



ROGER KELLY STANDS DOWN AS FUNDING DIRECTOR

At the Bluebell Railway Plc Board Meeting on Tuesday 19th December Roger Kelly formally tendered his resignation from the post of Director responsible for fund raising after a term of nearly 10 years. Roger had made known his intentions over a year ago but was kind enough to stay on beyond the contemplated 'August' retirement to launch the Tr(ack)Action appeal.



He came to the Board in 2008 replacing Nicholas Pryor, an individual with a successful track record from whom Roger learned much with regard to Heritage Lottery Funding.

During his term of office, it is calculated that Roger has overseen over £5 million of contributions / donations / fund raising activities plus grants from the Lottery, charities and both local and central government.

An itemised list is too long to detail here but worthy of note are Cash for Cover (OP4), Keep up the Pressure, the Track Trek initiative, not taking a No from the HLF for a final answer on ASH, and the funding of apprenticeships. Plus of course his motivation for an army of volunteers to raise final monies for the Northern Extension via the Tenner for the Tip and Fiver for the Finish campaigns which collectively raised over £330k.

Roger duly acknowledged that the Bluebell Railway is indeed very fortunate to have a large number of individuals who so willingly and regularly provide financial support for specific projects.

Of the £ 5 million figure mentioned above it is interesting to note that over two thirds of this money has been raised via the Bluebell Railway Trust – thus enhancing the uplift value of Gift Aid. It is this aspect and the need and desire for the Trust to adhere to the requirements of the Charity Commission that has resulted in key responsibility for fund raising moving to the Trust from the Plc. There will be further details on this from the Trust in the very near future.

Roger Kelly will not however become invisible; indeed, he has made known his wish to stay on as a Trustee of the Bluebell Railway Preservation Society and will be offering himself for re – election at the Society AGM in May. We also hope to continue to see him as part of the station staff at Horsted Keynes.

At the Board Meeting, Chairman Dick Fearn and fellow Directors all acknowledged the amazing effort and successes that Roger had delivered during his term of office. As part of this recognition Roger was presented with a Terence Cuneo Limited Edition print - Night Express featuring Merchant Navy Class locomotive 35027 '*Port Line*'.

Roger Garman

Communications Director – Bluebell Railway Plc

3rd January 2018