

Vintage Carriages Trust

Members' Newsletter: August 2019



- Met 427 fully refurbished!
- AGM details inside
- Rail Story Events Update
- Museum and Retail news
- More Midland 358 restoration highlights!

Welcome to your new look August Members' Newsletter. - *Bob Sprot*

As you can see we have altered the size to a smaller magazine style format which allows us to split the contents into clearly defined categories, adds in more colour and we hope will make it easier for you to read. On behalf of all Members we would like to express our thanks to Jackie and Michael Cope who edited the Newsletter for many years creating an up to date, informative and interesting narrative on the work of the Trust. This edition follows on from their fine work as well as giving you important details about our Annual General Meeting which is to be held on Saturday 12th October.



‘VCT Chairman and Vice Chairman sorting out the Big Jigs table’ Photo: Paul Holroyd

Contents	Page
Annual General Meeting	3
Membership Update	4
Museum	5
Shop	6
Marketing and Media	7
Rail Story	8
Events	10
Workshop	12
Carriages in Use	14
Locomotives	15

Front cover: ‘VCT Bulleid carriage in use on the Dales Diner at Embsay’ Photo: Wendy Anderson

AGM - Dave Carr

Doesn't time fly?

As I write this, we are only a couple of months away from another AGM. This will be held on **Saturday 12th October 2019**. It really doesn't seem that long ago since we were holding the first AGM in recent memory, certainly as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, that required a ballot to elect Trustees for a three year period of office.

However, what a year! A year of challenges, a year of changes! Our new Treasurer, Paula Bowker has settled in as an indispensable part of the team. Jackie and Michael Cope have relinquished editorship of the Newsletter, after very many years of successful publication. Good and steady progress has been made on both the Metropolitan Brake 427 (resplendent with new upholstery) and Midland Railway 358.

Behind the scenes, your Collections Team, Staff Team and Trustees have been carefully planning improvements to the fabric of our museum, to provide more modern facilities and easier access for all; as well as seeking to develop the way that we tell the story of passenger rail travel in exciting and innovative ways. This latter will probably require the Trust to seek grant funding. Plus, of course, we had the exceptional attendance at Chairman's Day, where members, and friends from partner organisations, enjoyed good conversation, good company and the, by now, traditional VCT buffet luncheon.

Perhaps you would like to become a part of the team that is taking the Trust forward, and being involved in the exciting projects mentioned above. If so, you could consider seeking nomination to stand as a Trustee for the next three years. Trustee Meetings are held monthly, and there is always much to do between meetings. Nomination forms are available at the museum reception, or from Dave Carr (details with the Notice of Annual General Meeting.) Perhaps, we might attract an attendance similar to Chairman's Day. What a test that would be for our Meeting Room!



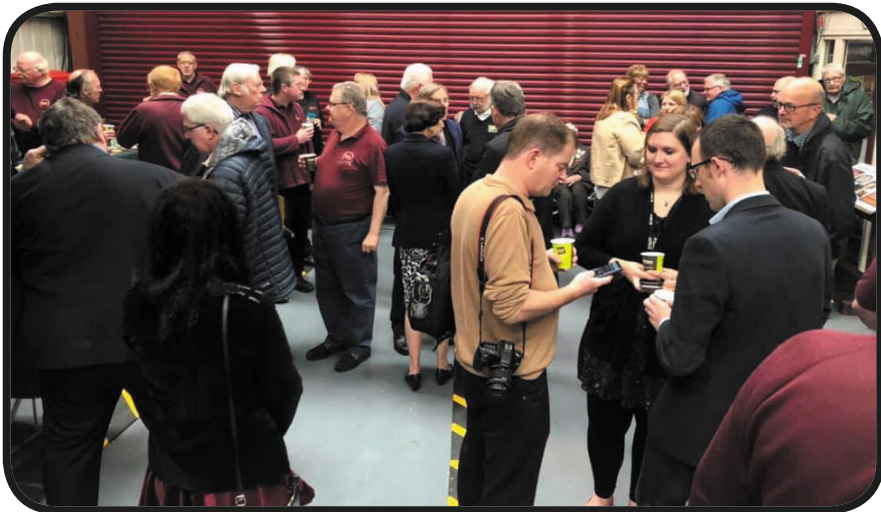
Membership Update - *Bob Sprot*

We are pleased to welcome to VCT the following new Members : Ian Senior, Cedric Binns, Andy Barclay, Jeff Walbank, Elaine Green, Laura Millward, Drew Millward, Tony Finnie, Chris Heaton, David Miller, Richard Dupont, Jill Payne and Barry Payne. It was also great to see so many members at Chairman's Day in June.

