



The Levenmouth Rail Campaign Newsletter

"More Than Just a Railway!"

**Campaign
Update 37**

**January
2018**

Happy New Year, Everyone - Enjoy 2018!



Above: The Playfair Consulting Group brief LMRC members at their meeting on Tuesday, 28th. November.

"More Than Just a Railway!"

New Slogan ... and Plenty of New Campaign Strategies

"A *FIRST-CLASS* Presentation from @Playfair15 tonight - lots of well-evidenced analysis and useful recommendations!

— That was how the LMRC 're-tweeted' the St. Andrews-based *Playfair Consulting Group* for their impressive display at the final meeting of 2017 at *Fife College*, on Methil-haven Road, Buckhaven.

The LMRC, and the 'News' editor Alistair Aynsough, thank all of them for all that sterling work!

He has already adopted the new LMRC campaign slogan '***More Than Just a Railway***' for these newsletters' main title-banners.

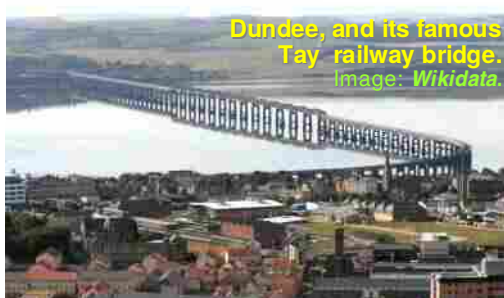
The meeting, on Tuesday, 28th. November, was to set out new campaign strategies - including how best to liaise with Councils and the media, *and* how to embrace social media and enhance website or newsletter content; strengthen our case; attract new people to our cause — and learn from previous Scottish success stories like the now-reinstated Airdrie-Bathgate line and *Borders Railway*. LMRC are certainly all-set for what they trust will be a very positive, *and productive*, **2018**.

The Dundee-Levenmouth Connection

LAST MONTH The *Levenmouth Rail Campaign* met up with their new 'mentors', *Playfair Consulting Group*, and also *Dundee Council*'s transport officials, for an important get together, to discuss just how the Levenmouth rail link might benefit Dundee in future, and not just Levenmouth. Gregor Hamilton, Head of the *Council*'s Planning and Economic Development division, chaired the meeting, as his officials highlighted the *Council*'s top two strategic transport priorities — to **Reduce Journey Times between Dundee** and other major Scottish cities, and also **Improve Access to the City of Dundee** for workers and visitors. The officials also said about half of Dundee's citizens do not have access to a car, and are wholly reliant on public transport.

LMRC State Their Case

The *Levenmouth Rail Campaign* then stated their case to the *Council* - who soon realised that this project would have significant benefits to Levenmouth, and also have a definite potential to bring benefits to wider areas of Scotland ... including Dundee. The Transport Committee's main concern was that services might just run between Levenmouth and Edinburgh, rather than between Levenmouth and Dundee: the lack of a direct



**Dundee, and its famous
Tay railway bridge.
Image: Wikidata.**

connection could reduce Dundee's likely benefits but, by calling at a 'minor' platform at one or other of the stations along the way, a Levenmouth-Edinburgh train could then be passed by a faster (or non-stop) Dundee-Edinburgh one, with a similar arrangement suggested for trains travelling in the opposite direction — something that seems to be favoured.

Council officials confirmed "the LMRC has the potential to help *Dundee Council* in their strategic transport priorities".

The importance of *Fife Council*'s involvement with LMRC was highlighted again. They play a significant part in the campaign to re-instate the Levenmouth Rail Link, and LMRC will remind them of this at future meetings with their officials.

Talks with local Councils will be crucial to find out just how the Levenmouth Rail Link would fit in with the future *National Transport Strategy*, and also the *Strategic Transport Review*.

Further talks between Campaigners and at least one of the region's Councils is due for later this month.

LMRC News Says: *The*

CREDIBLE

Journey

Continues !

REINSTATE THE LEVEN-EDINBURGH RAIL-LINK NOW!

LMRC Meetings

Our MAIN, PUBLIC ["Action Group"] MEETINGS are Held Monthly at

Fife College, Methilhaven Road, Buckhaven, Leven, KY8 1EA., (Just West of Levenmouth Academy).

Next: Tuesday, 30th. January, at 6.30 p.m..

For Further Information Please see *LMRC* Contacts Below...



Image by:
Ken Haig.

"I Like to Move It ... "*
... to **Fife College** Rooms !



* 'Song-Title Arrows': Reel to Real Ft. Mad Stuntman, [1994].

Later LMRC Meetings ...

LMRC Action Group Meeting —
Tuesday, 27th. February, 6.30 p.m.;

LMRC Action Group Meeting
— Tuesday, 27th. March, 6.30 p.m.;

LMRC Action Group Meeting
— Tuesday, 24th. April, 6.30 p.m..

Other Dates and Contact Details Below

Campaign Call - "Lobby Your MSP!" Say LMRC

THE LMRC Appeals for everyone who wants the **Levenmouth Rail Link** back to write to their MSP or MP (or Councillor) right away. — The more **you** do, the more chance there will be for your long-lost rail-link to be reinstated in future... !

A new list, similar to one until lately published in *LMRC News*, may be added to the *LMRC* website, www.lmrc-action.org.uk, but readers may wish to contact the official Parliamentary sites — www.parliament.scot and / or www.parliament.uk.

LMRC Contacts

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Produced by ALISTAIR AYNSCOUGH, Colinsburgh, Fife, for the **LevenMouth Rail Campaign**.

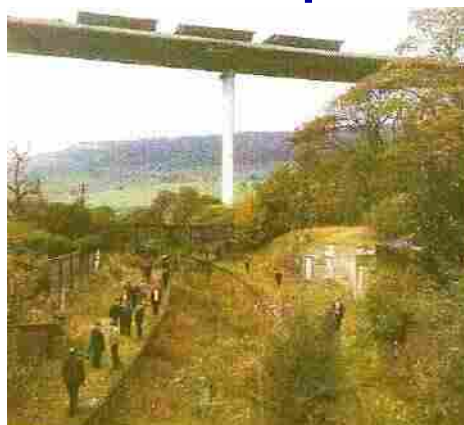
FAQ

Answers

Frequently-Asked Questions: This Feature has been 'Sidelined', for now at least – but Please Remember that there is still an **F.A.Q.** Page on the *LMRC* Website ... www.lmrc-action.org.uk !

'Railway Revival' Proposals

Right: Old Kilpatrick Station, near Dumbarton, Glasgow, on 17 October 1970, is busy with rail enthusiasts. Above them, *Erskine Bridge* takes shape, nine months before its opening. This station, and much of the railway, closed in 1964.



[Details: *Wikipedia Website* — Image: Lt. Col. D. M. Anderson Collection.]

SOME OF THE Railways closed by Richard Beeching's infamous 1963 "axe" and, later, by *British Rail*, may yet be reinstated. Some 4,000 miles of track were closed by the 'not-so-good doctor' [but **not** the line to *Levenmouth*] and lifted, mainly in rural areas — but now, *U.K. Transport Secretary Chris Grayling* has admitted "**former railways** would be **re-opened** if they '**unlock jobs, encourage house-building, ease congestion and offer value for money**'"... - exactly the kind of criteria that make a re-opened *Levenmouth Rail Link* such a beneficial and wise option to join this group.

Work on a revived link between historic university cities Oxford and Cambridge route starts this year, and there are also plans to re-open old lines around Bristol, Birmingham, Exeter and North-East England. ... We would love to see a certain one in Scotland re-opened, too !



Chris Grayling said:
"A new development programme will identify which lines would encourage house-building, ease overcrowding on trains, and offer good value for money".

This is **Queensbury [Junction] Station**; *Great Northern Railway* between Bradford, Keighley and Halifax, West [Riding of] Yorkshire, on 6th. September, 1964, two days after the Queen opened the *Forth Road Bridge*. It closed to passengers in 1955, totally in 1963. The 2,501-yard (2,287m.) *Queensbury Tunnel*, just around the curve in the distance, has been the subject of a cycle-route bid in the last few years - but may yet be filled-in.

[Details: *Wikipedia* — Image: Lt. Col. D. M. Anderson Collection.]

From The Creator of '**Brougham Hall News**'.

LMRC News - January 2018 - www.lmrc-action.org.uk



The Levenmouth Rail Campaign Newsletter

"Much More Than a Transport Project!"

**Campaign
Update 38
February
2018**

**"A 'Scandalous' Number of Levenmouth and Glenrothes Areas' Children Now in Poverty"
... PLEASE: Re-Open this Rail Link Soon -- for Next Generation!**

Image: "R.F. / Wiki Sobre Wiki - Home" and the Microsoft 'Clip-Art' Library.



'Doing It For The Kids' ...!

Story: **East Fife Mail** and **Kingdom FM Radio**..

ONE OF The area's MSPs has described the number of Levenmouth children living in poverty as **"scandalous"** - and is likely to use their plight as one of the many reasons why the Levenmouth Rail Link really ought to be reinstated ... and why the *Levenmouth Rail Campaign* readily accept they are keeping up the pressure knowing that they are "doing it for the kids", the next generation, who would appreciate the line's revival.

Jenny Gilruth, MSP for Mid-Fife and Glenrothes (including Levenmouth), is already a prominent supporter of the *LMRC*; it was Jenny who called for that memorable *Holyrood* debate on the Rail Link in September.

She was responding to a report in the *East Fife Mail*, last month, that "5,657 children in the constituency live in poverty". This report was compiled by the *End Child Poverty Coalition*, and though they admitted 'it is *thought*' that many youngsters are poor (the newspaper stated), the fact anyone at all is in such a position just goes to show that something — particularly reopening the Rail Link — must be done to lift them, their families, and the Levenmouth area too of course, out of their predicament.

It's safe to say, however, that whoever 'rules the roost' at *Holyrood*, when such a decision is made, will surely reap the benefits of Levenmouth being reconnected once again with Edinburgh, and the rest of Britain, in terms of votes and kudos here in Levenmouth!

1,448 youngsters in the Buckhaven, Methil and Leven "ward" alone are in poverty, the report by the *End Child Poverty Coalition* states. *Fife Gingerbread*, the Leven-based childrens' and lone-parents' charity, are among those who know just how important it would be for the Levenmouth Rail Link to live again. Some of their representatives regularly attend meetings of the *LMRC*.

Rhona Cunningham, the charity *C.E.O.*, told *East Fife Mail*: "The figures are not a surprise. The people here face a *triple-whammy* - poor opportunities, poor transport, and, perhaps, it's unfair to say, low expectations. I think they have come to accept their lot. The benefits system has people beaten. I have never seen things *this* bad. ..."

● I found *this* during my research - *East Fife Mail* website, 9 Jan., 2012 — **Glenrothes MP Lindsay Roy** said: "Child poverty overall in my area is 28%, but that frightening figure almost pales into insignificance [...with the...] 40% in **Buckhaven, Methil** and the **Wemyss villages**. It can only be described as shocking — *that's the sort of poverty you expected in Victorian times !!*"



Apart from saying that Jenny Gilruth laid into the *Westminster* Government and their policies, *LMRC News* keeps to the rule that ours is a 'non-political' campaign — with all due respect, it matters little who is in office when MSPs - or *Transport Scotland* - make this important decision.

