



Newsletter



It's Railway Family Week

New in 2021, Railway Family Week running from 26th April to 2nd May is a week-long fundraising and awareness event bringing together the whole Rail Industry.

Whether you work for the railway, the supply chain that keeps the industry going, or are a retired railway worker, you are an invaluable part of the Railway Family.

We aim to raise £50,000 for RBF during Railway Family Week. This will ensure we can meet the increase in demand for our services and continue to support railway families through these difficult times.

How can you get involved and support us?

- **The 1858 Challenge** - join in the fundraising fun
- **Auction of Experiences** - bid on something special to look forward to
- **Simply Donate** - help us reach our target and make a real difference

Find out more in this issue of the newsletter and on our website:

www.railwaybenefitfund.org.uk/railway-family-week



SCAN ME

Head to our JustGiving fundraising page to support the 1858 Challenges, add your own or simply donate.



SCAN ME

Donate online via our website.

Thank you!

Follow all the action on our social #RailwayFamilyWeek #1858Challenge



@RBF1858



RBF Charity



Railway Benefit Fund

Chairman's Update

Welcome to the first RBF newsletter of 2021. It's been a busy first few months already for RBF and the wider rail industry.



It's worth me starting with a quick introduction for those of you who don't know me. I'm Tim Shoveller, chairman of RBF and managing director of Network Rail's North West and Central region.

I want to start with a big thank you for all the support RBF have received during these challenging and difficult times. Your generosity has enabled us to provide financial help across the rail industry. We've seen a real increase in demand as more of our Railway Family reaches out for help.

I was particularly delighted that we were able to react so quickly to the urgent need for home-schooling equipment earlier this year and help so many families (£40,000 in grants used to support over 100 families and 200 children).

We are really looking forward to our first ever Railway Family Week later this month (26 April – 2 May). It's really exciting and a great opportunity to show support and give thanks to the industry that has continued to work throughout the pandemic and keep Britain moving.

Good luck to all the 1858 Challengers fundraising for the event. My personal challenge is to swim 1,858 metres without sinking! The Auction of Experiences has some incredible items that will be well worth waiting for. The bidding war has already started on quite a few!

We are also delighted to have our name on an Avanti West Coast Pendolino. What an honour and wonderful way to mark Railway Family Week and raise our profile. It will be the icing on the cake and I for one can't wait to get onboard. And as importantly, I can't wait to see more of you back on the trains very soon!

Tim

1858 Challenge

See page 2

Auction of Experiences

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Supporting our children

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1858 Challenge

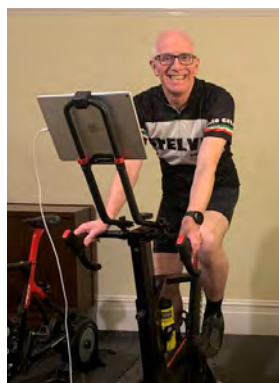
RBF was founded in 1858 - over 160 years ago - so we've created the 1858 fundraising challenge!



As a personal challenge or virtually with friends and colleagues, can you raise £185.80 or £1,858? Can you cycle, run or walk 1,858 miles, km or steps? Can you set a challenge at 18:58 every night? Could you raise £18.58 by selling cakes or craft?

Whatever the idea, we are grateful for your fundraising and don't forget to share your challenge on social media with #1858Challenge.

Here are some challenges taking place and we look forward to hearing of more and featuring in the next newsletter!



David Godley from Network Rail is completing a cycling challenge for Railway Family Week. Nearing retirement, David has decided to complete the challenge as a final farewell to his career in rail. He will be on his indoor trainer every day from 18:58 hours for an hour or more until he reaches his goal of 1,858 miles.

Colleagues at Network Rail are also taking on various challenges including Tim Shoveller's 1,858 meter swim; The Central Improvement Performance Team's 1858 Challenge Quiz; Andy Scott's 1,858 press ups (with help from Sparrow the dog!); North West and Central Comms Team 1,858 miles of team activity; Simon Evans' 185.8km cycle and Matthew Green's Capital Delivery Signalling Collection.



Caledonian Sleeper are running, walking or cycling 1,858km for their challenge. Amaro are using the same means to reach 1,858 miles and are nearly half way there!



Test your knowledge with EMR and Team RBF (captained by Pete Waterman) who are both hosting Quizzes.



YouTube TicoSprinter has already completed his 1858 Challenge - a marathon train simulator live stream from London Paddington to Penzance!



Noel Dolphin of Furrer + Frey held a cinema night hosted by Michael Portillo. He has also started his London Marathon training with 1,858 km for Railway Family Week.

If you would like to set up a challenge or support the above head to our JustGiving page:
www.justgiving.com/campaign/RailwayFamilyWeek

There's a Pendolino with our name on it!

