



PRESS RELEASE: National Transport Trust Awards 2024

Stephen Middleton wins National Transport Trust Restoration Award for his Great Eastern Railway Prince of Wales saloon

The restoration of a six-wheel railway carriage converted for use by Edward, Prince of Wales in 1881 has led to the Stephen Middleton of Harrogate being announced as a winner of a Restoration Award at the National Transport Trust's (NTT) annual awards.



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The carriage was converted from a private saloon for use by Edward, Prince of Wales in 1881 reverting to a private saloon in 1892. The coach is one of the 'royals' still extant. Most other 'royal' vehicles, outside the current Royal Train, have either been converted back to passenger stock, departmental use etc, or are static exhibits, many in the National Railway Museum, York, or its Shildon outpost.

NTT Awards Director Paul Brook comments: "The amount of work thus far has been considerable, and it has been executed by Stephen, his family, and a small team to a very high quality. All the fittings, for instance are period, and these, together with the finishes are either original or where possible a close replica. The ceiling in the end compartment is a replica of the painted linen original, copied in meticulous detail. That said, the work continues, as the furniture goes in, There are brakes and a heating system to fit brakes, a kitchen and heating to fit, and new wheel bearings to install, as well as more varnish, gold leaf and crests to apply.

"This is a high quality restoration of an unusual vehicle. Visitors will be able to travel on it, enjoy fine food and really feel as the Prince of Wales must have done. Although Stephen's team is small, they crack on and achieving magnificent standards; they thoroughly deserve this 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.

National Transport Trust

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