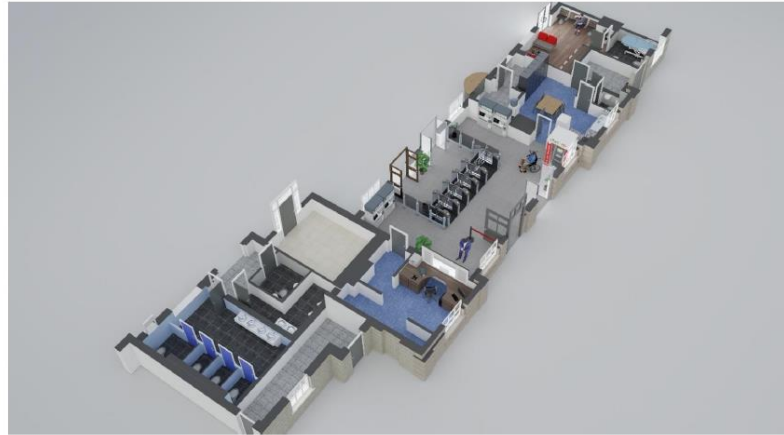
Photo: GTR



Without the constraints of printing and postage costs, email allows us to expand on some of the stories in our newsletter – as well as making our own modest contribution to climate change by saving paper and ink.

All Change at Ely

The artists impression below is an early, first draft of the proposed changes to Ely station showing the general layout only and is subject to change. For example, the facilities within the toilets will not be exactly as shown here. The new waiting room is at the top of the picture with the red seats and the new ticket office can be seen to the left of centre along with the new door openings and gate line. FLUA Committee members have been invited to visit the station for a tour of the works with Greater Anglia's project manager.



The temporary ticket office is in the grey building behind the yellow handrail.



Inside the ticket office.



New fencing at the north end of Platform 1. This entrance/exit will be closed once the new ticket hall and gate line are opened.

FEN LINE USERS ASSOCIATION

FLUA

THE FEN LINE USERS ASSOCIATION



"Calling for the much needed of the 'Soft-Security' Stage 1 L&N - Stage 2 then commences"

CAMPAIGNING FOR IMPROVED SERVICES FOR OVER 30 YEARS

Committee and Officers

Chairman - Bill Gault
Vice Chairman - Ben Wain
Treasurer - Alan Pickering
Honorary President - Robert Sarge
Secretary - Mark Collins
Email: flua@btinternet.com
Website: www.flua.co.uk



Notice of 2019 AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Fen Line Users Association will be held on **Saturday 10th November** at 2pm at **Doverham Market Heritage Centre, Doverham Market, PE38 5SL**. There is a large free car park on site and for those travelling by train the hall is 10 - 15 min walk from the station. As usual, representatives of the rail industry will be invited to attend and this will give members the opportunity to raise issues with key staff from across the network. Following the question and answer session there will be light refreshments and then the regular business of the AGM. Doors open at 1.30pm for a 2pm start. Subscription renewals can be paid prior to the meeting and donations are welcome but you will be encouraged to join on the day!

Your committee would like to reveal at least another two members to join them. No particular skills are required - just an interest in the Fen Line, its promotion and improved services and facilities. The only commitment is to attend 3 or 4 meetings and an AGM each year whilst are normally held on a Saturday afternoon. Please contact the Secretary for further information at flua@btinternet.com or 01463 751111.

We better reflect passenger usage and our membership we would particularly welcome applications from daily members, younger travellers and commuters.

The Passenger Benefit Fund

Subscribers for the fund have now been announced and FLUA have received a list of the first selections for distribution which we have been asked to implement on. Obviously, it will not be possible to do this in the improvement weeks at the start of the year but we will be working on it. The specific will be delivered by the end of the year. The fund will be available to all members by the end of the year.

More Good News!

