



www.campaignforbordersrail.org :: CBR :: Newsletter #44 :: September 2013

- IN THIS ISSUE**
- AGM 2013: Onwards to Hawick
 - Dear Diary - we've been busy
 - Social Media Like & Tweet us
 - Hassendean - a bridge to star
 - Community Rail joint ticketing
 - Get on the CBR Committee - it's fun and free

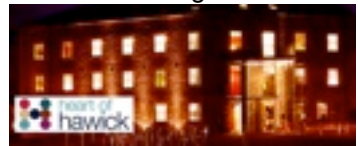


- ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2013**
- Wednesday 27 November**
Tower Mill Theatre
Heart of Hawick
6.30-8.00pm
 (followed by informal hour)
- 6.30 AGM**
- 7.00 The Hawick panel speakers**
- 7.30 Public Q&A and resolution**
- 8.00 Stay on to meet friends, or leave in time for last buses north and south**

AGM 2013: Onwards to Hawick

Campaign meeting combined with public discussion on next destination

Building the Borders Railway is one thing, but the Campaign has always been about even bigger ambitions. That's why we've made the decision to theme our next meeting **AGM 2013: Onwards to Hawick**, and host the meeting in the town.



Our AGM will not just be about putting our administration in place for the next year, we're also hosting a public meeting, seeking opinion from the people of Hawick on the prospects of returning rail services.

The meeting will start promptly at 6.30pm and is open to the general public and CBR members alike.

Official business, including election of office-bearers will be conducted between 6.30 and 7pm. From 7pm we look forward to hearing a series of short presentations from speakers representing business, tourism, political and campaigning interests, with a particular focus on bringing the railway back to Hawick. A Question & Answer session will follow before the meeting votes on a closing resolution at 8pm.

CBR members wishing to attend are encouraged, if

possible, to inform the Chair in advance so that sufficient seating can be held in reserve.

Contact Simon Walton: chairman.bordersrail@uwclub.net
 01578 760686.

Refreshments can be purchased from the on-site cafe-bar.



Busiest eight months ever for Campaign

proof that the work is anything but finished

Members have been left to fend for themselves for much of this year - but with our social media and online presence (see this page) there's still been plenty of news. So thanks to both David Spaven and Andrew Bethune for keeping our digital presence up to date. All contributions welcome on any platform of course.

Since the last meeting...

It hardly seems we've had time to draw breath since fifty members met in Galashiels at the end of February.

Government...

We have met, talked, and corresponded with MSPs, MPs, MEPs and members of the upper house. In fact, Lord Faulkner of Worcester ("the railway peer") is now a member, thanks to the recruitment drive of our London Officer, Nick Bethune. Several times we have taken the lead in refuting spurious comment against the Borders Railway. We tabled questions at the Scottish Government Cabinet meeting in Hawick in August.

Authorities...

Such has been the volume of correspondence between CBR and Transport Scotland and Network Rail that the former convened at meeting at Newtongrange to debate many of the issues raised by the Campaign. Notably, we discussed future proofing, capacity,



We are social media Facebook and Twitter add to our online presence.

Our new **Facebook** page is proving popular so like us, join in the conversations, and spread the word ([campaignforbordersrail](https://www.facebook.com/campaignforbordersrail))

Follow us on **Twitter** too. Our handle is [@BordersRail](https://twitter.com/BordersRail)

Don't forget our **website** and **blog** too, for frequent updates. Make our page a favourite www.campaignforbordersrail.org

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

infrastructure, cycle provision and pedestrian access. We've won few points but continue our dialogue.

Consultations...

We have delivered detailed responses to Scottish Government and Network Rail, making the case for full reinstatement to Carlisle.

Media...

In March, we took part in BBC Scotland's Landward programme, with two features on the Waverley Route, Campaign and the Borders Railway. "They dropped my interview," says Chairman Walton.

David Spaven and Allan MacLean appeared on STV Scotland Tonight, debating the railway.

We have had numerous other TV and radio appearances and contributed interviews, features,

responses and letters to a whole host of daily and weekly newspapers and magazines, both railway specialist and general.

Tourism...

We've been heavily involved with tourism in the Borders. We're represented on the management group of the Scottish Borders Tourism Partnership, and CBR was well represented on and off the stage at a Borders Railway symposium in May at Tweed Horizons (Newton St Boswells).

Also...

We're updating our own administration and communications; took part in "Beeching" commemorations; spoke at many meetings; and attended a rather sodden Royal Garden Party.

Wooden it be good!

Borders Rail contractors and Network Rail help restoration of historic Hassendean station

In the last edition it was Melrose, this time we're out in the country at Hassendean, near Hawick.

Once, it was a railhead for Denholm and the surrounding area, what set Hassendean apart was it's splendid wooden footbridge.

CBR member Tom Pyemont has turned the station into his family home, studio and highly popular holiday accommodation. The footbridge though has been a project too far - until now.

A generous donation of recycled timbers, offered by Network Rail and BAM, were recently delivered so that Tom can continue the good work. You can too - Tom welcomes visitors from the CBR whenever he can. Call first of course - visit www.hassendeanstation.com for more details.



