

Ferryhill Railway Heritage Trust Incorporating Ferryhill Men's Shed.

Annual Report 2025

The Trust was able to meet its financial obligations during 2025 despite the lack of any visiting Charter Trains. The cancellation of the 23rd August visit by the locomotive Sir Nigel Gresley was particularly disappointing. Work by our treasurer resulted in some three years of Gift Aid being claimed. In addition the final grant payment for the turntable restoration was received from Historic Environment Scotland. Other grants received through the year included those from Garfield Weston, GNSRA, Age Scotland, Stafford Trust, RHT, Vattenfall and CARES. The last two grants would cover the future costs of the Ground Source Heat Pump, Solar panels and Battery storage.

The completion of the restoration of the former Railway Office Building was recognised by the unveiling of the Plaque presented by the Railway Heritage Trust on 16th March.

Considerable work was undertaken by volunteers laying new trackwork. This included the laying of temporary rails on the pit outside the Engine Shed.

A number of items of new rolling stock were acquired, the costs of which were met from generous donations. This included the LNWR Picnic Saloon, which had been partially restored by a group of volunteers at McIntosh Plant Hire's Echt depot. The Trust's BR Brake Van was relocated into the shed to allow completion of the repairs. The first of the planned turnouts was laid to the rear of the shed, and the track ballasted with new ballast kindly donated by LNER Clayhills Depot and laid using the Trust's dogfish wagon. Other donated materials allowed the construction of a walkway alongside the new track.

The Ruston D165 diesel locomotive remains the Trust's sole form of motive power, although enquiries continued regarding the acquisition of a second locomotive. The Trust participated in the Railway 200 celebratory event at Aberdeen Station held on two days in October. A new organiser was appointed for the Trust's Museum and work progressed on the displays and accessioning of the artefacts in the trust's care. A larger milling machine was donated by a local engineering company which will assist with the production of components required for restoration work. Work continued on the restoration of the GNSRA Full Brake, the Wickham Trolleys, the RSH 7846 Steam Locomotive and the LMS Horsebox.

The Trust is indebted to the volunteer members who have been supporting the trust with their restoration work and on the various open days when the general public have been given the opportunity to see the work of the Trust.