



PRESS RELEASE: National Transport Trust (NTT) Awards 2026

Gordon Newton receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Gordon Newton of Bradford was the sixth and last generation of his family to own and manage Israel Newton and Sons Ltd, a boiler-making business founded in Bradford in 1803. From 1979, under Gordon's direction, the company became a major player in repairing and building rivetted boilers for the steam heritage sector – rail, road and marine.



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By the early 2000s the company needed a new owner and a new location. No suitable candidates appeared, but preservation steam faced a severe skills shortage and a threat to its future. Hence was formed the Boiler and Engineering Skills Trust (BESTT) of which Gordon has been Chairman since 2013, designing and delivering training to support the safe repair and maintenance of heritage steam boilers.

Since 2014 BESTT, has trained over 30 young people in boiler-smithing and mechanical repair skills, through 1 year traineeships funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Many more have undertaken short courses of up to a week using the training skills of BESTT Trustees, paid staff and volunteers. Gordon has personally led training on riveting and contributed to other courses.

Commenting on the award, NTT Awards Director Stuart Wilkinson says, "Gordon undertakes much of the administration of BESTT, which has included acting as Treasurer as well as Chairman. He is often the recognised face of BESTT, whether professionally in fora such as the Boiler Code of Practice Committee or in promoting the organisation across the steam heritage sector.

Managing and promoting training is often a challenge and Gordon has had to steer BESTT through many of those. At the age of 82 he remains energetically committed to the organisation. Our congratulations go to him for this very well deserved award."

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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