Our friends at Avanti West Coast have named a Pendolino after the charity which will be unveiled during Railway Family Week.

Widely regarded as one of the hardest working trains in the UK, the Pendolino would typically clock up over 300,000 miles each year, and be seen by railway workers and customers along the entirety of the West Coast Main Line.

We are immensely honoured and grateful for this opportunity to have our name traveling up and down the country for all to see, especially the very people we support.

When you spot our train take a snap and tag us on social #RBFPendolino.

We are also looking for images for our 2022 Calendar - email those fabulous pictures to us - our Pendolino could be on the cover! events@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk



Auction of Experiences



Our online auction with 30 experiences to tempt you is now live, ending at 6pm on Friday 30th April.

We all need something to look forward to and there are many great days out, tours, tickets and experiences on offer - we've grouped them into four categories - take a look and place your bids!

Experiences with a Difference

How would you like a cab ride to Fort William, to make your own announcement at London Euston, walk over the Ribbleshead Viaduct or the Forth Bridge, drive an Assistance Buggy, a London Routemaster bus to drive yourself or have Sir Peter Hendy drive you, take a hovercraft for 70 people to the Isle of Wight, a helicopter ride in Scotland or a visit to the BTP dogs? Don't miss out on these amazing experiences!



Tickets to Travel

Enjoy a relaxing rail journey on a Branch Line Society Charter Train, the Scarborough Spa Express or Dalesman, the SRPS Diesel Railtour or 1st class Avanti tickets for a destination of your choice!



A Great Day Out

How would you like a dining experience on the Tornado, a three-night stay at Turner Cottage in Norham, a team at RBF's Annual Golf Day, trip to Waterloo Station to record a train announcement or a trip to the Severn Bridge Junction Signal Box!



Behind the Scenes

Guided tours of some of the UK's most iconic railway stations including Kings Cross, St Pancras, Glasgow, Leeds and Bristol Temple Meads. Visits to sites of interest such as Mersey Pumping Station, Barrow Hill Roundhouse, Quadrant Milton Keynes, Direct Rail Services, York, Manchester or Three Bridges ROC.



Scan here or visit
www.go.eventgroovefundraising.com/rfwauction
 to make your bids!

Thank you to all those who have
 donated such fantastic items
 to support Railway Family Week.

Home Schooling Fund

When the government announced the closure of schools back in January, we set up an emergency fund to ensure that no railway child would go without the essential equipment needed for home schooling.

The fund was created as an emergency measure when it was apparent that many families did not have the equipment to effectively home school, with classes and homework being conducted on parent's mobile phones or having to share tablets and laptops between children.

Support was available from schools and the government, but those identified as most in need were prioritised. This left a gap in sufficient support for home schooling for those in employment with limited means to purchase the required devices for their children. Because of the generous support we receive, we have been able to award over £40,000 to help over 100 families and give 217 children the home schooling equipment they needed.

102 Railway families given essential equipment



"The smile of relief and excitement I saw when we handed them the laptop was something else. You have made my children's home schooling fun for them again." Anthony, GWR



177



Laptops, printers and tablets awarded

"Getting a laptop meant my sons could join their classes and their friends which was a huge weight off my mind. It was more than the money though, it meant someone cared enough to help." Anon



Children supported through lockdown

217

"Now my daughter has her own laptop and a printer to enable her to study and go online much easier. Thank you so much, as a single working parent I appreciate it more than you know, especially during these uncertain times." Anon



"Having a new laptop made home schooling a lot less stressful." Nick



New - Children's Fund

The demand and success of the Home Schooling Fund has led us to make some important changes to our Family Support Fund.

We're excited to relaunch the fund as our Children's Fund. This fund is here to support our children and their development. Sometimes a helping hand is needed for the hidden extras that always seem to crop up when you least expect them – the growth spurts that lead to more new shoes and school uniform, the trips that need paying the same month as the car repairs, the gym lessons that all their friends go to but it's just too much of a stretch when you've got to buy the kit as well.

Our children's education is so important and the demand for our Home Schooling Fund has shown how a little extra support can make all the difference. We want to highlight that the fund will be available for additional learning needs such as private tutoring or summer schools.

We understand that times are tough, which is why we've increased our eligibility criteria for the Children's Fund from £30,000 gross household annual income per annum to £40,000 to make this fund more accessible to those in need. In addition, the maximum amount awarded was previously £200 and will now be £300 in line with the increase in cost of the things we need.

The application process has also been streamlined to make it easier and quicker to apply. Once you have completed a short form and provided proof of employment then you are ready to go and, if awarded, the money will be paid directly into your bank account within days. If we can give you a helping hand for your children get in touch - support@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk.

www.railwaybenefitfund.org.uk - 0345 241 2885 - fundraising@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk

