



Newsletter

Supporting our Retired Railway Community

We have just launched our new 'Check in and Chat' service, after a successful pilot. The service offers retired railway employees a weekly chat with a volunteer to alleviate potential loneliness and aid wellbeing.

Our research with railway pensioners highlighted that retirement can often be isolating, especially with many community and railway groups closing following the pandemic.

Throughout the year we have also hosted events for retired rail workers, providing an opportunity to get together, share stories and look back on their time in rail with their contemporaries. Our charity President Pete Waterman and Professor Paul Salveson have both delivered a talk and shared their memories at these events.



To find out more you can email info@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk or call 03452 412 885.

Jo Kaye, Our New CEO



I'm delighted to introduce myself as the new Chief Executive Officer of the Railway Benefit Fund. I started the role in September following the retirement of Claire Houghton. I have already learnt a lot about the charity, and am enjoying getting to know everybody and becoming involved in upcoming projects.

Before taking on this role, I was Managing Director of the System Operator at Network Rail. Having been in rail for 24 years, a big feature of this industry has always been the 'railway family', and I always felt part of something bigger than just the job I was doing.

For me this role seemed like a real mix of the industry that I love and a really important part of looking after the wider railway family, which is what RBF is here to do. One of my immediate priorities is to raise the profile of the charity to increase its visibility in the wider rail network of the work we do.

I am excited to be in this role and look forward to leading the RBF through its next stage of growth, harnessing the knowledge and contacts I have gained from my experience to further RBF's impact.

If you would like to get in touch, please email me on jkaye@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk

Hope to see you soon!

Jo Kaye



Visit the RBF Christmas Shop

You can buy Christmas Cards, our 2024 calendar, gift vouchers and much more to help raise funds this Christmas

www.charitycardshop.com/RBF





Railway Family Week

In April, we held our third annual Railway Family Week which raised over £35,000 in total. An incredible amount in what has been another difficult year.

We launched the first Big Railway Family Week Challenge, which saw teams from Porterbrook, RSSB, Clemtech, Arriva Rail London and Freightliner come together to help us cover the length of the UK while raising money. Our teams smashed this target, completing over 12,000,000 steps over three weeks!

Our popular Auction of Experiences was back with over 60 money-can't-buy rail experiences up for grabs. Prizes included cab rides, a day at the BTP Dog School, walking the Forth Bridge and more. We had our popular Hornby Daily Prize Draw and raffled an amazing Desktop Departure Board.

Thank you to everyone who supported us this Railway Family Week. If you would like to sign up for next year's Big Challenge get in touch now at fundraising@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk.

Read Our Impact Report

An update on the impact we are making as a charity and the difference your donations make to the lives of railway people.

2022 was the busiest year on record. We witnessed a significant shift in the number of current workers reaching out for help; over 60% of grants awarded were for those who currently work in rail.

Furthermore, the average age of those we help is younger than previous years, with the thirties and forties now the predominant age group. Other statistics include:

- 96% increase in applications with over 700 received
- Awarded £334,729 in grants, up from £263,037
- 1 in 4 of all cases were people who faced losing their homes
- A 522% increase on referrals to Citizen's Advice Bureau

"We were barely making ends meet before the energy bills went up, but when they did, we wondered how we would ever cope. RBF helped us put food on the table and made us feel less alone."



Scan to read or download the report.



Scan to Donate

We rely on your donations to continue our work

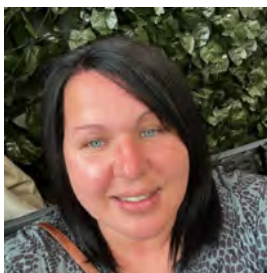
However big or small, your donation can help us change the lives of people who need us. A monthly donation or a one-off gift, will allow us to continue supporting railway people.

Heart of Gold Winners



Our Heart of Gold Awards celebrate those in the rail industry who have made a real difference in their workplace or community. The nominations and voting are by the everyday people who work in rail – giving them the opportunity to thank the colleagues they appreciate, value and who inspire them.

Congratulations to the winners of our 2023 Heart of Gold Awards, after receiving over 2,000 votes!



<p>Laura Warwick Rail Hero</p>	<p>Ronnie Hardman Lifetime Achievement</p>	<p>Claire Sallis Wellbeing Champion</p>	<p>Hannah Tabassum Rising Star</p>	<p>Martin House Fundraising Team</p>
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With thanks to our sponsors Amaro, Freightliner, Furrer+Frey, Health Shield, Railpen and everybody who took part and voted. Head to our website to find out more.

Volunteers - We Need You!

Volunteering is a great way to support RBF and help make a difference in the rail industry.

If you have volunteer days available to use from your employer or would like to help us in your spare time, then we have some great events and opportunities for you to get involved with. You can be part of our check in and chat service, become an RBF Friend, help us run events and charity raffles at industry dinners - plenty to do and more to come!



We were grateful to have some amazing volunteers work with us at the National Rail Awards in September. Sue, Ness, Raj, Danielle, Maggie, Colette and Karen helped us sell raffle tickets and collect donations on the night. Without them we couldn't have raised the incredible amount of £10,000!

"Volunteering for RBF was really enjoyable. To be part of the team and help raise such a huge amount was a great feeling. I'm so glad I could do my bit. You never know when you might need their help."



Would you like to be an RBF Volunteer?
Scan to visit the volunteer page on our website to find out more
Register your interest volunteer@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk / 0345 241 2885

Sports Challenge Update

We have had some fantastic sporting and personal challenges completed recently. These very brave supporters have trained, fundraised and worked really hard to raise a total in excess of £3,000 - well done and thank you!



Ride London

Graham Cross and Henry Silverwood both cycled 100 miles across traffic-free London and Essex.



Swim Serpentine

Karen Timcke, completed a one-mile lap of the famous lake Serpentine in 43 minutes and had an amazing experience.



Royal Parks Half

Colin Smith McGloin, Rebecca Salter and Stefan Leuenberger ran 13 miles through four of London's Royal Parks.

Are you ready to take on one of these challenges for RBF in 2024?

Is there another challenge you would like to take part in?

Get in touch at fundraising@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk

RBF Annual Golf Day Raises £15,000



A great day was had by all at the 19th Annual Golf Day at Hendon Golf Club in June. Thank you to the teams who joined us from Instrumentel, Health Shield, GB Railfreight, Railpen, Angel Trains, Knorr-Bremse, Sella Controls, Porterbrook, AW Rail, AGS One, Avanti West Coast and c2c.

Congratulations to this year's winners Avanti West Coast, 2nd place AW Rail and 3rd place Knorr-Bremse.

Special thanks to John Fitzgerald and James Hill for their invaluable help organising the day.



Join us for our 20th annual golf day on 13th June 2024 at Hendon Golf Club

Various sponsorship packages available

Scan to register interest or email fundraising@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk

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