



Vintage Carriages Trust

Carriage Chronicle

News for Members: May 2022



- Chairman's Day Details
- Bellerophon Appeal
- A Legacy with a Difference
- Workshop Updates

Welcome to the May 2022 'Carriage Chronicle' Members' Update - *Bob Sprot*

Welcome to the May 2022 'Carriage Chronicle'. In this publication are details of our forthcoming annual Chairman's Day event, the story behind an unusual but important legacy for the Trust, and all the usual workshop updates on our restorations of the Midland 6 wheeler, the Diesel Rail Bus and the Southern PMV. Additionally as the overhaul of Sir Berkeley by our friends at Middleton nears completion we are turning our attention to restoring to steam our 1874 engine Bellerophon based at the Foxfield railway. This will require considerable funding and an appeal is being launched.

Sadly we also have to report the sudden death of our Trustee, noted carriage restorer and friend Wendy Anderson and an obituary is included in this issue.



Spring Flowers - A credit to volunteer and gardener
Susan Stephenson and brightening up VCT - Photo: Richard Jones

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Front cover: Bellerophon at Foxfield on its last day in steam in 2018 Photo: Ian Smith

Membership Matters - *Bob Sprot*

Membership Renewals 2022/3 - Many thanks to many members who have renewed their subscriptions already for the new membership year of April 1st 2022 to March 31st 2023. If you are still to renew your membership which at only £12 remains great value please send your subscription to

The Vintage Carriages Trust, c/o The Railway Station, Haworth,
West Yorkshire, BD22 8NJ.

Members Update - We would like to welcome the following new members who have joined the Vintage Carriages Trust in the last few months - Mr. S Anstey, Mr. C Bassett, Mrs. C Bowker, Mr. N Burton, Ms. M Burton, Mr. P Carroll, Mr. P Gibson, Mr. F Hart, Mr. P Hudman, Mr. P Lawson, Mr. R Widdas, Ms. R Wilson, and Mr. T Woolley.

Sadly we have also been notified of the death of the following members - Ms. W. Anderson, Mrs. M Burton, Mr. W Clark and Mr. L Knighton. The Chairman, Trustees, Staff and Volunteers would like to send their sympathies to their families and friends.



Bellerophon - with your help it will be back in steam again! Photo: Ian Smith

Wendy Anderson

We received the sad news in March of the sudden and unexpected death of our friend and Trustee Wendy Anderson at an all too early age and she will be sorely missed.



Wendy was a member of VCT for over 16 years and a Trustee for the last 5 years. She worked and volunteered within the Heritage Railway sector for over 28 years. Most recently she had been employed as Carriage & Wagon Engineering Manager for the East Lancashire Railway at Bury. Prior to this appointment Wendy was the Carriage & Wagon Manager at the Emsay & Bolton Abbey Railway (YDR) for 10 years and also was a qualified train guard. Wendy also ran her own company Anderson Carriage & Wagon offering supplies of parts to the heritage movement.



Wendy in the Guards role at the Emsay & Bolton Abbey Railway. Photo: YDR

Well known and well respected within carriage and wagon preservation circles Wendy had a wide range of restoration skills and qualifications along with a great network of contacts.

Wendy Anderson

Wendy was renowned for supplying an occasional terse comment on any given situation, including when things were not going to plan her good humored but oft used phrase “ if he doesn't do this right I'll give him a slap”. This became legendary.

Whilst at Embsay Wendy worked very closely with Stephen Middleton on his Stately Trains collection of vintage carriages as well as owning and restoring her own wagons. It was also while at the YDR that Wendy was key to the hire of our Bulleid carriage to that railway where it has enjoyed great success as a part of the Dales Diner train for the last 4 years.

As a Trustee with the Vintage Carriages Trust Wendy was involved with all of our restorations including the Midland 6 wheel carriage. Recently she had arranged for the wheel sets and axle boxes to be overhauled and for the remanufacture of roof light fittings. Wendy, due to her qualifications, also had the role of the VCT Fitness to Run Inspector checking our carriages before they were to be used on the KWVR or elsewhere.

The Chairman, Trustees, Staff and Volunteers would like to send their deepest sympathies to Wendy's family and friends.



Carriage Restorers Convention North Norfolk 2016 - Wendy in the middle of the front row.
Photo: North Norfolk Railway

Chairman's Day - Saturday 18th June 2022

- Trevor England

The event will be held this year on Saturday 18th June to inform members and guests of the progress made by the Vintage Carriages Trust during the last twelve months. Those attending will be able to meet the Trustees at this event and to enjoy a visit to the museum and workshop.

The programme for the day is as follows:-

10.30 am until 11.00 am - Tea/Coffee and biscuits will be served near the mess room and you will then proceed into the workshop. This will allow you the opportunity to view the present restoration projects. It will also allow safe circulation for other visitors in the museum area.

