



Strathspey Railway receives substantial donation from American Benefactor

The Strathspey Railway is delighted to announce the receipt of a donation significantly in excess of £1 Million from a Benefactor in the United States of America. The Benefactor, who wishes to remain anonymous, visited the Railway some years ago and was impressed by what he saw. Beyond expecting the Railway to use the donation in a way which best benefits the organisation as a whole, the Benefactor has not stipulated how this money should be spent nor placed any restrictions on the type of strategic projects which might be favoured.

During what are difficult times for many heritage railways, the Strathspey Railway continues to cover its operating and maintenance costs but does not in itself generate the level of funding required for major projects, nor the future expenditure needed to sustain, life-extend and refurbish all of its current fleet of steam and diesel locomotives, associated rolling stock and other assets.

Accordingly, the Strathspey which is a "Not for Profit" Third Sector Organisation which precludes any return to shareholders, has always been, and will continue to be, dependent on fundraising undertaken by its volunteers together with donations and bequests from supporters, for the finance needed to maintain and expand the Railway's operations. Like many tourist-related businesses, the Railway was badly affected by COVID with its financial reserves being severely depleted such that spending in recent years has had to be carefully controlled particularly during those periods when the Railway is not running trains and generating income.

This exceptionally generous and unexpected donation will allow the Railway to rebuild its financial reserves whilst being able to invest in a number of projects which will underpin the sustainability of the Railway quicker than otherwise had been planned. The Strathspey Railway Company Board are currently taking financial advice to ensure that the donation is invested effectively for both the short and long term. The generosity of our anonymous Benefactor should secure the Railway's future and will allow the Strathspey to continue providing volunteers and employees with opportunities to pursue a fulfilling and very worthwhile hobby/career whilst maintaining what is recognised as a key tourist attraction in the Spey Valley – "The Home of Highland Steam".

Information for External Media

The Strathspey Railway operates a ten-mile heritage railway between Aviemore and Broomhill, via Boat of Garten. Part of the former Inverness and Perth Junction Railway (later the Highland Railway) which linked Aviemore with Forres, it is one of only a handful of former primary/secondary main lines to be preserved following the wholesale rail closures of the 1960s. The Railway has a fleet of steam and heritage diesels locomotives which are run and maintained by a mix of volunteers and a small number of paid staff. Further details of services and events can be found at www.strathspeyrailway.co.uk

The Railway has featured in a number of television series including Monarch of the Glen and is currently one of the locations used by The Traitors.

Enquiries to:

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