

PRESS RELEASE: National Transport Trust Awards 2023

Andy Bishop wins Restoration Award for his Midland Red coach

The restoration of a 1950 Midland Red coach has led to Andy Bishop being announced as a winner of a Restoration Award at the National Transport Trust's (NTT) annual awards. The Award was presented to Andy 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 coach, a C2/CL2 class Midland Red vehicle, has a chassis, engine and running gear built by Birmingham & Midland Motor Omnibus Company (BMMO) of Birmingham, which operated services as the Midland Red bus company. The chassis was the same as the earlier C1 coach from 1948/49. However three of the 12 C2 Coaches built were rebodied with Plaxton Embassy 1 , 26-seat , 7'6" wide coach bodies. Coach number 3352 is the only example left of the C2/CL2 class Midland Red Coaches. It is a rare beast, being one of only six Midland Red designed BMMO engined coaches left in preservation.

NTT Awards Director Paul Brook comments: "Andy has been moving heaven and earth to re-instate a particularly pretty and rather unusual coach, and he is making a terrific job of it. Many would have concluded two years ago that restoration would be impossible, let alone a restoration undertaken in a pokey, leaky little space with a single three-pin plug, hemmed in between two other wrecks. Andy has done the impossible, and saved a stunning vintage vehicle. He should be very proud, and we are very proud to recognise his efforts with 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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