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MEETING
5 March
Galashiels
Salmon Inn
Bank Street
7.30-9.30pm

Active Members Sought for variety of roles

CBR is looking to fill a raft of new positions the Campaign, both in the north (Edinburgh to Tweedbank) and central and south Borders to Carlisle. For an agenda and to register your interest, contact Simon Walton at chairman.bordersrail@uwclub.net

Signed, Sealed, and now for Delivery

Pen put to paper on the Borders Railway Project

Still much work to be done by Campaigners

Three months on from the signing of the contract and there's already much activity up and down the line from Edinburgh to Tweedbank.



You can read all about the work underway, in detail, in the Borders Railway Project newsletter, from which this silhouetted digger is stolen (www.bordersrailway.co.uk).

It was a ringing vindication of the Campaign's perseverance and dedication when Transport Minister Keith Brown (pictured right) choose the occasion of the

contract signing to confirm changes to the Tweedbank terminus. Our CBR efforts met with success when the minister announced that Tweedbank will, after all, be built to cope with charter-length trains. Add to that the earlier successes of adding Stow station, and the more subtle changes to designed capacity, and we've much of which to be proud.

However, let's not forget, that the Campaign is all about a complete reinstatement of the main line Waverley Route, serving new generations and old communities. So, if your appetite for reconstruction is whetted, there's still around sixty miles to go.

There's also a timely opportunity for the CBR to become a lasting part of the new railway. The Scottish Government has said that funding will be available for the establishment of Community Rail Partnerships. The CBR intends to apply for that status, and discussions continue on how to integrate our activities.



Your Campaign Needs You More Than Ever Ask not what your Campaign can do for you.

As always, your Campaign needs regular and fairly substantial Funds to continue campaigning effectively. We also need more people to become actively involved, so we can continue to be an effective voice in the development and success of the Borders Railway. We can try to do that by trying to increase our Membership numbers and by individuals and groups of Members raising Funds.

What is beyond doubt is that if we are to effectively contribute to the setting up of a Community Rail Partnership for the Borders Railway, start to work on the extension to Hawick and Carlisle and all the work that will entail, and continue to monitor and comment on what is being proposed for our railway, funds will be required.

Funds and Involvement: you're needed for both

These Funds are simply for the nuts and bolts of effective campaigning, printer ink and paper, postage, Membership of relevant rail campaign support organisations, and so forth.

Our effective campaigning relies not just on adequate funds, which are essential, but on the huge amount of free time given by your Committee Members and our active supporters and campaigners.

If you have any ideas or suggestions for fund raising, please contact your Committee, details are on the back page.



Help! What's your email address?

We'd love to put out our newsletter more frequently, there's plenty going on. Sadly, postal charges make that impossible, unless we can send you this newsletter by email.

There will still be an option to receive a printed copy, but, if you can, please let us send you future newsletters and communications by email.

If you have an email address, please let us know. New member Mhairi Middleton is updating our contacts, and she can be reached at mfmiddleton20@gmail.com

Foot in the Door

Rail re-openings are getting a better press says Lorne Anton

Recently, I have seen items on StARLink (St Andrews - Leuchars) and also the Formartine and Buchan rail line which could re-connect Aberdeen in stages with Ellon, Fraserburgh and Peterhead. During our Campaign I know that former Transport Minister, Stewart Stevenson, said that as the local MSP he hoped to see Peterhead and Fraserburgh back on the rail network one day. Every region of England has at least one active campaign working on a rail re-opening project. From the shires of the South West (Okehampton - Bere Alston) through to the Peak District (Matlock - Buxton), rural communities, market towns and

industrial areas - all looking to be served, again by rail, which will provide all the environmental, social and economic benefits that well considered re-openings bring.

A major decision, in terms of re-openings, was the December 2011 decision to re-open the Varsity Route from Oxford to Cambridge, the East - West Route, and the positive coverage that garnered. Rail campaigners at last have a foot in the door, perhaps even a knee as well. Considering the number of political, economic, business, tourist organisations, and now media that support the re-opening of the whole Waverley Route, we have to think we have a lot of influence "on side," giving some recognition to the work you, CBR Members and Supporters, have done.



