



# Newsletter

## Thank you to our supporters

We want to take a moment to thank you for your incredible support. The impact you have made on the lives of railway people and their families across the UK is amazing. As a charity deeply rooted in the UK rail industry, our commitment remains steadfast: to offer a helping hand to the people behind the UK’s railways and their families when life throws up the most difficult challenges – be it illness, injury, or financial hardship. Our recently published 2024 Impact Report highlights the tangible difference we’ve delivered together. Thank you for being the driving force behind our mission.



## Please Welcome Huw Merriman



We are delighted to announce the addition of Huw Merriman as Honorary Patron of Railway Benefit Fund.

Huw has left politics to spend more time with the railway family, and is delighted to embark on a new chapter, deeply rooted in an industry he cares passionately about.

He shares, “ It’s an honour to become the Honorary Patron for Railway Benefit Fund; an amazing charity which has supported current, former and retired railway people, and their families, for over 165 years. I’m looking forward to helping the RBF team with its fundraising, stakeholder activity and wider work to enable the charity to support more people”.

Highlights from how your donations translate into real impact:

**£112,000**

preventing homelessness

**£47,500**

supporting children

**65%**

of our applicants are under 50

**66%**

of our applicants are current workers



Scan here to view our Impact Report

## Hunslet The Bear Visits RBF



We recently had a very special, furry visitor: the one and only Hunslet the Bear! For two whole weeks, this curious and cuddly character embarked on a top-secret mission to uncover just what makes the RBF tick and how we lend a paw (or rather, a supportive hand) to railway people across the UK.

Far from hibernating, Hunslet threw himself into RBF life! He met us all, getting the inside scoop on everything from providing a comforting ear to our retired rail community to offering financial grants for railway people and their families who are facing hardship.

It's safe to say Hunslet was thoroughly impressed by the dedication and care he witnessed. While Hunslet has now waved goodbye (for now), his visit left a lasting paw-print on us all, reminding everyone of the warmth and community spirit that drives our work. It's clear this bear knows a good cause when he sees one!



**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.**



## Volunteer For RBF Today

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.

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



# Million Step Team Challenge Raises £13,150



What an incredible turnout for our Million Step Team Challenge. Thirty-four teams from across the UK rail industry enthusiastically stepped up, showing immense community spirit (and a touch of friendly competition!).

During May, these dedicated teams, including RBF logged 52,328,961 steps, resulting in an impressive £13,150 raised!

The challenge truly underscored the power of unity within the UK rail sector.

Thank you: Amaro, Angel Trains, Avanti West Coast, c2c, enGauged, Freightliner Group, Furrer+Frej, LNER, Elizabeth line, Porterbrook, Railpen, Rail Delivery Group, RIA, RSSB and Winder Phillips Associates.



Get involved in our events



## RBF Joins Forces for Railway 200 Charity Partnership



We are proud to be part of Railway 200, a cross-industry campaign celebrating the 200th anniversary of the modern railway in 2025.

In a landmark collaboration with three other railway charities, alongside Alzheimer's Research UK, we aim to raise at least £200,000. Throughout 2025, the rail industry will hold various anniversary-related events to support our vital work.

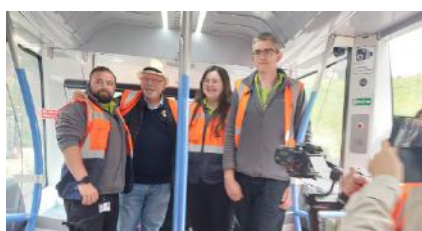
For us, this partnership is a fitting tribute to the railway industry's history and the dedicated individuals we support across the UK. It's an opportunity to honour their contributions and reinforce our ongoing commitment to providing help to the wider railway family.

You can contribute to this important initiative by visiting:  
[www.justgiving.com/campaign/railway200](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/railway200)

# BCIMO Family Day Raised Over £1,500 for Railway Families



The BCIMO Family Day, held on May 17th at Very Light Rail National innovation Centre in Dudley, was a brilliant celebration of 200 years of the modern railway, and with over 550 enthusiastic visitors through the doors, fun was definitely had by all.



We were truly delighted that Railway Benefit Fund (RBF) was chosen as one of the beneficiary charities for this special event. Our President, Pete Waterman OBE, kicked off the day with a grand opening, and our CEO, Jo Kaye, got to share insights into the critical work RBF undertakes, explaining how we support railway people and their families across the UK. It was a great opportunity to connect with the community and showcase our mission.



Are you looking to fundraise and want to make a difference? Get in touch! By fundraising for Railway Benefit Fund, you'll help support those facing financial hardships. Together, we can raise vital funds to support our railway family.

Email [fundraising@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk) or scan the QR code to find out more.

# Rail Industry Celebrated at 2025 Rail Business Awards, Raising Over £2,600

The UK rail industry came together at the Rail Business awards organised by Railway Gazette International on 20th February in Manchester, celebrating its brightest stars. Winners were proudly recognised for their outstanding contributions to innovation and excellence.

The prestigious event also proved to be a successful fundraising opportunity for RBF, where attendees generously participated in a raffle, raising a fantastic £2,610 to support the railway community.



**Find out more about our partnership with Railway 200 in our Autumn 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](mailto:info@railwaybenefitfund.org.uk)

🌐 [www.railwaybenefitfund.org.uk](http://www.railwaybenefitfund.org.uk)



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

