

PRESS RELEASE: National Transport Trust Awards 2023

City of Portsmouth Preserved Transport Depot wins Restoration Award for its Leyland open top bus

The restoration of a 1935 Leyland TD4 open top bus has led to the City of Portsmouth Preserved Transport Depot (CPPTD) being announced as a winner of a Restoration Award at the National Transport Trust's (NTT) annual awards. The Award was presented to Bob Chalmers and David Dean of the CPPTD by 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.

This bus is one of four vehicles converted to open top by Portsmouth Corporation in the early 1950's and ran in service until 1971. A project to restore the vehicle was started in Yeovil some years ago, but being unable to complete it the ownership was passed to CPPTD. The vehicle lay idle and was used as a store. In August 2021 a group of CPPTD members lead by Bob Chalmers, of Warminster in Wiltshire, took it on as a restoration project. Now, the vehicle is being totally rewired. Its lower saloon has had a new ceiling fitted and painted, along with new lighting. The side panels are being covered in new leathercloth and new flooring is being laid. The cab has been painted, drivers seat recovered steering wheel etc stove enamelled. Next steps will be finishing fitting out the lower saloon, finishing the rewiring, getting the vehicle running and finishing the outside panelling before it can all be painted.

NTT Awards Director Paul Brook comments: "This is an amazing restoration project being carried out by a group of very dedicated and talented volunteers. The vehicle itself is a rare example of a Leyland Titan TD4 with an English Electric Body. As such, it is already attracting much interest from enthusiasts. When complete it will be a valuable addition to the Bus Preservation Movement and therefore a worthy recipient of a National Transport Trust Restoration Award."

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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