



# Newsletter



## Pete meets Heart of Gold winners

We were lucky to find a window of opportunity during the pandemic to make a socially distanced visit to our Heart of Gold winners. See pictured, Glyn Smith at Arriva Rail London and Ezekiel Awoyomi and his wife Clara at British Transport Police.

It was back in June when they were both voted winners of our Heart of Gold Awards. It meant a great deal to be able to finally meet in person and express our gratitude for their heroic and selfless acts of kindness.

Our President, Pete Waterman, took great pleasure awarding them both their trophies which we are sure have taken pride of place on their mantelpieces!

You can be reminded of their stories on our website [www.railwaybenefitfund.org.uk/events/heart-of-gold-awards-2020/](http://www.railwaybenefitfund.org.uk/events/heart-of-gold-awards-2020/)

## Help a Railway Family in need this Christmas

This Christmas will be very different for us all and some will be struggling financially and worried about providing for their families.

Together we can ensure that every family in need is given the chance to enjoy Christmas with enough food on the table and presents under the tree for the children.

Find out how you can help [www.railwaybenefitfund.org.uk/events/christmas-with-rbf](http://www.railwaybenefitfund.org.uk/events/christmas-with-rbf)



Financial wellbeing

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Working in partnership

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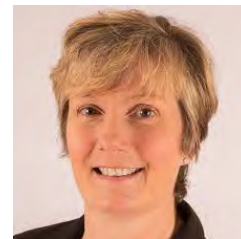
From our Chairman

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## Trustee's Update

Welcome to the second newsletter of 2020 for which I'm delighted to be bringing you this update.

Firstly, let me introduce myself. I am Maggie Simpson, Director General of Rail Freight Group and I have been on the board of Trustees at RBF for 3 years.



I wanted to be involved with RBF as it's important to me that we look after those who work so hard in this industry. The RBF is here for everybody in rail including freight and the wider supply chain.

We never know when hard times will hit, who could have predicted how Covid-19 would affect our everyday lives and finances? RBF have seen a huge increase in the demand for their services, due to hardship, during this time. We are lucky they are here for us and we must support them too.

Rail Freight Group hosted our first virtual awards evening on 10th September. It was a different experience but important for us to recognise and celebrate excellence in all acts of rail freight during the year. We were delighted to support RBF in our charity raffle which raised nearly £2,000. A great night was had by all - congratulations to all the winners!

This issue showcases some great partnerships and support received, new Friends, financial wellbeing services and reasons why we need to help those in need for Christmas and the uncertainties ahead.

Keep safe and well.  
Enjoy reading this issue and see you soon!

*Maggie*

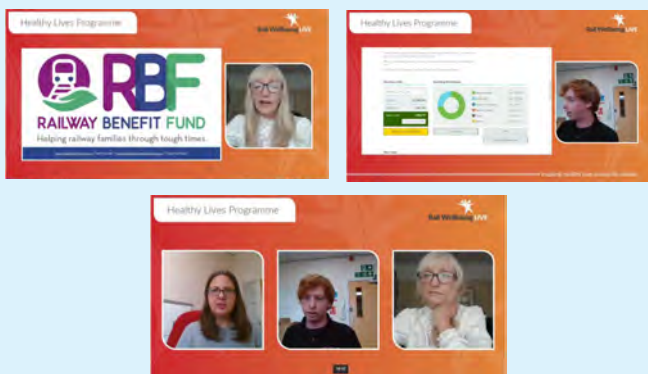
CONGRATULATIONS

We are sure you will join us in congratulating Maggie on her OBE recognition in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2020. Maggie has been recognised for services to the Rail Freight Sector - so well deserved and we couldn't be more proud!

## Financial Wellbeing

RBF were delighted to be invited to speak at Rail Wellbeing Live, a brand new annual event for the Rail Industry. Hosted by wellbeing experts, the aim is to inspire those in rail to lead healthier lives.

Our session, attended by more than 380 delegates, focused on 'Financial wellbeing in an uncertain world'. In addition to highlighting the financial support we provide, we also demonstrated financial tools to help manage finances and give some security and peace of mind that there is enough money to meet your needs.



The Q&A produced plenty of questions and interest in the charity and we even signed up 3 new Ambassadors as a direct result. Sadly, we also received an enquiry for financial support from a single parent who had no money until payday and a small child to feed over the weekend. Our emergency fund of £250 was issued that day to get them through the weekend and we will continue to support where we can.

A selection of financial tools including a Covid money navigator, budget planner, mortgage calculator and baby cost timeline can be found on our website - get in touch if we can provide online demonstrations to support your teams/workforce. [www.railwaybenefitfund.org.uk](http://www.railwaybenefitfund.org.uk) /[info@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk](mailto:info@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk)



## Ambassadors

More than half way to our 100 target

Over 50 Ambassadors are now signed up to help raise awareness of RBF in their workplace.

