

PRESS RELEASE: National Transport Trust Awards 2023

Lincolnshire Vintage Vehicle Society wins Restoration Award for its Midland Red SOS DON bus

The restoration of a 1935 Midland Red SOS DON bus has led to the Lincoln-based Lincolnshire Vintage Vehicle Society being announced as a winner of a Restoration Award at the National Transport Trust's (NTT) annual awards.

Constructed by the Birmingham & Midland Motor Omnibus Company) and originally operated by Trent Motor Traction Company, this Midland Red SOS DON bus marks the start of what we now call the 'leisure industry', which coincided with paid annual leave. By 1936 the vehicle was carrying passengers from the East Midlands to Skegness, the nearest seaside tourist destination. Shortly after, in the summer of 1938, thousands of working-class Britons got their very first tastes of sun, sea and sand, thanks to a new law that meant that for the first time ever they could take a paid annual holiday. Acquired by the Museum in 1962, the bus was originally used as a tender vehicle at rallies before becoming a static canteen/rest room within the workshop building.

NTT Awards Director Paul Brook comments: "The Lincolnshire Vintage Vehicle Society is now undertaking an ambitious restoration of the bus. When complete, it will be a running, fully operational exhibit, in period-accurate livery and available to travel the actual routes and destinations served nearly a century ago. Most of the restoration work has been completed to a high standard by ex- engineers and operational volunteers at the museum workshops and is the successful culmination of many years work. For this reason we are delighted to recognise this work with a National Transport Trust Restoration Award."

Photographs

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The National Transport Trust

Founded in 1965, (as the Transport Trust), the National Transport Trust is the UK's only national charity established to promote and encourage the preservation and restoration of Britain's unique transport heritage in all its forms – by air, land (road and rail) and water (sea and inland). The Trust is managed within a very streamlined structure, with the Board of Trustees representing the wider interests of the nation, for whose benefit the Trust exists.

The National Transport Trust Awards

The National Transport Trust Awards are a key event in the Trust's calendar. Designed to recognise and reward the efforts of the UK transport preservation movement, a number of awards are made to individuals and organisations every year. Categories include Preservationist of the Year, Young Preservationist of the Year, Lifetime Achievement, and Restoration Awards.

Help us to help them

In order to help the UK's the preservation movement the Trust depends on its members and therefore encourages all those who share our aims to join us. Membership of the Trust is open to private individuals and affiliated organisations.

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