



Vintage Carriages Trust

Members' Newsletter: December 2019



- Met 465 new livery
- AGM details inside
- Rail Story Events Update
- Museum and Retail news
- More Midland 358 restoration highlights!

Welcome to your December Members' Newsletter. - Bob Sprot

This newsletter updates you on our activities since August and we hope you enjoy reading about them and some of our plans for the future. Also included for your attention with the Newsletter are the minutes of our October 2019 Annual General Meeting and the 2020 Membership Renewal documents. On behalf of the Chairman, Trustees and Staff may we wish all Members a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



'Chris Smith performing a Fitness To Run on our rolling stock' Photo: Alexandra Haley

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Front cover: 'Met 465 repaint into Railway Children livery' Photo: Alexandra Haley

Annual General Meeting 2019 - *Bob Sprot*

The Annual General Meeting of the Trust took place on Saturday 12th October 2019 at 2.00pm and was held in the front part of the Museum. As predicted by Dave Carr in the August newsletter the attendance was larger than could be accommodated comfortably in our upstairs meeting room. Teas, coffees and biscuits were served in the morning whilst members and guests had the opportunity to look around both the museum and the workshop. A buffet lunch was served for 58 members and guests organized by Ian Wild and generously sponsored by Sheila Seabrook. Amazingly 47 members stayed on for the AGM which proceeded to be both informative and constructive and we hope all attendees found it a worthwhile experience and that the Trust is moving forward in the right direction!

At the end of the meeting the Wallace and Gromit Award for a great contribution to the work of the Trust over the last year was presented to workshop volunteers John Morris and Norman Overend for their work on the Midland carriage underframe.



Photo: Alexandra Haley

Note: The full minutes of the 2019 AGM are enclosed separately for your information. These will be presented for final approval at the AGM of the Trust to be held in October 2020.

Membership Update - *Bob Sprot*

Renewals

With this Newsletter you will have received either your new 2020 membership card for Life and Standing Order members or a renewal request. Once again subscriptions have been held at the very reasonable price of £12. For members renewing annually we will send you your 2020 membership card on receipt of your remittance and renewal form.

Donations

As always we would like to thank all members who have sent us generous donations which are a great boost to our funds and help us plan the future progress of the Trust with increased certainty.

Volunteers

We are always pleased to welcome new working volunteers. There are skilled and unskilled roles for volunteers to become involved with the day to day activities of the Trust. If you are interested and are within travelling distance of Ingrow please get in touch.



Photo: Alexandra Haley

Meet the Trustees!

Although many of our members are up to date with everything going on at the Vintage Carriages Trust, it has become apparent that not everybody is familiar with our board of trustees... so we thought now would be the perfect time to introduce them all!



Trevor England
Chairman



Bob Sprot
Vice Chairman
& Membership



Dave Carr
Hon Secretary



Paula Bowker
Treasurer



Sheila Seabrook
Roster Clerk



Ian Smith
Locomotives



Sarah Astley
Front of House



Joanne Haley
Rail Story Events
& Front of House



Wendy Anderson
Carriages



Bill Black
Trustee



Chris Smyth
Trustee



Michael Cope
Trustee

Building Works and Maintenance - *Bob Sprot*

Members who have been able to visit us since September will have noticed extensive scaffolding erected on both sides of the Museum. This is to allow our builder Sycamore Construction Ltd of Keighley to undertake considerable improvements and maintenance on what is now a 30 year old building. Work undertaken has included:

- Replacement of skylights in the workshop.
- Museum skylights cleaned and partially replaced.
- New external fire doors throughout.
- Replacement and repair to gutters on both sides.
- A new ramp between the workshop and the storage container.
- Installation of a dropped curb at the front of the museum to assist with wheelchairs and buggies.

This essential maintenance has not come cheaply but we expect that the building is now in a good external condition for many years to come.



Photo: Alexandra Haley

Museum & Collections - Alexandra Haley

The museum is still in the process of preparing for a big redevelopment project. The collections team have spoken with designers and discussed the proposals that the designers came back with, and the decision has been made that we need to do more planning at our end before agreeing some of the decisions with the designers. Tracey Morris (with help from Robert Harvey) have been working through and updating archive and artefact material on the MODES system whilst carrying out a full audit. Alexandra Haley has been working on a strategy plan to ensure collections are stored properly and more professionally, as well as planning for new display boards for the current exhibits until we can get new display cabinets. Also Sheila Seabrook has updated the vehicle records for our archives.

The team are almost ready to look into grant funding to carry out the project, before putting in an application based on our decisions. We also hope to put in a bid for a grant to fund a new toilet block, which will see better use of space in the female and male toilets, better wash facilities for staff, and a more inclusive accessible toilet; Robert Taggart has already looked into some possible funding bodies.