"Pester Power": In May 2016 *LMRC News* suggested that children might apply pressure of their own for the Rail Link.



Above: Jenny Gilruth, (left), with David Torrance and Humza Yousaf, the Transport (& Islands) Minister, with just part of the *LMRC* Petition at *Holyrood* on 1st. June.

L.M.R.C. News / The CREDIBLE Journey Continues ...!

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Levenmouth Academy

(Fife College Campus), Methilhaven Road, Buckhaven, Leven, (KY8 1EA) - at 6.30 p.m.

Next: TUESDAY, 27th. February, 2018.

For Further Information Please see LMRC Contacts Below...



Image by:
Ken Haig.



... to Fife College Rooms !

* 'Song-Title Arrows': Shawn Mendes. [2017]

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CAMPAIGN CALL ...

"LOBBY YOUR MSP!" SAY LMRC

THE LMRC Appeals for everyone who wants the Levenmouth Rail Link back to write to their MSP or MP (or Councillor) right away. — The more **you** do, the more chance there will be for your long-lost rail-link to be reinstated in the near-future ... !

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Main Website: www.lmrc-action.org.uk

Facebook - www.facebook.com/levenmouth.railcampaign

Produced by ALISTAIR AYNSCOUGH, Colinsburgh, Fife, for the LevenMouth Rail Campaign.

A "Mountain to Climb" for Railway Campaigners ?!

CRAG Meeting Soon in Edinburgh

WITH A Daunting Mix of Politics and Bureaucracy to surmount, it's probably no coincidence how the **Capital Rail Action Group** got its name and initials.

We know only too well in the LMRC, as others in campaign groups everywhere know, that campaigning for reinstatement of old railways is something of a rather challenging, very craggy, "mountain to climb" !!

In fewer words we, and **RailFuture Scotland** (of course!) announce the next **CRAG** event

CAPITAL RAIL ACTION GROUP

"Dear Railfuture Scotland member. ... In case you are not yet aware of it, I would like to draw the attention of members to the following **CRAG** event:

Thursday, 1st. March, 2018,

at

7.30 P.M.,

at the

Quaker Meeting House,

7 Victoria Terrace, EDINBURGH, EH1 2JL..

David Shirres, the Editor of **Rail Engineer**, will give a Presentation entitled "To [Re-]Open or Not to Re-Open" - an Illustrated Talk on "What Makes a Good Rail Re-Opening Scheme ... and What Does Not".

Other Meetings: Thursdays, 5th. April, and 3rd. May,

... Same Place ... Same Time !

"I hope very much to see many of you once again in the coming months. Please also feel free to pass this information on to any friends and colleagues who you think might also be interested in coming along."

- Lawrence Marshall, Capital Rail Action Group.

'Note To Bureaucrats' ... Don't Mull Over the Same Problem for Too Long

- You'll only Get Bored with it ! ...

Sort Out an Issue, Move On, and then

... .. **Achieve Something !!**

— Alistair Aynsough, LMRC News' Editor.

From The Creator of 'Brougham Hall News'.

LMRC News - February 2018 - www.lmrc-action.org.uk



The Levenmouth Rail Campaign Newsletter

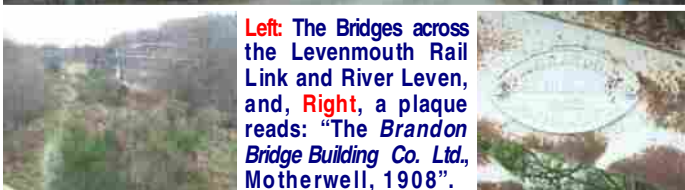
"Much More Than a Transport Project!"

**Campaign
Update 39
March
2018**

Closure of 110-Year-Old Crossing Could Cause Chaos in Leven ...

Will Iron Bridge 'Block' just Road-Block Town?

Below - "Iron Brig": A 3-tonne weight limit is in force on the railway (No. 18) and river bridges near the sawmill in Leven — which are set to close after being described as "uneconomic" to repair.



Left: The Bridges across the Levenmouth Rail Link and River Leven, and, **Right,** a plaque reads: "The Brandon Bridge Building Co. Ltd., Motherwell, 1908".

Story: *The Courier* [Fife], Tues., 6th. February.:

THE "IRON BRIG" Bridges in Leven, which have had a three-tonne weight restriction for several years, are set for closure — bringing the prospect of yet more traffic woes for Leven, and Levenmouth as a whole.

Cars and light vans would have to go via the Bawbee Bridge with the other, heavier traffic — adding to the congestion they can presently ease by taking to the "Iron Brig". A popular cycleway and footpath would also be affected - *LMRC News'* editor Alistair Aynscoough often uses the bridges when he is in Leven, or passing through this seaside town while on a ride out. Many more will be effected, not least commuters who use the crossing as a direct route to or from their places of employment.

Officially known as the Leven Sawmill River Bridge (dated 1908), and Leven Sawmill Railway Bridge, these very different spans might have had strengthening work done on them, but are now considered "uneconomic" for either repair or replacement, and could shut within weeks.

- *Fife Council* currently looks after and maintains 443 bridges and 281 retaining walls, which have a total replacement value of around £387 million. Ken Gourlay, the *Council's* Head of Assets, Transportation and The Environment, said: "weight restrictions and other temporary measures on bridges have been a result of a 'historic and persistent backlog of bridge-strengthening and maintenance work beyond the scope of the money available'".

BIG CONFERENCE FOR LMRC NEXT MONTH

**MSPs, MPs, Councillors, Rail Industry Experts,
Campaigners - and The Public - Set to Attend**

**[Friday, 27th. April, 2018, at the
Fife Renewables Innovation Centre,
Methil Docks, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.]**

Story: *Fife Free Press*, Friday, 23rd. February.:

THE LEVENMOUTH Rail Campaign has organised a big conference to help maintain the pressure on railway authorities and politicians to reinstate the Rail Link.

It is now getting on for fifty years since passenger trains last served the Levenmouth area, which, apart from Leven itself, also incorporates Methil, Buckhaven, Kennoway, Windygates, the Wemyss villages, and much of the East Neuk of Fife. We would love to see as many people as possible from these rail-deprived communities !

The Conference will open at 11 a.m. on Friday, 27th. April, at our 'auld haunt', the *Fife Renewables Innovation Centre* at Methil Docks, near Leven. After the dignitaries have made their presentations, the second part of the conference will form a workshop, in which people have the chance to share their views on how to get the Scottish Government to back this vital scheme.

"It will bring together MSPs, MPs, councillors, rail industry experts, *LMRC* campaigners and members of the public", the campaigners say; "... to update on the progress of the campaign and to discuss the steps to be taken to ensure the rail link is reinstated. Speakers confirmed at the event so far include rail expert David Shirres and *Borders Rail* campaigner David Parker."

L.M.R.C. News

The CREDIBLE Journey Continues ...

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6.30 p.m., TUESDAY, 27th. March.

For Further Information Please see *LMRC* Contacts Below...



Image by:
Ken Haig.

"Bring it On Home [to Me]" *



... to **Fife College Rooms** !

* 'Song-Title Arrows': Sam Cooke (1962).

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also: LMRC CONFERENCE

— Friday, 27th. April, 11.00 a.m.,

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Methil Docks, Leven, [to 2 p.m.].

FREE REGISTRATION for This Event — Visit ...

<https://levenrailconference.eventbrite.co.uk>

For Other Dates and Details ...

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THE CRISIS AT *BiFab*

'Jobseekers with Plenty of Skills – But No Fast Commute'

THE CRISIS at *BiFab* shows just how significant the *LMRC* Conference will likely be in the bid to bring back the trains, with the company at risk of collapse for want of a decent order it, and its many, highly-loyal employees, yearn for so greatly.

All Levenmouth folks should now, perhaps, take a leaf out of *their* book, and show some of the determination in campaigning for the Levenmouth Rail Link that the many *BiFab* workers clearly showed by working on when the company was in danger of insolvency, just before Christmas, as they hoped to help save *BiFab*, let alone protect their own jobs.

We can only hope that work for them will come, and that there is little more to the threats of redundancy than the fear stoked by a legal requirement to send out redundancy letters.

The last thing Levenmouth needs is for such threats to become reality, especially if there are suddenly many new jobseekers here, with plenty of skills ... but no fast commute !

Significant Media Coverage

EFM, *Rail Magazine* - and *TV* - for *LMRC*

AFTER SO Long Spent Trying, it now looks as though the *LMRC* is starting to make more of a "splash" with the national media. This was discussed nearly a year ago, during the General Election campaign, with some members so concerned that the media were favouring national rather than local issues, such as the Rail Link, that they 'took action', with *LMRC* posters, when a *BBC* film crew interviewed a local MP close to their stall in Leven High Street. Later came *ITV*'s coverage of the Campaign on Wednesday, 27th. September - the day of the *Holyrood* debate - and then of the debate itself on *BBC Parliament*.

Now, things have moved a few steps further. Following a November morning spent by *LMRC* members sending copies of the new *Campaign Booklet* and other publicity items to various reporters around Scotland and farther afield, the *East Fife Mail* - already a follower of the *LMRC* and its earlier forms over several years - formally declared its backing for our Campaign, and continues to publish readers' letters on the Rail Link ... *virtually all in favour*!

The *Courier* and the *Fife Free Press* have also run with various stories, such as the impending 'Iron Brig' closure and our Conference next month — stories included in this edition of *LMRC News*. The fortnightly *Rail* magazine gave us a *four-page spread* in mid-February, earning our efforts some priceless publicity all around Britain, and, at the end of January, *BBC Reporting Scotland* had a feature on a budget deal at *Holyrood* — their top story that night. This featured two members of the *LMRC* walking along the still-remaining tracks behind the town's largest supermarket — and were very glad of this publicity beamed all around Scotland, and all around the world with the likes of the '*BBC i-Player*'!

Whatever the Levenmouth public think of the new budget arrangements, they would at least have been heartened by the *BBC*'s political editor Brian Taylor's comments on the railways' future growth prospects. Then, we have been told there will be yet more Scotland-wide TV coverage, with the Levenmouth Rail Link set to feature on *BBC-1's* "*Mind The Gap: Are Scotland's Railways Fit for The 21st. Century?*", on Monday, 26th. February — We hope to cover this in *LMRC News* next time. - Until then, everyone, let's just keep hoping and praying (*not necessarily* like the late evangelist Billy Graham!), reading and writing to the media, and to MSP's., MP's., etc., and *looking out for progress*!

Produced by ALISTAIR AYNSCOUGH, Colinsburgh,
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From The Creator of '*Brougham Hall News*'.

LMRC News - March 2018 - www.lmrc-action.org.uk



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**Campaign
Update 40**

**April
2018**

'I Walk The Line!...'



**Grand Event to Involve
Different Generations -
Retracing the Tracks of
Levenmouth Rail Link**

THE YOUNG and the Young-at-Heart are being encouraged to band together, and help in the bid to re-open the Levenmouth Rail Link.

