



Rail User Group Awards 2017

Recognising and Rewarding Excellence among 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 Leicester, as they were in Birmingham last November, in Bristol, London and Oxford in previous years, and in Birmingham in the inaugural year. Railfuture's sixth 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, affiliated to Railfuture or not, 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 five years' RUG Awards. The key website links are www.railfuture.org.uk/RUG+Awards also www.railfuture.org.uk/Rail+User+Groups and www.railfuture.org.uk/Rail+User+Express together with coverage in our quarterly national magazine Railwatch at www.railwatch.org.uk/backtrack

The **award categories** for **2017** 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 2nd September 2017.

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 website link to newsletters which can be downloaded is welcome, but not a substitute for hard copy.

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 direct 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 name with membership number or postcode.

**The Directory of Rail Users Groups on the national website Rail User Groups page 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 £21 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 two years, 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.

Finally, if you are or become an affiliated member in time, **book before Wednesday 31 August** at www.railfuture.org.uk/conferences to benefit from the Railfuture members' early-bird-discounted Leicester conference fee of just £25.00 (includes refreshments and buffet lunch). Whenever you book, please let Roger know if you have so we know whether to look out for you in Leicester. Be there to collect your framed RUG Award, have the occasion photographed for your own 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. Award contenders, when confirmed, will be in for a pleasant surprise to assist them in coming to Leicester for Saturday 4 November!

