

MARCH 2019

HERITAGE RAILWAY NEWS

The official journal of
THE HERITAGE RAILWAY ASSOCIATION
Issue 156

AWARDS NIGHT FULL REPORT

- *Scottish forum details*
- *Wattrain USA Conference report*
- *FedecRail Germany conference details*

- *HRA AGM*
- *COAL - WHERE NEXT?*
- *WINCHESTER VISIT*



HERITAGE
RAILWAY
ASSOCIATION

LOTTERY FUNDING
LATEST

EMAIL TOP
TIPS

SPRING SEMINAR AND
MANAGEMENT FORUM
DATES, PROGRAMME
CONTENT,
BOOKING DETAILS

Chairman's Briefing

Welcome to another issue of HRA News – this one packed with a great deal of news and information.

As I write this, I'm still enjoying the warm glow of our very recent HRA Awards Night. A brilliant evening, celebrating a truly spectacular array of achievement and accomplishment, right across the board. There were winners from railways large and small, standard gauge, tramways, and electric and steam motive power. And those winners were drawn from a record list of nominees, and I know the judging had been difficult work. Choosing the best of the best is never easy, and every one of the runners-up should be just as proud of their achievements as the winners are.

Our new honour, the Lord Faulkner Young Volunteer award recognises the crucial importance of new generations in securing the future of heritage rail. It's sponsored by our own President, the Lord Faulkner of Worcester, and it acknowledges a distinguished contribution made by one or more young volunteers, under the age of 26. There were no less than seven nominees. If all our young volunteers are like them, heritage rail has a promising future.

This year also saw our biennial Carriage and Wagon Awards. The engineering, craftsmanship, attention to detail and authenticity we saw was exemplary in every case. From coaches and coal wagons, to brake vans, a railmotor and a tram, the entries proved yet again, it's not just all about locomotives.

In the Carriage and Wagon Awards we saw a fine example of a disabled conversion of a Mk1 carriage. The youngest Mk1 carriages are now more than 50 years old. But there are many of them still hard at work in heritage rail, and it's not unusual for them to run at speeds up to 100 miles an hour on excursions. Which brings me to a topic we'll hear more of in 2019 – the establishment of best practice for their repair and maintenance. Spread across our membership, I know we have a big pool of knowledge, experience and facilities for keeping these workhorses in best possible shape. Indeed, some members are working as commercial centres of excellence in Mk1 coach maintenance. It's time we drew on all those resources to set and promote the highest standards for every Mk 1 coach in UK heritage rail. After all, we put our passengers in them. Let's make them the best we can.

Best wishes

Brian

DO YOU WANT YOUR OWN COPY OF THIS NEWSLETTER?

If you or your colleagues would like a copy please provide us with the email addresses you want to be used. Send details to:-

barbara.barnes@hra.uk.com

The next edition will be published in June 2019

Dates for your Diary

March 2019

- 5th Spring Seminar
Birmingham (Tuesday)
Getting in the Money
- 6th AGM and
Management Forum
Birmingham (Wednesday)
- 30th Scottish Forum
Ayrshire

April 2019

- 12th Fedecrail Conference
Germany

June 2019

- 7th HRCT Winchester Tour

Further information inside.....

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If your organisation needs help from the HRA email contact@hra.uk.com

News from Steve Oates - HRA Chief Executive

Keeping the Coal Coming

The burning issue of our future coal supplies is now being thoroughly aired! It's being discussed in Westminster, our trade magazines are writing about the issues (with Steam Railway Mag running a major three-part feature), and the colossal negative impact of any loss of supplies on us and other heritage burners is now being more widely understood.

We have a verbal (although not written) assurance from DEFRA that we will not lose the right to burn coal; coal is the subject of the current inquiry being undertaken by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Heritage Rail; and options for securing a future supply and distribution network are being investigated.



