



Vintage Carriages Trust

Carriage Chronicle

News for Members: August 2020



- Covid-19: Closure and Re-opening
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- Museum and Retail News

Welcome to the August 2020 'Carriage Chronicle' Members' Update. - *Bob Sprot*

Welcome to the August 2020 edition of the newly named 'Carriage Chronicle'. We hope that you will agree that the new name for the newsletter gives us a title that sums up neatly the key activities of the Trust.

Following our letter to all members at the end of June we have reopened the shop, magazine room, workshop and museum successfully after the Covid closure, albeit with a number of necessary changes which are detailed in the magazine. This issue also gives us the chance to give you updates on our progress both in the early part of the year and in the last couple of months. Finally there is an important note concerning our plans for our AGM.

We hope you enjoy reading the magazine and please stay safe and well.

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Front cover: Chatham at Oxenhope by Chris Haley

Covid-19 Impact and Reopening - Bob Sprot

We closed the VCT building to the public on Saturday 21st March. Chris Smith carried out a shunting operation in the building on Monday 23rd March which enabled us to give a home to three KWVR vehicles. These were the working diesel rail bus E79964 which had been scheduled to go to a Gala at Didcot Railway Centre, the Class 37 No 37075 and the diesel shunter 'Vulcan', all of which found themselves in Ingrow yard without a means of return to their shed at Haworth as Bridge 11 over the Worth was incomplete when all work was halted. The bridge works are now complete and our guests have returned to Haworth!



Photo: Alexandra Haley



Photo: Chris Smith

Risk Assessments, Signage, PPE and Reopening

Detailed risk assessments were produced covering in detail the requirements necessary to allow staff and a small number of volunteers back into the building in a safe and secure manner and also to prepare for reopening to the public. At the same time we ordered screens, signage and personal protection equipment to keep ourselves and the public safe. We were able to reopen the shop, magazine room and workshop from 1st July, and eventually we reopened the museum on 1st August. We are grateful to Museum Development Yorkshire for their support in helping us reopen.



Photo: Alexandra Haley



Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given, that the Annual General Meeting of the Vintage Carriages Trust for 2020 will be held at 2:00pm, on Saturday 14th November 2020, in the meeting room of the Bronte Hotel.

THESE ARRANGEMENTS ARE ONLY PROVISIONAL, AND ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON THE PREVAILING CONDITIONS WITH REGARD TO COVID-19.

The Agenda for the Annual General Meeting shall be:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on Saturday 12th October 2019
3. Matters arising, not otherwise covered by this Agenda
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Reports of the following:
 - a. Membership team
 - b. Collections team
 - c. Museum Mentor
 - d. Carriage Caretakers
 - e. Locomotive Caretakers
 - f. Retail, rostering & publicity
7. Adoption of Annual Report & Accounts for the year ending 31st March, 2020
8. Election of Trustees: W H Black, M W Cope, Ms W Anderson & Ms P Bowker are required to stand down, but are willing to stand for re-election
9. Appointment of Independent Examiners
10. Any other business, which may be accepted only at the discretion of the Chairman

Notice of Annual General Meeting

NOMINATIONS FOR TRUSTEES - Those Trustees, who may offer themselves for re-election this year are: Ms W Anderson, Ms P Bowker, WH Black & MW Cope. Please note, that there is an extra Trustee position available due to a resignation. This means that a fifth Trustee may be elected for a period of two years, so nominations from within the wider membership will be welcomed.

FOR FURTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION, PLEASE READ THE SEPARATE ENCLOSURE

DN Carr [Hon. Secretary] -1st August, 2020 Tel. [01759] 304176 e-mail: d.carr388@btinternet.com

Membership, Grants and Legacies - *Bob Sprot*

Donations - we would like to thank all members who responded so magnificently to our appeal letter sent out in June. These donations have allowed us to reopen the building and given us a substantial boost to our funds for ongoing restoration work on our collections.

Grants - we have been able as well to take advantage of small grants to assist us in our reopening work. These mainly cover day to day costs including loss of business due to closure and the employee furlough scheme.

