



PRESS RELEASE: National Transport Trust (NTT) Awards 2026

Dave Reid of Hevingham, Norwich wins restoration award for his de Havilland DH85 Leopard Moth

The Leopard Moth was one of the first practical touring and transport aeroplanes of the 1930s and Sir Geoffrey de Havilland's favourite type. There are nine Leopard Moths still registered out of 133 built at Edgware.



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The Leopard Moth was the first de Havilland to use a wooden (plywood) monocoque fuselage – a technology which later was to become famous in the Mosquito. This one is virtually a new aircraft, as inevitably will be the case with any 90-year-old wooden aircraft being returned to flight, but has a continuous history. Restoration to the relevant airworthiness standards means the replacement of far more of the structure than might be expected of a land or marine project. In this case, the new fuselage was built for a previous owner some 20 years ago, and the wings have only recently been completed. The engine is also a replacement, now a DH Gipsy Major rather than the original Gipsy III – visually very similar but more powerful and reliable.

Commenting on the award, NTT Awards Director Stuart Wilkinson says, "The standard of work on the new structure is very high – as would be expected – and the work done by the owner on the cabin interior and other parts which he has made ranges from good to very good. This is an impressive restoration of an aircraft with a fascinating history in the Australian Outback, and a rare survivor of what was an unusually civilized light aircraft of the period.

"Dave Reid has done a fantastic job on this aircraft and he receives the Dr Robert Fleming award for 2026. Robert was one of our Trustees and headed the project which brought a Vulcan bomber back to flight."

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.

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. You can help us to help others too; become a member, donate to the trust or you might even consider leaving the trust something in your will. This last part is vital to our work, see here for more: [National Transport Trust legacies](#)

National Transport Trust

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