*'Steve on the footplate of Ivatt tender loco 46447
Credit: IWSR/Stuart Duddy'*

However, we have to acknowledge that coal is widely viewed as a dirty 'old' fuel and is getting lumped in with the public's rising concerns at environmental damage from emissions, plastics and waste. DEFRA has restated it's aim to impose a blanket ban on burning household coal which, as we know, would severely disrupt our supply. While such a ban might gain the Government a bit of short-term positive PR, we, the coal industry and others are challenging DEFRA's presentation of the data. In both their consultation document and their recent Clean Air Strategy, the annual burn of 130,000 tonnes of household coal is, wrongly, profiled as a major polluter. And it's very clear coal is not going to disappear altogether from the UK. Even if the remaining coal-fired power stations close, there will still be some 5.5million tonnes per year used by steel and other industries. Additionally, the remaining UK mining companies are very focused on continuing – and, in fact, expanding – their operations. To put all of this into perspective, we burn just 26,000 tonnes!

So, how can you help? Right now, as an industry we must work together to robustly promote our economic, social and community value; and we need to demonstrate a 'responsible' approach to environmental issues. I would urge all member railways to:

- Implement whatever simple measures are possible to reduce the your burn
- Establish an environmental policy and mitigate the impacts of burning coal by implementing measures to make your overall business carbon neutral
- Ensure your MP, local councils and community fully understand the economic, tourism, social and wellbeing value of your railway to your locality
- And take whatever opportunity presents itself to shout about the value which heritage railways add to the UK economy

Annual Statistical Returns

Very many thanks to those who have already completed and submitted their Annual Statistical Return. I would like to have all returns by the 15th March so, if your organisation's return is yet to be completed, I would be most grateful if you could complete and return the form as soon as possible please.

This year the Return can be completed online using the form on the HRA website, at:
https://heritagerailwaysassociation.formstack.com/forms/asr_for_operating_members

The information gathered is invaluable in enabling the HRA to promote the economic and social value of heritage railways and tramways to government and others, and to present a strong and positive profile of our industry to the media, the tourism industry and other organisations.

Separately, but equally importantly, much of the data also assists the ORR in planning its activities to best support the rail sector.

Steve Oates
Chief Executive HRA

Offers and Wants

Wanted – Yard Crane

The Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway is looking for a small hand operated yard crane. About 2 ton capacity. Condition is not critical as it is for display. Please contact the W&LLR office on 01938 810441

HRA Spring Seminar - Getting in the Money

Macdonald Burlington Hotel, Birmingham. Tues. 5th March 2019. 9.30 (for 10.30 start) £80 per delegate.

Capitalise the Customer Experience: Understand the customer journey, from first contact, through the decision making process, to the visit itself and the ongoing relationship. How to improve the customer experience. How to keep them coming back. Sessions on Acquiring your Customer, Welcoming your Customer and Maximising their Experience.

Sharpen your Fundraising: An opportunity to hear from the two biggest funders of heritage projects to help shape your fundraising strategy, and learn the requirements for successful legacy funding.

Elizabeth Neathey BA, Arts Council England. Experienced in museum development including governance and funding; will speak on A.C.E. project grants and Accreditation.

Claire Routley PhD, Legacy Fundraising Ltd. Institute of Fundraising tutor and 'Giving to Heritage' presenter on legacy giving.

Adam Tyson BSc, National Lottery Heritage Fund. Policy Advisor on the Historic Environment, which includes transport heritage, outlining the revamped organisation and their grants structure.

HRA Spring Management Forum and AGM

Macdonald Burlington Hotel, Birmingham. Wed. 6th March 2019. 9.30 (for 10.30 start) £65 per delegate (AGM no charge)

Annual General Meeting, including updates from the Chairman and Chief Executive on the work of the association.

Management Forum. A great chance to network, share experiences and exchange views with topical briefings on:-

- The Visitor Economy in 2019
- Young Rail Professionals - 5000 members strong, and with some already volunteering on heritage railways. YRP will be discussing how they intend to launch a national 'Heritage Engagement Programme' working to support the Heritage sector and create valuable learning experiences for their members.
- Coal for Heritage Burners - a short update on work to date - and how you can help to shout our message!
- How's business?
- Level Crossings - Safety Innovations and 'Human Behaviour'
- Business, Legal, Safety and Heritage - HRA working on your behalf.

