



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

### **Toby Robinson wins National Transport Trust Restoration Award for his Thornycroft J-type 4 ton lorry**

The restoration and preservation of a 1919 Thornycroft 4 ton lorry has led to Toby Robinson of Newick, East Sussex being announced as a winner of a Restoration Award at the National Transport Trust's (NTT) annual awards.



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In 1896, naval engineer John Thornycroft formed the Thornycroft Steam Carriage and Van Company. By 1919 Thornycroft was established as a major manufacturer of, amongst other things, commercial vehicles, although over time much of that has slipped away like many other great names. This particular example of a Thornycroft lorry from 1919, owned and restored by Toby Robinson from Newick in East Sussex, is a particularly rare example. One of only three low radiator J type Thornycrofts survive, this one is the only civilian J type restored and currently running.

NTT Awards Director Paul Brook comments: "Chassis number J7860 is recorded as being delivered in 1919 to a Mr Joseph Brierley of Warrington, Cheshire, local metal merchants and general hauliers, later finding local fame for having numerous Supermarine Spitfires piled up in their yard prior to scrapping. From here it was sold into preservation and underwent a couple of unauthentic rebuilds, appearing very sparsely at public events. Toby purchased the vehicle in 2019 with the view to restoring it to its authentic condition, as it would have worked a hundred years earlier

Since then Toby, who was 21 at the time, has been obliged to learn a whole range of new skills; coachpainting, signwriting, gilding, woodwork, metal work, riveting, pattern making and research for drawings and design have all been required and have all been undertaken to a very high standard by him. It has taken 4 years, to get to having a finished and very rare 1919 Thornycroft lorry, all completed to a very high standard indeed. As a result the Trust is delighted to recognise Tobys' efforts with a 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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