Photo: Liz Lynch

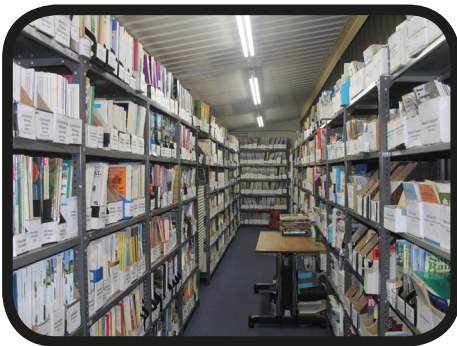
Shop and Magazine Room - *Bob Sprot*

Shop News

The shop has continued to trade well throughout the year and sales have reached expected levels. The strongest performance has come from the model railway category due to generous donations from both members and the general public. Please keep your donations coming of any unwanted railway items and they will be greatly appreciated. The wider range of confectionery introduced earlier this year has continued to sell well with Dairy Milk and Wispa the main sales successes. As a result we have started to rebalance the range by discontinuing a few slower selling lines. Continuing the pattern of providing novelty items in support of events we were successful at Halloween in selling crème eggs inside knitted pumpkins. Once again our thanks are due to Tracey Morris and Joanne Haley for their hard work on this promotion.

Magazine Room

We are currently in the middle of a major review of the size of the range, depth of stock and pricing levels carried in our magazine room. When completed in early 2020 we hope this will result in better overall use of our limited space as well as achieving increased sales through realistic and competitive pricing for this important category.



Photos: Alexandra Haley

Rail Story & Marketing - *Alexandra Haley*

‘Rail Story’ describes the partnership at Ingrow between the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway, the Vintage Carriages Trust and the Bahamas Locomotive Society.

Maintenance has been carried out at Ingrow, including an extension of the gas pipe that will eventually lead to lighting up the whole yard for visitors! Our volunteer Stuart Mellin has been working on sprucing up the paintwork on the gas lamps too.

The three organisations meet regularly to discuss new ideas, and it was decided recently that we should have ‘sub-meetings’ to focus on various aspects, including events, marketing, or retail, which will begin in December and hopefully lead to some good developments.

In terms of marketing, the new Rail Story leaflet is working well, and has been handed out more frequently at stations alongside the KWVR timetable.

We have been promoted in publications such as Sparkling Bradford and Visit Leeds, as well as a segment on BCB Radio 106.6fm

(Bradford Community Broadcasting) with our BLS colleague Matt Arnold!

Work continues on the Rail Story website by Robert Taggart, and Philip Walton continues to update the Vintage Carriages Trust website. Alexandra Haley and Abigail Haley continue to run and update the social media for both the Vintage Carriages Trust and Rail Story, so don’t forget to follow us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram!



Photo: Alexandra Haley

Events - Alexandra Haley

Heritage Open Days (13th-15th & 20th-22nd September)

Our museum took part in Heritage Open Days this year, which meant that across two weekends we offered free entry to members of the public. For the launch of the event, we chose to work in conjunction with Keighley Pride on Saturday 14th September and host a themed performance from 'enJOY Arts' along with performances from Claire Mooney and visits from special guests. On Sunday 15th September we had a replica Spurn Landship on display in the yard with Lord Mayor, which also attracted some visitors for photo opportunities.



Photos: Craig Szlatoszlavek



Photo: Phil Mathison

Blues Jam in a Box Car (28th September)

The event (run by our volunteer Jim Pickles) was a free and casual 'jamming session' held in the Learning Coach at Ingrow which the musicians and visitors all seemed to enjoy. It was a lot better received than in previous years, suggesting that we will be having more of these events and it is a good idea to continue using the Learning Coach as a venue.

Events - Alexandra Haley



Photos: Diamond Dac

Beer & Music Festival (17th - 20th October)

As in previous years the KWVR event attracted a larger number of visitors than usual to the museum (some with glasses half full which were left in the good care of our front of house team until the visit had been completed!) As noted before these visitors were of a younger age group and seemed to enjoy the experience. Hopefully this will have helped us reach out to different parts of our potential audience.

Halloween

Our museum was decorated in Halloween attire by Jim Pickles, and in the shop there were knitted pumpkins containing a chocolate surprise available for only £1, courtesy of Tracey Morris and Joanne Haley. In the Learning Coach at Ingrow, on 26th, 27th and 31st October there were Halloween activities available, which included colouring and make-and-take themed crafts. These were run by our Alexandra Haley, along with our colleagues at the Bahamas Locomotive Society, Matt Arnold and Gill Cooper.



Photo: Alexandra Haley

Christmas

The museum and shop are decorated for the season thanks to Sue Stephenson. Some of our volunteers including Alexandra Haley have been starting Christmas early, by running festive themed activities for families in the Learning Coach alongside our colleagues at BLS. The DMU service on KWVR will be running alongside the Santa trains so that visitors can still enjoy the museums.