HRA Autumn Seminar

Macdonald Burlington Hotel, Birmingham. Tues. 29th October 2019

This programme is still under development, more details will be in the next edition of HRA News. However it is expected to include a strong focus on youth matters, and in particular how best to accommodate young volunteers in the heritage rail experience, how to enthuse and support their development and safeguard their welfare.

This builds on the HRA's ongoing programme of supporting the involvement of the latest generation of young people who can learn so much from their involvement with the heritage sector.

HRA Autumn Management Forum

Macdonald Burlington Hotel, Birmingham. Wed. 30th October 2019

Our essential one-day conference for Managers, Senior Staff, Trustees and Directors.

With topical briefings and insights, and a great chance to network, share experiences and exchange views. The days topics and presentations will include advice and support from experts in the field. More information will be available closer to the date.

Events

Scottish Forum: 30th March and 31st March 2019

Bookings are now open for this year's Scottish Forum which this year is based in Ayrshire hosted by the Ayrshire Railway Preservation Group. We will be based at the Abbotsford Hotel, with the Chestnuts Hotel as an overflow. Spouses and partners will be very welcome throughout the programme. Highlights of the forum include a tour of the Scottish Industrial Railway Centre including a ride on a new section of the mineral line, and a visit to the Scottish Maritime Museum. Plus at the business meeting there will be talks by the local MP and MSP, an address by HRA CEO Steve Oates, Ian Skinner of ORR will be bringing us up to date with safety issues, and a talk on recruiting and retaining volunteers. All that and there is also an evening informal dinner to meet old and new friends.

The full programme and cost of the various elements is on the HRA website events page or to book your place go to <https://www.hra.uk.com/scottish-forum-2019>

Fedecrail Jubilee Conference 2019: 12th April to 17th April 2019

Bookings are now open for this year's conference of our European umbrella organisation, Fedecrail. This year's conference will be based at Wernigerode in the Harz Mountains in Germany, well known for its network of year round steam hauled narrow gauge railways. An invitation to this year's 25th anniversary conference is extended to anyone actively involved with rail and tram heritage throughout Europe (and beyond!). You're welcome to take part for as much or as little of the programme as you wish. To help fit both diary and budget constraints there are several options offered on the Fedecrail website www.fedecrail.org. A major change this year is that booking is online, just click the 'Conferences' page of the website to reach the 'Book your attendance' link.



Other details are being published in a series of special Jubilee Newsletters - the first few issues can also be accessed via the website 'Conferences' page. Business sessions will feature both landmarks from the first 25 years of Fedecrail - and even more important the challenges which we foresee may face us in the next 25 years! Visits will include the Harzerschmalspurbahn railway itself, heritage trams in the town of Halberstadt, a heritage train on the technically interesting Rubelandbahn nearby, and other locations. A Partners Programme is offered during business and AGM sessions. Bookings by Thursday 28th March please. For any queries, please email: conference@fedecrail.org or contact HRA Company Secretary, Peter Ovenstone, Tel: 07783 238108 or: ovenstone@fedecrail.org

Heritage Rail Charitable Trust Summer Tour: 7th June to 9th June 2019

Bookings are now open for HRCT's cultural city tour with visits to The Moors Valley Railway, The Swanage Railway, The Hythe Ferry and Pier Tramway, and Exbury Gardens and Railway. £135 per person which includes admissions, coach and train travel at the four locations, pick up and return from the Premier Inn, the Railway Station and Central Winchester as arranged. You book the hotels they do the rest.

Bookings and enquiries to John S Glover, Burrows Farm, Toot Hill Ongar, Essex CM5 9QW Phone 07785 725780 or email hrctvisits@gmail.com.

HRA Autumn Tour: 13th September to 15th September 2019

A date for your diaries. The HRA Autumn tour this year will be based at Criccieth North Wales, so with plenty of railway delights to enjoy just on the doorstep. More details will be available on the HRA website events page in due course.

Offered – Cast Iron Pillars

4 cast iron pillars believed to be ex railway. Location Midlands.

