



Vintage Carriages Trust

# *Carriage Chronicle*

News for Members: January 2023



- Sir Berkeley steams again!
- AGM 2022 Report
- Museum Refurbishment Phase 1
- Magazine Room Refresh

# Welcome to the January 2023 'Carriage Chronicle' Members' Update - *Bob Sprot*

Welcome to the January 2023 'Carriage Chronicle'. In this issue are details of our recent Annual General Meeting, preparations for the first phase of our Museum refurbishment, a summary of the work carried out to improve our customer experience in the Magazine Room, and all the usual updates on our carriages and locomotives. We are also pleased to announce that the over-haul of Sir Berkeley by our friends at Middleton has almost been completed, and the early stages of the restoration of our 1874 engine Bellerophon at Foxfield are continuing and will be helped shortly by the launch of a superb 00 scale model of the engine.

Sadly we also have to report the deaths of three of our former Trustees and Volunteers Mark Astley, Bill Black and Malcolm Clark, and a short series of obituaries are included in this issue.



Preparation for the recladding of the front of the Museum January 2023 - Photo: Paul Holroyd

Contents	Page
Membership Matters	3
Obituaries	4-5
AGM 2022 Report	6
Locomotives Update	7-9
Workshop Update	10-11
Museum Refurbishment Phase 1	12-13
Magazine Room Refresh	14
Events	15

<sup>2</sup> Front cover: Sir Berkeley being steam tested at Middleton Railway in December 2022  
Photo: Steve Roberts

## Membership Matters - *Bob Sprot*

**Membership Renewals 2023/4** - a reminder that our next membership year now runs from April 1st 2023 to March 31st 2024. New membership cards will be sent out to Honorary Members, Life Members and Members who pay by standing order arrangements during the January to March period 2023. Members who renew annually will be sent the appropriate renewal letter in March 2023. For a further year we have held our subscription rate at only £12 as we appreciate that we are going through challenging economic times. We believe this remains great value and we hope you will join us once again and support the work of the Trust.

### Members Update

We would like to welcome the following new members who have joined the Vintage Carriages Trust in the last few months - Mr. D Ball, Mr. T Clowes, Mr. J Crossley, Mr. R Gwynne, Mr. R Haswell, Mr. A Marsden, Mr. I Montgomery, Mrs. D Newsome, Mr. I Purkis, Mr. L Rose, Mrs. E Taylor, Mr. B Taylor, Mrs. V Turner, Mr. J Turner, and Mr. S. Wilson.

Sadly we have also been notified of the death of the following members - Mr.M Astley, Mr.A Berry, Mr.W Black, Mr.C Brett, Mr.M Clark, Mr.D Kay and Mr.B Rose. The Chairman, Trustees, Staff and Volunteers would like to send their deepest sympathies to their families and friends.



VCT AGM Bronte Hotel November 2022 - Photo Alexandra Stockdale-Haley



# Obituaries - *Bob Sprot and Trevor England*

## Mark Astley

We regret to inform you that Mark Astley, former KWVR guard and VCT Committee Member passed away on 15 September, aged 60. Mark was a regular KWVR working member as station staff, guard, Santa and Fat Controller to mention just a few of his duties over the years. His involvement with VCT included restoration work and various duties as a Trustee. Mark was employed at the Bradford Industrial Museum where he was in charge of their steam operated stationery engines. Mark will be missed both at VCT and around the Railway and was a good friend to many. Our thoughts are with Sarah, John and Robert.



Mark Astley -  
Photo: Paul Holroyd

## Bill Black

It is with great sadness that we have to report the passing in early October after his health deteriorated of our friend and former Trustee Bill Black. For many years Bill served on the VCT Committee and was a champion of the gradual expansion of our Ingrow Museum and workshop. In fact Bill played the leading role in planning our most recent workshop rearward extension in 2015-2016, and throughout his involvement with VCT produced thoughtful challenging papers on our future complete with a myriad of 'wee drawings'. As a former Chairman of the KWVR and a board member until very recently Bill was able to ensure that the relationships between the two organisations remained strong and productive. We send Betty and her family our deepest sympathies.



Bill Black -  
Photo: Joanne Haley

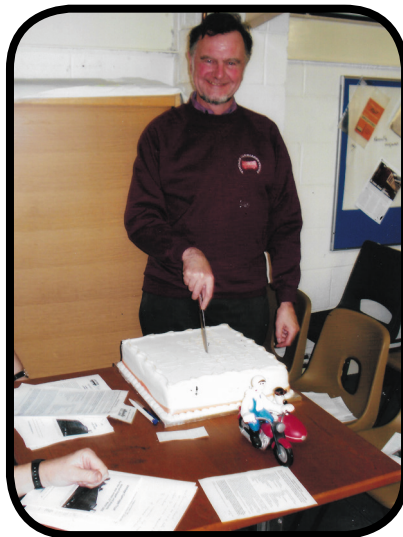
# Obituaries - *Bob Sprot and Trevor England*

## **Malcolm Clark**

We were saddened to hear of the death on 30th August of Malcolm Clark. Malcolm was one of our great supporters and a long standing working member of VCT, a Trustee and was also our Membership Secretary from 2000 to 2007. The current and previous Membership Secretary were always extremely grateful for Malcolm's knowledge, experience and assistance when they took over the roles in more recent years.