Legacies - our work at the Trust has been supported in recent years by a number of legacies for which we are very grateful. Legacies can help keep the VCT collection safe for the future. If you would like further details please contact us and we will send you a detailed leaflet.

Shop and Magazine Room - *Bob Sprot*

Shop News - we finished the financial year 2019/20 on a high note with strong sales of books at the KWVR Steam Gala held in early March. Almost immediately we went into lockdown and lost sales for the lucrative last two weeks of March. However we were able to match the previous year in sales thanks to the excellent donations of books, magazines, dvd's and especially model railway lines that were received during the year.



Photo: Alexandra Haley

Donations, Quarantine Area and Magazines - we have been fortunate to receive substantial donations of books and especially magazines since we reopened. Clearly the national lockdown caused the clearing of cupboards and lofts in many homes! All donations are placed in a quarantine area at the side of Lord Mayor for 2-3 days before sorting takes place into the racks. The good news is that Alexandra Haley, John Wallis and Keith Taylorson have been kept very busy responding to an increase in email orders for magazines.



Photo: Alexandra Haley

Museum and Display - Alexandra Haley

We had been in the process of planning a large refurbishment project of our museum and displays, particularly with work to be done on our walls and cabinets. At the moment our project has been put on hold due to the aftermath of COVID-19, but we are still planning and pushing ahead with this for the future.



For now the museum is having a small refresh of the existing displays; new display boards are being made by Alexandra Haley for the small artefacts cabinets with the aim of interpreting passenger travel and social history in line with what we actually have in the collection. This includes railway catering, railways in the war, ticketing and station offices, and railway art/carriage prints. A prototype display board has been made for our film display, which includes text and imagery about some of the productions with which we have been involved. Based on this prototype, we can make minor changes ready for the rest of them to be printed.



Behind the scenes Alexandra is also working on some interactives for the museum, including children's activities and a community engagement project, but we have to be mindful of when we can use these in line with Covid-19 guidelines. More details on this to follow in the future.

Photos: Alexandra Haley

Events - Alexandra Haley

Jurassic Specials

Back in February the KWVR hosted the Jurassic Specials event, which involved REAL dinosaurs at Oxenhope and various prehistoric-themed children's activities. Here at Ingrow, we had dinosaur-themed face-painting and special effects dinosaur scars in the Learning Coach! The museums were decorated in the style of a jungle, and both days of the event were extremely busy.



Photo: Matt Arnold



Photo: Alexandra Haley

Steam Gala

Our Chatham 3554 carriage was used throughout the KWVR Steam Gala this year in March; we got some great feedback from passengers who enjoyed sitting in the compartments. Many of the railway visitors also came to our museum and our shop, which saw a good amount of admissions and sales. We held a gala book sale (all selected books £1 or 3 for £2) which was very popular; although intended for the gala weekend we decided to keep this offer running as a good way to sustain our levels of stock whilst creating some great bargains for customers.



Photo: Alexandra Haley

Events - Alexandra Haley

Postponed Events

Unfortunately due to Covid-19 most of the Rail Story and KWVR events for 2020 have been cancelled or postponed. These include the Keighley Transport Festival, the Diesel Gala, the Railway Children Anniversary event, the Yorkshire Food and Drink festival and the Beer & Music festival. This has and continues to significantly affect our footfall but we hope that these events can return next year for everyone to enjoy when it's safer!



Photo: Keighley Transport Festival now hoping to take place in May 2021

Rail Story, Marketing and Media - *Alexandra Haley*

For the majority of the year, the Rail Story site at Ingrow has been closed to the public. Our partner museum belonging to the Bahamas Locomotive Society has re-opened in August on a limited basis for now, and the trains will not be stopping at Ingrow for the time being when the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway is running.

Although plans have been put on hold for new developments, things are slowly returning to normal; one of the top priorities for the site is to get a recognised postal address, which unfortunately we've never had before. After the return of the learning development officer, we hope to start seeing perhaps a few school groups returning in the future.