Border TV presenter Kathryn Samson, who covered the signing of the Borders Railway Project contract, will host the Gala concert ... in Gala.

Pipers Support Melrose Station with Concert

March fundraiser in Galashiels to support continued restoration of historic station

In the absence, at the moment, of trains terminating in Melrose, work goes on to maintain the magnificent station buildings.

The latest support event is a concert by the Border Strathspey and Reel Society, now in it's fortieth year. On stage, the Society will be joined by players from the Scottish

Borders Pipe Band and the recently for Langlee Community Choir.

Border TV's Kathryn Samson says the organisers were 'brave' to ask her, but she's delighted to be comparing the event.

The venue is the Focus Centre Galashiels at 7.30pm, Saturday 9 March. Admission is just £6, which includes a glass of wine, tea or coffee, and biscuits. Tickets are available from Dave Darling 01896 756735 and Judith Cleghorn 01896 753296, or on the door. There's even a raffle - and did we mention biscuits?

All Change at CBR New committee members in place - chairman calls for many more to get involved

The bad boys did it and ran away. After the culmination of over decade of hard work, the CBR committee have handed over the reigns to a new guard. It might not be the most considered succession plan, but we're making the best of it, and not doing too badly.

New to the Chairman's post is Simon Walton. A long time supporter, if only a recent member, Simon is keeping an eye on construction matters - as work progresses at the bottom of his garden in Fountainhall. With plenty of experience in media, Simon is nothing if not willing to step into the limelight.

Tom Curry is a railway man of the new breed, and has stepped in as the Campaign's Vice Chairman. A commercial partner with DRS, he has the inside track on industry developments, and a wealth of experience in railways, management and commercial direction.

Maureen Anton has taken on the parallel roles of Treasurer and Membership Secretary. Funding and subscriptions are an ongoing commitment, so Maureen is busy day to day keeping the CBR afloat.

To get involved see situations vacant on the next page.



The announcement and signing of the contract on 8 November last year attracted the media in force, out to the Scottish Mining Museum at Newtongrange, adjacent to the future station, and just one Midlothian tourist attraction set to benefit directly from the railway. BBC Scotland, Scottish and Border TV all sent crews along.

CBR members and activists were among the most sought after subjects. Long standing members Richard Crocket and David Spaven were sought out, the latter taking a crew down to examine the trackbed, just behind the former colliery. New chairman Simon Walton, gave interviews to BBC Scotland and Border TV's Kathryn Samson, who later took her crew to Stow, and added some location work to her feature.

Members, including David Spaven and Simon Walton have contributed to Radio Borders and Black Diamond

Campaign for Borders Rail in the News

FM in Midlothian, where Geoff Ruderham regularly updates listeners. Lorne Anton, having vacated the chairman's seat, has taken up his pen once again and is the Campaign's 'Irate of Borders', challenging all-comers in print to the facts about the railway and its public benefits.

Honorary campaigner Madge Elliot entertained a film producer recently, and BBC rural affairs programme Landward plans a feature for later this spring (see Public Speaking, page 3).

Media Watch

The Wrath of Anton

If you see anything less than complimentary to our railway anywhere in the media, let Lorne Anton know on 01890 781698 or lorneanton@yahoo.co.uk.



Abbotsford reopens this summer. Scott's home is just a mile away from Tweedbank station, where CBR efforts secured improvements to allow charter trains to visit, benefiting the Borders tourism industry.

Welcome From Tourism Campaign invited to join official partnership

We have always had a strong membership among the tourism industry, now it's official. The Campaign has been asked to join the Scottish Borders Tourism Partnership Management Committee.

Chairman Simon Walton gave a presentation and took questions at a recent meeting of the committee, held at Visit Scotland's Selkirk offices, which

are on the site of the old branch line station and yard.

Members, with businesses from Fountainhall to Newcastleton were unanimous in their support, both of the railway and the Campaign. Copies of CBR member Sarah Nelson's booklet "Great Ideas" were distributed to the partnership.

The Campaign intends to further extend links with tourism and other businesses throughout the Borders and Midlothian, and open an online supporters guest book.