With platform lengthening work at Lillington and Waterbeach now well underway comes some further welcome news. The Department for Transport has just published their Autumn Update of rail performance, programmes and within the document the Ely Area Enhancement. Capacity has progressed through a "scheme to deliver" in 2017/18. A million was secured for a feasibility study which found improvements would bring an expected 10% annual boost to the region's capacity and resulting in a commitment given by the then Secretary of State Chris Grayling that the scheme would go ahead. South West Norfolk MP Sir Fred Foster commented "I am extremely pleased. Obviously the final design and design work need to be completed but this is a critical junction in East Anglia serving multiple routes and the faster we progress the scheme, the benefits will be substantial for all. I have been working with colleagues, local councils and other groups to secure the upgrade and will continue to maintain the pressure to see the scheme delivered". As paths and more frequent Fen Line services, the project also covers three new stoppages, all within a half-mile stretch of the B1062, at Glazeon Ashwell. It has been suggested that a bridge or underpass will be required on this section of road - especially as plans to build 3,000 more houses at Ely are expected to see road traffic increase three to four times by 2035.

Smart Ticketing

The key - a cost-effective program which replaces paper tickets - is finally coming to the Fen Line. Smartcards have been in place at our stations for some time but there have been issues with using the software. GTS set up by the end of November the plan to be 100% of the Fen Line system to be enabled to issue smart products, both daily and season tickets, and run by the end of 2020 for all ticket offices to be able to issue and retail smart products.

Fen Line Users Association

King's Lynn | Watlington | Downham Market | Littleport | Ely | Waterbeach | Cambridge North

What we do...

We are an independent Rail User Group representing the interests of passengers and providing a vital link between users and the rail industry. This includes the Train Operating Companies, which are currently Great Northern and Greater Anglia, and Network Rail who maintain the railway infrastructure.

Longer trains at last!

Sunday 13th December saw the long awaited introduction of 8-car trains on all but a handful of our services and Network Rail is to be congratulated on delivering the works on time despite challenges from the weather, Covid-19 and a budget overrun of £1.7 million.

Sadly, the pandemic meant that many of these trains were running virtually empty following the tightening of travel restrictions in January. However, they were still providing a vital service for key workers and those whose journeys were considered as essential travel.

Following the reopening of schools and colleges, and the gradual easing of travel restrictions, passenger numbers on the Fen Line are increasing once more and the extra seats provided by the longer trains are proving valuable in allowing social distancing.

Meanwhile, the Train Operating Companies are still using enhanced cleaning procedures to ensure that passengers can 'travel with confidence'.

Annual General Meeting

We held our first online AGM last November using Zoom which was well attended by both members and representatives of the railway industry. This year's AGM will be held on Saturday 27th November 2021.

What we'd like to see...

- A half-hour service throughout the day all the way to King's Lynn
- Faster journey times
- Trains more suited to the long journey to London
- Improved facilities at stations
- Better integration between trains and other public transport

What we've achieved so far...

Over the last 35 years FLUA has campaigned for and been successful in helping to bring many improvements for Fen Line users including:

- As many Fen Line trains as possible to call at all stations on the Line
- Ticket price zoning between Downham Market and King's Lynn
- An additional waiting shelter at Littleport
- Extra seats at King's Lynn, Watlington, Littleport and Waterbeach
- New station car parks at Watlington and Downham Market
- The opening of a station cafe at Downham Market

- Distribution of pocket timetables to village shops and post offices
- King's Lynn drivers being trained to operate through to King's Cross
- FLUA notice boards at all stations on the Line

Join us today!

Membership costs £7 per year and members receive three newsletters annually. There is also the opportunity to attend and vote at our Annual General Meeting and raise any issues directly with railway industry management. Visit our website for more details at www.flua.org.uk

FLUA is an independent organisation which represents the interests of users of the Fen Line. Membership is open to all who use or have an interest in the Line.

Committee and Officers

Chairman: John Grant | Vice Chairman: Ben Walsh
Secretary: Mark Collins | Treasurer: Alan Pickering
Committee Members: Joale Ratcliffe, Harry Verney
Honorary President: Robert Stripe
Email: flusecretary@flua.org.uk



Scan the QR code to visit our website for more information

www.flua.org.uk

Fen Line Users Association

FLUA

Representing Fen Line users for 35 years

Fen Line Users Association

King's Lynn | Watlington | Downham Market | Littleport | Ely | Waterbeach | Cambridge North

What we do...