We'd also like to thank the effort put in from newer working members, including Sarah Astley (front of house), Joanne Haley (front of house and special events), Abigail Haley (social media) and Mick Lowe (museum guide).

Sadly we also have to note the deaths over recent months of a number of our members: Mrs E Turner, Mr Peter Stephenson, Mr Allan Clyde, Mr Jack Proctor, Mr Brian Gabbott, Mr Iain Bonner and Mr David Moorehouse. David Moorhouse, Jack Proctor and Brian Gabbott were active volunteers both for VCT and the KWVR and contributed to the success of both organisations. The Chairman and Trustees would like to extend their sympathies to the families and friends of all concerned.

We also wish to thank all Members who have made generous donations to recent appeals for funds. All monies raised from membership subscriptions and donations go towards the restoration and maintenance of our fleet of historic carriages and locomotives and the well-being of our Museum. Please keep your donations coming and for details of how to donate to VCT please see the accompanying letter.



Members and Guests mingle at Chairman's Day, Photo: Abigail Haley

Museum - Alexandra Haley

In terms of the present, the Collections Team have been working hard to update the museum displays. Robert Harvey and Tracey Morris have been organising the documentation and location of the artefacts and Alexandra Haley and Abigail Haley have done work on interpretation. Michael Cope has finished maintenance on the cabinets to make them safer. In addition to moving up the permanent BigJigs table, we have also recently added a small children's ride (20p a go) to our children's area at the front of the museum! Upstairs, Tracey Morris & Alexandra Haley continue to sort through the meeting room and office areas (including old paperwork) ready to set up a properly organised archive area.

In terms of the future, the museum is planned to undergo a major refurbishment project over the next few years, including changes to the building structure, displays, cabinets, exhibits and interpretation, which will require grant funding. So far, Alexandra, Bob and Trevor have met with 3 museum designers and a construction company so that we can get an idea of costs before we go forward with funding applications and design work; these designers were all shown an outline design brief which was created by Alexandra. We are currently awaiting quotes back from the designers, and we have already received some quotes back from the construction company regarding the maintenance and building work for the future of the museum, which has been reviewed by the Trustees.



Tracey Morris at work updating our Archive, Photo: Alexandra Haley

Shop - Alexandra Haley

Sales have been steady, but increased a lot when the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway started their Summer timetable. We achieved a large amount of book sales and model railway sales to the visiting enthusiasts over the Diesel and Mixed Traffic Gala back in May.

We have had several new lines added to the shop, including a wider selection of BigJigs toys for children, and a lot more choice of confectionery - at long last we have split the chocolate options to include more Cadbury and Mars products in addition to all of our Nestle chocolate. As it turns out, Dairy Milk and Wispa (which we didn't used to have) are amongst our top sellers. During the hot and humid weather throughout July we sold a lot of ice-cream, particularly to coach tour groups who had spent a lot of their day out in the sun.

Tracey Morris has also started to move various things around so that some of our gift products are displayed better, and Alexandra has been thinking about new lines of museum souvenirs that we could sell. Joanne Haley has also contributed to the re-arrangement of the shop area and the designing of new shop labels.

Model railway donations have been excellent this year, which has helped to increase our sales overall. Magazine orders over email or phone have also started to pick up recently; if you wish to order magazines, please contact admin@vintagecarriagestrust.org or call on 01535 680425.

All donations are greatly appreciated and we openly encourage anyone who wishes to clear out anything railway-related such as books, magazines, model railway or railwayana to send them our way. Thank you to all members who have given us donations (no matter how big or small) thus far!



Photos: Alexandra Haley

Marketing and Media - Alexandra Haley

Websites: www.railstory.co.uk | www.vintagecarriagestrust.org


Robert Taggart has been working hard on improving the Rail Story website (which includes our partners the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway and the Bahamas Locomotive Society) to promote our family attraction 'Rail Story' branding. Changes have been made to improve the text and homepage, and new pages have been added such as 'news and events' which will get updated continuously. Along with suggestions from Alexandra Haley, Matt Arnold and Liz Lynch, Robert has been creating some new pages for the website so that visitors can learn more about the Ingrow site, including 'accessibility', 'shop stock' and 'our collection'. We hope that these can go live in the near future.


