



# Railfuture Limited

## 19<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

Edinburgh Marriott Hotel Holyrood

# Saturday 13 July 2024

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

## 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 equipped to extract the maximum value from funding available."***

This year's four judges were  
Ian 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."***

# Best Website: Gold Award – Chinley & Buxworth TG



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."***

<https://chinleybuxworthtg.co.uk/>

# 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

[www.stourbridgelineusergroup.info](http://www.stourbridgelineusergroup.info)



Issues 1 to 12  
October 2015 to June 2018



Issues 13 to 24  
September 2018 to June 2021



Issues 25 onwards  
From September 2021



Issues 1 to 12  
October 2015 to June 2018



Issues 13 to 24  
September 2018 to June 2021



Issues 25 onwards  
From September 2021



Issues 1 onwards  
From October 2015



#### CONTENTS

- 1 Wilms Writing
- 2 All Change in May
- 3 Public Meeting and Annual General Meeting
- 4 Christmas Photo Quiz Answers
- 5 News in Brief
- 6 The Train Train @Evolution

Stourbridge Line User Group, All Copyright Reserved, Knowledge, And Memory, 2015-2023.  
www.stourbridgelineusergroup.info



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."***

Annual General Meeting 2024 Edinburgh



### Mayoral Election Hustings Special

SEN RUG 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 Driscoll (the sitting Mayor who is standing as an independent), Thom Campion who spoke on behalf of Aidan King the Liberal-Democrat candidate, and Paul Donaghy (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.

SEN RUG 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 Carnichael

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  
Integrator  
PAGE 11

Reviving Connections -  
Phillipine Style  
PAGE 12

JOIN US



SEN RUG NEWSLETTER - ISSUE 42 - SPRING 2024

**railfuture**

# 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.”**



A railway to regenerate Levenmouth



**LMRC**  
Levenmouth Rail Campaign

This booklet shows the benefits of reinstating the mothballed Levenmouth railway and how this would transform the local community.

A project that ticks all the boxes

	Scottish National Transport Policy	LMRC
High Level Objectives	Enable economic growth	✓
	Promote social inclusion	✓
	Protect environments and improve health	✓
	Improve safety of journeys	✓
Key Strategic Outcomes	Improve integration	✓
	Improve journey times and convenience	✓
	Improve conditions	✓
	Improve quality, accessibility and affordability	✓





# RUG Awards 2024

- Congratulations to all the winners
- Slides for all years are available at [www.railfuture.org.uk/RUG+Awards](http://www.railfuture.org.uk/RUG+Awards)
- Keep in touch with all our rail user groups via [www.railfuture.org.uk/Rail+User+Express](http://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**