



PRESS RELEASE: National Transport Trust Awards 2024

Sea Ranger Association wins National Transport Trust Restoration Award for Waterwitch

The restoration and preservation of Waterwitch, a 1946 clinker built Morgan Giles sailing/rowing gig, has led to the Portsmouth-based Sea Ranger Association being announced as a winner of a Restoration Award at the National Transport Trust's (NTT) annual awards.



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Waterwitch is a wooden Morgan Giles rowing and sailing gig owned by the Sea Ranger Association, a registered charity run by volunteers and based in Portsmouth. Waterwitch is believed to be the only one of her kind left; six were built for Sea Rangers but this will be the only one afloat. She has a range of provenance and may even have been rowed by the Queen although direct evidence of this is yet to be found. Being laid up throughout Covid and beyond did her no favours, and now every effort is being made to get her back in service, ably assisted by volunteers and a professional boatbuilder, Peter Collins, who is giving up his time freely to oversee the project.

NTT Awards Director Paul Brook comments: "Once completed, she will return to providing training and experience to Sea rangers formed into "crews" on the water enhancing and already impressive suite of outdoor activities; camping, rowing, kayaking and sailing, indeed anything on the water. With the training of young people in the outdoors the mental benefits that the outdoor provides and teamwork invoked in crewing and coxing a boat such as this. Such a project is providing a worthwhile addition to

an already great institution and the National Transport Trust is delighted to add support by way of a 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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