Our websites have been updated regularly with the latest government guidelines in relation to our shop and museums, which has been useful for potential visitors. Our Twitter and Instagram accounts temporarily stopped posting over the lockdown, but were still available to answer enquiries. Our Facebook page took the lead in posting various things, including historical photos of our carriages and locos, updates on the Sir Berkeley overhaul, and any Covid-19 guidance. All social media accounts will be back up and running to post the usual updates.

Back in March, Alexandra from the Carriage Works and Matt from the Engine Shed were heard on BCB Radio discussing all things Rail Story, as well as sharing their top railway-themed 'tracks'!



Photo: Alexandra and Matt at BCB Radio by Alexandra Haley

Carriages in Use - *Bob Sprot*

Bulleid S1469S - at Embsay

Our Bulleid open third was in use on Santa trains in December 2019. During the early part of 2020 essential maintenance was completed on the carriage at Embsay including the fitting of new brake blocks. We understand from our friends at Embsay that the carriage is back in use on breakfast and dining trains this summer and early autumn.



Photo: Wendy Anderson



Photo: Alexandra Haley

Chatham S3554S and Metropolitan 427

The Chatham has been housed at Oxenhope since the Steam Gala and the Metropolitan has recently been taken out of the museum. These carriages are now in use as part of the revised public service to be run by the KWVR from 19th August and will continue in use all year.

Pullman Cars 83 'Ann' and 84 'Mary'

To compensate for the hire of the two carriages above we have welcomed the two KWVR Pullmans into the museum for the next few weeks.



Photo: Alexandra Haley

Workshop - Ian Wild, Chris Smith and Michael Cope

Metropolitan 465

All nine compartments now have new plywood laid on the floor and lino fitted by member Barrie Payne. All seat cushion base frames have been painted. The cosmetically refurbished saloon steam heater units have been installed under the seats. All window mouldings have now been cleaned up and painted to 2nd undercoat. The 36 new safety glasses have been fitted to the fixed compartment windows bedded on Arboseal. The glass for the drop lights is due from the Supplier at the end of August. Chris has painted more of the exterior including some of the window mouldings. Some filling and tidying of the compartment thresholds has taken place ready for painting.



Photos: Alexandra Haley

Midland 358

The third class upholstery is now completed. A trial inner door panel for first class has been received from the upholsterers but will need some machining of the door edge mouldings to fit correctly. Once this is satisfactory the other three similar panels will be commissioned.

The drawbar springs have finally returned. Chris has fitted these in place together with the newly forged intermediate drawbars. Most of the brake linkage is now fitted together with more steel bolts and rods machined in house. Body packings have been made up from surplus material from the major repair carried out to Metropolitan 427 a few years ago. The day when the body can be reunited with the underframe is not far off which will enable the wheelsets and axle boxes to be removed for repair as required.

New webbing of the distinctive “Egyptian” pattern needed to complete the restoration of the upholstery of the First Class compartments of our Midland coach has been produced. We would like to thank Simon Evans of the Midland Railway Trust at Butterley and Messrs Wyedean Weavers for making this possible.