To make sure that they can get their feet on a train at either Leven or Cameron Bridge Station **in the not-too-distant future** – locals and anyone else are being invited to put their best feet forward for a massed walk along the 5½-mile (9-kilometre) rail route.



Passenger Notice:

**'Get on Track' for
Monday, 23 April!**

A **"Walk the Line"** event has been arranged for Monday, 23rd. April, and will involve local schools, colleges and anyone else who want this absolutely vital transport connection to be reinstated.

Further details of timings and other aspects of the day's activities will be released very soon — and the *LevenMouth Rail Campaign* would love you to come along!! It really should be worth the effort if as many people as possible can come along and *Walk This Line* later this month; the more the better as this really ought to make those at *Transport Scotland* and *Network Rail*, MSP's., Ministers, and everyone else in authority, sit up and listen..., and watch..., or even take part themselves to help spread the word on this! **Look out on Facebook, the newspapers, or other media, for announcements. ...**

THE BIG CONFERENCE FOR LMRC ...

[Friday, 27th. April, 2018, at the
Fife Renewables Innovation Centre ,
Methil Docks, from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.]

Fife Council "Committed" to Levenmouth Rail Link

Story: *Dundee Evening Telegraph*,
Saturday, 17th. March.:

FIFE COUNCIL have confirmed their commitment to reinstating the Levenmouth Rail Link.

The local authority vowed just days ago that they would "do everything in [their] power to boost the bid, following an appeal for support from *LevenMouth Rail Campaign* group members".

Fife Council co-leader David Alexander has, however, warned the campaigners, and everyone else with an interest in having the trains returning, that the case for reopening the line between Leven and Thornton must be "as robust as possible". He added: "A sense of entitlement to the rail connection 'will get us nowhere'."

Later this year *Transport Scotland* are due to announce the funding allocations for various projects around the country, and they are currently reviewing a report that contains all the latest information they could ever need on the proposed Levenmouth connection to the outside world... We're waiting for more than just trains...

Eugene Clarke, chairman of the *Levenmouth Rail Campaign*, said: "Reinstating the link to Thornton, which means having direct train services from Leven to Edinburgh, has been described by rail experts as a 'no-brainer'.

"It is technically straight-forward as the line — and all of the *permissions* — are already in place."

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"Too Many Lorries on Road — despite the warnings against travel in today's Heavy Snow"

— *Nicola Sturgeon's* comment

at *First Minister's Question Time, Holyrood Parliament*,
Thursday, 1st. March.

... but there's **No Suitable Freight-Train Provision**, or there would be fewer trucks. Anyway, our 'sources' now tell us that, more often than not, it is **some** car or van drivers, likely to have far less experience of the road than the average "trucker", who are more likely to ground to a halt in the snow, and then halt the trucks, and **they're** less able to get going again,

... something that makes a lot of "average motorists" much rather

"Go By Train!"

... Once **WE'RE** Connected!!

Levenmouth Transport Study: Invitation to 'Workshop' ...

New Consultants Appointed

Story by e-Mail with Attachment: **Allen Armstrong (LMRC Secretary)**,
/ **Peter Brett Associates**, Wed., 21st. March.:

"... YOU MAY be Aware that **Transport Scotland** have commissioned **Peter Brett Associates** to undertake work to develop a transport appraisal for the Levenmouth area. As an early part of the study process, a detailed engagement exercise is being undertaken with local people, public sector stakeholders, businesses and transport providers.

"As part of this work, we would like to invite you to attend a workshop at ...

Carberry House,

Scoonie Road, Leven, KY8 4JS."

[venue of *Leven Rose Queen Festival* recently visited by LMRC stall],

Friday, 20th. April, 2 - 4 p.m..

CAMPAIGN CALL

"LOBBY YOUR MSP!" SAY LMRC

THE LMRC Appeals for *everyone* who wants the **Levenmouth Rail Link** back to write to their MSP or MP (or Councillor) right away. — The more **you** do, the more chance there will be for your long-lost rail-link to be reinstated in the near-future !

From The Creator of '**Brougham Hall News**'.

LMRC News - April 2018 - www.lmrc-action.org.uk



The Levenmouth Rail Campaign Newsletter

"Much More Than a Transport Project!"

**Campaign
Update 41**

**May
2018**

"‘Spirits Having Flown’ ... To The Capital?!"

***Diageo's* Edinburgh Vision — We Can't Drink to That!**

Original Story: **BBC News Website**, Tuesday, 17th. April.:

THE RECENTLY-Announced, Ambitious Plans by *Diageo* to establish a £150M. *Johnnie Walker* "immersive visitor experience" centre in Edinburgh has not gone down so well in here, in isolated Levenmouth.

As people around here might well say: "We cannae drink to that!" - It goes against one of the main things we have been campaigning on. Levenmouth is still losing out to the Capital again, after already being missed from the *Edinburgh City Deal* plans, announced last Summer.

Quite apart from the cost of the new facility being around **three**, or even **four, times** the latest cost estimates [£36M. to £58M.] for re-instatement of the Levenmouth Rail Link, this development comes after several approaches by the *LMRC* to *Diageo*, which only rarely bring a reply.

One of the times that *Diageo* were happy to respond was the time, nearly two years ago, when *LMRC News'* editor Alistair Aynsough wrote to them with the suggestion that a 'Whisky Heritage Centre' might be established at a re-opened Cameron Bridge (Windygates) station — which is right next to *Diageo's* Cameronbridge Distillery.

Reported to be Supportive of Re-Opening Line

Such a Whisky Heritage Centre would surely help promote Scotland's rich whisky heritage, and also provide a major tourism outlet which people in the Central Belt don't need to travel all the way to the Highlands for ... and, of course, there shouldn't be any major problems with transport when it comes to keeping this place fully-stocked! It would surely help *Diageo's* sales, too. The centre would also provide very useful custom for the railway itself, giving a reason behind at least one of the two stations that the *Levenmouth Rail Campaign* calls for.

This could be a real boon to the company, and they could also keep it well-stocked with relative ease, selling the spirits and other drinks to tourists travelling to the area's golf courses and many other attractions. It could also help the Rail Link too, as tourists - and locals - take

**Right: An
Opportunity
Missed?**

*Diageo's
Cameron
Bridge
Distillery,
with the former
railway station in the
foreground.*
[13 Aug., '16.]



the train to Cameron Bridge to stock-up themselves, too.

Though *Diageo* has sometimes been reported as supporting reopening of the Levenmouth line, which would provide a much-needed, alternative mode of freight transport - not to mention offer commuting options to their own workers - the company has remained largely on the sidelines during the campaign to re-instate our long-awaited, missing rail link to the outside world.

In June 2016, Alistair wrote letters to Ivan Menezes, Chief Executive of *Diageo*, and other senior executives, to suggest his idea of a Whisky Heritage Centre, or similar facility, at Cameron Bridge. The letters, or at least one of them, were handed to Ian Smith, the Head of Corporate Relations at *Diageo Scotland*, who replied: "Thank you for putting forward your suggestion for a Whisky Heritage Centre at Cameronbridge Distillery. However, *Diageo* already has significant interests in Scotch whisky heritage and tourism facilities in Scotland"

A Significant Whisky Centre ... But in Edinburgh

Now, however, they have decided on setting up another, *very significant*, visitor centre — in Edinburgh. Not only would Levenmouth miss out on that, but it would be too far off to commute to and work at, or even just visit in its own right. There is already the *Scottish Whisky Experience*, on Edinburgh's Royal Mile, with the ... ➔

The Railway Walk — See Inside ...

L.M.R.C. News

The CREDIBLE Journey Continues ...

Diageo's Edinburgh Vision - Continued ...

← world's largest collection of this fabled drink, and also Glenkinchie Distillery in East Lothian, *not so far away from Edinburgh*, which, Mr. Smith wrote: "... provides a Central Belt opportunity for Scotch Whisky tourists".

"I appreciate that none of these facilities are based in Fife", he continued, "... but they do amount to an industry-leading contribution to Scotch Whisky tourism in Scotland. [We] employ over 1,000 people in the area, and support many hundreds more jobs in the local economy."

Their Best Wishes for Rail Campaign

"Therefore, while we wouldn't *currently* consider the suggestion of a whisky heritage centre in Fife, I hope I have been able to demonstrate our commitment and contribution to Fife. **Best Wishes for your Campaign.**"

Yours, --- **Ian Smith**, Head of Corporate Relations,
Diageo Scotland, 1st. August, 2016.

Readers may well wonder why the folks at *Diageo* are holding back. ... One more-senior member of the *LMRC* suggested, after being handed Mr. Smith's letter by the *LMRC News'* editor, that this multi-national company might be concerned that selling their wares here would somehow harm their much-valued brand image. Fair enough - but, from time to time, we have all seen major businesses make bold and often highly-controversial moves.

It must surely be a matter of "Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained", and everything is worth trying once. Perhaps with support, as if they ever needed it, and assuming British, or Scottish, alcoholic drinks regulations allow it (I checked the Internet but found nothing relevant - *except adverts!*), *Diageo* ought to try out a "pop-up" shop at their neighbour Station for a week or two, *once that opens*, and see how it goes. With so many attractions in the Levenmouth and East Neuk areas, not least a game of golf and customary "wee dram", it should *surely* find much appeal.

Suggesting this to *Diageo* is the only "support" *LMRC News'* editor Alistair Aynsough (if not necessarily others in this group) can ever give - and, considering he cannot even take alcoholic drinks, he means this even more so. He is *that* determined to see the railway back in action -- and, on that, the other *LMRC* members feel the same ...!

"First Footing?!"

The first walkers at the depot of the *Fife Heritage Railway* as they approach the Sawmill ('Iron') Bridges, and their "terminus" at Leven.

* "Grotesque' Decision to Close Levenmouth Rail Link to Passenger Trains !?"

This text is in a style called "Grotesque 9" - which was used on many headlines by the *East Fife Mail* around the time of closure of the Rail Link to passengers in 1969, just in case you are at all interested!!!!??ZZZZzz! [It is Downloadable.]



Monday, 23rd. April, 2018. *

The Railway Walk

[This Event is Part of Scotland's 'Year of Young People', 2018.]

— It'll be *YOUR* Railway ... Someday Soon!

From Start... at Durie Vale: The Gathering at the A911 / A915 roundabout on the east side of Windygaes village... which was clearly very well-named for this occasion!

A Brilliant Achievement

At Bawbee Bridge... Their 2.6-mile (4.2 kms.) walk ended at Leven - where the seaside town's new railway station should be! ...



At the Sawmill Bridges: In Line - By The Line! - - - Here is the group of scholars and students from the *Levenmouth Academy* and *Fife College*, and the children from the *Balcurvie* and *St. Agatha's* Primary Schools (both of the younger groups set out from these bridges and walked around ½-mile [400 metres], rather than the whole trek from Durie Vale), and all are accompanied by their respective classroom staff, as members of the *LevenMouth Rail Campaign* act as event-marshalls, or, with help from others, serve up the refreshments. Also in attendance are local MSP's, including Jenny Gilruth, Claire Baker and David Torrance, 'Mr. Gingerbread Man' [from *Fife Gingerbread*], and members of the *St. Andrew's Ambulance Association* on 'First Aid' Call.



'Soon to Step Out. ...'



2018 is Scotland's 'Year of Young People', so it was fitting that many of Levenmouth's next generation took centre-stage on a great day! Monday, 23rd. April, was the undoubted highlight of the *LMRC's* much-anticipated "Week of Action", and these images of a mainly-sunny and warm day chart one of the finest and most-ambitious events that this campaign has ever put together, though others were here to help out, too!!

'Say Cheese...!'



"Gingerly Does It...!"



"Action!"



"Hya!"



REINSTATE THE LEVEN-EDINBURGH RAIL-LINK NOW!

LMRC Meetings

Our MAIN PUBLIC ["Action Group"] MEETINGS are Held Monthly - Except in Summer and December - at the ...

Fife College Campus

Methilhaven Road, Buckhaven, Leven,
(KY8 1JY; neighbouring Levenmouth Academy)

6.30 p.m., TUESDAY, 29th. May.

For Further Information Please see LMRC Contacts Below...

Image by:
Ken Haig.



... to Fife College Rooms !

* 'Song-Title Arrows': Migos and Drake [2018]

Later LMRC Meetings ...

LMRC Action Group Meeting

— Tuesday, 26th. June, 6.30 p.m.;

LMRC Action Group Meeting

— Tuesday, 28th. August, 6.30 p.m.;

LMRC Action Group Meeting

— Tuesday, 25th. September, 6.30 p.m.;

LMRC Action Group Meeting

— Tuesday, 30th. October, 6.30 p.m.;

There Will Be **NO** Meetings in July
or December, due to Holidays.

For Other Dates, Events

and Details

LMRC Contacts

CLEAR Buckhaven, 36 College St., Buckhaven,
KY8 1JY. - [Opposite Library and Council Offices]

E-Mail: LMRC@mail.com 'Phone: 01592-713078

Main Website: www.lmrc-action.org.uk

Facebook - www.facebook.com/levenmouth.railcampaign

Final Irony — 'Final Straw'?!"

Leven-Glasgow Express Bus Service Ends

"MR. J. B. Barron, representing Fife County Council, said he had a letter from a Mrs. Graham, of Leven, who made the point that if the line was closed her friends in Glasgow had indicated they would be unlikely to visit her." [East Fife Mail 22.1.18]

This could well be one of the consequences of the recent move by Stagecoach to end the Leven-Glasgow "Express City Connect" bus services, but is rather earlier than that. Some members of the LMRC have said they face similar problems now to this Mrs. Graham of Leven, as they will have to spare extra time for their regular bus trips to Glasgow..., so, to them, it is certainly the final irony - the "final straw" - to know that these buses have disappeared from timetables as from Monday, 14th. May.

The name of the Council and the mention of the line closure, **above**, are the 'give-aways'. That letter being read out by Mr. Barron was not about public transport today but, instead, a personal case-study outlined at a meeting of the Transport Users' Consultative Committee in the Scoonie Hall in Leven - on 15th. January, 1969, as the final 'battle-lines' in the bid to retain the trains were drawn up. Edinburgh-bound commuters at that meeting feared that work and travel without access to trains would take up to **12 hours a day!**... It is much the same **today**.

THE GATHERINGS. - It has been a rather busy time of late for members of the LevenMouth Rail Campaign.

In the last few days of April, besides the Railway Walk, there have been a session at Carberry House, Leven, with Peter Brett Associates on Fri., 20th., to discuss the problems various groups face **without** the rail link, and the RailFuture Scotland Spring Meeting (and A.G.M.) at the Jurys Inn Hotel, Edinburgh, the next day.

After the Walk, on the Monday, there were two events for Tuesday, 24th..., the regular LMRC monthly meeting at Fife College, Methilhaven Road, Methil, and, before it, a "railway campaigns workshop" took place at the Town House (Fife Council Offices) in Wemyssfield, Kirkcaldy.

The LMRC's Week of Action was capped-off, in style, with their second major Conference at Fife Renewables Innovation Centre, Methil Docks, Leven, on Friday, 27th..

NEW OWNERS FOR A MORE-OPTIMISTIC Bi-FAB?! - In mid-April, BiFab, who have a yard at Buckhaven, were bought by Canadian firm J.V. Driver in a deal "brokered by the Scottish Government" - although this hasn't got off to a good start. ... As they chose to work on though the crisis last November, they really **do** deserve to land a new contract !

CAMPAIGN CALL "LOBBY YOUR MSP!" SAY LMRC

THE LMRC Appeals for everyone who wants the Levenmouth Rail Link back to write to their MSP or MP (or Councillor) right away. — The more **you** do, the more chance there will be for your long-lost rail-link to be reinstated in the near-future !

Produced by ALISTAIR AYNSCOUGH, Colinsburgh,
Fife, for the LevenMouth Rail Campaign.

From The Creator of 'Brougham Hall News'.

LMRC News - May 2018 - www.lmrc-action.org.uk



The Levenmouth Rail Campaign Newsletter

"Much More Than a Transport Project!"

**Campaign
Update 42**

**June
2018**

Fine Start for Charter

Local Businesses, Charities, Organisations, Clubs and More Urged to Back the LevenMouth Rail Campaign



... as East Fife Mail Signs Up, and First Signatories Show Their Commitment at LMRC Conference 2018

Above:
'All Together Now...' - Charter Certificate holders gather for the recent LMRC Conference at the Fife Renewables Innovation Centre at Methil Docks nr. Leven.

**Image:
LMRC
News.**

"WE'VE SIGNED THE RAIL CHARTER - WILL YOU?"

-- That was the prominent, front-page headline of the **East Fife Mail** on Wednesday, 16th. May, as this popular weekly newspaper proclaimed its full support for the Rail Charter launched recently by the *LevenMouth Rail Campaign* with the welcome backing of a Buckhaven Councillor, Ryan Smart, and other keen supporters.

Emblazoned on the front page also is the newly-introduced, rich-blue *LMRC* train logo (seen above) which has taken the place of the older, purple version.

The *Mail* has been joined by several businesses in and around Leven, including **The Agenda** restaurant, in Scoonie Road, according to the campaign's *Facebook* page. Others to join, to Friday, 25th. May - and get full

billing on that page - are: **Lemon Tree Coffee Shop**, Pearson Place; **Forth Bay Guest House**, The Promenade; **Beachcomber Family Amusements**, The Promenade; **Fife Council**, [Councillor Altany Craik was speaker at the *LMRC* Conference]; **Asher Hairdressers**, Scoonie Road; **DnA Barber**, Commercial Road; **Dunclutha Guest House**, Victoria Road; **Fife Properties**, estate agents, Mitchell Street; **Glen Convenience Store**, Scoonie Road; **Innes Johnston**, solicitors, Commercial Road; **Lynn Herbert & Co.**, solicitors and notaries, High Street; **Marviks**, sports bar and hotel, Durie Street; **PML Optometrists**, North Street; **Bonnybank Inn**, Cupar Road; **Lomond Guest House**; **The Red Petal**, florists, North Street; **Trusted Properties**, estate agents, Rose Terrace, Leven.

L.M.R.C. News

The CREDIBLE Journey Continues ...

LMRC Conference - Friday, 27th. April:

THE SECOND LMRC Conference was held at the *Fife Renewables Innovation Centre* at Methil Docks, at Methil (nr. Leven), on Friday, 27th. April, and drew a large turnout of local stakeholders, and representatives of national agencies, who came to hear a range of speakers make a convincing case for re-opening the Levenmouth Rail Link.

Among them were Paul McCartney, *Peter Brett Associates*; David Shirres, the rail engineer who was main speaker at the first LMRC Conference, Alan Mitchell, CEO of the *Fife Chamber of Commerce*, Altany Craik, *Fife Council* Convenor for Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning and Transportation. On-hand, too, were Cllr. Ryan Smart and Ross Bennett, to formally launch the *LMRC Rail Charter*.

The over-riding message at the Conference was about the opportunities that a reinstated rail-link would bring to the Levenmouth area, and of the potential improved connectivity that it would release and let thrive. The Conference was informed that the actual cost of reinstating the line would be around half of the inflated estimate that had been given in the previous *STAG (Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance)* Report, and that renewed commitment to transfer more freight from road to rail can make good use of this line. A range of practical recommendations and thoughts was generated in a 'brainstorming session' in which delegates were invited to suggest ideas of their own... The Conference was prominent on *STV News* that evening.

Top-Right:
Councillor Ryan Smart addresses the LMRC Conference about the new *Rail Charter* that he's been so instrumental in setting up.



Lower-Right:
Cllr. Smart was just one of several speakers at the gathering at the *Fife Renewables Innovation Centre* on Friday, 27th. April.



A.P.A., 2 Sept'r., '15.

'Teaming-Up with LMRC' *Peter Brett Associates* and *MidgieBite Media*

ONE OF Two Companies to have been assigned recently to work alongside *LevenMouth Rail Campaign*, *Peter Brett Associates, L.L.P.*, have been engaged lately in survey work for the recently-opened *Borders Railway* between Edinburgh and Galashiels (Tweedbank).

They were commissioned by *Transport Scotland* to assess how this northern section of the former *Waverley Line* was fairing two years on from its reinstatement - as seen by passengers, traders, businesses, tour agencies and others. *Peter Brett's* study has shown that, as well as encouraging tourism, the line has allowed more people to land new jobs or full careers, and that around 36,000 car journeys are being saved each year. In addition, overall travel on the line increased by 9.5% in the year up to September 2017, since they did 2016's study.

The research built on findings of that first *evaluation*, and assessed whether the *Borders Railway* is meeting its investment objectives, and recording the views and experiences of tourists using the line. The research included doing an on-train survey of users of the *Borders Railway* - and a telephone survey of those who rarely, if ever, used it. Ticket sales, passenger numbers, and the impact on the local buses and regional transport links was also considered.



The Meeting at Carberry House.

MIDGIEBITE MEDIA was launched last year by Gavin Hugh, **Right**, and **Below** as he interviews Mary Reilly of the LMRC on Tuesday, 27th. March. Before setting up his new company, Gavin worked as a video-journalist, and ...



... a camera operator for **Scottish Television (STV)** and **Sky News**. He has also

worked in press and media relations for various Members of the *Scottish Parliament*. Gavin, as his own website states, has "also worked for a number of years as an English teaching assistant in Japan, before returning to Scotland" to establish *MidgieBite Media* in Kirkcaldy.

"*MidgieBite* specialises in producing *HD* and *4K* video content for a diverse range of clients ... and promotes the use of video as an extremely-effective tool in brand development and digital marketing, as well as providing event coverage and informative videos tailored to a variety of unique briefs." -- Planning, consultation, 'scouting' for suitable film locations, multi-camera filming, high-quality film- and sound-recording, and editing, are among services offered. Gavin has made several films for *LMRC*..



Could a Bike Ever Beat a Bus?!



From Colinsburgh to Fife Central Retail Park, N.W. of Kirkcaldy, and Back ... after Bus Changes and Waits --- **NOT SO FAR OFF !!**



Below: Fife Central Retail Park, near Kirkcaldy.

THE WELCOME Prospect of a whole, new network of cycle-lanes to compliment a fully re-opened Levenmouth Rail Link has inspired several Campaign members to make use of the beautiful May weather by actually getting on their bikes and measuring-up a selection of routes that could be added to the existing Kingdom of Fife *Millennium* network, and others, and help promote this area's beautiful scenery to tourists who want to ride by bike, - and *by train*, too, of course!

On Friday, 25th. May, the day after the trip done by Ken Haig and others to Colinsburgh, **Right**, *LMRC News'* editor Alistair Aynsough embarked on a trip that he had by coincidence already decided to do before he met them near his home, determined to see how he could get by bike, compared to a journey he may have gone by bus. These journeys may be completely different, but Alistair realised it *might* be possible to cycle from Colinsburgh, around 7½ miles (12 kilometres) north-east of Leven, to the *Fife Central Retail Park* at Chapel Level, north-west of Kirkcaldy, in the time it takes to do the same trip by bus.

With one or two stops to change between services, buses go fairly direct, mostly via Leven and Kirkcaldy bus stations, but in the interests of safety and a peace of mind, he followed as few main roads as possible, with his route

Bike: Outward Journey with Slight Tailwind; 21.1 Miles - Ave.: 11.1 mph; c. 10.45-13.00

RIDING TIME 1Hr. 57 Mins.
On Roads relatively free of Traffic, and with unrecorded stops - ON A LESS-DIRECT ROUTE.

Bus: Outward Journey with Two Changes ... and waiting between services; 11.09-12.44

JOURNEY TIME 1Hr. 35 Mins.

including Leven (to get bus timetables for this project), Windygates, Milton and Coaltown of Balgonie, and Thornton. From there he went due west on Strathore Road until that joined the route to Cluny and the Retail Park - once he'd negotiated the busy roundabouts thereabouts (crossed via cycle-lanes); the route actually overshoots its destination a little, gaining two or three extra miles, but, once again, on *comparatively* less-busy roads.

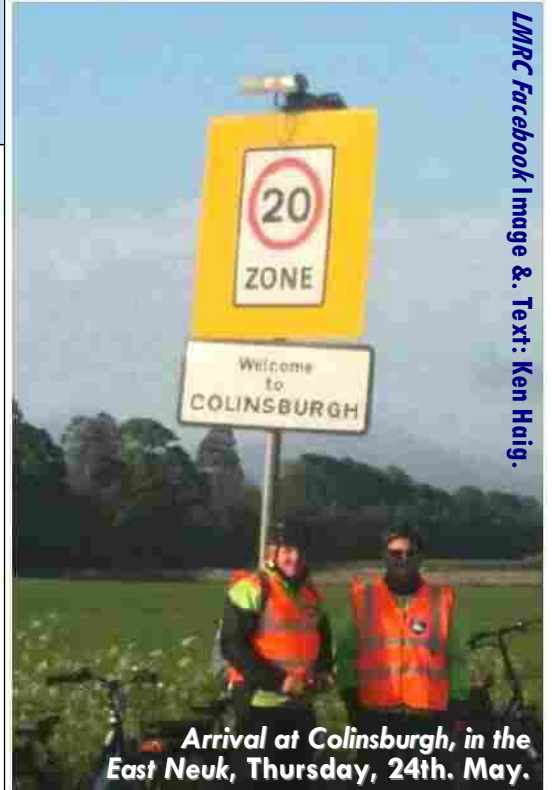
After getting lunch and some shopping, Alistair headed back via Woodside, in Glenrothes, and Markinch to avoid the road-works he'd already met at Coaltown on the outward trip, but rode against an increasingly-strong headwind on the way back. --- This, he suggests, could be equivalent to riding a bike laden with shopping!

The Trek's Stats.

Of course, the day has to be a reasonably-good one for such a journey, but, at just 18 minutes slower than the bus, for two or three miles more, it seems "doable" by a reasonably-fit person.

The whole return day-trip was 45 miles in 4 hours, 28 minutes. The corresponding bus journey may be anything from 3 hours, 3 mins., to 3 hrs., 42 mins..

As elsewhere, a new rail-link can boost active travel networks around the entire area - boosting the number using bikes and walking. Tonight, some LMRC members cycled to Colinsburgh and back in no time (albeit thanks to electrically powered bikes which will soon become the norm). Thanks for the use of CLEAR Ebikes adding to Ross's own monster!



LMRC Facebook Image & Text: Ken Haig.

Arrival at Colinsburgh, in the East Neuk, Thursday, 24th. May.

KEN HAIG and Two Fellow Levenmouth Rail Campaigners have been measuring-up parts of a potential new Kingdom of Fife, and East Neuk, cycle-route network that would be integrated with a newly-reinstated railway service between Leven and Edinburgh in a bid to promote "active travel" -- saving on energy, and also going some way towards personal fitness.

One of the three had his own bike, but the others decided to trial a pair of new, electrically-assisted bikes from the *CLEAR Buckhaven* environmental charity on Thursday evening, 24th. May - and managed to get from there to Colinsburgh, a journey of around 10 to 12 miles (16.1 to 19.3 kms.), which they completed in around 41 minutes.

Wearing some of the new, reflective jackets recently used on the Railway Walk in late-April, which come with prominent blue *LMRC* campaign logos, especially on the backs, they had gone by some higher roads, such as those via Kennoway, to avoid two busy, main roads, the A.915 and A.917.

Right -- Carberry House:

A scene from the Leven Rose Queen Gala on 10th. June, last year, showing Allen Armstrong, *LMRC* secretary, with the Campaign stall ... and the venue of April's "Transport Workshop", run by *Peter Brett Associates*, in the background.



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6.30 p.m., TUESDAY, 26th. June.

For Further Information Please see LMRC Contacts Below...



Image by:
Ken Haig.



... to Fife College Rooms !

* 'Song-Title Arrows': Ridky Nelson [1963]

Later LMRC Meetings ...

There Will Be **NO** Meeting in July
(or December), due to Holidays.

LMRC Action Group Meeting

— Tuesday, 28th. August, 6.30 p.m.;

LMRC Action Group Meeting

— Tuesday, 25th. September, 6.30 p.m.;

LMRC Action Group Meeting

— Tuesday, 30th. October, 6.30 p.m.;

LMRC Action Group Meeting

— Tuesday, 27th. November, 6.30 p.m.;

LMRC Action Group Meeting

Tuesday, 29th. January, '19, 6.30 p.m.;

Start of 50th. Anniversary Year of Passenger 'Push-Off'?...!

For Other Dates, Events and Details ...

LMRC Contacts ...

CLEAR Buckhaven, 36 College St., Buckhaven,
KY8 1JY. - [Opposite Library and Council Offices]

E-Mail: LMRC@mail.com 'Phone: 01592-713078

Main Website: www.lmrc-action.org.uk

Facebook - www.facebook.com/levenmouth.railcampaign

Unwanted Anniversary Soon – but a Long-Wished-For Gift??!!

EARLY in October, next year, it will be **Fifty Years** since passenger trains last served the stations at Leven and Cameron Bridge, and April 2019 will also signal the end to *Network Rail's* "Control Period Six", for which spending plans for 2019 to 2024 will soon be finalised.

The LMRC, naturally, follow this with great interest. ...

Half-a-Century of waiting for badly-delayed trains!

That's more than enough for just about anyone, let alone anyone who knows their old railway is still in place, and not already lifted by 'order' of Dr. Beeching.

He actually recommended that this route should live on, even if he saw little prospects east of Leven. His "Axe" - officially a proposal to modernise and "reshape" Britain's railway network - were announced on 27th. March, 1963 ... just as this land was finally starting to thaw out after one of the most-infamous Winters it's ever known. One of its effects was to "save" a branch line from Haltwhistle to Alston (Cumberland, now Cumbria), after that railway became the only way out of the snowed-up North Pennine town.

As at Levenmouth, the railway was not actually condemned in the initial *Beeching Report* - but it *was* included in a 1965 'sequel'. Ironically, it finally closed in 1976 - a year that's fondly remembered for rather sunnier, *hotter* weather than 1963 is forever noted for ... and is now being recreated as the *South Tynedale Railway* - the highest narrow-gauge line in Northern England.

Levenmouth folk, meanwhile, should be able to look forward to - and they certainly intend to see — the return of their '*Rail Link to the Outside World*'. They would dearly love to wake up on Monday morning, 7th. October, 2019, knowing that this rather unwanted "50th. Anniversary" can be spent with the prospect of their Rail Link back to use not *too long* afterwards ... !!

THE RECENT 'WALK THE LINE' DAY - MORE TO COME?

SCOTLAND's *Year of Young People* was marked in Levenmouth in late-April by students, from several local schools and colleges, who **Walked the Line** to show their support for rail services. ... "Young people stand to gain most from the re-instatement of rail", stated last month's **LMRC e-Bulletin**; "... which would bring immediate study, training, work and leisure opportunities denied to Levenmouth youth for **almost fifty years**. The event generated such enthusiasm that **we hope to hold further Walks to enable other schools to participate.**"

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Produced by ALISTAIR AYNSCOUGH, Colinsburgh,
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From The Creator of '**Brougham Hall News**'.

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The Levenmouth Rail Campaign Newsletter

"Much More Than a Transport Project!"

**Campaign
Update 43**

**July
2018**

LMRC 'Getting Down to Business'...!

**One-Hundred Local
Companies Sign
Our Charter**



AROUND ONE HUNDRED BUSINESSES in Leven, and the Levenmouth area in general, have now signed up to the Charter launched recently by the *LevenMouth Rail Campaign*. The initiative, launched at the Campaign's conference in late-April, is intended to convince those at *Holyrood* - and those in high-office in the rail industry - that it really *is* a good business idea to restore the trains to this long-suffering area that wants for little more than to have its "rail link to the outside world" reinstated.

That there are that many businesses here anyway, let alone those who have already, eagerly, joined in with our Charter, says a lot about the need for a suitable transport link to support all their needs.

A representative of *LMRC* recently wrote: "There is currently a drive to sign local businesses, charities and others to the Charter, so they can publicly state their support for reinstating the Levenmouth rail-link. We estimate 70 to 80 local businesses signed up [in the first fortnight or so], and we're relying on volunteer members to get around signing-up many more. Generally, we have encountered real support and desperation to get the area reconnected to rail. - **Get in touch if you want to opt-in!**"

Whether they are individual shops, cafés and offices, or business units, garages or factories, they all badly need these facilities for either their customers, employees or suppliers - problems that at least one newly-signed Charter member faced as much as 50 years ago, **Pg. 2 ->**



Above: Their very prominent location - very close to High Street yet facing the beach - is ideal for *Fife Properties Ltd.* to publicise their *LMRC Charter* membership, **Inset.**

Changes at Holyrood

**Appointment of New
Transport Minister**



Michael Matheson, MSP, the new **Transport Minister.**
(Image: *Microsoft Clip-Art Library*;

A SIGNIFICANT Reshuffle in the Scottish Government on Tuesday, 26th. June, led to Humza Yousaf standing aside as Transport Minister in place of Michael Matheson - a new face for *LevenMouth Rail Campaign* to negotiate with. With Mr. Matheson's new role now "including infrastructure", though, we may hope he'll have more influence over the railway 'authorities', **but we shall see...!** - **Below:** *LMRC*, and other MSP's, at Holyrood on 1st. June, 2017, with **Humza Yousaf, MSP**, former **Transport Minister.**

(Image: *LMRC News*).



