

# Railfuture Limited 19th Annual General Meeting

**Edinburgh Marriott Hotel Holyrood** 





Afternoon session – from 13.30

10<sup>th</sup> Rail User Group Awards, 2024 including brief presentations from award-winners present

Aiming to finish around 15:30



# Rail User Group Awards 2024

# Roger Blake Railfuture Director and Awards Organiser





## **RUG Awards Judging Panel**

equipped to extract the maximum value from funding available."

#### **Comprising Railfuture Vice Presidents**

For this year's 10th awards Roger Ford (aka 'Captain Deltic') has said:

"Looking back since I became involved in the judging, it is notable how campaigns and campaigners have become much more adept at establishing and then making the case for their projects.

While the money in the Government's reversing Beeching campaign extends only to funding studies, I think it might be worth mentioning that as schemes grow in scope, today's campaigners are

This year's four judges were lan Brown CBE, Roger Ford, Chris Green, and

Stewart Palmer.











#### **RUG Awards 2024 Presentation**

This year there were seven nominations in four categories from five groups across four of Railfuture's 14 branches in Britain.

- Two Commendations
- Five Award-winners
- One Judges' Special Award

Presentations by Paul McLennan MSP Railfuture Vice-President





#### RUG Awards 2024: 1 - Best Website

The *Adrian Shooter Award* - in tribute to a former Vice-President and RUG Awards judge from 2012 until 2022.



Two Commendations

Gold Award

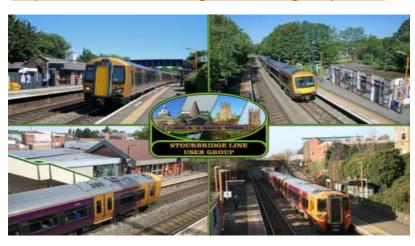


#### **Best Website: Joint Commendations**

https://www.senrug.co.uk/



https://www.stourbridgelineusergroup.info/



Judges' comments: "SENRUG home page appears word-heavy, news is not up-to-date." "I found the home page rather too busy with too many words and not enough eye-catching material. It is all there but the layout could be better. The same can be said of the articles, extremely informative and lots of detail, but in terms of the engagement factor I suspect it would appeal more to the rail specialist or enthusiast and less to the general public."

"Stourbridge home page is confusing busy, navigation depends on you clicking on the three-bar icon which pulls up a hidden side bar." "very high quality website with scrolling news, pictures etc. Has a good mix of local, regional and national news, plenty of good quality coverage of issues with pictures. Very much a "rail" focused website, perhaps reflects the nature of the commuter railway seen in Greater Birmingham; would like to have seen something more about the wider public transport scene." railfuture

**Annual General Meeting 2024 Edinburgh** 

## Best Website: Gold Award - Chinley & Buxworth TG



https://chinleybuxworthtg.co.uk/

Judges' comments:

"head and shoulders above the other nominees. A clean Home Page with all you need to know plus easy navigation to the individual topics. The "Useful Links" section would make it my winner on its own."

"I liked the fact that it is not just a rail group, its whole emphasis is on the wider use of integrated public transport. The Home Page is eye catching and immediately makes you want to see more. Very easy to navigate with sensible grouping of topics. It all seems to work as well which is always a plus! Very current, last news post only yesterday. Plenty of good quality pictures with a good mix of local, regional and national issues covered on transport as a whole, not just rail."



#### RUG Awards 2024: 2 - Best Newsletter

The *Paul Abell Award* – dedicated to a former Vice-President and RUG Awards judge who passed away in 2021.



- Silver Award
- Gold Award



#### Best Newsletter: Silver Award Stourbridge Line User Group







#### Judges' comments:

"the current news on the website is of good quality with several recent postings and plenty of good quality pictures. The newsletters from 2023 backwards are very good and I particularly liked the idea of the 3 levels of "Platform 1, 2 and 3". There is a good mix of local, regional and national coverage of issues and some 'fun' items which hopefully engaged a wider audience."

"as we noted at a previous awards, on-line newsletters nowadays complement the printed version; where members opt for on-line only this saves printing and postage costs."



#### Best Newsletter: Gold Award

#### **SE Northumberland RUG**

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

Judges' comments:

"SENRUG's 'Bumper Spring Issue' broke new ground for me by devoting six pages to statements by the North East Mayoral candidates. This turned the newsletter into a campaigning tool, which is what the local groups are all about."