Workshop - Ian Wild, Chris Smith and Michael Cope

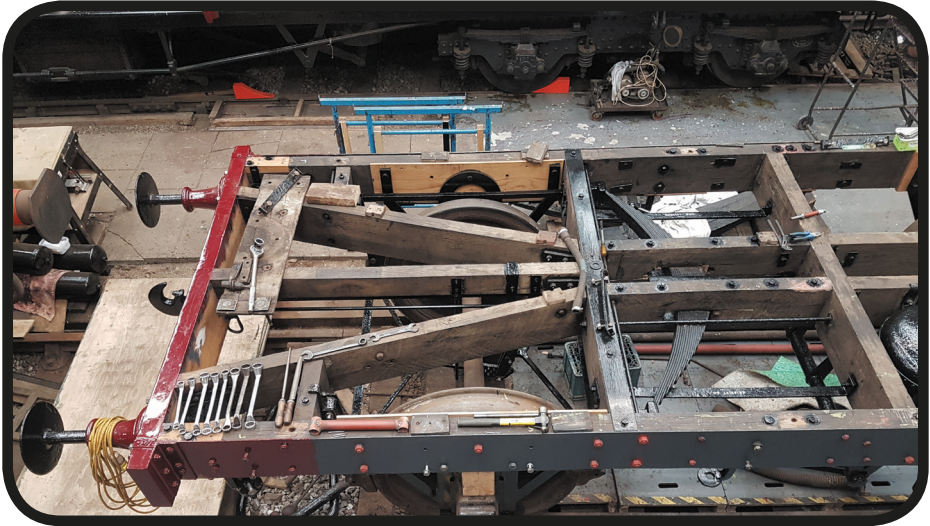


Photo: Alexandra Haley

E79962 Diesel Railbus - The simple statement “we now have sufficient authentic replicated material to cover the restored seating of our diesel Railbus” covers a great deal of research and hard work. Initially no one was able to identify the fabric, let alone the pattern which is most definitely a one-off! The new material is accurate in its structure, colours and pattern when compared with the very small scraps of original material found on the Railbus. Using all of our known contacts in Germany we were successful in securing the new material. Not bad - for a one-off vehicle manufactured abroad and now 62 years old!

Volunteering - If you would like to help with this (or with any other vehicle currently in the Workshop), please contact Michael Cope or Chris Smith. You will be made very welcome.

Locomotives - *Ian Smith*

Bellerophon

has been stored out of use on the Foxfield Railway for a while now and VCT has agreed to formally request storage there until 2024, when it is hoped we can launch an appeal for its restoration to full working order.

Covid 19 has interrupted plans for an earlier restoration as we need to ensure funding is available for the normal running the Trust.



Photo: Ian Smith

However, the engine is not being entirely ignored. There is a fund it has earned during its last few years of operation and it has been decided that we should use this money as follows:

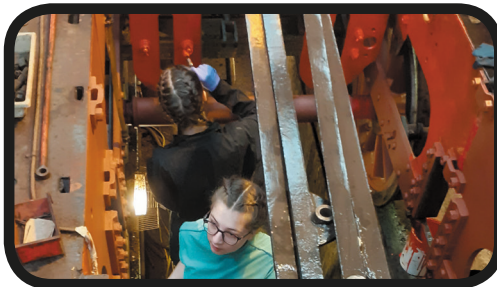
Both VCT & Foxfield intend to use the money it has earned to cosmetically restore it to 1874 condition so far as is possible.

Locomotives - Ian Smith

This means replacing the whistle with a hooter, which we acquired from Middleton a couple of years ago. The current “ross pop” safety valves will be replaced by original pattern “Ramsbottom” ones, which will be specially cast for it. The loco will also acquire a new smokebox, which will be bolted on, rather than rivetted as that item will need to be removed when we start the

overhaul - it will look fine whilst stood on display. At the same time as the smokebox is replaced, we will cast a new chimney for the engine, to improve its looks. The final part, if funds allow, will be to replace the bunker with a new one, which will be flared as originally built. All of this will restore the loco to its 1874 appearance as far as possible.

The intention is to display the loco at Foxfield and then, when the time is right, we will launch an appeal for its mechanical restoration, probably on its 125th anniversary, using photos of the cosmetically restored engine.



Sir Berkeley being worked on by younger volunteers under the supervision of Steve Roberts
Photos: Robert Taggart

Sir Berkeley has been under overhaul at Moor Road on the Middleton Railway for some time now. Covid 19 had brought major progress to a halt but there is progress nonetheless. The eccentrics has been overhauled, and brake hanger pin brackets have been machined to correct errors of alignment, which were seriously bent over time. The frames have been thoroughly cleaned and are being painted, signal red inside. The outside of the frames will be painted maroon, soon to be edged in black and lined yellow. The axle boxes are currently being examined for minor adjustments and the next job, when things calm down, will be to ultrasonic the axles. Providing they all pass, work will commence on minor boiler repairs, followed by a retube and refitting to the loco.

We should see the engine completed sometime in 2021.



Current residents at Ingrow - not in our collection!
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.

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