



PRESS RELEASE: National Transport Trust Awards 2024

The World's Oldest Steam Roller wins National Transport Trust Restoration Award

The restoration of the 1882 Aveling 1760, the world's oldest steam roller, has led to the Friends of the 1760, from the Vale of Belvoir, near Melton Mowbray, being announced as a winner of a Restoration Award at the National Transport Trust's (NTT) annual awards.



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The Friends of 1760 have performed something of a modern miracle restoring an engine to working condition that most experts said could never be restored, because the boiler is made from wrought iron. In straight age terms, 1760 is the second oldest surviving steam roller but it is substantially original and unaltered. Once returned to steam it will be the oldest operating steamroller and may well be the oldest operable steam boiler on any road engine .

NTT Awards Director Paul Brook comments: "For many years this roller sat in a corner of the Aveling Barford collection, intact, but inoperable as much repair was needed for the boiler, and seemingly no prospect of ever steaming due to the fickle nature of the original boiler material. It then fell into the hands of Edd and team, who are no strangers to a challenge or two. I personally first saw this a number of years ago sitting in a corner of the workshop where the same team were working on another early Aveling.

"But working with metallurgy experts, and with the very real prospect of the project shuddering to a halt over some insurmountable metallurgical problem at any point, and by using extensive material analysis and testing, the team came up with a repair scheme that will see this unique early engine back in steam and fully certified. It is s credit to the determination and tenacity the team of restorers who have worked tirelessly to see the project through; knowing that at any point the whole project could stall. I have seen many restoration projects, but non have been as special as this. They have thrown every modern trick in the book at it, from ultrasonics to X ray, with constant testing of samples of material and welds. As a little "easy" sideline the team even manufactured a new mechanical pump . The old one was butchered during its last working years.

"This is a small engineering miracle. A unique and timeless reminder of the skills and drive of our forebears. An attitude it seems that is shared with the Friends of 1760. This is a very well deserved NTT 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.

National Transport Trust

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