

URL: <https://shefnews.co.uk/index.php/2025/03/13/model-railway-business-to-open-at-sheffield-train-station/>



Image credit: Rails of Sheffield.

Model railway business to open at Sheffield train station

Rails of Sheffield plans to open a new store this Spring around late March to early April inside Sheffield Train Station.

The family-run business was started in 1970 by Hedley Barber and has collaborated with local brands, such as creating custom wagons for Henderson's Relish and Abbeydale Brewery which included a bottle of relish and custom beers mats.

Jack Morgan, Marketing Manager of Rails of Sheffield said: "I don't think there's ever really been a model railway shop at a mainline station like this before. You know, at least not within sort of recent memory. So one part of it we literally just thought, you know, it's a match made in heaven model railways and real railways. So why is this not being done before?"

"With this station shop we kind of wanted to do this as a bit of a statement to show kind of the industry is alive and well and almost have it as a bit of a good news story for kind of high street retail in general. We wanted to show that not all shops are shutting down and our family-run local business is still doing really well."



Image credit: Rails of Sheffield.

The hobby experienced some doom and gloom when Hattons Model Railways went out of business last year, leaving Rails of Sheffield to fill the number one spot in the industry.

Morgan added: "When the original shop opened Hedley Barber had a very traditional Yorkshire penny saving sort of attitude. I think he actually reused some of the letters from the sign next door to save money, so he called it Rails as those were the letters left as part of the other shop."

The main shop on Chesterfield Road has essentials to help begin the hobby of model train collecting, such as tracks and controllers, and also has an area called the Emporium which is constructed from locally sourced materials.

They will be selling traditional model railway products, but also plan to offer unique railway-themed products such as colouring books for children, tote bags, t-shirts and art prints.

Rails of Sheffield also has partnerships with the National Railway Museum, East Midlands Railway, and plans to support more local businesses in the future.