For more information please contact Roger Carey at roger.carey@carey-communications.com

Help for Members - Communication

Top Tips – Emails

Emails are a fantastic quick, easy and cheap communication. While over 85% of the UK population has an email account, very few have had any training on how to get the best from this powerful form of communication.

Many railways will already have this well covered; but some of you might not - so for those who would like some help, below are a few top tips compiled by the Business Development Committee designed to help members get the most for their railway:



- Protect the data – ensure your email accounts are secure from hackers:
- Use high security email accounts, such as those supported by the major internet service providers. Ensure staff use higher security passwords that cannot be easily guessed with capitals, numbers and symbols. More suggestions here: <https://www.wikihow.tech/Create-a-Secure-Password>
- When you send out an email it sends a copy to all those within the “to” and the “cc” list and they can all see each other’s addresses – be very careful using reply all or sending to large groups. Consider putting your address in the “to” and using bcc so the email addresses are not shared.
- Ensure your security software is up to date and correctly configured, with a password to protect the PC you use to manage the emailing list(s).

Your emails represent your railway

- Ensure your addresses are professional and encourage trust. Name.surname@railway.co.uk shows that you are emailing the right person if it is an enquiry to an individual. We strongly recommend using generic titles: General.manager@rail... or group.travel@railway... These can be set up through your internet provider (the people who host your website) or Google, normally with enough FREE email accounts for the average railway. Just watch the word choice so you don’t mesh words together to form another unintended phrase! We suggest staff and volunteers are encouraged (perhaps via your policies and procedures) to use these, perhaps using Outlook and not re-direct them to another email account.
- Email accounts should be set up to ensure security to protect the personal data within the organisation (required under GDPR) and facilitate a smooth handover once that person is no longer undertaking the role ensuring that future business enquiries are not lost. Ensure you have an active administrator account you can access.
- Seek advice on how to automatically populate the footer on the outgoing emails from your railway. This can, for example be set to automatically advertise your next event, but should also include any important legal information; such as contract limitations, GDPR (including how to find your privacy policy) and details of the registered business. You may want to state that any views expressed are not necessarily on behalf of the railway.
- Don’t let your railway become an email enemy – be clear about how often you will send out promotional messages. Don’t send them out too often as you will just get unread and deleted or automatically put in the spam folders.
- You should have separate email groups for different classes of customer – for example individuals choosing to sign up for “enthusiasts’ news” which might offer weekly reports; a separate “family focus” with details focused towards your family events; and a separate members group for details about members discounts, outings and AGMs.
- Don’t try and manage an email group – there are several free secure online solutions that can manage your email group. Used correctly this helps you comply with legislation regarding GDPR, ensures members have “opted in” and give group members the “right to be forgotten” and unsubscribe to your emails.

If you have a topic that you would like Business Development Committee to help with please get in touch with Ian Reed at ian.reed@hra.uk.com

Help for Members - Fundraising

New Look for Lottery Funding

At the end of January the Heritage Lottery Fund re-launched itself as the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) with new website <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/> . It also published a new Strategic Funding Framework.

In the foreword NLHF Chair, Sir Peter Luff writes “Our approach is probably best summed up by the phrase, “It’s not enough to save something – you’ve got to make it live”

This is good news for Heritage Railways which are “living” entities. To meet their conditions our projects will have to go beyond preservation and restoration to provide a high level of interpretation and interactivity.

The Outcomes the NLHF require are summarised in their Framework as

- Heritage will be in better condition.
- Heritage will be identified and better explained.
- People will have developed skills.
- People will have learnt about heritage, leading to change in ideas and actions.
- People will have greater wellbeing.
- A wider range of people will be involved in heritage.
- The funded organisation will be more resilient.
- The local area will be a better place to live, work or visit.
- The local economy will be boosted

It will be necessary to achieve more than one to make a successful application in a process that will still be competitive.