Philip Walton still looks after our own Vintage Carriages Trust website, which contains a lot of information about the Trust itself. We are working towards having the Carriage Survey completely separated from our own website for the future (but we will still have links to the Carriage Survey within our site), so that the overall website can be eventually overhauled to be modernised and more user-friendly

Social Media - Alexandra Haley and Abigail Haley have been updating the social media pages on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for Rail Story and Vintage Carriages Trust, and answering any queries we get through these platforms. Page views and interactions have been very steady recently, but we hope to find new ways to promote our pages and gain more followers through various forms of marketing (hopefully with help from the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway). The Vintage Carriages Trust pages mostly show our carriage restoration work and any of our specific museum news. The Rail Story pages show information about events and family activities on the Ingrow site. If you wish to follow our social media pages, the links are as follows:

 /vintagecarriagestrust

 /vct_ingrow

 /vct_ingrow

 /railstoryatingrow

 /railstoryingrow

 /railstoryingrow

Rail Story - Alexandra Haley

As you will recall, we are partnered up with our friends the Bahamas Locomotive Society and the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway to promote our site and museum at Ingrow as the family-friendly attraction 'Rail Story'.

Some site updates in regards to this branding include that the signs have been re-erected in the yard (following weather damage) so that travellers on the road outside will be able to clearly see our entrance, and new museum signage has been added to the yard by Pete Skellon to clearly mark where our Carriage Works Museum is situated, as well as the Engine Shed Museum. KWVR have improved some areas of our site such as maintenance on the fence and paving stones outside in the car park, as well as making the flower beds at Ingrow station look beautiful ready for Yorkshire in Bloom. We'd like to thank our own Sue Stephenson for her lovely flower displays down by the museum.

The Learning Team, led by Matt Arnold from BLS, has been bringing a lot more school groups into the museum to interact with our exhibits and carriages through their themed workshops. Hopefully through word of mouth, this will encourage extra visitation and growing interest in heritage railways from younger generations. 'Science Club' lead by Chris Mann at Ingrow has also attracted several individuals of the younger generation to the railway.



Young attendees at Rail Story Science Club, Photo: Matt Arnold

Rail Story - Alexandra Haley

We continue to benefit from regular visits from 'Rail Discoveries' coach parties, who enjoy buying gifts and souvenirs from our shop area as well as visiting our museum. By the end of October, we will have welcomed 60 of these coach parties this year, with each coach having an average of 40 visitors.

Finally, the new Rail Story leaflet has arrived! The new leaflet was designed by our Robert Taggart, with input from Alexandra Haley from the Vintage Carriages Trust and Pete Skellon from the Bahamas Locomotive Society. This is now available to pick up from our museum and all stations at the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway; it has also been distributed to other organisations around the region thanks to Paul Holroyd.

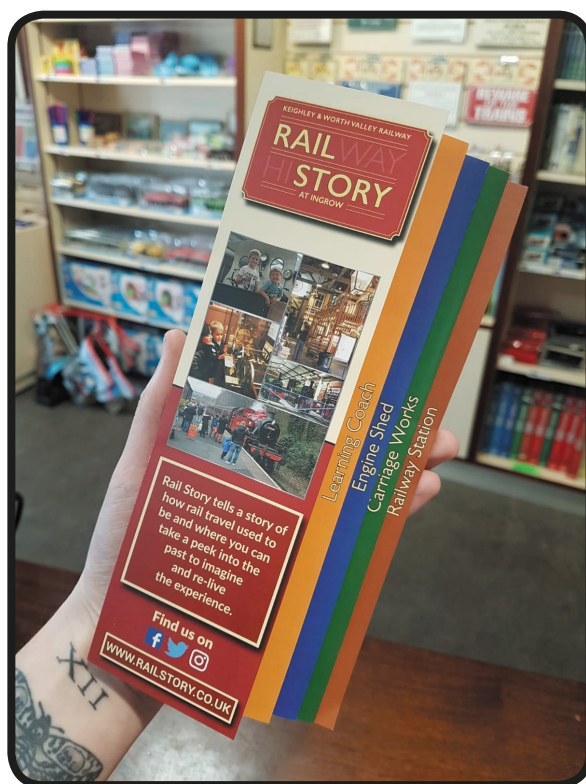


Photo: Alexandra Haley

Events - Alexandra Haley

Easter: Easter went quite well with a steady footfall and busier sales. In collaboration with our partners at the Bahamas Locomotive Society, we helped to host activities in the Learning Coach for children, including face painting over the bank holiday. We also sold 82 Cadbury Crème eggs provided by Joanne Haley complete with knitted chicken egg cosies by Tracey Morris to raise money for our Carriage Works Museum.

