



PRESS RELEASE: National Transport Trust Awards 2025

Charles Hudson MBE wins Lifetime Achievement Award

Charles Hudson MBE, who in 1959 became the first fully paid-up member of what would become the Bluebell Railway Preservation Society, has been named as the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award at the National Transport Trust's annual awards ceremony.



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After an electrical engineering apprenticeship, he became an ambulance driver for six years, then began a career in signalling with British Rail. Charles made good the inherited signalling apparatus at Sheffield Park to achieve the go ahead for Britain's first preserved full-size passenger-carrying railway in 1960.

Commenting on the award, National Transport Trust Chairman Stuart Wilkinson said, "Charles overhauled what the Bluebell inherited once it reached Horsted Keynes, then obtained signalling equipment which British Rail was replacing to equip the expansion of the Bluebell. Charles oversaw the re-signalling scheme at Horsted Keynes signal box prior to the railway extending to Kingscote where he led the overhaul and installation of a box which was commissioned in 2016 and will eventually also control the layout at East Grinstead and its interface with Network Rail.

"Charles is also planning for an upgrade at Sheffield Park, using equipment from

Newhaven Town signal box. He has served on the Society's management committee for more than 55 years, as a Trustee for about the same length of time, and he still attends monthly meetings as an

interested Vice President.

"The contribution made by Charles Hudson to creating the safe Bluebell Railway we know today cannot be overstated, and after well over half a century of service, he is an extremely worthy winner of 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](#)

National Transport Trust

Old Bank House, 26 Station Approach, Hinckley Wood, Surrey, KT10 0SR, London
United Kingdom

Tel: 0207928 6464

Email: info@nationaltransporttrust.org.uk

Web: www.nationaltransporttrust.org.uk

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