11.15 am Welcome - Trevor England

Discussion topics will include:-

Museum Development - Alexandra Stockdale-Haley

Rail Story Partnership - Debbie Cross and Trevor England

Retail Report and Reception - Bob Sprot and Richard Jones

Midland Carriage & PMV Restoration - Ian Wild & Chris Smith

Restoration of the DRB - Trevor England

Locomotive Progress - Ian Smith

AGM Arrangements - Dave Carr

Conclusion - Trevor England



The essential buffet provided at a VCT Chairman's Day! - Photo: Alexandra Stockdale-Haley

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There will then be the opportunity to look around the museum before or after lunch.

12.15 pm - Buffet lunch will be either in the workshop or at the front of the museum dependant on the space required. Once you have your food, drinks can be obtained near the mess room, but please proceed back into the workshop to avoid congestion in the museum. If it is a fine summer day sitting outside may be an option.

1.45 pm - Meet on Ingrow station platform for a train ride. The usual offer of a train ride after lunch on the KWVR will depart Ingrow at 1.51 pm towards Keighley.

Those members wishing to attend will need to inform us by **31st May**, at the latest, so that we can be sure of the numbers attending. **This can be done by email at membership@vintagecarriagestrust.org or by telephone to the museum between 11.00 am and 4.00 pm on 01535 680425.** Please state your name and email address or telephone number as these will be required. This will allow us to send out final details and arrange the buffet.



VCT Museum ready for visitors - Photo: Richard Jones

Locomotives Update - Ian Smith

Bellerophon - Back in Steam Appeal - We are pleased to announce that the overhaul of our 1874 Haydock Foundry 0-6-0 Well Tank Bellerophon has commenced at its base on the Foxfield railway. The aim is to try to return this engine to steam by late 2024 to coincide with its 150th anniversary. The boiler has already been stripped down, but not yet removed. A new smokebox has been ordered as the old one is life expired. The overhaul has been costed initially at £50,000 and we are in need of some assistance in meeting this target. Please see details of the appeal contained in the covering letter with this issue of the Carriage Chronicle. We will be very grateful if you are able to assist us financially in returning to steam this unique survivor.

Sir Berkeley - The overhaul of our 1890 Manning Wardle 0-6-0 Saddle Tank Sir Berkeley is progressing really well at its base on the Middleton Railway. The frames are now complete and are awaiting the boiler to be placed back on them. The reworked boiler is currently undergoing the usual and varied tests all of which are expected to be completed in the next few weeks. Painting into Logan and Hemingway contractor's livery has already started and we look forward to seeing the engine finished and in steam later this year.



Sir Berkeley - Photos: Robert Taggart

Workshop and Carriage Update - Trevor England

Midland Railway 6 Wheel Composite Carriage 358

The replacement gas light fittings have been manufactured and await fitting. The original gas piping has been gathered together from storage. New piping for the roof is required and the originals will be used to allow replication to take place. Once these are in place the electric wires can then be fitted in to take the small electric light bulbs now required to give the same effect as we have done previously in the Great Northern Railway carriages. Work on the compartments will continue including the fitting of the lino once work on the light fittings has been completed. The wheelsets have had the tyres turned and axle boxes are now away for the bearing surfaces to be re-machined. We hope to have them back and under the carriage shortly.

Southern Railway Brake Third Chatham Carriage 3554

This carriage has been used again during the recent KWVR spring steam gala and is planned to be used on KWVR Vintage Trains this summer.



VCT Chatham carriage leaving our Museum for use at the KWVR March Steam Gala -
Photo: Richard Jones

Workshop Update - Trevor England

Diesel Rail Bus E79962

We would like to thank all those members who responded to the request for views on the future of the DRB in the January Carriage Chronicle.

These ranged from suggesting to sending it for scrap or move it on to another organisation right through to converting it to battery electric or hydrogen power. However, the majority did favour the suggested first steps to restore the Keighley end as a static exhibit. Thereafter there were differing views on whether to restore the Oxenhope end or to leave an open space for educational purposes.

With this feedback we have decided to restore the Keighley end as the first priority. The sections of the metal flooring that had corroded and cut away are now well on the way to being repaired. The door that had jammed and had been removed has now been reinstated with a new floor runner installed.

The next stage will be to reinstate the wooden floor with new material. The section between the metal and wood flooring will not, at this stage, have the engine sound insulation material fitted. However, all components to allow restoration of the vehicle to working order at a future date will be retained. As we move this project forward we will endeavour to restore the vehicle as close as possible to its original appearance.

There were some questions asked as to why and how we decided to preserve the vehicle in the first place. This was one of four vehicles considered in 2013 and a questionnaire was given to members attending the Chairman's Day event that year.



DRB Keighley end floor restoration - Photo: Richard Jones

Workshop Update - Trevor England

Using a nationally recognised scoring system for vehicle preservation the DRB came out as the preferred vehicle. We were hopeful that the vehicle could be restored within five years to celebrate the 60th anniversary of it being built. The amount of components requiring removal to strip the asbestos from many more areas than expected has left us with a much more complicated restoration. The time between the first decision and where we are now is why it was decided that we needed to reconsider our options.

PMV Goods Van S1125S

The doors have been rebuilt by Stuart Mellin with assistance from Ian Wild. Norman Overend has given the interior paintwork a refresh. Chris Smith is now re-instating the door furniture. A start on an exterior repaint is now planned. We will shortly look at what racking we will require. This will then give us additional storage space once it is secure and ready to go back outside the museum.

