

# Legendary railway pioneer honoured with statue at London Marylebone station

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A nine-foot bronze statue and plinth of railway pioneer Adrian Shooter CBE has been unveiled at London Marylebone station.

Adrian began his career with British Rail in 1970 and is considered one of the leading architects of the modern railway, with the tribute recognising his huge contribution and accomplishments in both the passenger and freight sectors.

He is a fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Institution of Mechanical Engineers and of the Chartered Institute of Transport. Adrian has worked at and led maintenance depots throughout the country, managed London St Pancras station and held various senior positions within the industry.

Adrian is especially famed as the founder of Chiltern Railways and the chairman of DB Regio UK, which later became known as Arriva Rail.

More recently he has been chairman of Vivarail, which is leading the way with battery powered trains, having delivered the UK's first diesel/battery hybrids for Transport for Wales. The company is now working

on several battery train projects including, with Great Western Railway, and will be introducing a regular timetabled battery train service in West London later this year.

He is also chairman of SLC Rail which has built on the Chiltern track record of building privately funded rail infrastructure.

The statue, which was crowdfunded by current industry leaders and close associates of Adrian was unveiled in front of 100 guests with a keynote speech by ex-Transport Secretary The Rt Hon Lord McLoughlin CH PC and a thank you from Adrian himself.

Adrian Shooter CBE said: "I feel very honoured to be recognised by the industry in this way. However, I accept this honour only on the condition that it recognises the amazing efforts of the hundreds of railway men and women who I have worked with.

"All I ever did was create the vision, hire the very best people and then help them to do their best. They, not me, were the people who delighted our passengers. They had to work in all weathers and run a safe railway wherever the problems. Some of them relieved me of the tedium of negotiating and implementing the many over complicated legal agreements we have been saddled with.

"It has been a very real pleasure to see so many people grow in confidence and help create a bigger and much better railway supported by private sector investment.

"Today, however, is about the future. A group of us are preparing a proposition which we will present to the new Prime Minister next week. It will note that the railway has a very large contribution to make in terms creating wealth for the nation and go on to say that the private sector has a very significant ability to make this happen.

"We will set out what needs to be done. A vital component being having management locally delighting customers and managing costs and revenues."

In addition to the statue, Chiltern Railways arrange for diesel multiple unit 168001 to not only be at the London station, but it was named Adrian Shooter CBE. The four-car DMU was the first train purchased by Chiltern Railways as a private sector operator, and also the first train ordered by any of the private sector railway operators after railway privatisation in the mid-1990s. Adrian's family helped with the unveiling of the train named after him.





Richard Allan, current Chiltern Railways managing director, said: “It was a great privilege and honour to host the special event at Marylebone station.

“Adrian remains well-known and extremely well thought of within Chiltern; the statue and train naming are a fitting tribute to Adrian and his many achievements over a long and distinguished career.”

Private and personal contributions were raised from more than 40 organisations and individuals to fund the production of the statue, made by Industrial Heritage Stronghold.

In addition, thousands of pounds were raised for the Motor Neurone Disease Association a life shortening and currently incurable condition affecting the communication between the brain, nerves and muscles and affecting a person’s movement and mobility.

Steve Murphy, MTR UK chief executive, and former Chiltern Railways MD was mentored by Adrian, and helped lead the organisation of the tribute, spoke at the event. He said: “Adrian Shooter has selflessly dedicated his life to the railways. Adrian’s personal and professional career, innovative thinking and determination have left a legacy, the benefits of which will be felt far into our industry’s future. Adrian has spoken passionately about his thoughts for our sector’s future and, as an industry, we would be unwise to ignore his expertise.

“More recently, Adrian has fought motor neurone disease with courage and dignity, raising the profile of

the condition and the MND Association, alongside his work within the rail sector.”

Alongside personal contributions, corporate donations were offered from Angel Trains, Central Japan Railway Company, Chiltern Railways, Denton UK & Middle East LLP, Eversheds Sutherland, Eversholt Rail, Landmark Hotel, Key Publishing, Network Rail, Porterbrook and SLC Rail.

Ian Gardner, Head of Development at the MND Association said: “This is a wonderful opportunity to mark Adrian’s vital contribution to the modern railway and raise awareness of motor neurone disease (MND). Adrian is one of 5,000 people in the UK living with MND at any one time and we are incredibly thankful he has chosen to share his journey with the disease, which currently has no cure, and support the MND Association’s work. We improve access to care, fund vital research and campaign for those people living with or affected by MND in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Thank you to Adrian and his network for helping us continue to provide this crucial support.”

Donations to the Motor Neurone Disease Association can be made online at [Donate | MND Association](#)