Being a relatively small team we need all the help we can to get our messages across to those who might need us in times of need. We would like to have an Ambassador in every station, depot, office and town across the UK. We are currently thin on the ground in the North East and South West so get in touch if you can help.

If you would like to find out more and request an Ambassador information sheet - email [info@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk](mailto:info@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk)



Set yourself a challenge in 2021

We are so excited to have secured a charity place in the ballot for the 2021 London Marathon taking place on Sunday 3rd October.

Are you up for the challenge and willing to raise sponsorship for RBF? Register your interest to [fundraising@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk)

# Working in partnership

The RIA Annual Conference went virtual for 2020. The 3 day event got off to a flying start with the second annual RISE Awards, showcasing supplier excellence, on the opening night.



RISE Awards 2020 #RISEAwards20 Railway Industry Association



Sponsored by: International Dynamics, YRP, VRS, SIEMENS, BBA

We are very excited to have just launched an official partnership with Avanti West Coast and are looking forward to supporting each other and working together over the next 3 years.

RBF President, Pete Waterman, presented the awards and CEO, Claire Houghton, drew the charity raffle. Congratulations to all the winners!



**Railway Industry Association**

The voice of the UK rail supply community

We are delighted to be one of the charities chosen by Caledonian Sleeper for 2021 and we will also be continuing our collaboration with YRP.

The raffle raised £1,000 which takes the total raised for us this year by RIA to an amazing £5,000.

We are so grateful to RIA for their support this year as their nominated charity. We wish them the best of luck next year with The Railway Mission - another well deserving rail charity.



**CALEDONIAN SLEEPER**

**AVANTI WEST COAST**



**YOUNG RAIL PROFESSIONALS**

Watch this space for more news and updates on our partnerships in the coming issues!



**Stella Rogers, Customer Experience Director at Arriva Rail London** "I am delighted to share that Arriva Rail London is now an official RBF Friend. RBF provides invaluable support for the UK railway family, and we are pleased to help them to continue doing so through this scheme."



Creating safe railway working environments

**Mike McLean, Chairman of TES** "In responding to the Coronavirus pandemic, the Railway 'family' has shown just what can be achieved by working together and supporting each other. The RBF is committed to providing support to railway families facing tough times and we, at TES 2000, are proud to contribute and support this very important work."

## More Friends

We have been joined by TES 2000, Arriva Rail London and Furrer+Frey who are supporting the Railway Family by becoming RBF Friends.

An opportunity to bring relationships with supporters even closer, Friends is a way for us to fundraise whilst providing our Friends with a range of benefits.

Becoming an RBF Friend is an easy way for any rail organisation, or supplier, to show support for the UK Rail Industry's employees and families who may be experiencing tough times.

Get in touch to find out more - [fundraising@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk)



**Noel Dolphin, Director at Furrer+Frey** "I am pleased that Furrer+Frey are now an official RBF Friend. We are all part of the railway family, and thus hugely appreciate the support that RBF provides to everyone in the industry. We are pleased to be supporting RBF over the next 3 years, and from now on."



FOR THE LOVE OF UK RAILWAYS  
2021 Calendar

**2021 Calendar**

Sponsored by:



Creating safe railway working environments

**FOR THE LOVE OF UK RAILWAYS**

£7 in our Christmas Shop - [www.railwaybenefitfund.org.uk/shop](http://www.railwaybenefitfund.org.uk/shop)

# Request from our Chairman

This year has certainly been a testing time for us all and the pandemic looks like it will continue to affect our lives for some time to come. RBF have been here to support the Railway Family during these difficult times and will continue to do so through the uncertainties ahead.

We have seen a huge increase in the demand for our services, particularly over the first few months of lockdown and in recent weeks during this second wave. We have calculated that every 7 minutes somebody reaches out to us for help and guidance - a level unseen since the charity began over 160 years ago.

With many of our colleagues in the Rail Industry still experiencing changes in working patterns and pay, some are struggling to cover the basic costs of living and are finding themselves in extremely difficult financial situations. The run up to Christmas is a particularly stressful time with all the financial pressures it puts on families.

RBF is the charity they turn to. We have extended our grant programme and enhanced our wellbeing toolkit to ensure no family in the Rail Industry who needs our help is left unheard.

Our funding depends on your generosity. The charity relies solely on the donations and fundraising of its loyal supporters and now, more than ever, we need your help. A gift from you will make an incredible difference to those who need us at this difficult time.



Tim Shoveller, RBF Chairman & Managing Director North West and Central, Network Rail

*"This Christmas will be a difficult time for many. Your generosity could make all the difference to our fellow rail workers in need.*

*The RBF rely solely on donations and we appreciate every penny you can spare for our Covid-19 Appeal.*

*Please support us through this ongoing crisis."*



SCAN ME

Together we will help the  
Railway Family through this crisis