L.M.R.C. News

The CREDIBLE Journey Continues ...

REINSTATE THE LEVEN-**EDINBURGH** RAIL-LINK NOW!

LMRC Meetings

Our MAIN PUBLIC ["Action Group"] MEETINGS are Held Monthly - Except in Summer and December - at the ...

Fife College Campus

Methilhaven Road, Buckhaven, Leven, (KY8 1HL; adjoining Levenmouth Academy)

6.30 p.m., TUESDAY, 28th. August.

For Further Information Please see LMRC Contacts Below...

Image by:
Ken Haig.



... to Fife College Rooms !

* 'Song-Title Arrows': Elvis Presley [1962]

Later LMRC Meetings ...

There Will Be **NO** Meeting in **July** (or December), due to Holidays.

LMRC Action Group Meeting

— Tuesday, 25th. September, 6.30 p.m.;

LMRC Action Group Meeting

— Tuesday, 30th. October, 6.30 p.m.;

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— Tuesday, 27th. November, 6.30 p.m.;

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Start of 50th. Anniversary Year of Passenger 'Push-Off'?...!

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For Other Dates, Events and Details. ...

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← Cont. from Pg. 1 / ... with some orders too big to be put in a van or car for delivery being loaded on to a passenger train at nearby Leven Railway Station. Around 100 of their employees from the Glasgow area would often travel by train each week, to be home for weekends. Contractors would travel all around Britain on construction projects – and the trains were easily the best option for them.

"Pricey Parking" - If Any ... and Disability Access

Back to the present, there is controversy over parking at Edinburgh Airport, in Edinburgh, at Kirkcaldy Railway Station, or at various hospitals or health centres. It can be pricey, or parks not even available; drivers are at risk of missing services or appointments as they have had to park elsewhere and make their own way back to where they were meant to be in the first place. Modern trains, and stations, are usually very good for access by people with disabilities – but, for them, having to park away from their intended destination clearly does not help.

Staff needing to get to an airport often need trains to Edinburgh or Dundee - now, and when Leven trains were withdrawn. That was how the *East Fife Mail* reported their concerns on 4th. September, 1968, over a year before the last scheduled passenger trains ran, and, once again, these are pretty much the same problems that many Levenmouth businesses face today.

Having to deal with these issues for very nearly fifty years (for the longest-suffering traders or citizens) may explain why so many of them have so far been keen to sign the LMRC Charter.

The East Neuk of Fife, and other areas set to benefit from the Rail Link being restored, will also be visited for potential signatories to the Charter in the coming weeks.

Delay to LMRC News! - "We Apologise for the late running of this service...", etc., etc.. This is due to a clash in the timings of other newsletter projects, and other things to do, for editor Alistair Aynsough recently.

Next Time in LMRC News ...

"Le Loop de Leven?!"

THE CYCLE NETWORK THAT COULD BOOST AREA'S TOURISM ... AND STRENGTHEN CASE FOR RAIL LINK also Proposal for Leven-Loch Leven Trail ...

CAMPAIGN CALL "LOBBY YOUR MSP!" SAY LMRC

THE LMRC Appeals for everyone who wants the Levenmouth Rail Link back to write to their MSP or MP (or Councillor) right away. — The more you do, the more chance there will be for your long-lost rail-link to be reinstated in the near-future !

Produced by ALISTAIR AYNSCOUGH, Colinsburgh, Fife, for the LevenMouth Rail Campaign.

From The Creator of 'Brougham Hall News'.

LMRC News - June 2018 - www.lmrc-action.org.uk



The Levenmouth Rail Campaign Newsletter

"Much More Than a Transport Project!"

**Campaign
Update 44
August
2018**

"Saddle Up - and Help Us Make Tracks"

**"Active Travel" Initiative Growing as Cycling is
Shown to Generate £1.3Bn. a Year for the U.K.
Economy* ... and a New Cycleway-Footpath
Could Extend for Full Length of Rail Link**

"ACTIVE TRAVEL" - That is the newest phrase doing the rounds now, as far as plans for the *integrated* future of transport are concerned ... and it may well be coming here, to Levenmouth. It was the main thing being discussed at a recent meeting of *Transform Scotland* in Edinburgh, and the concept was also covered in the well-received *LMRC Campaign Booklet 'A Railway to Regenerate Levenmouth'*, issued last September:

"As the [Leven Rail Link] will be mainly single-track on a double-line track-bed, it may be possible to provide a parallel walkway or cyclepath in accordance with the Scottish Government's policy of increasing active travel.

"This would also improve the catchment of the two new stations [of Leven and Cameron Bridge]. It may be possible to provide this at minimal cost during the line's reinstatement. This would further increase its benefits and may attract additional funding.

"Hence the feasibility of this Active Travel option should be considered as part of the detailed study."

* Source: **Sustrans**
Leaflet, August '18.



The idea of Active Travel comes as figures recently issued though the U.K.-wide cycling-and-walking charity *Sustrans* show that the UK economy as a whole benefits from £1.3-Billion a year from these activities, and with golf courses a-plenty, beaches, historic buildings and much more, the Levenmouth area, the town of Leven itself, and the East Neuk as a whole would benefit from touring cyclists and walkers coming in by train.

Connecting with Rail Stations and Town Centres

These activities have been well known for generations to be a far healthier option to get about than going by car, or even public transport, but being able to get bikes, or rucksacks, tents and other kit, on board trains (as against buses or in cars) is usually easier to achieve. A suitable cycleway-footpath alongside a railway, connecting with stations, town centres and other amenities encourages people to take on a journey in the knowledge they can return by train as they please - as long as suitable accommodation and booking facilities are provided.

"Transform Scotland" Meeting in Edinburgh

The *LMRC News* editor himself has in the past often used trains on the outward or return stage of a lengthy cycle trip - but there are problems now if he needs to ride further while there are no services between either Markinch or Kirkcaldy and Leven, and his actual home at Colinsburgh - some 12½ miles (20 kms.) from Markinch.

Modern, quality cycleway-footpaths already exist in Edinburgh (other than in the city centre itself, it seems) with the route of the trams being well provided for in the way we would dearly like to see the Levenmouth Rail Link be. At a late-June meeting of *Transform Scotland*, in Edinburgh, the subject of Active Travel, and City Travel, was discussed, with one delegate saying: "Scotland has seen good progress in terms of national policies and ... ->

Well Provided For: The train and tram stations at Edinburgh Park, a few miles west of the centre of the Capital, are accompanied by well-signposted, quality cycleway-footpaths that connect all the stations, homes, roads, and amenities such as the *Hermiston Gait Retail Park* (across a road to the right of the 'path visible below. ...)

A second 'path is also just visible beyond the tramway.



L.M.R.C. News

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Image by:
Ken Haig.



... to **Fife College Rooms** !

* 'Song-Title Arrows' (two songs this time!): Peter Wolf [1987]; Nirvana [1992].

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[◀- Cont.] ... growing national budgets for active travel.

"However, this has not yet translated into a transformation of our towns and cities. In most cases, transport at a local level is dominated by space for private motor vehicles. Dedicated space and infrastructure for cycling is rare, and the quality and scope of pedestrian infrastructure compares poorly to space provided for motor vehicles."

The *East Fife Mail* - a major backer of the Rail Link's revival - recently called for an improved cycle and footpath network, to be linked at Leven and Cameron Bridge: "This would encourage tourism", the *Mail* maintains.

Levenmouth already has lengths of improved cycleway, in certain places, which could well be used as the basis of an improved network. There are some significant gaps, south of the River Leven, but, at a limited cost, for the rail connections to encourage more *active travel* in the area (hence the title), and this would surely bring great benefits to local residents and tourists alike.

To get locals interested in the growing cycleway (and footpath) network in the area - and to make them yearn for a healthier lifestyle - the *LevenMouth Rail Campaign* joined with other local charities in a massed call for missing links in the network to be filled..., and launch a fleet of new electrically-assistive bikes for use on these routes. ...

"When cities and university towns across the country, including Edinburgh, already benefit from substantial cycling and footpath investment, it's high time neglected Levenmouth joined the 21st. Century", said one *LMRC* member; "Presently-low levels of car ownership in this area, and a poorer health status, [are reasons] to move ahead quickly."

From Levenmouth to Loch Leven ... and Back!?

Two new, longer-distance cycleways are being proposed, to boost local tourism - **and create another good reason for a good rail-link!** One is to be a loop going from Leven to the *Blacketyside Farm Shop*, and from there gently up to Kennoway, before a leisurely downhill jaunt back to Leven.

Another route we heard about recently is one going from Levenmouth to Loch Leven, then around the expensive and beautifully-sited loch, via Kinross and Scotlandwell, before eventually heading back to the Levenmouth area.

Further Delays to LMRC News : "We Apologise for the Late Running of this Service!" - *LMRC* News editor Alistair Aynsough is getting back 'on schedule' after recent news-gathering and newsletter production issues. He still needs to complete prints for the *LMRC* and other groups..., and also apologises as he is yet to make much progress on *LMRC* Charter sign-up calls! A clash in the timings of different newsletters, and other things happening, is hopefully now, nearly, resolved. ...

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LMRC News - August 2018 - www.lmrc-action.org.uk



The Levenmouth Rail Campaign Newsletter

"Much More Than a Transport Project!"

**Campaign
Update 45
September
2018**

3 Years after Opening: Effects of New *Borders Railway* on Local Communities

Some Things Levenmouth Can Really Hope For

**Web News Highlights Kinds of Events that the Area Could Gain from
a Revived Levenmouth Rail Link ... and All These Stories Were Listed on Just One Day!**

THIS MONTH, September 2018, Marks Three Years since the opening of the *Borders Railway* between Edinburgh and Tweedbank - the most-northerly section of the former "Waverley Line" - and shows us the many kinds of opportunities that the proposed reopening of the Levenmouth Rail Link could bring to this much-affected, largest urban part of Scotland without any rail connection to the outside world. This largest population not to have access to Britain's railway network has had to endure this social and transport injustice for very nearly half-a-century, which is now more than Galashiels was ever cut off from the network.

