



PRESS RELEASE: National Transport Trust Awards 2025

Jeremy Craske wins restoration award for his 1921 Fowler Steam Roller with Rotary Brush

The restoration of a 1921 Fowler Steam Roller with Rotary Brush has led to Thirsk, North Yorkshire-based Jeremy Craske being announced as a winner of a Restoration Award at the National Transport Trust's (NTT) annual awards.



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This steam roller – a machine that once played a pioneering role in early road-building technology – originally featured two significant components; a tar sprayer and a rotary sweeping brush. These attachments made it one of the earliest machines used to both prepare and seal roads during Britain's transition to tarred surfaces. In fact, this may well have been the prototype for Fowler's 'Improved Tar Spraying Apparatus.'

NTT Awards Director Paul Brooks comments, "Jeremy's family has owned the roller since 1971, after rescuing it from scrap condition at a quarry in Leyburn. It was carefully restored to working order and driven back to their home base, where it has been part of an extraordinary educational display ever since — complete with lamps, barriers, signage, and even a rare towed gritter.

"While the tar-spraying equipment was successfully replaced after a 30-year search, Jeremy's current focus is to recreate the rotary brush — a component now believed to survive on no other roller. He has already sourced the original blueprints, commissioned pitch-set cylindrical brushes, and assembled many of the smaller components.

"But the engineering needed to fabricate the clutch, levers, framework, and chain drive is beyond Jeremy's means and equipment. The restoration is currently paused, and a boost like today's award

would provide vital encouragement to restart the work — with the aim of finishing by 2027 or 2028.

"What makes this project so special is that it's not just about preserving a machine — it's about creating a working, moving demonstration of early 20th-century road repair, complete with period accessories and community outreach. Jeremy takes the roller to local steam fairs and events, where it teaches and inspires both adults and children alike.

"For his dedication, historical accuracy, and hands-on commitment to preserving this lost piece of roadwork history, we are pleased to honour Jeremy Craske with this award."

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The National Transport Trust

Founded in 1965, (as the Transport Trust), the National Transport Trust is the UK's only national charity established to promote and encourage the preservation and restoration of Britain's unique transport heritage in all its forms – by air, land (road and rail) and water (sea and inland). The Trust is managed within a very streamlined structure, with the Board of Trustees representing the wider interests of the nation, for whose benefit the Trust exists.

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In order to help the UK's the preservation movement the Trust depends on its members and therefore encourages all those who share our aims to join us. Membership of the Trust is open to private individuals and affiliated organisations. You can help us to help others too; become a member, donate to the trust or you might even consider leaving the trust something in your will. This last part is vital to our work, see here for more: [National Transport Trust legacies](#)

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