

## **Welcome to this special edition of Rail User Express.**

It's only a few days since the last edition, but a couple of items have come in which can't wait until the next one in late September.

### CHANNEL 4 DISPATCHES PROGRAMME - your help needed

Steve Walsh, Associate Producer for the television production company, True North, has written to ask for our help with initial research for a proposed Channel 4 'Dispatches' programme about rail travel from the passengers' perspective.

Steve says: "In the first instance, I'm keen to speak to people, perhaps within the Rail User Groups, who can help us to identify some of the worst rail journeys in the country in terms of ticket prices, overcrowded services, poor levels of comfort, poor punctuality, and so on. I should stress that at this stage, we are not seeking interviews or even anything 'on the record' – we're simply keen to speak to people informally in the first instance to get a sense of some of the regular ordeals which some passengers face. I would be grateful for any help you and your colleagues can offer."

Steve's email address for replies is: [swalsh@truenorth.tv](mailto:swalsh@truenorth.tv) or Tel: 0113 394 5494 ext 422

His postal address is: Stephen Walsh, Associate Producer, True North, Marshall's Mill, Marshall Street, LEEDS LS11 9YP

### RUG AWARDS, 2013 - some last-minute points to note

RUG Awards organiser, Roger Blake, has written in with some last-minute thoughts about the competition ...

1 - We have lost two particularly outstanding older members during the year. The very least we can do in their memory is to name a RUG Award after each of them. So there will be a Clara Zilahi award and an Oliver Lovell award, to mark our appreciation for their special contributions to the cause of railway development.

2 - All Railfuture members, Rail User Groups and RUG members are reminded that they may find themselves nominated for an award without their prior knowledge, never mind consent! The awards do not rely on RUGs putting themselves forward. Already around half a dozen are known to the organisers, so be prepared to be pleasantly surprised!

3 - As last year there will be a year's free Railfuture membership to the Oxford conference participant who correctly guesses one of the award-winners.

The RUG Awards competition remains open for receiving your entries until **30 Sept 2013**. You can download full details about the competition from the Rail User Group page on Railfuture's website. Prizes will be presented at the Rail User Conference in Oxford on 2 Nov. If you have any queries, you can email Roger via [roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk)

### ODDS AND ENDS - a few other items have come in during the last few days

1 - Barry Doe tells us that his Directory of Printed Timetables and Rail Operators' Map have just been updated. Go to [www.barrydoe.co.uk](http://www.barrydoe.co.uk)

2 - The Taplow Rail User Group (TRUG) has disbanded as an independent group and has merged with the Marlow-Maidenhead Passengers' Association (MMPA).

3 - Nigel Whitburn has written to tell us that the "long awaited, stand-alone" website for the Kent Community Rail Partnership is now up and running. You can find it at [www.kentcrp.org.uk](http://www.kentcrp.org.uk)

4 - The new Rail North authority has issued a consultation entitled "A long-term rail strategy for the north of England", with a comments deadline of 21 October. See <http://www.railstrategynorth.com/>