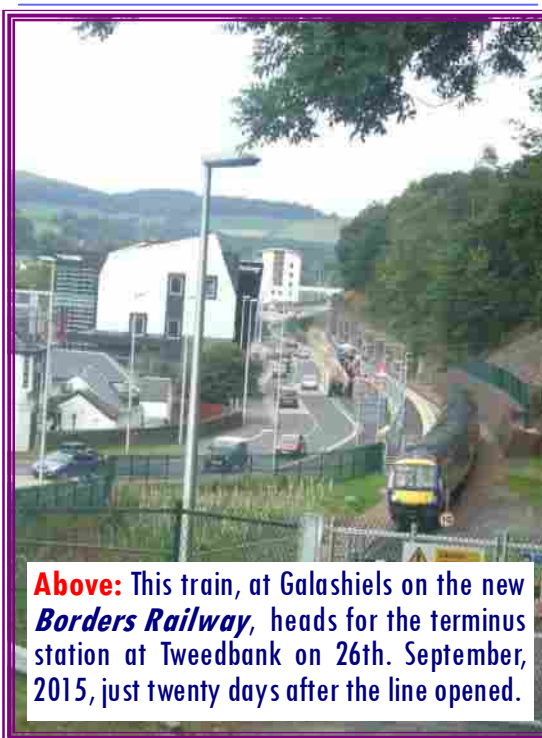
Over time, the old, traditional industries of the area - especially textiles - disappeared, and we often heard of the long-suffering Borders citizens being left idle as the region's factories closed, especially in the 1980's and 1990's..

Now, however, it seems very different as the *Borders Railway* begins to inject a real boost to the area - and not merely in tourism.

Now, a look at that railway's website tells a vastly-different tale ... one that brims with optimism, and one that serves as an indicator of just how the Levenmouth area, and the East Neuk of Fife, could really benefit from a revival of the short, mothballed Rail Link here. A mere 5½ miles, or 9 kilometres, of redundant rails are all that separate the seaside town of Leven, and the wide-ranging but deprived communities such as Methil, Kennoway, Buckhaven, and all others, yet any return of a regular, frequent and reliable rail service - freight *and* passenger - can now give the

local population great hope - and embolden them in their increasingly-determined and loud calls for trains to return.

The effects of the *Borders Railway* on the Galashiels district and Borders region are clear to see from just one day's list of news stories on the railway's website - and show the sheer diversity the trains are delivering there. All listed on Monday, 6th, August, alone, the following stories are among literally hundreds to demonstrate the line's positive effect on that region. ...



Above: This train, at Galashiels on the new *Borders Railway*, heads for the terminus station at Tweedbank on 26th. September, 2015, just twenty days after the line opened.

- **Launch of "Pioneering Digital Centre of Excellence"**, which opens at *Newbattle High School*.

- **Boost for Midlothian Tourism.** - A 'Beyond Edinburgh' visitor's pass, launched in May, has boosted tourism in the Midlothian area. This offers free entry to attractions including ancient Rosslyn Chapel and Abbotsford House, home of *Waverley Novels* author Sir. Walter Scott. **[With limited access from Levenmouth, this is just one of many travel offers practically denied to our part of the world.]**

- **A Town's £1.6M. Revamp.** - Significant revitalisation plans, valued at well over £1.6M., are approved by the local Council for the town of Gorebridge, one of quite a few to be served by the reopened railway.

- **Festivals for 30,000 Revellers.** - Dalkeith Country Park, near Eskbank, Midlothian, played host to two separate, and brand-new Festivals on one hot and sunny Summer weekend. One was a 1980's. "retro" music festival; the other honoured babysitters! - **Cont. - ►**

L.M.R.C. News

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... to *Fife College Rooms* !

* 'Song-Title Arrows': Cilla Black [1968]

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◀ "Things We Can Really Hope For" / Cont. from Front Page:

- **"Sunshine Farm"?** - The early-August *Dalkeith Farm Show*, one of the chief events of the year in the Borders region, was due - and its organisers were hoping that this Summer's glorious weather would continue..!
- **The "Right Chemistry"!** - *Synpromics Ltd.*, of Roslin, Midlothian, is awarded a £1.9m. grant to expand their cell- and gene-therapy programme. Though not directly connected to news of the *Borders Railway's* progress, any expansion dreams for this medical research company (and others) must surely be enhanced by it.
- **"Multi-Skilled"?** - The sheer range of career options to come from a revived railway is shown up when local author Bruce Ball releases his eagerly-awaited book of stories, "The Spirit of the *Borders Railway*".
- **Schoolchildrens' Outings.** - The *Borders Railway* has a station at Newtongrange, which proved ideal for an outing for children to the first "youth-led" exhibition to be held at the *Scottish National Mining Museum* there.
- **"Green" Dreams.** - Glenrothes schoolgirl Jessica O'Leary is able to use the *Borders Railway* [though accessed from nearby Thornton with Glenrothes Station, **which we cannot do so easily from Leven**], for her college scholarship in electric vehicle technology in Midlothian.
- **Let's Drink to Track...!?** - Eskbank-based 'micro-brewery' *Midlothian Cross Borders* wins top awards.

REPORTS FROM *BORDERS RAILWAY* WEBSITE.

scotjobsnet
Top Dog For Scottish Jobs

CLICK HERE TO SEARCH SCOTJOBSNET FOR YOUR NEXT JOB

[Original Advert. by Sainsbury's.]

Customer & Trading Manager (Edinburgh)

to advise: Range of flexible shifts available

Starting salary of at least £22,500 plus a £5,500 premium for nightshift

collaboration. Increasingly depending on time and location.

New Business Development Manager (Edinburgh)

to expand client base

Software Sales Executive (Edinburgh)

to expand client base

With Due Apologies to
Scotjobs.net for this image !!

"Just Not The Job...?!"

ALTHOUGH he stopped using jobhunters' websites some time ago, as he was not really benefiting much from them, *LMRC News'* editor Alistair Aynsough recently received the e-Mail alert, **Left**. Fair enough, and he gives his thanks for this prompt of possible employment, but he set his preferences for suitable jobs, locations and hours a good while ago. He just isn't management or executive material... **and, once again, there are the matters of no car, lengthy bus commutes to Edinburgh - and NO TRAINS!**

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LMRC News - Sept'r. 2018 - www.lmrc-action.org.uk



The Levenmouth Rail Campaign Newsletter

"Much More Than a Transport Project!"

The Still Very
CREDIBLE
Journey

250 Signatories

225

200 (Target)

175 Signatories

Our Advancing Train shows that
We Have Already Signed-Up

165

Members to the L.M.R.C. CHARTER!

(By 4 October 2018)

Please Get Aboard Now ...

The More LMRC Charter Signatories We Have, The Stronger is Our Case to CALL for The Reinstatement [Passengers & Freight] of Our ...

RAIL LINK to The OUTSIDE WORLD !!

'Charting the Charter'

Campaign Update 46 • October 2018

165 and Counting ...

LMRC News' Train Progress "Graph" Returns as Our Charter Signatories' Tally Mounts

Valuable Lessons From a Campaigning Leader

Says LMRC Case is "Very Strong" ... Reconnecting Levenmouth to Rail Network is "a No-Brainer" as a Transport Project to Breathe New Life Into Area

AT THE LMRC Meeting in August we were privileged to have a *masterclass* from the truly-inspirational Councillor David Parker, the former Leader of the *Scottish Borders Council* - now its Convenor - who had many gold nuggets of advice for our Campaign ... and **he** should know! David has certainly not let a visual impairment get in his way, and his sterling work in support of the successful *Borders Rail Campaign* (along with other notable achievements) earned him the prestigious honour of *Top Local Politician of The Year* for 2015.



Cllr. David Parker at the LMRC Meeting on Tues., 28th. August.

"Very Strong Case, a 'No-Brainer'"

In his well-received talk at the LMRC meeting at *Fife College (Levenmouth Academy)* he stated that their case is "very strong", and that reconnecting Levenmouth to the rail network is a "no-brainer" as transport projects go. It would "breathe new life into [the] struggling area", he says.

Mr. Parker had much more to offer from his 17 years' experience with the *Borders (ex-Waverley) Railway* project: ...

🔊 **"Galvanise MSPs and MPs to Press the Case at a National Level. Keep Pressing Elected Representatives and Council on What Needs to be Done;**

🔊 **Engage and Keep Engaging Supporters. *Borders* had 1,600 Members;**

🔊 **Critical Role and Commitment Needed by Involved Councils - including Allocation of Sufficient Manpower Resources. (This is also a Key Consideration for *Transport Scotland*);** [Cont. on Next Page. ...]

LMRC NEWS' Familiar 'Advancing Train' graph is rolling back on track!

The Charter that the LMRC launched earlier this year, to be signed up to by local businesses, groups and individuals to demonstrate the solid support for reinstating the Levenmouth Rail Link, had 165 signatories by early-October.

Our target is to put at least 200 names to the cause, meaning that we have achieved virtually five-sixths of that amount.

Due to the 'calibration' of the original graphics, LMRC News has adopted an upper target of 250, and this should give us a little extra incentive - especially for the editor Alistair Aynsough, who has been away, or busy on these or other groups' newsletters, and has yet to get many signatories himself ...

The train in our new diagram has been updated, and is based on a modern, *Class 170* carriage. One selling-point of our Campaign is that the **Levenmouth Rail Link** must be a modern, fully-operational, and adaptable, one - and not a tourist, or "heritage", line. We also sincerely hope that, unlike one of these trains (which derailed at Stonehaven Station this month), our Campaign will roll on, and is not about to be put off the rails by anything..., or anyone ...!

Back Page ... Hoping to Meet New Transport Minister

'REINSTATE THE EDINBURGH-LEVEN RAIL-LINK NOW!'

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... to **Fife College Rooms !**

* 'Song-Title Arrows': All Time Low [2007].

Cllr. Parker's Proposals... [← ... Cont. from Front Page. ...]

Overwhelming Focus should be Put on the Economy and the Wider Economic Benefits ... **Not Merely Transport;**

Engage with the Council on the Wider Blueprint - a Strategy to Maximise the Potential of the Line - and to Capitalise on the Line's Transformational Impact in Creating New Places to 'Live, Work, Visit, Learn, Play and Grow';

Talk Directly to *Transport Scotland*, and to other Key Actors - Including Contractors;

Produce and Update a 5-Minute *Briefing Sheet* Every Few Months, and Ensure that Key Actors Utilise This."

Later LMRC Meetings ...

There Will Be **NO** Meeting in December, otherwise, other **LMRC** Meetings are... .

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Produced by ALISTAIR AYNSCOUGH, Colinsburgh,
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LMRC and Transport Minister to Meet...?

Story: *Kingdom-FM Radio Website*, Tuesday, 18th. September.:

"Make Rail Link a Top Priority", Says Fife MSP

ONE of The District's MSP's has called on Michael Matheson, the recently-appointed Transport Minister, to follow the lead of his predecessor Humza Yousaf, and "make the Levenmouth Rail Link his Government's top priority".

Claire Baker, seen **Above (Centre)** at *Holyrood* on the Petition handover day, 1st. June, last year, with fellow Rail Link campaigners, faced Mr. Matheson in Parliament last month, to ask him to "meet her and other politicians, in Fife, and make the rail campaign a priority".

Ahead of the session, on Wednesday, 19th. September, she told a *Kingdom FM* reporter: "There is clear, cross-party support.

"There is a clear, cross-party consensus in Fife that the Levenmouth rail project *should* go ahead..., for the 5½-mile (8¾-km.) stretch of track between Thornton and Leven to be *re-opened*, and I hope that there is a similar consensus that it should be one of the Government's next big infrastructure projects. All local politicians must continue to speak with a united voice, as we can see with the backing of *Fife Council*, and MSP's from all parties.

