



# *A Message from the Chairman*

Dear members,

As you may know, Whitehead Railway Museum has been awarded a top honour by Heritage Railway Association. In Birmingham on 10<sup>th</sup> February we were presented with a coveted Manisty Award at the HRA Annual Awards. The Manisty award is the most prestigious honour at the ceremony.

We are delighted to have been recognised by HRA but the real credit goes to all those who have worked so long and hard to build up the Society and to develop the museum concept from a blueprint to reality.

The entire membership should be proud of what has been achieved at Whitehead Railway Museum. We have a five gallery museum which enables us to show off our heritage engines and carriages - and so much more - to the public. Historical gems which would otherwise have been languishing at the back of our sheds are now on view to visitors. The museum also tells the social history of railways and how they transformed society. And we also focus on how Whitehead developed as a railway town.

The museum is of course wrapped around our workshops which gives it a unique selling point. Visitors can hear and see heavy engineering work taking place as they tour our galleries with one of our expert guides. And as everyone knows, we also boast an outstanding tea room, serving everything from morning coffee to lunch and afternoon tea.

Those of you who have visited the museum, or who regularly volunteer at Whitehead, will have seen all this for yourselves. We have a marvellous visitor attraction and are poised for a busy spring and summer.

This is where you can help. We all need to be ambassadors for Whitehead Railway Museum. Please spread the word among your friends, family and workmates. Perhaps you are a member of a retirement association or a social group which is looking for a destination for its next outing. Why not suggest Whitehead Railway Museum? With the regular train service from Belfast, it makes a super package for a day out.

At present, Whitehead Railway Museum is open every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10am to 4pm. Thanks to our ability to bring new items forward - most recently Nos. 184 and 27 - there is always something different to see. And in the workshop, you never know which engine or item of rolling stock you will see in the wheel-drop road.

Winning the HRA award is a cause for celebration in which all members are entitled to share. And the best way is to spread the word about Whitehead Railway Museum - and helping to increase our visitor numbers yet further this spring.

*John McKegney*  
Chairman