



3.11.2012

Railfuture President Christian Wolmar today presented the first-ever Awards to local Rail Users Groups for their various contributions to rail campaigning. At Railfuture's annual conference for rail users in Birmingham, nine awards were presented in categories for best newsletter, best website, best campaign, best new group, best campaigner, and a Judges' Special Award. The judging panel comprised Christian Wolmar and Vice-Presidents Ian Brown, Barry Doe and Adrian Shooter.

The gold award for best newsletter went to the Cotswold Line Promotion Group, with silver for the Huddersfield-Penistone-Sheffield Rail Users Association and a commendation for the Friends of Denton Station.

The gold award for best website went to the Meldreth-Shepreth-Foxton Rail User Group, with silver for the Bedwyn Trains Passenger Group.

The Cotswold Line Promotion Group also took home the award for best campaign, while the Meldreth-Shepreth-Foxton Rail User Group captured the award for best new group.

The best campaigner was judged to be Susan van de Ven, Chair of the Meldreth-Shepreth-Foxton Rail User Group.

The Judges' Special Award went to Tony Smale, the Railfuture member who edits the Rail Users Express newsletter and compiles the Directory of 300 Rail Users Groups nationwide.

Awards presenter Christian Wolmar commented "These new awards recognise the special contribution rail users groups and their volunteers make to campaigning for improvements to railway services and stations. Too often their efforts pass unremarked and unrewarded. As the national champion of railway development and rail users, Railfuture has taken the initiative with these innovative awards."

**Notes to editors:**

Railfuture is the UK's leading independent organisation campaigning for better rail services for both passengers and freight.

Railfuture's website can be found at: <http://www.railfuture.org.uk>

For further information and comment please contact:

Bruce Williamson, media spokesman

Tel: 0117 927 2954 Mobile: 07759 557389

[media@railfuture.org.uk](mailto:media@railfuture.org.uk)