

## **PRESS RELEASE: National Transport Trust Awards 2023**

### **The Thames Sailing Barge Trust wins Restoration Award for ‘Pudge’**

The restoration of Pudge, a 1922 Thames Sailing Barge, has led to the Thames Sailing Barge Trust (TSBT) being announced as a winner of a Restoration Award at the National Transport Trust’s (NTT) annual awards. The Award was presented to Steve DeLaSalle of TSBT by the NTT’s Royal Patron, Anne, HRH The Princess Royal at a ceremony held in the Railway Museum at Fawley Hill ([www.fawleyhill.co.uk](http://www.fawleyhill.co.uk)) on 18 September 2023.

The Thames Sailing Barge was the main form of bulk cargo transport on the East Coast for over two hundred years. SB Pudge is a Thames spritsail barge, built in wood in Rochester, Kent and was one of the last wooden barges built. Pudge is listed on the Historic Ship Register and is also a Dunkirk Little Ship, being involved with the evacuation of troops in 1940. In 2019 the Thames Sailing Barge Trust began a major restoration project to replace Pudge’s rotten decks and rebuild the entire accommodation area below.

NTT Awards Director Paul Brook comments: “Thames barges have been a back drop of the Thames for hundreds of years, and have inspired artists, writers, and photographers, through the ages. With so much fine work done already, the Trust is keen to see Pudge become part of the vista once more. For our part, we are delighted to be able to provide support to this worthwhile and worthy project by way of a National Transport Trust Restoration award.”

### **Photographs**

Any image supplied with this press release is provided copyright free for editorial purposes only. Images related to this award can be found here: [Pudge-images](#)

### **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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