Malcolm was an active volunteer with the Stations Team on the KWVR and regularly undertook the role of booking clerk at various stations. He also served for many years as the Secretary of the KWVR Trust.

We would like to send Pauline and the Clark family our sincere condolences.



Malcolm Clark at the VCT AGM in October 2006 where he was presented the Wallace and Gromit award that year for his contribution as the Membership Secretary of the VCT  
Photo: VCT Collection

# Report on VCT Annual General Meeting 2022 - *Dave Carr*

The Annual General Meeting of the Vintage Carriages Trust for 2022 was held at 2.00pm on Saturday 12th November 2022 at the Bronte Hotel, Crossroads, BD22 8RA. It was attended by over 40 members who before the meeting had visited the VCT Museum and workshop at Ingrow to inspect progress on workshop projects and to enjoy a buffet lunch. Our thanks are due to Ian Wild and Gillian Foster for organising and serving the lunch and also to our Trustee Sheila Seabrook for her very generous sponsorship of the cost of the event.

Full minutes of the AGM are contained in a separate attachment with this issue of the Carriage Chronicle. In summary reports were given by the Chairman Trevor England on an overview of the Trust, Treasurer Paula Bowker on the financial position, Bob Sprot on membership, retail and Rail Story, Alexandra Stockdale-Haley on collections, Trevor England on the workshop and Dave Carr read a report from our new Museum Mentor Bob Gwynne.

The Annual Report & Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2022 were adopted and our Auditors Spenser Wilson were reappointed. Finally in the Election of Trustees Trevor England, Ian Smith, Bob Sprot and Dave Cullingworth were appointed for a three year period and Robert Taggart for one year.

Following the AGM the Trustees held a short meeting and elected the main officers of the Trust for the coming year. These are: Chairman Trevor England, Vice Chairs Debbie Cross and Ian Smith, Secretary Dave Carr, Treasurer Paula Bowker, Membership Secretary Bob Sprot.



Jonathan Yewdall accepting the Wallace and Gromit Award from Chairman Trevor England  
Photo: Alexandra Stockdale-Haley

# Locomotives Update - *Ian Smith*

The major focus is on finishing our Manning, Wardle 0-6-0ST **Sir Berkeley**, which has now been test steamed at Middleton Railway. There are a few annoying niggles and teething troubles to sort out, which is always the case after overhauls, and we can then concentrate on finishing the painting. The locomotive is now resplendent in a version of its original Logan & Hemingway livery. This can never be perfectly accurate as VCT has decided to retain the **Sir Berkeley** name which has become synonymous with the locomotive in its current preservation status - it had large number plates as L&H No 30 in its early days - but the result is still quite stunning and the locomotive will be a working memorial to all those contractors who built the railway system.

The intention is to launch Sir Berkeley at a special Victorian Weekend on 15th and 16th April 2023 which will also see in steam 1891 built NER 0-4-0T 1310 to work alongside our engine. There will be a short ceremony to relaunch the locomotive into service, hopefully conducted by Anthony Coulls, our former Museum Mentor whose idea it was to repaint the engine in Logan & Hemingway livery. As is always the case with such events, we will be inviting a number of guests who have assisted the Trust over the years.



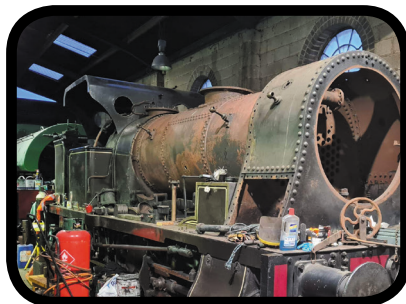
Sir Berekley during a test to Park Halt 15th January 2023 Photo: Charles Milner

## Locomotives Update - Ian Smith

However, the more interesting news is that the Middleton Railway have applied for a grant from the local area councillors to fund the transfer of VCT MS&L coach No 176 to Leeds for the occasion. The coach is of course quite appropriate as Sir Berkeley helped build the Great Central, and part of the application makes the point that the citizens of the area will also have the opportunity to ride in an early railway coach, something which Middleton itself is unable to offer under normal circumstances. To be able to see Sir Berkeley operate with one of our carriage collection is something we should all be proud of and we are hoping the application is successful. Should the grant be successful, the Trust Committee has agreed that the coach will only be away for one weekend as it also forms an important part of our Ingrow museum.

