



PRESS RELEASE: National Transport Trust Awards 2024

Chris Hutchinson wins National Transport Trust Restoration Award for his Sentinel Super Steam Waggon

The restoration and preservation of a 1927 Sentinel Super Steam Waggon has led to Chris Hutchinson of Alloa, Clackmannanshire being announced as a winner of a Restoration Award at the National Transport Trust's (NTT) annual awards.



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In 2016 Chris Hutchinson purchased the remains of a Super Sentinel steam waggon engine from the estate of the late John Keeley. The project therefore has been to rebuild the waggon using the engine and integral transmission as its basis. As far as could be determined from what few records and photographs remained the engine belonged to waggon number 6982. Although there are approximately 50 Super Sentinels in preservation it is still a relatively small number compared with the total number manufactured. Engine number 6982 could have been broken for spares but it has now been re-built into an overall design representative of the period. The project was undertaken by the owner, his son, his six grandchildren (boys and girls, 12 -19 years) and an engineer based some 430 miles from the project location. Emphasis has been placed on trying to pass on skills and experience to the younger team members and to get them actively involved from design through to manufacture or refurbishment of components.

NTT Awards Director Paul Brook comments: "Every effort has been made to re-create the blued steel cladding as used on the original boilers. The lions share of the work has been done using original

Sentinel drawings. And fabrication of the front apron cheek plates were formed by hand to match the one original sample that had survived.

"Two of those involved have used the project for the skills element of their Duke of Edinburgh Gold awards. Their work embraced acquiring both old and new skills including machining, hot riveting, welding, wood working, timber steaming and coach painting to name a few.

"The waggon is now complete, roadworthy and registered for the road as an historic vehicle. The active involvement of young people and the absolutely outstanding finished product is most impressive and the attention to detail whilst making it safer and easier to operate are to be commended. It is a very worthy winner 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.

National Transport Trust

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