

RAILWAY  
HERITAGE  
TRUST



# Community

The Railway Heritage Trust gives grants to restore historic buildings and structures across the national rail network. Our main brochure, which you can find on our website, [railwayheritagetrust.co.uk](http://railwayheritagetrust.co.uk), gives guidance as to exactly which sorts of buildings and structures are in our scope, and what our objectives are. Please make sure you are dealing with a building that is in our scope, and that your project meets our objectives, if you want to discuss a scheme with us.

However, we do not just look at the restoration works. We always want to see that the projects we support are associated with an ongoing sustainable use, so that the buildings do not fall back into disrepair. Such uses can be either community-based or commercial, and we have no particular preference for either. However, we do want to see a financially viable operation if we are going to support its capital costs. Here are some examples of community use of railway buildings that we have funded. We hope they might help you in setting up a project.

## FOOD AND DRINK

Whilst providing food and drink on stations is usually a commercial activity, there are several cases where this has been done by the community. At Etchingham, on the line to Hastings in Sussex, a community group has restored the station building and opened a successful bistro which serves passengers and the community. We have also helped fund similar community cafés, often providing training opportunities for disadvantaged people, at Kilmarnock and New Cumnock in Ayrshire, and at Hexham in Northumbria.

## COMMUNITY GROUPS

The RHT has funded a wide range of station restorations by community groups. Some of the examples include help for those with addiction problems at Kilmarnock, model railway clubs at Fort Matilda and Lanark, a Men's Shed at Nairn, a veterans group at Dumbarton Central, and several Community Rail Partnerships. Often such facilities can be used for wider activities, for example a local meeting room.





### COMMUNITY BOOKSHOPS

Many stations have community facilities for book exchange. On occasions this has been taken much further and at both Pitlochry and Wemyss Bay community groups have set up second-hand bookshops in restored parts of the station with help from the RHT. These bookshops provide space for community activity and also help raise money for local charities. The Pitlochry bookshop has been particularly successful and has raised over £250,000 for charities by its activities.

### HOLIDAY LETS

Some lesser-used railway buildings are particularly well placed for use as holiday lets. We have funded several of these, including the signal boxes at Corrou and Kyle of Lochalsh in the Highlands, Helmsdale station building in the Far North of Scotland, and Ribbleshead station on the Settle and Carlisle line.

### ART STUDIOS

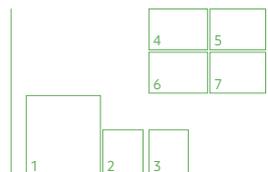
We have worked with a number of artists to provide them with studios. This has been particularly successful in the Kingdom of Fife. We have so far funded two studios at Ladybank, one at Kinghorn, one at Aberdour, and a whole range at Burntisland. We are very happy to do this elsewhere on the Network as well.

### HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Railway stations are particularly well suited for activities involving health and wellbeing. They have no particular links and thus can be considered as neutral, but at the same time are easy to get to. We have funded two martial arts gymnasiums, at Helensburgh and Saltcoats, a health advisory centre at Cottingham, and medical facilities at Eastbourne and Bexhill.

### CONCLUSION

We hope that all these schemes show some of the great ways you can restore old railway buildings into sustainable enterprises. If you want to work with us on such a project, we will want to see your business case, and also to agree how the heritage features of the building can be incorporated into your business. Does it sound difficult? We are able to share plenty of examples with you, to help you develop your proposal to become reality.



- 1 Kilmarnock
- 2 Cottingham
- 3 Pollockshaws
- 4 Pitlochry
- 5 Kyle of Lochalsh
- 6 Torksey
- 7 Headingley

Front Cottingham

Back Aberdour



ABERDOUR

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