

PRESS RELEASE: National Transport Trust Awards 2023

Restoration of Gentleman's yacht Glala receives Highly Commended accolade at the 2023 Awards

The ongoing restoration of Glala, a 78' teak Gentleman's yacht, has been Highly Commended at the 2023 National Transport Trust Awards. The vessel's owners, Andrew Robson and Katherine Norris of Colchester, Essex, received the congratulations of the NTT's Royal Patron, Anne, HRH The Princess Royal at a ceremony held in the Railway Museum at Fawley Hill (www.fawleyhill.co.uk) on 18 September 2023.

Built in 1914/15, Glala was owned by a number of famous people before the WW2 she is one of the few surviving purpose-built twin-screw motor yachts of the cross-over period between steam and paraffin/petrol/diesel and quite probably the oldest built in the UK. She is also a Dunkirk Little Ship and served throughout WW2 as a harbour patrol vessel, hospital ship and a fire fighting boat. In many ways she resembles the steam yachts of the era in shape and layout, but she never actually had steam; initially she was powered by a pair of Thornycroft paraffin engines, but Gardner diesels are destined to provide propulsion in the future.

NTT Awards Director Paul Brook comments: "A stalled project when purchased by Andrew and Katherine in 2017, Glala has been on land since 2008. She is a beautiful historic vessel and significant as a purpose-built twin-screw motor yacht. Andrew and Katherine have worked tirelessly on her, learning from other boat-owners and boat-builders, researching methods and materials so that build-quality is not compromised. This determination and dedication is a tribute to them, and merits this well-earned National Transport Trust Highly Commended accolade."

Photographs

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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.

The National Transport Trust Awards

The National Transport Trust Awards are a key event in the Trust's calendar. Designed to recognise and reward the efforts of the UK transport preservation movement, a number of awards are made to individuals and organisations every year. Categories include Preservationist of the Year, Young Preservationist of the Year, Lifetime Achievement, and Restoration Awards.

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.

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