

Give Railfuture a boost

railfuture

**How YOU can
gain by
becoming
a member**



**and help to
campaign
for a modern
sustainable
rail network**

www.railfuture.org.uk

With this copy of *Railwatch*, you should find two copies of the leaflet, illustrated left.

As a Railfuture member, you will know how important it is to expand our membership.

So could you please pass the leaflets on to friends or colleagues who might be interested in joining.

If you can distribute the leaflets more widely, you can obtain extra copies from David Harby, 6 Carral Close, Brant Road, Lincoln LN5 9BD. Email: membership@railfuture.org.uk

Railfuture members can also help by finding out if their local MPs are supportive of rail. Railfuture's list of MPs of all parties who can be described as "pro-rail" was hit by more than 40 of them retiring at the general election and another 20-plus were defeated.

We now need to find new friends among the 149 newly elected MPs. If you can identify a pro-rail MP, please contact David Harby at the above addresses.

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Non-members can subscribe by sending £8 (cheque payable to *Railwatch*) to: Alan Cocker, 11 Franklin Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 9DX

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Copy to: editor@railwatch.org.uk

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Membership £21 per year. Family: £21 plus £2 for each extra person. Pensioners, students and unemployed: £14. User groups, community and parish councils: Please apply for rates.

New members apply to David Harby, 6 Carral Close, Lincoln LN5 9BD
membership@railfuture.org.uk

Renewals and other membership queries: Lloyd Butler, 24 Chedworth Place, Tattingstone, Suffolk IP9 2ND. Email: renewals@railfuture.org.uk

Policy Chairman: Mike Crowhurst, 33 Station Court, Aberford Road, Garforth, Leeds LS25 2QQ. Tel 0113 286 4844

Elections Board elections held annually. Nomination forms can be obtained from Returning Officer, PO Box 7690, Hinckley LE10 9WJ. You can also download a form from www.railfuture.org.uk

Who's Who: Many other useful contact details can be found on the Railfuture website

LOCAL ACTION

Wales

By Rowland Pittard

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■ ■ Rail transport in Wales

Railfuture Wales issued a consultation document *Rail Transport in Wales* at the annual general meeting of the South Wales branch. The document aims for a positive constructive framework in which Welsh railways can thrive. The document takes into account the Welsh Assembly Government's statutory requirement to promote sustainable development and carbon reduction obligations. Our proposals generated a half page news item in the *Western Mail*.

■ ■ £800,000 subsidy for just one air route

The North Wales (Valley) to South Wales (Cardiff International) air service restarted on 10 May with a new airline called Manx 2. The service receives an annual subsidy of £800,000. At the same time, a Harrington hump is being installed at Valley railway station.

■ ■ Farewell to Vale of Glamorgan campaigner

Bill Price passed away in April but will always be remembered for his campaigning for better rail services. He spearheaded the campaign for the restoration of passenger services on the Vale of Glamorgan line and produced a booklet promoting the campaign. Bill also in recent years dispatched *Rail Wales* to all its readers, a task he carried out without any assistance.

■ ■ Rail to rescue as air transport is disrupted

Railfuture Wales, in a press release, praised Arriva Trains Wales and Virgin for their remarkable efforts to cater for the increase in foot passengers on the Dublin to Holyhead and Rosslare to Fishguard services when air travel was disrupted by volcanic ash. ATW increased all trains from Holyhead to at least four and in some cases up to eight coaches while those from Fishguard were six coaches instead of two. ATW also provided additional trains from Holyhead to Crewe while Virgin West Coast doubled the capacity on their trains which connected sailings at Holyhead. In recent years Railfuture Wales has campaigned for the retention of services for foot passengers especially on the route to Holyhead. Our stance was reported in a wide range of publications.

■ ■ Fares consultation

Railfuture Wales provided an appendix to the Railfuture response to the Association of Train Operators fares consultation which included issues specific to Wales. The response was well-received by the media.

■ ■ Cash hunt for station improvements

The Welsh Assembly Government has applied for convergence match funding for schemes that lie within the funding area. Work, unfortunately excluding disabled access, has been completed at Severn Tunnel Junction and major schemes are under way at Newport and Swansea.

■ ■ National Transport Plan for Wales

The National Transport Plan for Wales was issued in March and will ensure that Wales has a sustainable transport network that can support the renewal of the economy and help to deliver a more inclusive society.

■ ■ Aggregate traffic

There was a remarkable increase in trains conveying gritstone from Wales to England in February and March. The gritstone was used as a top dressing for road surfaces which were badly damaged in the freezing conditions this winter.