BR Bulleid Open Third Carriage S1469S

The Emsay and Bolton Abbey Railway have agreed to a further twelve months hire of this carriage for their dining trains.



PMV with new doors in workshop Photo: Richard Jones

A Legacy with a Difference - *Bob Sprot/ Richard Jones/David Petyt*

One day last December, we received a telephone call from a solicitor in Darlington informing us that sadly one of our members had passed away and left something to be shared between the KWVR Trust and the Vintage Carriages Trust. It turned out that the gentleman's house and its contents had been left to the two charities, but as there were considerable model railway items in the house, the solicitor thought we might want to visit and check it out. With David Petyt from the KWVR Trust we decided that we would visit as soon as possible in early January. The property turned out to be a modest, but structurally sound, 1960's mid terrace house in need of considerable renovation and worth some £40k - £50k.

But that was without the contents! The ground floor front room was full of quality railway books. The backroom was stacked high with plastic storage boxes, full of stamps. Upstairs was a small rear bedroom with shelves stacked with over 200 model railway locomotives and carriages and the front bedroom was filled with a model railway layout.

We decided to take a few of the models back to Ingrow in order to assess the quality and condition and conduct a test market to establish likely retail prices, and we set off home with a moderate carload. On the way we discussed the best way forward and David Petyt commented, "I quite like it when solicitors tell us there is a legacy and send us a cheque, but this time, we're going to have to work for it". How true that was!



A small part of the model railway legacy stock in the house Photo: David Petyt

A Legacy with a Difference - *Bob Sprot/ Richard Jones/David Petyt*

The next visit was planned in earnest and Bob and David returned accompanied by Richard Jones and John Morris in a large Transit van, with Richard driving. We spent several hours filling the van with models and books, whilst Bob's car was filled with piles of stamp albums, an album full of coins and an antique pistol! Back at Ingrow extra hands were waiting to squirrel away the haul into various store cupboards, whilst the stamps and other things were transferred to David Petyt's car. These are destined for auction in July through Tennants of Leyburn. We decided that we needed a third and a fourth visit to collect another load of specialist American Railroad books which had been hidden by the boxes of stamps, and to make sure we hadn't missed anything. We then asked the solicitor to bring in a house clearance charity and following that to put the house on the market.

Our late member has been very generous with his legacy, and illustrates how to leave everything to your favourite charities who have given you a lot of pleasure, particularly if you have no children or close relatives. It has been an interesting experience and his memorial is assured. The great news is that the model railway lines and railway books have been selling very well in the VCT shop at Ingrow earning funds equally for the KWVR Trust and the Vintage Carriages Trust.



Model railway VCT shop display Photo: Richard Jones

Museum & Display - Alexandra Stockdale-Haley

Models of Metropolitan Bogies - VCT are pleased to have been donated two superb models of Metropolitan-Cammell carriage bogies. These are on display in the museum and were manufactured by apprentices working for the firm. They could have been produced as test pieces or to show to prospective customers. They are similar to the original carriage bogies that were used by The Metropolitan Carriage and Wagon Company in Birmingham and their full size equivalents would have been the initial bogies on our London based Metropolitan Railway Carriages. (Note: Two different Metropolitan Companies!)

VCT is grateful to Alan Blake, David Moore and Richard Gibbon for the donation of these models.



Metropolitan Model Carriage Bogies on display at VCT Photo: Richard Jones

Collections - Updates to our collections management and care are ongoing, with a focus in the near future to work on our policies for acquisitions and disposals. With exciting projects looming for future exhibits it's time we thought again about the themes and aims surrounding our collecting, rather than simply taking on every single object we find, as we are in danger of running out of storage space! Further museum development ideas are in the pipeline, but more on that next time.

Ingrow Events - Winter/Spring 2022

- *Bob Sprot*

Events -Trading in the Shop - Sales in the shop have continued to be excellent in the late winter and early spring period. The KWVR Steam Gala held between 11 - 13 March was a huge success and our visitor numbers over the weekend were our best since the visit of Flying Scotsman in March 2017.

The Front of House Team - Richard Jones and the team of regular volunteers have kept the shop in top condition and have been rewarded with great sales success.

Easter 2022

To assist our Rail Story partners at BLS and the KWVR our Trustee Robert Taggart brought his friend the Easter Bunny to Ingrow. This delighted passengers of all ages helped by a liberal distribution of small chocolate eggs!

Keighley in Motion Transport Festival - 2 - 3 June 2022

The delayed 2020 Keighley Transport Festival will now take place on Thursday 2 June and Friday 3 June with various transport options available to the visitor including a circular bus service in the town and of course steam trains.

Entry to the Rail Story Museums and five other local sites including Cliffe Castle will be free on these dates and we look forward to welcoming all visitors.



Easter Bunny with friend and VCT Trustee Rob Taggart; Photo: Tom Marshall



Unloading the KWVR Ivatt on its return from a North Norfolk Gala in April
in front of VCT Photo: Richard Jones

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