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A dedicated volunteer who has devoted years of his spare time to creating a popular wildlife haven has been awarded the MBE.

Brian Pearce has helped to transform a derelict piece of land in Peterborough city centre into the Railworld Wildlife Haven over the past 25 years.

He recently received written confirmation that he was to receive the unique honour, which is awarded by the Queen and recognises outstanding service to a community.



The news follows hot on the heels of the haven winning a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service which was announced last week.

Over the past quarter of a century, the haven has become a popular attraction for volunteers and its learning centre and model railway regularly welcomes schools and organisations from across the region.

Brian said: "When I got the letter I was stunned and it's still sinking in to be honest. I could not have achieved anything without the help of all our volunteers and companies who have helped us over the years for free. This award belongs to everyone involved and it is a great honour.

"This is my job and my passion, it's what I do every single day, so for me it's no different to any other line of work. I'm just lucky that I've had a great team of people to help me out.

"The haven shows what is possible when people come together with a shared goal. It feels great to be able to put something back into the community and see people young and old come along and enjoy themselves."

Brian added that he is waiting for an official date to receive his MBE but was 'tremendously excited' by the prospect of meeting royalty.

Councillor Irene Walsh, Peterborough City Council's Cabinet Member for Communities, said: "This is a fantastic honour for Brian and the city of Peterborough as a whole.

"Brian has worked tirelessly over the years to create an outstanding community facility and he is most deserving of this prestigious accolade."