We are an independent Rail User Group representing the interests of passengers and providing a vital link between users and the rail industry. This includes the Train Operating Companies, which are currently Great Northern and Greater Anglia, and Network Rail who maintain the railway infrastructure.

Longer trains at last!

Today, 15th December saw the long awaited introduction of 8-car trains on all but a handful of our services and Network Rail is to be congratulated on delivering the works on time despite challenges from the weather, Covid-19 and a budget overrun of \$1.7 million.

Sadly, the pandemic means that many of these trains were running virtually empty following the tightening of travel restrictions in January. However, they were still providing a vital service for key workers and those whose journeys were considered as essential travel.

Following the reopening of schools and colleges, and the gradual easing of travel restrictions, passenger numbers on the Fen Line are increasing once more and the extra seats provided by the longer trains are proving valuable in allowing social distancing.

Meanwhile, the Train Operating Companies are still using enhanced cleaning protocols to ensure that passengers can 'travel with confidence'.

Annual General Meeting

The 2020 AGM will be held on 15th December at 10.00am at the Fen Line Users Association, 10, King's Lynn, which will be attended by both members and representatives of the railway industry. This year's AGM will be held on Saturday 19th November 2021.

What we'd like to see...

- A further service through the day on the way to King's Lynn
- More services to the long distance line
- Improved facilities at stations
- Better integration between trains and other public transport

What we've achieved so far...

- Over the last 10 years FLUA has campaigned for and been successful in helping to bring many improvements for Fen Line users including:
 - As many Fen Line trains as possible to call at stations on the line
 - 24-hour service through the day on the Norwich and King's Lynn
 - An additional evening service on 15th August
 - Extra services at King's Lynn, Watlington, Littleport and Waterbeach
 - New digital car parks at Watlington and Downham Market
 - The opening of a station with an

Join us today!

- Distribution of pocket itineraries to help shops and post offices
- King's Lynn station being used to serve through to King's Lynn
- FLUA advice boards at all stations on the line

FLUA is an independent organisation which represents the interests of users of the Fen Line. Membership is open to all who use or have an interest in the Line.

Committee and Officers
Chairman: John Grant, Vice Chairman: Ben Webb
Secretary: Mark Gifford, Treasurer: Peter Manning
Committee Members: Jane Marshall, Harry Venn
Committee Members: Robert Wright
Email: flua@flua.org.uk



Scan the QR code to visit our website for more information
www.flua.org.uk

Ely area capacity enhancement

This important project includes upgrading Ely North Junction to allow the 11 train paths per hour that are needed now to support the half-hourly service to King's Lynn, and to enable future projects to increase capacity further. It also includes work on a number of level crossings; mostly they are proposed to be converted from half barriers to full barriers which will result in them being closed to road traffic for much longer than at present. This could be a particular problem at Waterbeach station, preventing passengers crossing the line to catch their trains. However, no final decision will be made until the results of traffic modelling are available, expected in the spring of 2022. More information on the project [here](#).

Cambridge South

As a result of the first consultation on Cambridge South station, option 1 (the northernmost location, nearest to the hospitals and the sixth form college) was chosen. The new station, due to open in 2025, will give travellers from Fen Line stations direct access to Addenbrooke's and Papworth hospitals and to employment on the Biomedical Campus. There is more detail on the project [here](#) and the documents for the formal Transport and Works Act Order process are [here](#).

Eight-car trains

The [project](#) to allow 8-car trains to stop at all the Fen Line stations is now complete and most services are now 8 cars. An extra benefit for Waterbeach is that the Ely - King's Cross trains now stop there, giving the half-hourly service throughout the day that we would like to see for the whole line.

We've been asked why only some platforms have been lengthened; this is because "selective door opening" allows trains to stop with the front part in a shorter platform, but not if the back part would be across a level crossing. Announcements tell passengers to move to the front of the train; unfortunately, these announcements are also made for northbound trains at Littleport although that platform is full length.