Workshop - Alexandra Haley, Chris Smith and Ian Wild

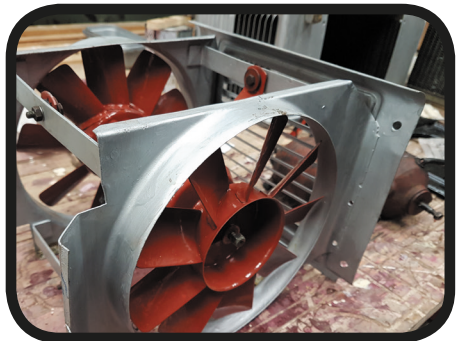
Midland 358 - Chris Smith has been in touch with the firm working on the draw gear springs, which are still processing and ready to return soon. Ian Wild has been in touch with Stephenson Engineering in regards to production of new drawbars and a brake pull rod, the drawbars should be manufactured and delivered by Christmas.

Norman Overend and John Morris continue to progress on other areas of the underframe. The 'W'irons for the axleboxes were manufactured and delivered, and are due to be fitted in the near future. New oak panels have been obtained to make the packings behind the 'W' irons. Also Lowbridge Upholstery have delivered the remaining third class seat backs for the body.



Railbus 62

Michael Cope has been refurbishing the under-seat heater units, as part of an ongoing overhaul. Other work on this vehicle is generally suspended for the time being.



Photos: Alexandra Haley

Workshop - *Alexandra Haley, Chris Smith and Ian Wild*

Metropolitan 465 - Chris has been busy sanding and painting the carriage into the new livery ready for The Railway Children 50th anniversary celebrations next year! He has also continued to overhaul the door lock mechanisms and has also modified the wiring so that it can be used with LED bulbs and work with the other two Metropolitan carriages. Stuart Mellin, Ian Wild and Norman Overend have been working on the window removal, with Ian and Norman also burning the paint off the window moulds, followed by filling and painting. There are 144 to do in total! Templates have been sent to Carlyle Bus and Coach for the production of new safety glass to the current specification. Arboseal has been purchased for bedding the new windows into the frames. Stuart and Ian have also just started laying the 6mm plywood onto the compartment floors, ready for lino fitting to be started on 6th January by Barry Payne.



Photo: Alexandra Haley

Carriages in use - Bob Sprot



Photo: Kim Coole

Bulleid S1469

As reported in August our 1950 built Bulleid carriage has continued to be used extensively on the 'Dales Diner' at the Embsay and Bolton Abbey Railway. As this Newsletter was going to press we understand that the Bulleid is also to be used on the EMBR Santa trains. This is proving to be an excellent use of our youngest carriage which not only solves our space problem at the museum (we will always have one carriage too many for the current accommodation) but also brings in useful revenue for the Trust.



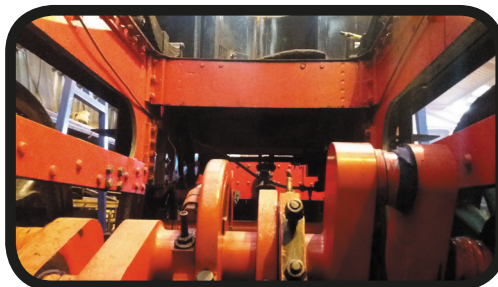
Photo: Alexandra Haley

Southern PMV Goods Van S1125S

The Trust has been the beneficiary of a generous donation of this ex Southern PMV. This was provided by the City of Wells locomotive group following the transfer of the engine to the East Lancashire Railway. The PMV which dates from 1936 has been placed at the bottom of the siding next to the museum and once some repair work has been carried out to increase the security of the vehicle it will act as an extra storage facility. Longer term plans will include a full overhaul of the PMV for use with our Southern carriages.

Locomotives - Ian Smith

Sir Berkeley Work is progressing, if a little slowly, on Sir B at Middleton. One of the problems with running railways is that there is always “something” that urgently needs more attention than the locos under overhaul! However, progress is encouraging. Most of the valve gear has now been sorted, and work is progressing on the brake hangers, which needed a great deal of attention. The boiler has now passed initial inspection, with no major work required. The area of the firebox around the fusible plugs requires attention, which was already known about, but nothing else has been found. A retube will also be required, again, nothing we aren't familiar with. The paint scheme has been agreed and paint will be ordered shortly. Hopefully, the loco will start to progress a little more quickly during the first part of 2020.



Sir Berkeley between the frames Photos: Robert Taggart

Bellerophon Work is continuing in the background to facilitate the overhaul of our veteran well tank. Investigations have concluded that we probably don't need to replace the tyres just yet, which will save a considerable amount of money. Sadly, the smokebox and chimney both require replacement, but the motion is in reasonable condition, only requiring pins and bushes. A lot of work was carried out during the engine's 10 year “life” so it is in good mechanical condition. That leaves the boiler as the big issue. We know that the bottom of the outer firebox needs replacement - probably the bottom 3ft, along with the foundation ring. The boiler also needs a retube. Foxfield are looking at the possibility of doing this work in house, which would reduce the costs greatly. All in all, we are hopeful of bringing the total overhaul costs down to a manageable figure which, combined with what the engine has already earned, will be acceptable for our finances - but I am sure we will be making an appeal for funding in due course!



Embsay Dales Diner publicity shot using VCT Bulleid carriage.
Photo: Kim Coole

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