

THE RUNAWAY TRAIN CAME DOWN THE TRACK AND SHE BLEW, SHE BLEW



East Neuk Festival *Holiday Line* Film & Exhibition Gathering Momentum Huge Sand Sculpture to be Created in Crail

The soot, smoke and steam of the engines, the social hubbub of summer arrivals at the little picket-fenced stations dotted along the coastline from Largo to Crail, beach activities from dawn to dusk – these are some of the enduring memories of people interviewed by film makers Kenny Munro and Ed O'Donnelly for the specially commissioned East Neuk Festival film, *The Holiday Line*.

Prompted by sepia-tinted photo albums and silent flickering cine-film they recall the 1950s and early '60s heydays of the railway line that brought city dwellers every summer to the resorts of Pittenween, Elie and Anstruther for the long days of bathing, picnics, pageants and golf. Locals would move into the garden shed for the months of July and August and rent their houses to vacationing city dwellers and tents and caravans would take up residence in many a farmer's field to accommodate the incoming swell of holidaymakers. Campers would apparently hurl their tents and equipment from the train windows as they passed by the campsites to save the haul back from the station several hundred yards further on. And everybody remembers times gone by as more relaxed; even the train chugged its way along the coast at a leisurely pace.

The development of the railway after the war encouraged not only tourism, but also agricultural and industrial development of the region: fish, fruit, hemp and linoleum are just some of the products that the railways took south. The demise came after the mid 1960s when the rail route was closed (a casualty of the Beeching Axe*) and now the railway lines are just ghostly traces across the landscape and only memories remain.

More recently though, a new generation love affair with the wide sandy beaches, coastal paths, fine dining, cosy pubs and burgeoning cultural scene has urbanites from Edinburgh (an hour's drive away), Glasgow and London once again flooding to this corner (*neuk*) of Scotland, albeit by road and air these days.

The *Holiday Line* film will be shown in Crail Community Hall during the 2010 East Neuk Festival (30 June – 4 July) with six screenings a day (Friday-Sunday inclusive) and will undoubtedly appeal to railway enthusiasts, nostalgic romantics hankering after days gone by and baby-boomers with their own childhood memories to share. Admission is free.

An exhibition of the history and memorabilia associated with The Holiday Line will be on display in the Hall's adjoining room, fashioned as a railway waiting room. Meanwhile round the corner in front of the Honey Pot Tearooms on Crail High Street another bucket-and-spade project of monumental proportions will be on parade.

The East Neuk Festival has commissioned **Sand in Your Eye**, a company famed for its award-winning sculptures in ice and sand, to create a gigantic steam engine made out of sand. This ephemeral work of art will take shape out of 15 tons of sand that will be dumped on site Saturday 26 June. The team of sculptors expect it to be completed by the following Saturday, allowing Festival visitors and locals to watch the train taking shape, like a phoenix rising from the ashes of railways past. www.sandsculptureice.co.uk.

The East Neuk Festival is an award-winning chamber music festival that takes place at the beginning of July each year. It has quickly earned a reputation for imaginative programming of world-class musicians performing in a range of appropriately atmospheric venues. The 2010 programme is themed with monumental works written in remarkable times – from Renaissance polyphony to Jazz combo. Visiting artists in 2010 include the **Belcea** and **Elias Quartets**, **Tallis Scholars**, **London Winds**, Russian virtuoso pianist **Alexander Romanovsky**, **Scottish Chamber Orchestra**, French jazz star **Renaud Garcia Fons**, and pianist **Malcolm Martineau** with young singers **Katherine Broderick** and **Robin Tritschler**. Featured composers include Brahms, Britten, Beethoven, Mozart, Rachmaninov, Schubert, Tallis, Vaughan Williams and many more.

* Dr Richard Beeching was responsible for report *The Reshaping of British Railways*, commissioned to reduce the cost of the nationalised railways which resulted in the closure of many unprofitable lines.



General Festival information and more about The Holiday Line:
www.eastneukfestival.com
<http://twitter.com/EastNeukFest>

East Neuk Festival **Facebook**

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