"There is Strength in Us Working Together."

Claire Baker added: "The Government reshuffle in the summer has seen the transport portfolio promoted from a Junior Minister position to one that is now in the Cabinet. It has also combined transport with infrastructure and we need to use this opportunity to make our case to the new Cabinet Secretary.

"That is why I am calling for a cross-party meeting with Michael Matheson, and *all* interested MSPs..

"We must push to successfully lobby the new Cabinet Secretary about the benefits of Levenmouth Rail Project and why it should be top of his agenda.

"With every passing year, the argument for the re-introduction of the Levenmouth Rail Link grows stronger."



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The Levenmouth Rail Campaign Newsletter

"Much More Than a Transport Project!"

The Still Very
CREDIBLE
Journey

250 Signatories

Campaign Update 47 • November 2018

With Tay City Deal Set to Get Budget 'Boost', LMRC Say ...

Deal Us In!

... Trusting that Levenmouth Rail Link Won't be 'Sidetracked'

Story Details: Websites for: *'Dundee Courier'*, *'Construction Index'*, and *'Tay Cities Deal'* ...

THE NEWS that the "Tay Cities Deal" is set to receive a large cash-boost following the Budget of Monday, 29th. October, has to be good news - despite some politicians writing to the next day's newspapers, suggesting it was nothing like - for the regional economy, and that must surely include the East Neuk and Levenmouth, with our county also bordering the River Tay and facing the city of Dundee.

However, the *Levenmouth Rail Campaign* are seeking assurance that this welcome development will not lead, somehow, to the much-needed Levenmouth Rail Link being overlooked, indeed, even "sidetracked", in favour of other schemes.

We at the *LMRC* are already aware and accepting of the fact St. Andrews is in a similar position as us; there is a kind of agreement that both these campaigns are being run together in order to give them added clout or, indeed, "leverage".

Already Well-Received

Much as we respect each others' hope and ambitions, we trust that being a little further away from Dundee and the "Silvery Tay" than the St. Andrews route, will not put Levenmouth's case further down any list of rail revival "priorities".

The grand opening of the new *V. & A. Museum*, in the Dundee Waterfront area next to the already much-loved *R.S.S. Discovery*, has already led to a great influx of visitors to Dundee as, just like the *Borders Railway*, the *V. & A.* has already surpassed everyone's expectations, and being well-received by tourists and local people alike, attracting just over 27,000



Above: Dundee's Transport Links are all Catered For ... Unlike at Levenmouth.

people in only its first, full week..., and 100,000 by Monday, 8th. October, just 23 days after opening. It compares well to the 500,000 whom they hope to welcome to Japanese architect Kengo Kuma's imposing building in its first full year.

This is just one new attraction for the city, and with others already active and more likely to be attracted to Dundee and farther afield, as part of the Tay Cities Deal, it's little wonder if those in the Levenmouth area are calling on the 'powers that be' to "Deal us In" to this laudable initiative. Leven and the Levenmouth area, and its tens of thousands of potential rail travellers, have already missed out on the *Edinburgh City Deal*, and dread that this could happen again.

The New Railway Station and Hotel

The new Dundee museum alone must be a valid reason to call for our area's "Rail Link to the Outside World". In the spirit of the *LMRC's* official slogan, that ours is "much more than a railway project", we call for Levenmouth... / **Pg. 2 ►**

Our Advancing Train shows that We Have Already Signed-Up

172

Members to the L.M.R.C. CHARTER!

(for a Target of 200, by Late-October 2018)

Please Get Aboard Now ...

The More LMRC Charter Signatories We Have,

The Stronger is Our Case to CALL for The

COMPLETE Reinstatement

of Our

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'Charting the Charter'

'REINSTATE THE EDINBURGH-LEVEN RAIL-LINK NOW!'

REINSTATE THE LEVEN-**EDINBURGH** RAIL-LINK NOW!

LMRC Meetings

Our MAIN PUBLIC ["Action Group"] MEETINGS are Held Monthly - Except In Summer and December - at the ...

Fife College Campus

Methilhaven Road, Buckhaven, Leven, (KY8 1HL; *adjoining Levenmouth Academy*)

6.30 p.m., Tuesday, 27th. November.

For Further Information Please see LMRC Contacts Below...



Image by:
Ken Haig.



... to Fife College Rooms !

* 'Song-Title Arrows': *Bedfinger* (1970); also *AC+DC* (2000).

Later LMRC Meetings ...

[There Will Be **NO Meeting** in December.]

LMRC Action Group Meeting

— Tuesday, 29th. January, '19, 6.30 p.m.;

Start of 50th. Anniversary Year of Passenger 'Push-Off'?...!

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For Other Dates, Events and Details. ...

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[◀- Cont. from Front Page] **'Deal Us In!'**

... to be returned to the national railway network. A new railway station for Dundee has been built as part of an equally-imposing, 120-room hotel close to the V. & A. Museum and opened in July, replacing one that opened 140 years ago. The *Museum* cost just over £80m. to create, which many people questioned, but already it seems to be bringing extra revenue to Dundee and that area.

The fact that it cost just over £80m. has not gone un-noticed by the *LevenMouth Rail Campaign* - fully aware that the cost of reinstating the Rail Link may cost substantially less than the Museum, or even the hotel-cum-rail station, which one newspaper quoted at £38m..

The *Tay Cities Deal* for "a Smarter..., Fairer Region"

The *Tay Cities Deal* involves private, public and voluntary organisations in the Perth & Kinross, Fife, Angus, and Dundee Council areas, with the intention of, as the publicity states, creating a "Smarter and Fairer Region". We can only wait now and see if any of these can be created or, in the case of our lost railway, re-opened...!

Infrastructure secretary Michael Matheson, who took over from Humza Yousaf in a Summer government reshuffle, told a *Courier* reporter: "A *Tay Cities Region Deal* of this scale has the power to build on the area's significant strengths and expertise. I expect *City Region Deals* to be funded on a '50:50' basis - and I call on the UK Government to match our commitment and make this a £400 million deal." The local authorities that made up the zone were hoping to "secure investment and greater local powers with the aim of encouraging skills development and progressing infrastructure such as roads, rail links, buildings and communications networks."

Yes! - you *did* just read the phrase: 'Rail-Links'.

The daily commute for any of these new employees would have to be considered, and many of these people would be involved in the building of "new roads, rail-links, buildings and communications networks, and similar infrastructure" [the website goes on] that in the years to come they would use for their commutes!

The local authorities have been in negotiations with the U.K. and Scottish Governments in recent months - and were able to get £200m. from *Holyrood* and, as part of the recent Budget at *Westminster*, another £150m. from there, to "secure investment and greater local powers", the official *Tay Cities Deal* website states. The *University of St. Andrews* welcomed the funding, and hopes to create 500 jobs at its *Eden Campus* at Guardbridge, using some of the now-secured *Tay Cities Deal* money.

CAMPAIGN CALL ... LOBBY FOR THE LEVEN LINE!

THE LMRC Appeals for *everyone* who wants the *Levenmouth Rail Link* back to write to their MSP or MP (or Councillor) right away. The more *you* do, the more chance there will be of your long-lost *Rail-Link to the Outside World* being reinstated in the near-future!

Produced by ALISTAIR AYNSCOUGH, Colinsburgh, Fife, for the *LevenMouth Rail Campaign*.

From The Creator of **'Brougham Hall News'**.

LMRC News - November 2018 - www.lmrc-action.org.uk



The Levenmouth Rail Campaign Newsletter

"Much More Than a Transport Project!"

The Still Very
CREDIBLE
Journey

250 Signatories

Campaign Update 48 • December 2018



Wishing all our Readers, Followers and Supporters
... a Very Merry Christmas!



Levenmouth to Welcome ... Many More **Potential** **New Rail-Users...**

1,650 New Houses Planned for District Access-Ways to Homes 'Could Assist with Rail Link Project'

A **SIGNIFICANT**, New Housing-and-Industrial Estate is set to be built on the edge of Levenmouth ... and its proposed 1,650 homes and amenities could inadvertently 'assist with the Rail Link project', the November meeting of the *LevenMouth Rail Campaign* heard.

Quite apart from the arrival of many more potential, new rail-users, which would ideally boost the hopes and, of course, the case for the reinstating of the Rail Link, the development might bring unexpected, secondary and beneficial effects.

By law now, particularly when it comes to disability access rights, provision has to be made for decent lanes, paths or other access-ways, to enable people, especially with disabilities, to get around more easily and, as construction traffic will also need good-quality roads so that vital deliveries



Above: *Low Carbon Investment Park*, in the south-west corner of the Levenmouth area, is seen here on 10 August last year. The area between this site and the houses in the distance is now set to be part of the new, 1,650-home housing development.

of construction materials can actually be made, the *LMRC* now hope and believe that housing contractors' needs will also lead to a new network of traffic-safe paths linking various amenities, such as schools, factories, shops, libraries, public parks and more ... and these paths would be created without the railway developers needing to provide them ... reducing the overall costs of restoring the Levenmouth Rail Link.

These byways would also be ideal for the Rail Link itself, not only for disabled people, walkers and cyclists. It could also link stations and shops within them, other factories or warehouses - *and* the proposed freight-handling yard and train 'parking'.

"SOME PEOPLE say they don't believe I even exist ... so will they believe my coat was *red*-and-white when I began this wait for my Leven-Edinburgh train!?"



"Merry Christmas..., Everyone!"

Image: Microsoft 'Clip-Art' Library. Original "Credits" Unclear.

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Image by: Ken Haig.

... to *Fife College Rooms* !

* Song-Title Arrows: Beatles [1969, Released 4 Oct: '69: day passenger services officially end].

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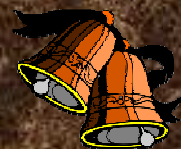
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Make Us Your New Year's Resolution!



Please Support the LMRC in 2019, with their Bid to Have the LevenMouth Rail Link Fully Reinstated — — CONTACT DETAILS at Foot of Page ...

"ARRESTED Development!"



Is This Clearest 'Sign' Yet of "Capital-Centric" Transport Planning?

NOW, IF This isn't a case of the Levenmouth area's development prospects being "arrested", we don't know what is...! In mid-November, the 'shock news' broke that a *cardboard policeman* crime deterrent, like the one seen **Right**, was stolen from an Edinburgh street!

National television and newspapers looked to be all over the story - and it seemed like this *could* be the most-heinous criminal act to be committed for many, many..., *err...*, *umm...*, *err ...?* ... , well, for a few **hours**, anyway !!

Joking aside, though, this little tale certainly gets our notice for one significant reason. For a while the *LevenMouth Rail Campaign* had a real challenge to get some media — other than *East Fife Mail*, *Courier* and *MidgieBite Media* — to notice us, yet this story, perhaps due to its closeness to the media, was covered despite many of these signs being stolen each year across Britain and beyond, mostly in rural areas like ours. The media reaction to this case just looks like *more* "capital-centric" thinking!



Image: www.crimereductionsigns.com Website.

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