

Steam locomotive's historic nameplate welcomed back to its Devon home

The nameplate will be on display until February, together with an exhibition about how the railways brought holidaymakers to Bideford

DevonLive NEWS By [Lewis Clarke](#)

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A historic nameplate from steam locomotive 34019 'Bideford' has been welcomed back to its rightful hometown.

The mayor of Bideford, Councillor David Ratcliff, formally welcomed the nameplate from steam locomotive 34019 "Bideford" back to the town on the 75th anniversary of its original naming ceremony.

The event was held at The Burton Museum & Art Gallery on Sunday, August 29, where the nameplate will be on display until February, together with an exhibition about how the railways brought holidaymakers to Bideford.

Bideford Railway Heritage Centre had bought the nameplate at auction earlier in the year after 25 years of wanting to bring it back to the town. Peter Christie was also present to recognise the financial support that Bideford Bridge Trust had given to the group.

The mayor was introduced to three Bidefordians who have a relationship with the 1946 ceremony; group member Alan Wilkinson who was at the original ceremony; Moira Fairchild whose brother Brian Pearson was also there; and Jeannette and Julie (nee Chubb) who are the 1946 mayor Chubb's grand-daughters and had donated his presentational coffee table to the group last year.

Heritage Centre Curator Clive Fairchild said that his group were pleased to have brought the nameplate back to the town where it rightly belonged.

He said: "Thanks were due to the Bridge Trust, group members and local people who had supported the fund-raising.

"The Centre is currently open on Wednesdays and Sundays until the end of September. In particular he looked forward to seeing the town support the Centre when it reopens next Easter in full post-Covid mode, including restarting its occasional train service."



Bideford Railway Heritage Centre celebrations by Simon Ellery



