The Funding Schemes announced in the new Framework are

- National Lottery Grants for Heritage: £3,000 to £10,000 <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/node/107847>. This scheme has no deadlines for applications, will fully fund a project and a decision is promised in 8 weeks.
- National Lottery Grants for Heritage: £10,000 to £250,000 <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/node/107852>. This scheme has deadlines and for applications, an assessment will be made in 12 weeks of submission and following assessment, it will be assigned to a quarterly committee meeting. The scheme will fully fund a project up to £100,000 after which a 5% cash contribution is required.
- National Lottery Grants for Heritage: £250,000 to £5million <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/node/107855>. This scheme has deadlines and is multi phased starting with an Expression of Interest. The scheme requires applicants to contribute at least 5% of project costs for grants up to £1million and at least 10% for grants of £1m or more

By using links above you can get more details of these schemes and download the Guidance Notes.

All grants up to £5 million will be decided upon locally, although the English regions are to be re-organised into the North, Midlands & East, and London and South.

Schemes for grants of over £5 million will be assessed nationally, details are to still to be announced.

The NLHF will place high level of importance to the Evaluation at the end of a Project.

HRA members will need not only to deliver their projects but to produce a detailed Evaluation Report on its conclusion. It is in all our interests to see that it is done well so that HRA members are looked upon favourably by the NLHF.

With HRA support - and there is a lot of available – we hope the new NLHF Funding Framework will enable members to be successful in obtaining grants. Advice and support of any kind of funding can be obtained from the HRA Heritage Committee by email to: roger.kelly@hra.uk.com

A more detailed version of this article can be found on our website www.hra.uk.com.

WATTRAIN News

WATTRAIN Conference November 2018.

By Nigel Hunt.

For two weeks in November 2018 the group visited the South West of the USA to attend conferences organised by World Alliance of Tourist Trams and Trains (WATTRAIN) and North America's Heritage Railway Alliance (HRA). Our arrival coincided with an invitation to Frisco Heritage Museum which includes exhibits from the Museum of American Railroads.

Bob Laprelle, Director of MoAR, welcomed delegates from 8 countries to the conference. Under the theme 'Addressing Tomorrow's Challenges with Today's Resources' we had a variety of presentations (details on the website - www.wattrain.org). The conference concluded with the AGM, during which David Morgan retired as President and Stefano Benazzo was elected as the next President.



The highlights of the Study Tour were :-

Dallas' Union St station where the ground floor is still used by railroads and frequent light-rail services (DART), Trinity Railway Express commuter services and Amtrak. McKinney Avenue Transport Authority's depot and a trolley-trip around the McKinney Avenue Loop, including an unusual turntable at the end of a link to Uptown Station (connection with DART).

After low-lying Dallas, we had several days at elevation 8,000ft. Durango (Colorado) is a small town with delightful architecture; not difficult to imagine days of horse and cart. Rail Events and Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad organised a trip for both Wattrain and HRA members along the D+SNGR (opened 1882). Dramatic scenery as the line climbs into the San

Juan National Forest to Cascade Canyon, roughly halfway to Silverton. Our 1920's locomotive headed along the line as it runs, in places, on a narrow ledge in the Animas River valley. Forest fires raged through the area last summer and work continues in rebuilding sections of line badly damaged by subsequent storms. The museum has a mix of exhibits associated with development of both railway and town.

Road trip to Santa Fe (New Mexico) took us across desolate country with some spectacular rock formations, much of the land Indian reservation. Santa Fe has retained its historical heart with traditional adobe architecture and 17th century Spanish influences. Once numerous railroads are history. The Stockyard area has been redeveloped, but the railway-station survives as terminus of the 'Rail Runner Express' commuter service to Albuquerque.

Next to the Jemez Mountains, part of our route to Chama, base of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad. The last wooden coaling-tower dominates the yard. A special train was hauled by 2 class K36 locos, the line meandering as it climbs to Cumbres Pass at 10015ft, terminus of our rail trip. Onwards by road to Antonito, where staff and Friends of C&TSRR were enthusiastic about projects including restoration of 19th century loco 168 and 5 vintage carriages. They have limited covered accommodation and organise work-weeks during the operating season – winters are extremely cold around here. Returning to Santa Fe by road relics of the old Antonito to Santa Fe railway, which closed in 1941, are still visible. The line was nicknamed 'The Chilli Line' after some of the produce it carried.

