



Press Release

Heritage Plaque Unveiled at Stroud



Sir William McAlpine unveils a Railway Heritage Trust plaque on Stroud's Brunel Goods Shed

On Saturday November 24th Sir William McAlpine unveiled a plaque to mark the re-opening of the Stroud Goods Shed as an Arts Venue. This scheme is the culmination of almost thirty years of effort by the Stroud Preservation Trust (SPT), which the Trust has supported throughout.

Sir William explained how the shed was built under the supervision of Brunel in 1845, and is one of the last of his goods sheds to survive. After it ceased to be used for goods traffic in 1966 BR had an engineering presence until the 1980s, but removed the slating from the roof in 1984. The SPT then arranged a lease and to reinstate the roof, but has struggled ever since to find a sustainable use for the building. The Railway Heritage Trust's grants towards new security doors and a power supply were key elements in enabling the SPT to lease out the building, and thus getting it removed from English Heritage's 'Buildings at Risk' register.

Camilla Hale, chair of the SPT, said 'This project has been the longest scheme that we have ever managed, and without the Trust's support we would not have been able to bring the building back into use, and to ensure its future.'

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.

For further details or pictures, please contact the Railway Heritage Trust as below.

Stroud Preservation Trust

The Stroud Preservation Trust is a registered charity, formed in 1982 after a series of battles to save historic buildings, and prevent unnecessary developments in the historic town of Stroud. Since its formation it has acquired, restored, and disposed of half a dozen buildings in Stroud, but has also influenced the development of the town to recognise its history, and to change attitudes so that the historic buildings of Stroud are now seen as an asset rather than a liability.

For further details, please see the Stroud Preservation Trust website, www.stroudpreservationtrust.org.uk .

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