



PRESS RELEASE: National Transport Trust Awards 2025

Roy Gudge and Phil Sawkins win restoration award for their 1960 Bedford Plaxtons Coach '999 PPL'

The restoration of a 1960 Bedford Plaxtons Coach, affectionately known by its registration '999 PPL' has led to Farnham, Surrey and Milland Hampshire-based Roy Gudge and Phil Sawkins being announced as winners of a Restoration Award at the National Transport Trust's (NTT) annual awards.



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NTT Awards Director Paul Brooks comments, "This coach was originally operated by Comfy Coaches, a family-run business founded by Roy's grandfather in 1925. It served routes across Surrey and Hampshire, and even appeared in the 1961 British Coach Rally, where it won the Vigzol Tankard.

"The coach was sold after the business closed in 1962, and for decades, its fate was unknown. Then, in 1994, Roy's family tracked it down and re-purchased it, beginning a challenging and long-running restoration journey that would last over 20 years. The vehicle was stored at several locations – often outdoors – and had suffered from a persistent roof leak dating back to its construction. But Roy, Phil, and their friends have taken on the enormous task of rebuilding much of the wooden frame, restoring the aluminium trim, repainting the coach in its original colours, and completing many mechanical repairs.

"The engine is run regularly to keep it healthy. The seat upholstery is now underway, using the correct moquette sourced after an extended search. Despite a tight budget and extensive work, they've stuck

to their goal of restoring the coach as close to its original specification as possible.

"What's more, the project is intended not just for private enjoyment. The coach will be shown at vintage vehicle events and has a confirmed future home in a newly planned public motor museum, opening in 2026.

"We're delighted to present this award in recognition of over two decades of determination, historical care, and hands-on work. It's a tribute to the preservation of post-war transport — and to a coach that once proudly served its community."

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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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