Diesel and Mixed Traffic Gala: The Diesel and Mixed Traffic Gala proved popular and successful. We had many visitors at Ingrow to the museums, including high spending enthusiasts as well as families which increased sales dramatically.

Princesses & Superheroes: The Princesses & Superheroes event during May half term was very good - the visitors all loved the costumed characters in particular. Around the museums at Ingrow we had a singing princess, tiara and mask decorating, a superhero fight performance and backdrops for photo opportunities, Heart Radio who had giant games and face painting. The museum visitor numbers weren't as high as we hoped which could be for a number of reasons (including the weather), but everybody was in high spirits. We'd like to thank the Rail Story Events team along with Joanne Haley and Tracey Morris for all their hard work supporting Ingrow.



Photos: Abigail Haley



Chairman's Day: The VCT annual Chairman's Day was held on Saturday 8th June. The day went well with a good turnout of just over 60 attendees, made up of VCT members and invited guests from our partners including KWVR and BLS. Included in the day were various museum and rolling stock updates from speakers of the Trust. This was followed by a buffet lunch arranged by Ian Wild courtesy of Sheila Seabrook. Attendees were also able to view progress in our workshop on our Midland 358 and Metropolitan 427 carriages, and then had the opportunity of a complimentary round trip on the Keighley & Worth Valley passenger service.

Events - Alexandra Haley

AIM Conference: Alexandra Haley attended the AIM Conference 2019 20th - 22nd June after a successful application to Museum Development Yorkshire who sponsored her place, to represent the Vintage Carriages Trust. As well as the fancy dinners, drink receptions and study tours, there were some very useful seminars that will hopefully help us with our future development plans. Most of the breakout sessions Alexandra attended were about reaching out to more audiences, improving the visitor experience through activities other than just the museum itself, project funding, developments in other museums and networking.



Photos: Alexandra Haley

Yorkshire Day: With our Rail Story colleagues, this year the Vintage Carriages Trust played a part in the celebrations for Yorkshire Day on 1st August. We had stalls of bric-a-brac in the museum, as well as arts and crafts on sale such as Yorkshire Rose brooches and blankets hand-knitted by Tracey Morris. For refreshments, visitors had the option of buying Yorkshire Day pies provided by C&L Herd butchers, ice-cream from our ice-cream man friend Paul Maiden, or tea kindly provided by Yorkshire Tea. The weather was forecast for storms, but the day stayed surprisingly sunny and we all had a lovely time celebrating our roots in God's Own County. We'd like to thank the Rail Story Events team, Tracey Morris and Chris Smith, along with Joanne Haley and Christopher Haley (whilst technically on holiday!) for all of their hard work running this on the day.

Other events for this year: The Vintage Carriages Trust will have involvement in other railway-related or museum-related events planned for this year, including Heritage Open Days, the KWVR Beer & Music Festival, Halloween and Christmas. Please keep an eye on our social media pages or the Rail Story website for updates on these events, and we will be sure to report on the success of these in the next Newsletter! Jim Pickles will also be hosting 'Blues Jam in a Box Car' on 28th September in the Learning Coach.

Workshop - Alexandra Haley and Ian Wild

Midland 358 - More paintwork has been done on the underframe (particularly on the headstocks) and work has been done on brake rod retaining straps and the brake gear system. These ongoing projects along with some smaller metalwork on the underframe have been completed by Chris Smith, Norman Overend and John Morris. Some of the springs have returned, but we are yet to receive back the drawbar springs, ready for more work on the underframe to be completed. Chris has arranged a meeting with suppliers to plan for the manufacture of 6 new 'W' irons for the axleboxes and a new forged intermediate drawbar for the Oxenhope end. The new glass has arrived, and some of it has already been fitted into the Midland body. The final two luggage rack nets have made and been fitted also. The upholsterers have trial fitted one 3rd class seat back and cushion with minor modifications needed for a final fit.



Stuart Mellin, Ian Wild, Chris Smith and Norman Overend at work on the Midland underframe, Photo: Alexandra Haley

Metropolitan 427 - The new lino in Walnut was fitted perfectly by Barry Payne earlier this year. Work has been done on the doors, including new brass handles and varnish work by Chris Smith; the new transfers which were ordered from Fox Transfers have also been added. The new moquette from Camira Fabrics was fitted to the seating by Eastgate Coach Trimmers, which was returned to us late in April. Ian Wild and Stuart Mellin then spent time fitting the newly upholstered seats and trim panels back into the compartments after some paintwork. This newly refurbished carriage is now back on display in our museum, and ready for use should it be needed on the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway or filming projects.