Special thanks go to everyone involved in coordinating a fascinating and very enjoyable 2 weeks, a host of enthusiastic people associated with maintaining heritage.

We look forward to the next Conference in Italy in 2021.



Help for Members - Awards

We all know that being nominated for, and hopefully winning, awards not only boost morale, they also help with publicity, fundraising and confidence. So here are two opportunities to get recognition for your railways. Get applying!!

Heritage Railway Association Annual Awards 2020

We will be opening our own Awards nomination process earlier in this year and the process will be on-line, after the extremely successful trial last year. Nominations are scrutinised by a panel from the HRA and Railway Press and the winners are voted on by secret ballot. The Awards will be presented in February 2020. The closing date will be in October 2019.

The HRA Awards are only open to organisations who are HRA members, so if you are an affiliated group you will need to enter in the name of the member organisation. We have categories that should meet most of your expectations and will cover all aspects of railway endeavour.

So we celebrate locomotive engineering projects, whether they be for overhaul, restoration or preservation. (Coiley Award). Any project that has produced excellence in developing your business, whether that be for your organisation as a whole, or a group of your volunteers or staff, or maybe one individual who has done something extraordinary. (Annual Award for Small and Large Groups). Our member organisations who have Visitor Attractions that provide an outstanding visitor experience. (Outstanding Visitor Attraction for Small and Large Groups). Any organisation that has achieved something amazing. (Morgan Award). Young volunteers under the age of 26 for their significant achievements (The Lord Faulkner Young Volunteer Award)

So if you have finished a stunning project, created something wonderful, gone that extra mile to provide great customer service, or have an outstanding young volunteer we would love to help you celebrate. For some star studded glamour read the next few pages!



National Railway Heritage Awards 2019

Another opportunity to gain recognition for your organisation are the National Railway Heritage Awards. These are not run by the HRA but we sponsor them, and support the work that they do in celebrating heritage projects on all railways wherever they occur.



The closing Date for entries is Sunday May 19th and 2019 marks the 40th anniversary for these prestigious awards which are given for railway (and tramway) structures. To enter you will need to go online at <http://nrha.org.uk> and this is open to anyone who has care of a restored and / or converted railway (or tramway) structure, or who has been involved in its restoration or conversion which has been completed within the past couple of years.

Whilst entries will include stations, the railways' built heritage is far wider than this, encompassing also goods sheds, signal boxes and other lineside structures including viaducts, bridges and tunnel portals. On the permanent way, level crossings, turntables and rare historic pointwork are accepted. There is also a category for signalling.

The criteria for entering a project is that it must have heritage interest and value. The emphasis is on overall quality and thoroughness in approach, sympathetic treatment, awareness of conservation practice, attractiveness to the public and regard for the local environment. Where relevant this would include skill in blending old with new, inside and out as judges expect to see surviving features sympathetically restored and incorporated into the new work. Extensive alterations, conversion of redundant structures to new use, irrespective of whether the railway is still operational, or complete rebuilding, are expected to meet these criteria, although large scale restoration is not required. Size is not important as the awards cater for a variety of approaches, funding and skills, with one award specifically for small projects and another recognising substantial volunteer input.

HRA Annual Awards 2019

Oh What a Night!!

Looked forward to with eager anticipation by award nominees and regular attenders of this annual event, the Heritage Rail Industry turned out to celebrate their best achievements at our Annual Awards Dinner on the 9th February. This year our guest speaker was the entertaining railway expert Pete Waterman who wowed us with his anecdotes about his long experience with railway heritage. The nominees this year included representatives from all aspects of our membership's activities and we were proud to see such a great turnout enjoying such a great night of celebration. We were also very proud to help celebrate the Awards given by four of the best loved railway magazines.

We are very grateful to our sponsors who helped us make the evening such a success - The Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railway for the welcoming drinks party, Brian Simpson for providing the wine for the tables, and Morris Lubricants for the stunning table centres.