Full details of this event will be on the Trust website and also Middleton's own website once details have been firmed up, but if anyone wishes to attend the Saturday 15th April launch event, can you please let us know so we can cater for numbers attending. By emailing Ian Smith at: [ibs1210b@sky.com](mailto:ibs1210b@sky.com) We are aiming for the first train to depart Moor Road at 10.30 hauled by 1310 with the relaunch of Sir Berkeley happening at 10.45 so that it can haul the 11.10 train followed by a buffet once back at Moor Road.

**Bellerophon.** Meantime, at Foxfield, **Bellerophon** is having all girder stays replaced in the firebox as part of the boiler overhaul. Engineer Matt Healey commented that these girder stays look OK visually, until a couple were removed and the decision to replace was confirmed on closer inspection. The opportunity is being taken to thoroughly inspect the interior of the boiler barrel and assess any necessary repair work required to the bottom of the outer firebox. The rest of the locomotive isn't in too bad a condition as much has been spent on it during its last 10 years of operation. Therefore apart from the necessary boiler overhaul the major part of the work is going to be cosmetic as we would like to return the engine back to an earlier appearance as funds permit.



Bellerophon stripped down for overhaul at Foxfield Railway - Photo: VCT Collection



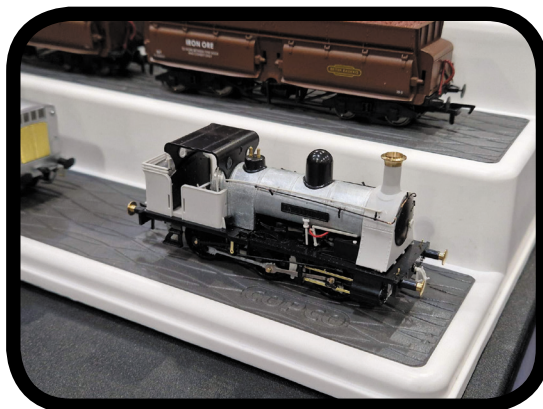
## Locomotives Update - *Ian Smith*

**Bellerophon Model** The OO Gauge model of Bellerophon from KR Models is expected to be launched in the second quarter of 2023. As the accompanying photograph shows the initial test model is looking really great. The model is due to be available in a DC version at an estimated retail of £160 and DCC Fitted at £190. There will be a choice of four liveries (black, NCB green, light brown early preservation and dark brown).

VCT are hoping to have available from KR Models a number of models for sale in our shop at the Museum. It is our intention that the proceeds from these sales will be added to the fund for the overhaul of the locomotive at Foxfield. Further details will be available in the coming weeks.



Undecorated Engineering Prototype for the OO Gauge Model of Bellerophon  
Photo: John Astley



Undecorated Engineering Prototype at Warley Model Railway Show November 2022  
Photo: John Astley

# Workshop and Carriage Update- *Trevor England*

## Midland Railway 358

Work on the compartments fabrics continues to be carried out by Stuart Mellin and Ian Wild. The axle boxes have now had the new side wear strips fitted and machined. The white metaling of the bearing surfaces has been completed and these are waiting to be machined. The axle boxes and wheel-sets can then be returned to the museum for Chris Smith to start on the fitting process. Once this is done and the vehicle back on its wheels progress on aligning the doors and fitting the gas lighting components on the roof can begin as the next stage of this overhaul which was started back in 2011.



Midland Axle Boxes awaiting machining - Photo: Andy Simpkins

## DRB E79962

Chris Smith, with guidance from Stuart Mellin, has reinstated the floor soundproofing and wooden flooring in the Keighley end. The wooden bulkheads and the cab panelling have also been reinstated. The seat bases were reinstated to allow correct positioning in time for members to see at the AGM. At a later stage these will be removed again to fit the lino and seat covering. There is much work still to do before we get to that stage. However, the work carried out in 2022 is starting to show progress on the agreed way forward for this vehicle. The work on Midland Railway 358 and the Museum refurbishment may dictate the speed of progress in 2023.

# Workshop and Carriage Update- *Trevor England*



DRB Keighley end floor and seat restoration - Photo: Richard Jones

## **PMV S1125S**

The PMV is now situated on the siding immediately outside the Museum but conveniently placed to make it easier for our staff and volunteers to access its storage facilities. Chris Smith is in the process of racking out the interior. A number of items have already been placed in the vehicle.

## **Bulleid S1469**

The Embsay and Bolton Abbey Railway have used the carriage on their dining and the Santa trains during 2022. They now have their latest superbly restored Mark 1 open carriage in use. This has led to the carriage being the strengthening vehicle for their dining trains since the autumn. The carriage is likely to be in use again in March 2023. We are waiting to hear if the EMBR wish to agree a further 12 months hire of this carriage.