"I felt this was an excellent newsletter with a good mix of local, regional and national news, with even an interesting article about rail renaissance in The Philippines! Plenty of good quality pictures and I thought the emphasis on the wider issues of stakeholder involvement and the political scene was very good. Clearly SENRUG understands the need to get political support for almost everything it wants to achieve and making readers aware of that is vital."



#### **Mayoral Election Hustings Special**

SENRUG Leads Public Transport Debate: North East Mayoral Candidates to Converge at Morpeth Town Hall

The SENRUG hustings meeting with the candidates for North East Mayor, held on Thursday 11th April, was a complete success - according to Dennis Fancett, Chair of the voluntary group that campaigns for better rail services in South East and East Northumberland.

Voters packed into Morpeth Town Hall to hear Guy Renner-Thompson (Conservative), Andrew Gray (Green), Jamie Driscoli (the sitting Mayor who is standing as an independent). Thom Campion who spoke on behalf of Aidan King the Liberal-Democrate candidate, and Paul Donagly (Reform UK) set out their public transport policies and take questions from the audience. Kim McGuinness the Labour Party candidate was also invited but unable to attend and no representative from the Labour party was available to speak on her behalf.

SENRUG is a non-politically aligned pro-rail campaign group that works with all parties, whether in government or opposition.

Continued on Page 2



Photo Credit: Andrew Carmichae

ISSUE 42 SPRING 2024

## This Bumper Issue:

Hustings Event Report
PAGES 1 & 2

Editor's Opinion PAGE 3

Mayoral Candidate Statements PAGES 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9

The SENRUG Vision -Key Proposals PAGE 10

The SENRUG Vision A Blueprint for Integraton

Reviving Connections
Phillipine Style

JOIN US



SENRUG NEWSLETTER - ISSUE 42 - SPRING 202



# RUG Awards 2024: 3 - Best Campaign

Gold Award



# Best Campaign: Gold Award Campaign for North East Rail, Scotland

https://www.campaignfornortheastrail.org/

Judges' comment:

"I was enormously impressed by the professionalism being brought to the proposal."







## RUG Awards 2024: 4 - Best Campaigner

### The Clara Zilahi Award

Dedicated to a stalwart Railfuture campaigner, who passed away in 2013

Gold Award





## Best Campaigner: Gold Award

## Simon Walton, ex-Chair, Campaign for Borders Rail



Judges' comments:

"He was the hugely effective face of CfBR for many years and has absolutely excellent PR skills and social media presence.

He now works for RailTech, providing regular informative articles."

"a gold award is obviously merited."



# RUG Awards 2024: 5 - Judges' Special Award

One Award

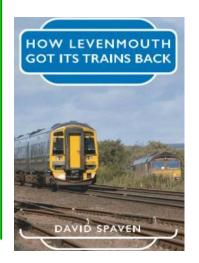


Judges' Special Award: Levenmouth Rail Campaign

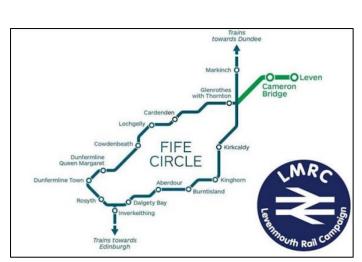
https://levenmouth.co.uk/

Judges' comments:

"Scotland has achieved a rare line re-opening."
"It has actually happened and it supports entirely our 'bigger better railway' strapline."







LEVENMOUTH RAIL LINK>>>

29 MAY 2024

**COMMEMORATIVE TICKET** 

Celebrating the opening of the Levenmouth Rail Link. Valid for return travel from Leven to Edinburgh Waverley



#### **RUG Awards 2024**

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



# GUEST SPEAKERS FROM THE RUG AWARDS WINNERS

- Paul and Carolyn Tattam, Chinley & Buxworth Transport Group
- Roger Davis, Stourbridge Line User Group
- Dennis Fancett, South East Northumberland Rail User Group
- Jordan Jack, Campaign for North East Rail (Scotland)
- Simon Walton, Campaign for Borders Rail
- Allen Armstrong, Levenmouth Rail Campaign



# Railfuture Limited 19<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting Saturday 13 July 2024

# National Chair's closing remarks



# THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING GOOD JOURNEY HOME

# LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING YOU WITH US AGAIN NEXT YEAR