Public Speaking CBR is making your voice heard

The Campaign is attending the Scottish Government's Rail Environmental Policy - Community Rail Partnerships Conference - on 19 February 2013, in Edinburgh. This is an opportunity to promote the Borders as a rail-connected business and tourism destination, and to make further connections with government and industry at large. It is also a valuable opportunity, to further our ambitions to apply for Community Rail Partnership status - which carries government funding, and has proved successful elsewhere in promoting tourism travel to areas served by branch and rural railways.

The next day, at the invitation of the Borders Chamber of Commerce, the Campaign is attending a meeting of the Chamber, at Cardrona Hotel, Peebles). The guest speaker is Richard Lochhead MSP, Minister for Rural Affairs and the Environment, with whom chairman Simon Walton seeks to promote both the work of the Campaign (including restating the eventual aim for full reinstatement between Edinburgh and Carlisle) and emphasising the part the railway will play in helping economic growth in the Borders and Midlothian.

On 28 February, the BBC Scotland rural affairs programme, Landward, is filming a feature on the Borders Railway Project, at various locations along the line. Simon Walton is among those to be interviewed - for transmission in early April.

Situations Vacant

Find the role that's right for you

No pay, no rights, no job description - the Campaign has committee, sub committee and active roles for members. This is your chance to be involved. What would you like to do? For more details and for how much time or how little effort is required for each post, or if you have an active idea of your own, contact the chairman, Simon Walton at chairman.bordersrail@uwclub.net

- Edinburgh Officer / Secretary (estimated commitment is 2hrs min per month)
- Midlothian Officer / Secretary (2hrs per month)
- Central Borders Officer / Secretary (2hrs per month)
- South Borders Officer / Secretary (2hrs per month)
- Carlisle and Cumbria Officer / Secretary (2hrs per month)
- Membership development (individuals) (2hrs per month)
- Membership development (corporate) (2hrs per month)
- PR Media Pack Development (2hrs per month)
- Community Rail Partnership application (4hrs per month)
- Policy Officer (inc FAQ and Media Pack) (2hrs per month)
- Member Benefits coordinator (2hrs per month)
- Social Secretary and Organiser (2hrs per month)
- Newsletter Editor (2hrs per month)
- Media Watcher (2hrs per month)
- Rolling Stock campaign (1hr per month)
- Timetable campaign (1hr per month)
- ACoRP Liaison officer (1hr per month)
- Railway Development Society (Transport Futures) Liaison officer (1hr per month)
- Station Adoption leader: Eskbank (1hr per month)
- Station Adoption leader: Newtongrange (1hr per month)
- Station Adoption leader: Gorebridge (1hr per month)
- Station Adoption leader: Stow (1hr per month)
- Station Adoption leader: Galashiels (1hr per month)
- Station Adoption leader: Tweedbank (1hr per month)

One along in a minute...



Member Benefits

Member Benefits

Save cash while supporting CBR

If helping fund the Campaign for Borders Rail **SAVED** you money, how much would you want to save?

Find out how you can **SAVE** money while supporting CBR, by getting more details, via email or text, to Simon Walton on waltonsg@uwclub.net or 07540 313018

Member Benefits

Calling Midlothian and Borders Enterprises

Get behind the project with just an email

Business, Commerce, Industry Retail, Voluntary and Third Sector, Secular and Spiritual - showing your support is free!

We're putting together a list of supporters out there in the community - a sort of virtual guest book, except it might be a real guest book one day.

Anyway, we want to start by getting your business on board, as it were, as a supporter of the Borders Railway Project, the Campaign for Borders Rail, and the entire Waverley Route.

If you think your business or organisation can benefit from rails in Midlothian and the Borders, all we want is an expression of your support.

If you are someone who likes us, or you know some enterprise who you think would say "Yes to rails in Midlothian, yes to rails in the Borders" then simply send an email with "Yes to rails in Midlothian, yes to rails in the Borders" to the Campaign chairman, Simon Walton at chairman.bordersrail@uwclub.net

Contact us: chairman.bordersrail@uwclub.net
Membership enquiries: call 01890 781698

In the next issue:
Community Rail Partnership status
Fundraising that saves you money
Memories of a Newcastleton country doctor
HS2C: Hawick Southwards 2 Carlisle