Workshop - Alexandra Haley and Ian Wild



Ian Wild refitting seat backs to Met 427, Photo: Stuart Mellin

Metropolitan 465 - New authentic-style door handles were started to be fitted onto the doors by Chris Smith, before the use of the carriage on the Keighley & Worth Valley 'Vintage Trains' and the rest of the door mechanisms are now due to be overhauled now that this carriage has entered the workshop. The compartment floors need to be checked prior to laying plywood and lino covering (as on 427), with some minor other works to be looked at in the future. New LED lighting is also to be fitted which will be similar to and compatible with the other two Metropolitan coaches. Replacement safety glass is to be fitted into all of the windows.

Container - Norman Overend has been giving the container outside a new paint job, so it no longer looks as shabby as it did!



Carriages in Use - *Alexandra Haley and Bob Sprot*

Bulleid S1469 - As you will recall, due to space constraints in the museum, our Bulleid carriage remains at Embsay as part of their dining trains. It is used on the 'Dales Diner' as the main seating area for guests travelling on this service. The carriage has been used over 20 times this year, and is expected to see further use into the early autumn. When not in use, the Bulleid is kept under cover at Embsay under the watchful eye of our trustee Wendy Anderson.

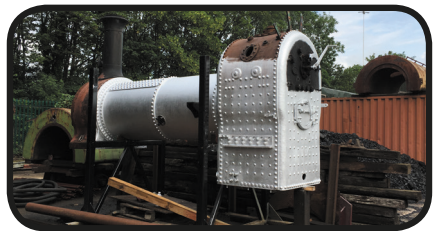
Vintage Trains - Our Metropolitan 465 carriage was used in the Vintage Trains days on the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway over the Summer. These occurred over 6 Sundays through June and July, doing 4 round trips between Keighley and Oxenhope alongside the L&YR carriages and the Old Gentleman's Saloon. The train was pulled by Taff Vale Tank no.85. Our carriage proved popular with visitors, with some saying that it was interesting to travel in separate compartments rather than open carriages like the British Railways Mark 1 coaches that the KWVR use on their usual passenger services. Our carriage provided the most seating capacity for visitors, as there is limited space in the L&YR carriages, whilst Strawberries & Prosecco were served in the Old Gentleman's Saloon for visitors at an extra cost



Met 465 (second from left) in use on KWVR Vintage Trains, Photo: Chris Haley

Locomotives - *Ian Smith and Alexandra Haley*

Sir Berkeley continues his overhaul at Middleton. As with all overhauls, once stripped down, Sir B has provided more than a few surprises for the engineering team! The eccentric straps have all been white metalled and machined to the correct tolerances, and attention has been turned to the brake hanger brackets, which are in poor condition - in fact several are bent! Ordinarily, this wouldn't be a problem, but the way they are fitted is by means of what are called "fitted bolts" and these have worked loose over the years. The holes for the bolts cannot be enlarged due to their position in the frames. The engineering team is investigating using machined studs which will mate with close fitting, reamed holes to provide the required accurate fitting. The boiler has now been painted with heat-resistant aluminium and all the boiler tubes have now been removed, paint and quotes are being obtained for the small amount of boiler work required. Finally, paint is now being ordered to commence that part of the overhaul.



Photos: Ian Smith

Bellerophon remains at Foxfield Railway. The loco was used as a static display for their Victorian Weekend in early May this year. If we are to overhaul the locomotive, investigation into grants will need to be considered. The future for Bellerophon is yet to be decided by the Trust.

Lord Mayor remains in the museum as a static display, which proves popular with most visitors as they can access the footplate and play around with the controls. As an interactive exhibit, this has always been one of the highlights of our museum. Recently, Lord Mayor was used in the publicity shots outside of the museum for press releases about the Yorkshire Day event, alongside a horse and cart from C & L Herd Butchers.



Yorkshire day publicity shot. Photo: Alexandra Haley

Data Protection Act. VCT is registered under this Act.
The Trust's Membership records are included within this
registration. VCT Membership records are not made available
to any outside bodies.

Published by the Vintage Carriages Trust
(Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1156931)
Owners of the Museum of Rail Travel (an Accredited Museum),
Ingrow Railway Centre, Keighley

Printed in England by John Brailsford Print (Yorkshire) Ltd, Rotherham

VCT correspondence address:
The Railway Station, Haworth, Keighley, West Yorkshire BD22 8NJ
Museum telephone 01535 680425.
Website: www.vintagecarriagestrust.org
E-mail: admin@vintagecarriagestrust.org
membership@vintagecarriagestrust.org