## **Chatham 3554**

This vehicle is in the workshop at present to allow for the Keighley end brake cylinder to be overhauled. This can't be carried out until the Midland carriage is back on its wheels and moved out of the workshop extension area. While it is in the workshop we are considering a repaint into Southern Railway green in time for its centenary in 2024.

# Museum Refurbishment - Phase 1-

## *Bob Sprot/Trevor England*

For a number of years we have been planning a major refurbishment of the VCT Museum. The main objective is to use our wall, cabinet and floor space more effectively to display more clearly to our visitors the railway themes and stories that support our main collection of carriages and locomotives. A secondary objective is to increase our quantity and quality of toilet facilities to provide modern style amenities. This is in line with our changing customer profile where we now welcome school and coach parties on a regular basis and where our existing facilities have proved to be inadequate. As a result of an extremely generous legacy we are now in a financial position to embark on Phase 1 of this project.

Phase 1 has two parts. The first is to put new cladding on the external face of the front of the Museum as the existing material is faded and worn. We are also replacing our front facing office window, roof skylight and much worn front entrance door to further enhance the appearance to visitors. When this is completed by the end of January new signage will be erected to state very clearly 'Vintage Carriages Trust Carriage Works Museum' in keeping with the Rail Story theme used throughout the Ingrow site.

The second and more extensive part of Phase 1 is a total renewal of the visitor toilets and our staff mess room. As well as our gender neutral accessible toilet we will increase the facilities considerably for both the ladies and the gents. The existing separate staff toilet will disappear as it is not required but a refitted staff mess room will complete the area using a section taken from the former engineering store. Many of the contents formerly housed in this part of the store have been re-sited to the external storage facilities of our container and recently restored PMV.





# Museum Refurbishment - Phase 1-

## *Bob Sprot/Trevor England*

Before the building work which is scheduled to take place between January and the end of March 2023 we have been busy preparing the relevant area of the Museum. This has involved the dismantling of three bays of railway signs and other similar memorabilia. A task force led by Chris Smith and comprising Paul Holroyd, Norman Overend, Charles Chandler and Trevor England completed the careful removal of this signage in a week in December 2022 (as illustrated on the attached photograph). All items removed from the walls have been photographed and catalogued and records placed on our computers before moving into their temporary storage locations in the building.

A further requirement before the builders could proceed was to remove from in front of the amenities area the two carriages on the adjacent road. This meant yet another shunt of the Museum just before Christmas to create the space. This will mean that for the first three months of 2023 space within the Museum is extremely limited and visitor access on one half of one side of the Museum is impossible. Portable toilet facilities situated in the car park at the front of the Museum will be available for staff and visitors during the building works.

In the next edition of the Carriage Chronicle we expect to be able to show you the completed work which we hope will be of benefit for many years to come.



Removing existing signage from the Museum walls - Photo: Richard Jones

# Remerchandising the Magazine Room - *Paul Holroyd/Bob Sprot*

For the new 2023 season we have given our magazine room - which first opened in 1995 - a makeover. We have decided to put most magazines in a single alphabetical run, to make it easier for our customers to find the items they wish to purchase. We still have separate sections for railway modelling titles and selected heritage railways. We have also added laminated signage on the shelves to further assist purchasers of titles. Our magazine stocks currently cover 120 years from early Railway Magazine copies from 1902 through to recent issues of all popular titles.

Sales of donated magazines provide an important income stream for the Trust. In response to email and telephone orders we send magazines to customers mainly in the UK but also to several regular purchasers from overseas. However most of our sales come from customers visiting in person and we hope the improvements we have made in the last few weeks will not only maintain our sales but also enhance the attraction of the magazine room facility.

As always we are grateful to the dedicated team of Keith Taylorson, John Heaton, Paul Holroyd, John Stephenson, Rowland Wanty, Crispin Howell-Jones and others for their regular hard work of sorting out large quantities of donated magazines.



New Organisation and Signage in the Magazine Room Photo: Paul Holroyd

## Events - *Bob Sprot*

### **KWVR Beer and Music Festival October 2022**

As in previous years a large marquee was erected in front of the VCT Museum to house the second site for the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway Beer and Music Festival with the main site being at Oxenhope. This was open from Friday October 14 - Sunday 16 October. A food court with a pie shop, sandwich shop and a pizza parlour was also situated alongside the marquee. This was a superbly attended event and a large number of visitors took the opportunity to visit our Museum, many for the first time. Again and learning from past experience for the safeguarding of our collection we intercepted drinks at the front of the shop where visitors could retrieve them after their tour of the museum!



Beer and Music Marquee at Ingrow 2022 - Photo: Alexandra Stockdale-Haley



Strange Coupling - Our 1876 MS&L Carriage being shunted into the Museum by the 1958 KWVR Class 20 Photo: Richard Jones

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