There are some pictures of the work at Waterbeach [here](#).

ECML upgrade

Network Rail have reconfigured King's Cross station and are now gradually replacing the 40-year-old signalling system. There was due to be a new timetable in May 2022, cutting several minutes off journey times into London from Fen Line stations, but it has been postponed because of problems further north on the East Coast main line. More information on the project [here](#) and [here](#).

What we do

We **represent** the interests of users of the Fen Line to the rail industry management.

We **monitor** to ensure that services offered are maintained and improved.

We **inform** our members of the latest developments.

[read more...](#)

AGM

The AGM takes place each November. Representatives of the rail industry attend to give members the opportunity to raise issues with key staff from across the network.

The draft minutes of the 2021 AGM are in the members' section. The 2022 AGM will be on Saturday 26th November.

Join us

Become a member and get access to the members' section.

[application forms...](#)

Members' section (requires login)

- [The Fenman newsletter](#)
- [AGM minutes](#)

[more...](#)

FLUA works to develop services between the Fen Line stations (King's Lynn, Wattlington, Downham Market, Littleport, Ely, Waterbeach, and Cambridge North) and onwards to Cambridge and London.

We seek the best for users from the fast-changing railway scene by working with all parties in the rail industry and with other relevant bodies in the development of the Thameslink Southern and Great Northern (TSGN) franchise on the Fen Line.

[Some of our history](#)

[Picture library](#)

Electric trains from Fen Line stations to Cambridge and London King's Cross are run by [Great Northern](#) for commuters, business and leisure users.

[Greater Anglia](#) operates electric trains from Fen Line stations to Cambridge and London Liverpool Street. These peak time extras run Mondays-Fridays only.

Contact:

Secretary: fluasecretary@flua.org.uk

Webmaster: flua@ninetiles.com

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Best New Group: Gold Award

ACE Rail campaign (Atlantic Coast-Exeter Railway)
now part of Tarka Rail Association <http://www.tarkarail.org/>

Judges' comments:

*“in making
these awards
we are setting
the standard
for the future.”*

Tarka Rail Association links with ACE Rail

The Tarka Rail Association is supporting ACE Rail in its aims and objectives to see the re-opening of the rail route from Barnstaple to Bideford which saw its last scheduled passenger service in 1965. This adds to the support already received from local councils and also from Railfuture.

Tarka team on target for Bideford



RESTORE OUR RAILWAY: (left to right) Okefai's Kevin Ball, Bideford Railway Heritage Centre director Tim Steer, Railfuture's Roger Blake, Bideford Mayor David Ratcliff, Mayoress Philippa Ratcliff, BRHC volunteers Steve Trowbridge, Karen Harley and Spencer Taylor, and Andrew Toon with Torridge District councillor Peter Christie of the Green Party
By Roger Blake
MP Chris Heaton-Harris was rail
Bideford to Barnstaple Railway
Freight continued to Bideford until 1982 when the last special rail tour ran.

Saturday 9th July 2022, 7pm
North Devon Yacht Club,
Marine Parade, Instow.
FREE with RSVP

ACE Rail: Getting back on track...

Learn about the proposal to recommission the Bideford to Barnstaple Railway: with presentations from ACE Rail and OkeRail

Hosted by the North Devon Liberal Democrats
RSVP northdevonlibdems.org.uk/ace_rail

North Devon
Liberal Democrats

Atlantic Coast – Exeter railway

- ACE Rail campaign
Supported by & affiliated to

The logo for railfuture, featuring the word "rail" in black and "future" in green, with a red dot above the 'i' in "rail".

railfuture



The Bideford nameplate returns



ACE Rail gaining support



Symbolism



United



Best Campaign – Gold Award

Cooksbridge Station Partnership

(formerly Cooksbridge Area Rail Action Group)



Judge's comment: *"key to their success has been their collaborative approach."*



Cooksbridge Station Partnership

08.26 on 17-05-20:

the first Sunday train at Cooksbridge in 55 years!