



Press Release

Railway Heritage Trust projects at Eridge and Kinghorn completed



Eridge customer lounge



Kinghorn classroom / Gallery

Railway Heritage Trust funded projects completed at Eridge and Kinghorn

The Railway Heritage Trust has so far awarded 59 grants in the financial year 2011 / 12, to a total value of just over £1.8 million. Two of the smaller projects that the Trust is supporting have recently been completed.

At Eridge, in Sussex, Southern Railway has completed renovation work on what had formerly been the private waiting room for the Marquess of Abergavenny.

The room, located off the booking hall at street level, has been refurbished with wainscot boarding, the fireplace has been resurrected, and the timber flooring given a welcome makeover before complete redecoration of the space. The majority of the work was very skilfully undertaken by one of Southern's own in-house maintenance teams. The station is home to the Sussex Community Rail Partnership who assisted in the opening ceremony at the end of November, when the waiting room, now a customer lounge, was officially opened by the current Marquess of Abergavenny. The Railway Heritage Trust gave a grant of £2,000 to this project.

Meanwhile, at Kinghorn in Fife, local artist Lynette Gray has completed the restoration of the former Ladies' Waiting Room in the station building as a classroom, the second phase of a project to restore the non-operational parts of this building. This work follows Lynette's conversion of the upper floor of the building to a studio in 2010 / 11. The overall work has involved removing the very poor decoration of the building, reinstalling a collapsed floor, relocation of Network Rail's winter material for the station, rewiring the whole building, some new doorways, and a total re-decoration. The Trust has given grant support, totalling £13,500, to both phases of this project, which was also supported by the Scottish Government's Stations Community Regeneration Fund.

Andy Savage, Executive Director of the Railway Heritage Trust, said:

'Both Eridge and Kinghorn are excellent examples of how, with the Trust's support, redundant space on historic railway stations can be brought back into valuable use for the railway or the community. This can be done by the Train Operator, as at Eridge, or by private individuals, as at Kinghorn.'

Note to editors

Railway Heritage Trust

The Railway Heritage Trust is a Company Limited by Guarantee, which aims to:

- encourage the conservation and enhancement of railway buildings and structures which are listed or scheduled and are of special architectural or historic interest, and;
- act as a catalyst between outside parties and owners in the conservation and alternative use of non-operational property, including the possible transfer of responsibility to local trusts or other interested organisations.

The Trust awards grants to a value of some £2 million a year to achieve these objectives.

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