Details of all of the nominees and pictures of the evenings celebrations can be found at www.hra.uk.com/awards/

Past winners can be found in our archive at www.hra.uk.com/past-award-winners-archive

In these next few pages we give more details of the winners of each category and a snapshot of the reason they were such worthy winners.

Congratulations to all the winners and all the amazing nominees!

The Manisty Award for Excellence and Mortons Media (Rail Express) Modern Traction Award

These two awards were won by North Eastern Railway 1903 Electric Autocar Trust

The Manisty Award is the HRA's most prestigious award and is awarded by the Board of the HRA, on an occasional basis, for an exceptional and outstanding contribution to railway preservation. Rail Express Magazine was also so impressed with their restoration of the pioneering Electric Autocar that they won the the Rail Express Modern Traction Award.

This was the first railway vehicle to combine an internal combustion engine with a generator and traction motors, and thus the forerunner of all modern trains. This was viewed by many as an impossible engineering project, yet a combination of new build, up cycled components from NIR trains, HSTs, 08s and many more has kept the design of the 'new' bit true to the original design concept.



The Coiley Locomotive Engineering Award

Awarded to an HRA member who has completed an outstanding engineering project in the field of locomotive overhaul, restoration, or preservation.

Winner: Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway Preservation Society for the "Train from Spain" project: 'Whillan Beck'

Works number 8457, a 4-6-2 Pacific built by Krauss of Munich in 1929 for work at the Ibero-American Exposition in Seville. Following nearly 90 years out of action, the locomotive had been partially restored at workshops near Barcelona. She was purchased in 2015, moved to Cumbria, and RERPS completed a further two years of additional restoration work and trials in order to commission the locomotive for service at a cost of £300k.



The Lord Faulkner Young Volunteer Award

Awarded to a volunteer under the age of 26, for significant achievement.

A new award for our industry and the first winner is Matthew Wilson of the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland. Matthew has been a volunteer with RPSI since he was a teenager. He volunteers enthusiastically as Whitehead Railway Museum tour guide, coach steward on public excursions (Whitehead and Dublin), assistant guard on the train rides and also interfaces with the public in various promotions giving out leaflets for WRM at NIR and Irish Rail stations. He is a good networker and actively promotes RPSI and WRM wherever he goes. His mum Eileen says: "Matthew has been diagnosed as having Asperger's Syndrome (autism) but he does not let this disability prevent him from pursuing his love of steam trains. His knowledge of heritage and modern trains both technically and as regards the operating processes is impeccable. He is a proud member of Whitehead Railway Museum and gets considerable enjoyment and satisfaction from carrying out his duties as a volunteer tour guide."



The Morgan Award for Outstanding Achievement

Awarded to an HRA member organisation for an outstanding achievement

Winner: Seaton Tramway for their New Seaton Tram Station.

On 28th of June 2018, the culmination of 10 years of planning and hard work was concluded with the opening of the new £3 million station. Providing a contemporary, all-year round facility, café and gift shop, it allows visitors to immerse themselves in the fascination surrounding the history and operations of the tramway before boarding a tram and travelling back in time to a golden age of travel. The new station is built on the same site as the 1995 Edwardian Style ticket office, and the site of the mobile ticket office prior to that, giving Seaton Tramway a major presence in the town of Seaton and within the tourism hub of the town.

The new station building houses four of the company's tramcars each night, producing a real showcase and enticing potential new visitors to the attraction.



HRA Award for an Outstanding Visitor Attraction (Small Groups)

Awarded to an HRA member organisation, from the smaller categories of membership, who provides an outstanding visitor experience.

Winner: The Horse Trams on the Isle of Man

The Isle of Man Horse trams have been in existence since 1876. Running for over 2km in Douglas Bay they recently received confirmation of continued funding indefinitely from the Isle of Man parliament. The trams were first introduced to take advantage of the booming tourist trade in Victorian times and to this day still carry tourists, and locals, along the promenades in the summer. The horses that pull the trams are known as "trammers" and have an average working life of 15 years. Upon retirement the trammers spend the rest of their lives at the Home of Rest for Old Horses in Douglas.



