



## **PRESS RELEASE: National Transport Trust Awards 2024**

### **The 'Turn to Starboard' group wins National Transport Trust Restoration Award for The Spirit of Falmouth**

The restoration and preservation of the Spirit of Falmouth has led to the Falmouth-based 'Turn to Starboard' group being announced as a winner of a Restoration Award at the National Transport Trust's (NTT) annual awards.



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This project involves the ongoing restoration and preservation of The Spirit of Falmouth. Originally built in late 1984 as Spirit of Merseyside, she is a replica of the Liverpool Pilot Schooner, Leader, used in the 19th century in the days of sail to guide vessels into the port of Liverpool. Spirit is the last representative of her marque: all nine of her predecessors no longer exist. In 2014 she was donated to Turn to Starboard by The Princes Trust and renamed the 'Spirit of Falmouth' and since then she has sailed over 1500 veterans, where she has continued to train and allow ex-service personnel to experience mindfulness and wellbeing. as well as helping to raise much needed funds while undertaking sponsors' voyages.

NTT Awards Director Paul Brook comments: "We all know from personal experience that time takes a toll, and vessels such as this are no exception. The masts have been surveyed in situ, the fore being condemned the aft requires removal for further examination. The sails have been assessed and reported to be beyond repair. The sails are now 40 years old and have reached the point that they can not be repaired further so the aim is to replace them.

"Without this preservation effort and investment, an important part of the nation's sailing heritage could end. Although a replica it is older than many of the service veterans who sail with her not just for training but for wellbeing experiences, groups like 'Blesma', 'The Chelsea pensioners', 'Fighting for pride' and 'We Salute You' and many more military organisations. The Turn to Starboard team continue to demonstrate that vessels such as this have a valuable national role, and the trust consider it an honour to contribute by way of a NTT 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.

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