



Newsletter

A Home For Christmas

RBF have helped nearly 1,000 families this year with financial support, and for many, this has been the difference between keeping and losing their homes.

Over 40% of those we have supported this year were at risk of homelessness due to escalating bills and the cost of living crisis.

This Christmas you can help people like Jason, a Rail Apprentice, sleeping in his car after having family difficulties and Jack, a Gateline Assistant, who resorted to living in his van following the break up of his marriage. They both turned to RBF and we have been able to support them with a month's rent and deposit. Both are now safe in a home for Christmas.

Your donations really do make a difference.

£25 covers the cost of running our helpline for one hour, providing advice and support to those facing homelessness.

£50 would cover the cost of heating a family's home for a week and give some reprieve from the spiralling bills and debt over the festive season.

You can donate to our Home For Christmas Appeal via JustGiving or our Online Shop.

<https://shop.railwaybenefitfund.org.uk>
www.justgiving.com/campaign/ahomeforchristmas



Online Shop



JustGiving

Support Services

Welcome to your November newsletter.

2022 has been a busy year, full of its own challenges and highlights.

The cost of living crisis has really tightened its grip, and we are facing a huge increase in the amount of applications for our services.

Our Energy Support Fund launched at the beginning of October and we received well over 1,000 enquiries in the first month with demand expected to continue throughout the winter months.

This year we have helped railway workers, past and present, on a diverse range of issues, including domestic violence, homelessness, debt, poverty, loneliness and depression.

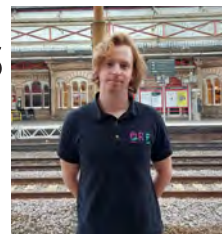
As well as providing financial support, the services team also provide signposting and advice in areas such as financial resilience. We are currently working on some exciting projects coming soon around mental health and the retired community.

We are also excited to be launching our new website very soon which will make the application process clearer and easier for those who need our help. It will also be much easier to donate and support the work we do so we can continue to be there for railway people and their families.

Enjoy reading and best wishes.

Ryan

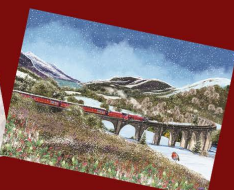
Ryan Morgan, Services Manager at RBF



Christmas Shop



Christmas Cards



2023 Calendar

Energy Support Fund

The RBF Energy Support Fund offers applicants with a household income of under £40,000 a grant of £200 to help with the cost of gas and electricity bills.

Scan to apply:



Out And About...



We are thankful to have been supported by our friends at RIA and the Rail Freight Group with the charity raffles at their prestigious awards dinners.

It was great to meet members and congratulations to the winners and nominees.

We were delighted to exhibit at Railtex/Infrarail and RailLive this year. Great opportunities to catch up with industry contacts and make some new ones along the way.



Thank you Avanti West Coast, Merseyrail, Greater Anglia, West Midlands Trains and Unipart Rail for inviting us to your Wellbeing Days to meet your teams.



Branch Line Society ran their fabulous Emerald Explorer charter of Ireland and Modern Railways marked their milestone anniversary with a Cross Country Trains, Severn Valley Adventurer HST charter. Both giving generously to RBF as their charity partner.



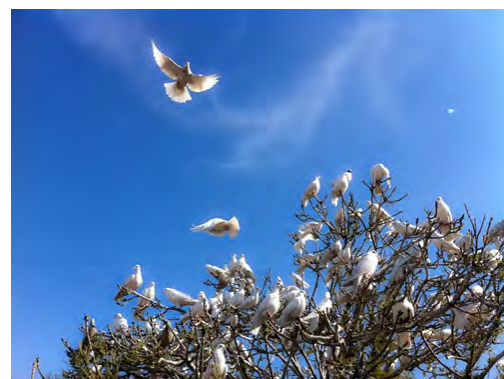
In Loving Memory

The loss of a loved one is an extremely difficult and emotional time. Commemorating their life by supporting a cause close to their heart can be a really positive way to remember them. We wanted to take this opportunity to thank the families who have donated to us in memory of a loved one.

One of our longest serving Ambassadors, Ronnie, sadly lost his wife Corina recently, and chose RBF as a cause close to their hearts.

'I have worked for Merseyrail for many years and have supported Railway Benefit Fund throughout my career. Corina shared my passion for rail, and for RBF, and so giving a donation to them in her memory felt a natural way to help continue her legacy.'

Ronnie Hardman, Merseyrail



The Royal Charter

A real highlight for RBF this year was our flagship fundraising event, 'The Royal Charter'.

On Friday 3rd June, 70000 Britannia hauled the Saphos carriages carrying 250 passengers from Crewe to Windsor to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth II. The sun shone, the food and service was amazing, and there was celebration in the air.

The day was very well attended with representation from across the industry, including teams from Abellio Ancillary Services, Caledonian Sleeper, Furrer + Frey, Freightliner, Avanti West Coast, Arriva TrainCare, Health Shield and of course RBF's president, Pete Waterman OBE.

We were also able to treat some of last year's Heart of Gold Winners and our Ambassadors as a thank you for their hard work and support.



Also on board were Paul, and his girlfriend Isla, for what turned out to be an extra special day.

Isla's grandfather was involved in the building of 70000 Britannia, so what better location for a surprise proposal than on the footplate of this historic locomotive. She said yes!



'We were absolutely delighted to have raised over £60,000 and our thanks go to Locomotive Services Limited and Saphos Trains for making this wonderful event happen, as well as the Branch Line Society for hosting the ticketing.'

Claire Houghton, CEO of RBF

RBF Golf Day 2022

We had a fantastic time at our 18th annual golf day at Hendon, raising an incredible £16,000!

We saw plenty of familiar faces, and had some new teams on board too. Thanks to our headline sponsor Abellio Ancillary Services, as well as Angel Trains and Enable Group for sponsoring nearest the pin and nearest the line competitions.

Congratulations to our winners Railpen (pictured) who took the trophy, GB Railfreight in second place and AW Rail Services third.

A special mention to John Fitzgerald who was instrumental in organising the day and has been doing so for all 18 years.



If you'd like to join our golf day next year email fundraising@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk to register your interest.

Make A Will For Free

During October's Will Month we have been promoting the free will writing services we are offering in a joint venture with the Railway Mission and the Retired Rail Officers Society.

Making a will is so important as it's the only way to ensure your final wishes are fulfilled and is a chance to remember the people and causes you care about in life.

Anybody in the Rail Industry and their friends and family can take up this offer if you haven't already!

Visit our website to write your will for free - www.railwaybenefitfund.org.uk/events/make-a-will-month



Thank You To Our Fundraisers

We have had some fantastic teams and individuals fundraising for us in recent months.

A team from ESL took part in the National Three Peaks Challenge to raise almost £1,000 for RBF. They climbed Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon all within 24 hours - how amazing!

Owen Martin, Mark Enright and Shaun Bradley cycled 100 miles across London and Essex as part of RideLondon raising over £2,300 between them and Barry McLoughlin, Route Control Manager for Network Rail Scotland, took part in the London marathon, smashing his £2,000 target.



If you are keen to take on a challenge for RBF please email us at fundraising@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk

Railway Family Week

We are delighted to have exceeded our £50,000 target for Railway Family Week this year.



Please help us to do the same next year and get involved in Railway Family Week 2023. You can sign up for a challenge, donate a rail experience for our auction or register your interest by emailing fundraising@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk

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