HRA Award for an Outstanding Visitor Attraction (Large Groups)

Awarded to an HRA member organisation, from the larger categories of membership, who provides an outstanding visitor experience.

Winner: The Isle of Wight Steam Railway

The judges were impressed with their intense focus on providing an excellent visitor experience that constantly exceeds expectations, ensuring their approach fits their key target audience of mainly non-enthusiast visitors holidaying on the Island who want to enjoy clean tidy surrounds and a presentation that is informative, educational, engaging and nostalgic. With a ten mile round trip train ride, their focus has been to develop the railway as an attraction that competes well with the many other attractions the Island has to offer. Each year staging up to 30 events, each attracting a different visitor market, with the added draw of Train Story and other on-site attractions.



HRA Annual Award for Small Groups

Awarded to an HRA member organisation, from the smaller categories of membership, for excellence in developing their business. (This may be for the HRA member organisation as a whole, a group of its staff or volunteers, or an individual)

Winner: Helston Railway for Truthall Halt

Truthall Halt closed in 1962, and is the only station site left on the original branch line that could be recreated. So the Helston Railway took the decision to replicate the original station as closely as possible. Original designs of the GWR pagoda were replicated and using photographs and old plans the Cornish Halt was rebuilt. Completed with a very small budget and volunteer labour it was a labour of love and optimism, and has provided the fledgling railway with a stunning tourist attraction situated in glorious Cornish surroundings.

It is currently their southern terminal, but they have plans to continue their railway further south towards the outskirts of Helston.



HRA Annual Award for Large Groups and Steam Railway Magazine Award.

These two awards were both won by Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway for Broadway Station

When British Railways closed the line to passengers in the 1960's, Broadway station was completely demolished, and the site was left to become an overgrown wilderness. The GWSR took the decision to rebuild the station to look as far as possible, identical to the original. A volunteer group was formed in 2013 with the express purpose of rebuilding the station. Old blue engineering bricks were sourced from a variety of locations, and work began on building the two platforms to original GWR style. At the same time, plans were drawn up to rebuild the station building and a signal box; both in true GWR style. Special bricks were manufactured to replicate the originals. The station roof was copied from the original GWR one at Toddington, and was manufactured in house, by volunteers and now replicates the original riveted one exactly.

As it stands, the rebuilt station has received a huge amount of praise from visitors; many of whom have no idea that it is not the original building. The whole station site has been completely rebuilt by volunteers, and has been dressed with period artefacts to bring it to life.



The Railway Magazine Annual Award for Services to Railway Preservation - Chris Milner

John Bate of Tallyllyn - In recognition of more than 65 years of unbroken and unstinting service to the Tallyllyn Railway. He is probably the longest serving heritage railway volunteer in the world!

Mortons Media (Heritage Railway) Interpretation Award - Robin Jones

Statfold Barn - For an outstanding museum of international narrow gauge railways and a repository of information and artefacts relating to the Hunslet Engine.



And many congratulations to all the runners up!



Carriage and Wagon Awards

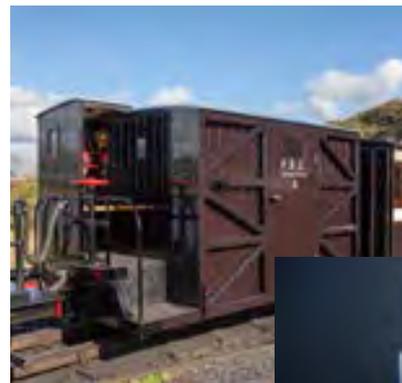
Carriages

Winner - Downpatrick and Co. Down Railway for the Hollywood Railmotor. The Belfast and County Down Railway no 72.



Wagons

Joint Winners - Chasewater Railway for their GWR Toad brake van and Ffestiniog Railway Society for their FfR Sentry brake van no3.



Self Propelled

Winner - Merseyside Tramway Preservation Society for the Liverpool Tram no. 245



Don't forget to nominate your organisation for an HRA Award later this year!!