Hassendean of old, sporting its footbridge and charming station buildings. Everything but the tracks remain today.

Exciting opportunities for “joint ticketing”

Sarah Nelson leads the CBR application for a Community Rail Partnership for the Borders Railway and says there are plenty of fares for fairs, please.



In the Cotehele Estate project, Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership worked with the National Trust to increase visitors to the waymarked estate. There was a bus link from nearby stations which displayed posters and adverts, leaflets and interpretation boards.

A minibus service links Llandeilo station, Heart of Wales line, to attractions like the National Botanic Garden of Wales and Dryslwyn Castle. Bus ticket holders get a 50% entry fee discount..

The Wensleydale Railway has developed tours “in the footsteps of the artist Turner”, who visited the area in 1816.

Adapting to the Borders Railway

With collaboration between train and bus companies, tourism agencies, NTS and Historic Scotland, there could be train and bus/minibus connections, (e.g. from Galashiels or Tweedbank) to a range of attractions and festivals.

The National Mining Museum of Scotland, Newtongrange, is a major visitor attraction, already a strong supporter of the railway. It runs special events throughout the year including Victorian themed tours, Ghost Tours and Family Fun Days, with an Access for Learning facility about coal mining in Scotland’s history.

In Midlothian, there could also be a Rosslyn Chapel tour (now refurbished and even more popular ever since the *Da Vinci Code*)! - from Eskbank .

In Borders, the world-famous Abbotsford and the Roman Camp of Trimontium- both supporters of our railway- and Melrose Abbey are all near Tweedbank station. The Trimontium Trust already runs a popular museum and regular guided walks to Newstead. All three might organise and publicise combined train-walk-entrance fee arrangements for example. Major developments at Abbotsford including the new conference & visitors’ centre, the reopened House and the forthcoming Year of Waverley, the 200th anniversary of this great historical novel, offering many exciting opportunities for collaboration.

Events are just the ticket

There are possibilities too in the Braw Lads festival, St Boswells Gypsy Fair, Borders Abbeys tour, Traquair Mediaeval Fayre, a

Traquair and the Jacobites tour, or a Selkirk & Flodden tour. Popular annual events include the Common Ridings, the Borders Book Festival in Melrose and the Peebles Arts Festival. Gardens tours could include Mertoun House Gardens at St. Boswells, or Priorwood Garden. In sport, the Melrose Sevens is of course hugely popular.

All these imaginative initiatives could include reduced entry or combined rail/bus/entry. That could benefit everyone- businesses, transport agencies, attractions and customers alike - and of course boost the financial success of the Borders Railway, which will also strengthen the case for its extension to Hawick.

***Help our Community Rail Partnership application. Contact Sarah Nelson or Simon Walton (see page one)**



CBR Vice Chair Tom Curry (left non dayglo) and Chair Simon Walton were invited by Network Rail to officially open the Fountainhall Engineering Base

Campaign seeks new Committee members

Stand, nominate, or second

No matter what the outcome of our AGM and Resolution 2014 is set to be just as busy as this momentous year. You can play a bigger role in shaping the future of the Campaign by joining the committee. That’s actually more fun than it sounds.

We need more members to come forward. You can either stand for election against any of the existing committee, stand for any vacant

office, or seek to join the committee without a specific office.

The demands are as much or as little as you want. The Campaign is entirely voluntary, but all our work is taken seriously, both by CBR, and by all the organisations we deal with, from Network Rail and Transport Scotland to local and national government.

To stand or nominate, contact Chairman Simon Walton (see page one) - even if you want to stand against him - he’s cool about things like that.

Is your membership up to date? Please renew

At only £5.00 per annum, and just £30.00 for life membership, we're not just one of the most successful grassroots rail campaign bodies in Britain, we're undoubtedly the best bargain of all.

That means of course, we have to keep our members. So please check if your membership is up to date. You can renew simply by sending a cheque (made out to "Campaign for Borders Rail") to our membership secretary, Maureen Anton, membership secretary, Campaign for Borders Rail, Boorach Beag, Summerhill Park, Ayton Berwickshire, TD14 5QQ.



Cycling and pedestrian access to the Borders Railway is a top issue for the CBR. We lobby for the best provision on trains and at stations for cyclists; and for better walking routes too.



Get Active for the CBR

What your help would mean to the Campaign for Borders Rail

Over the years, the Campaign for Borders Rail has benefitted from an astounding level of voluntary support. Everyone involved gives of their time freely. In fact, their enthusiasm probably costs them a good deal in time and energy.

We really need your active support now, as much as ever. So, take the opportunity of this AGM to step up to an active role.

Media Watch

The Wrath of Lorne

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.

We really need help with a **Minute Secretary** (or two). It takes a little time - but that's all, and you really will be at the heart of things.

If you're up for **helping with the newsletter, or social media**, that would be very welcome too.

If **you just want to help**, whenever you can - that's just as valuable.

Help spread the load and help make the Campaign even more effective and rewarding.

27 Nov
2013
6.30 - 8pm

Getting there...

More details on our website

AGM 2013: Onwards to Hawick

AGM and Public Meeting
Finishes in time for last buses to Edinburgh and Carlisle