



## **PRESS RELEASE: National Transport Trust Awards 2025**

### **John Draysey wins restoration award for his 1974 Range Rover Carmichael 6x4 Fire Engine**

The restoration of a 1964 Range Rover Carmichael Fire Engine has led to Godalming, Surrey-based John Draysey being announced as a winner of a Restoration Award at the National Transport Trust's (NTT) annual awards.



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NTT Awards Director Paul Brooks comments, "John's interest in this vehicle began in childhood, when he saw the original fire engine in action, fighting local fires as part of the West Sussex Fire Brigade. It left a lasting impression — so much so that John began collecting memorabilia of it, including a postcard featuring the engine, which he's kept since he was eight years old.

"Years later, the very same Range Rover Carmichael reappeared — but in rough condition, having been used in industrial fire cover and stored outdoors overseas. Most would have walked away. But John saw an opportunity to preserve not just a machine, but a memory — and to use it as a powerful tool for education and public engagement.

"The Carmichael 6x4 conversion is a rare and specialist variant of the Range Rover Classic. Designed for off-road fire response, it features a third axle, water tank, pump system, and extended bodywork. John's restoration has focused on preserving its originality while returning it to working condition.

"He has taught himself welding, sourced rare parts through online forums and salvage yards, and painstakingly recreated period features — including the livery, signage, and blue lights. The mechanical restoration has involved brake systems, electrics, and structural repairs, all done at home with modest tools and a huge amount of dedication.

"Importantly, John sees the restored fire engine not as a showpiece, but as a platform. He plans to use it at public events, heritage days, and school visits to promote fire safety and community awareness — a living tribute to the engine's original role.

"This is a project rooted in personal history, technical skill, and social purpose. For his commitment to bringing a childhood inspiration back to life — and making it relevant again for a new generation — we are delighted to recognise John Draysey 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.

### **Help us to help them**

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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