



Newsletter

Heart of Gold Awards

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 2024 Heart of Gold Awards, after receiving nearly 1,500 votes!

With thanks to our sponsors Amaro, Freightliner, Furrer+Frey, Health Shield, Railpen and everybody who took part and voted. Head to our website news to read their inspiring stories.



Welcome New Trustees



We're thrilled to announce the addition of David Horne and Sam Turner to our Board of Trustees.

Sam Turner, Finance and Commercial Director at Network Rail, brings extensive expertise to the team. She shares, "It's an honour to be part of a charity that provides vital support to our railway colleagues, both past and present when they really need it."

David Horne, Managing Director of LNER, has held leadership roles within the rail industry for many years. He says, "I'm truly honoured to be a Trustee for Railway Benefit Fund. It's a privilege to support such a vital charity that makes a real difference in the lives of railway workers and their families. I'm committed to using my experience and knowledge to help ensure the charity's continued success. No one wants to see one of our railway family struggling."

Our CEO, Jo Kaye, expressed her enthusiasm: "We're delighted to welcome David and Sam to the Board. Their experience and dedication will be invaluable as we grow and enhance our services for the railway community."

Please join us in welcoming David and Sam and wishing them success in their new roles!

Rising Star	Rail Hero	Wellbeing Champion	Star Team	Inspirational Volunteer	Lifetime Achievement
Sophie Styles-Hudson Network Rail	Grace-Anne Stephenson Arriva Rail London	Ian Watson TransPennine Express	Route Crime Security & Suicide Prevention Team Network Rail NW&C Region	Susan Smith Network Rail	Frances Phillips Avanti West Coast

Hardships Can Be Invisible



Hardships can be invisible is a Railway Benefit Fund campaign highlighting the unexpected challenges faced by many railway workers. Despite their dedication, these individuals often struggle silently.

We understand that appearances can be deceiving. Sometimes, even when people seem to have it all together, they may be struggling behind the scenes. Pride and stigma can often prevent people from asking for help.

As a charity who supports railway workers and their families across the UK, we hope to encourage open conversations and provide financial support to those who need it most.

That's why regular giving is so important. It provides a consistent source of funding that allows us to offer vital support to railway workers and their families facing hardship. Your regular donation can help us:

- **Cover essential costs like food, heating, and rent**
- **Provide free debt and legal advice through a partnership with expert advisors, offering additional helpful information and support services**
- **Support initiatives that promote financial wellbeing and resilience**

Together, we can empower our friends and colleagues to keep pushing forward, full steam ahead, and keep our railways moving.



See what you can do, by giving today.

Scan here to set up your regular giving - it's quick and easy. For as little as £5 a month, you can support our railway family and make a difference.

A Tribute to our Charity President, Pete Waterman OBE



On September 11th, a Freightliner Class 90 90041 locomotive was named after Pete Waterman OBE in recognition of his significant contributions to the railway industry.

This was a collaborative effort with our supporters, Freightliner and Avanti West Coast.

Pete has served as our President for five years. In that time, he has helped us raise nearly £2 million, enabling us to support our railway people and their families across the UK.

We're incredibly grateful for Pete's dedication and commitment to Railway Benefit Fund and the railway community as a whole.

This locomotive naming is a fitting tribute to Pete's passion for railways and will surely be a highlight of the year – it was certainly a big surprise for him!



Raising Over £90,000 for Railway Families across the UK

We are thrilled to announce a hat-trick of fundraising events, raising over £90,000! This incredible sum will provide vital support to railway families across the UK. "We are incredibly grateful to everyone who participated in and supported our recent events," said Jo Kaye, CEO at RBF. "Their generosity will make a real difference in the lives of railway families in need."

Bucket & Spade Charity Charter: On a trip from Crewe to Scarborough, supporters enjoyed a fantastic day at the seaside aboard the legendary Class 40 locomotive D213 'Andania.' Kindly provided by Locomotive Services Ltd.

Auction of Rail Experiences: The highly anticipated auction featured over forty unique experiences, from exclusive depot tours to the chance to play trains with Pete Waterman OBE. The competition was fierce!

20th Anniversary Charity Golf Day: The event saw enthusiastic participation from twenty teams. A special award was presented to John Fitzgerald for his outstanding contribution to the event since its launch in 2004. Thank you to our sponsor Transport UK Group.



Sporting Challenges

A huge congratulations to our teams for their incredible efforts in our 2024 sporting events. Your dedication and determination helped us raise an amazing £4,870 for railway workers and their families across the UK.



RIDE LONDON

Andrew Mahoney and Henry Silverwood both cycled 100 miles across traffic-free London and Essex countryside, and back again to finish at London Bridge.



BIG HALF

Cecilia Cole, Rebecca Jacobs, and Peter Wood took on this 13.1-mile challenge, running from Tower Bridge and finished at the iconic Cutty Sark in Greenwich.



SWIM SERPENTINE

Katherine Braybrook, Alison Bell, Rosie Rogers, and Lisa Lines conquered this iconic open-water swim lapping the Serpentine lake.



ROYAL PARKS HALF

Jon Brigdale, Richard Allinson, Gary Belcher, Jack Clarke, Helen Atherton, and Gemma Cronie triumphed in this stunning half marathon, passing through four of London's eight Royal Parks.



Are you looking for a sporting challenge and want to make a difference? Join our team! By participating in our sporting events, you'll not only get active but also help support those facing financial hardships. Together, we can raise vital funds to support our railway family. Email fundraising@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk or scan the QR code to find out more.

Volunteers We Need You!



We're incredibly grateful for our amazing volunteers. They're the heart of our charity, dedicating countless hours to supporting railway workers and their families across the UK. From organising events to fundraising, their hard work and dedication have made a real difference this year.

With a full calendar of events lined up for 2025, we need more volunteers to join our team. Your time and skills can help us achieve great things!

If you want to make a difference, get in touch today at volunteer@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk. Together, we can continue to support our railway family.



Find out more about our partnership with Railway 200 in our Spring newsletter

If you need help, advice or want to get involved, there are many ways to contact us.

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



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Registered Charity No: 206312/SC039550

Hardship can be invisible. See what you can do, by giving today.

