



Rail User Group Awards 2016

Rewarding Rail User Groups

Let the oxygen of publicity breathe fresh life into your campaigning for a bigger better railway!

Awards will be presented at Railfuture's annual November conference, this year in Birmingham, as they were in Bristol last November, London the previous year, in Oxford the year before that, and Birmingham in the inaugural year. Railfuture's fifth annual Rail User Group Awards will again aim to recognise and reward the various achievements over the past year among the country's 300 RUGs in fulfilling Railfuture's mission: to be the number one advocate for the railway and rail users.

For some general clues to what's involved you can do no better than draw on the experience of the first four years' RUG Awards. The key website links are www.railfuture.org.uk/RUG+Awards and www.railfuture.org.uk/Rail+User+Groups and www.railfuture.org.uk/Rail+User+Express and also www.railwatch.org.uk/backtrack

The **award categories** for **2016** are:

- 1 & 2 - Best newsletter - Gold and Silver awards [not available to last year's winners]
- 3 & 4 - Best website - Gold and Silver awards [not available to last year's winners]
- 5 - Best social media promotion
- 6 - Best campaign
- 7 - Best individual RUG campaigner [for Railfuture members only]
- 8 - Best new group
- 9 - Judges' Special Award

*The closing date for your nominations/submissions is **23.59 on Saturday 3rd September 2016**.*

There are **no** application forms. Just one nomination in any category will be sufficient for the nominated **newsletter, website, social media promotion, campaign, individual, or new group** to be considered; these awards will not be decided by popular vote but on merit by a panel of independent judges. The same person or group can nominate in more than one category. RUGs and individuals can nominate their own **newsletter, website, social media promotion, campaign, new group**, as well as others; no self-nominations accepted in category 7! The **Judges' Special Award** is reserved to the sole discretion of the judging panel, which we plan to include our Vice-Presidents.

For **best newsletter** and **best social media promotion**, please confirm your wish to be considered for an award by sending an email to roger.blake@railfuture.org.uk or a letter, and in either case please post a paper copy of your latest and up to the three other most recent newsletters, or disc/memory stick etc, to **Roger Blake, 70 Dynevor Road, Stoke Newington, London, N16 0DX**.

Please **do NOT email the newsletters** themselves otherwise you will overload Roger's Inbox!

A lesson from previous years: Roger very strongly advises the use of strong padded envelopes for postal submissions, and the use of Signed-for Delivery.

P.T.O.

For **best website**, which will be judged at any time during September-October, again please send an email or letter confirming your entry, with a link to your website, to Roger Blake as above.

For **best campaign, best new group, and best individual RUG campaigner**, please email or post your nominations to Roger with your supporting submissions of up to 200 words each. A limited selection of supporting evidence can be sent to him by post, or by email if just plain text.

All submissions must please:

- identify the individual making the nomination,
- indicate if the nomination is personal/on behalf of a group and if so in any particular capacity,
- include a full postal address and at least one telephone number where possible.

The primary intention is that these awards are open to Railfuture members and RUGs affiliated* to Railfuture, with eligibility to entry being one of the benefits of membership. However, we do recognise that many currently non-affiliated groups and their members do sterling work in a wide variety of ways which should not be allowed to pass unremarked. Such groups should nevertheless be able to enter the Awards competition by identifying at least one currently-subscribing Railfuture member, by membership number or postcode.

**The Directory of Rail Users Groups on the national website shows affiliated RUGs with an 'A'*

The national website www.railfuture.org.uk has details of how to join Railfuture, including online payment using Paypal. The prizes will include a year's subscription to Railfuture, so that will be a 'free introductory offer' for non-member RUGs whom we trust will then renew their affiliation.

All nominees will have their current membership status (individual or affiliated RUG) confirmed together with date of expiry of any current subscription. Non-members are asked to confirm a wish to apply for individual or RUG membership if a prize-winner. Railfuture wishes to be inclusive and while all membership applications are ultimately at the discretion of the national Board of Directors, it is very rarely withheld.

With apologies for all the terms and conditions (at least not in unreadable small print!), please feel free to raise any queries with Roger Blake as above. As last year, there's a month's **LESS** time than originally to make your preparations for nominating. This is so that one of our Vice-Presidents may be able to pay you a visit during September/early-October while they are in your area.

And finally, **book no later than Wednesday 31 August** at www.railfuture.org.uk/conferences to benefit from the Railfuture members' early-bird-discounted Birmingham conference fee of just £25.00 (includes refreshments and buffet lunch). Be there to collect your framed RUG Award, have the occasion photographed for your own local publicity, and maybe have the further opportunity [available only to conference participants] to earn yourself a prize for correctly guessing one of the Award winners. This year award contenders, when confirmed, will be in for a pleasant surprise to assist them in coming to Birmingham for 12 November!

