



Vintage Carriages Trust

Carriage Chronicle

News for Members: June 2021



- The Midland Reunited
- Chairman's Day 2021
- Shunting the Museum and Workshop
- The Railway Children Carriages

Welcome to the June 2021 'Carriage Chronicle' Members' Update. - *Bob Sprot*

Welcome to the June 2021 edition of the 'Carriage Chronicle'. Once again due to national Covid restrictions we have endured the total closure of the VCT building from 4th January for a long 13 weeks. We were able to reopen the shop and magazine room from 12th April, with the whole museum reopened from 17th May.

Therefore this issue does not give us much news to impart to you on our current projects as these have only been restarted in recent days. However we have taken the opportunity to announce Chairman's Day, explain the important activity involved when we shunt the museum and give you a status update on all of our rolling stock. Topically we have also included a feature on those VCT carriages involved in the 1970 film of *The Railway Children*. We hope you enjoy reading the magazine.



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Front cover: No.358 Midland Underframe and Body Reunited. Photo: Bob Sprot

Membership Update - a Massive Thanks to All - Bob Sprot

As always we continue to be humbled and delighted by the response of you, our members, to our appeals for donations to assist in the work of the Trust. The funds that were forthcoming after our appeal in the January issue of this magazine have enabled us to not only weather the financial uncertainties caused by the Covid pandemic, but also to continue to plan and progress our major projects. A special note of thanks is also due to our Treasurer Paula Bowker who obtained for the Trust important government grants as and when they were available. As a result your Trust is in a sound financial position.

Obituary - Dame Margaret Weston (1926-2021)

It is with great sadness that we have to inform members of the recent death of Dame Margaret Weston, patron of the Heritage Railway Association and first Director of the Science Museum Group during which time the NRM was created. VCT worked with Dame Margaret over many years including on Museum Accreditation and in 2004 VCT were awarded the HRA Award for Interpretation for our Museum.



Dame Margaret Weston and VCT Chairman Trevor England. Photo: VCT Collection

Chairman's Day Saturday 14th August 2021 - Trevor England

On this date the event will be held to inform members of the challenges faced, and progress made, by the Vintage Carriages Trust during this difficult time. As this invitation is being written we are still in the COVID 19 restricted world. We are very hopeful that by August the numbers allowed to mix indoors will allow Members to meet the Trustees at this event. We will not be inviting the guests from other organisations, as in the past, to keep the event specifically for members to enjoy a visit to the museum.

Those members wishing to attend will need to inform us by 31st July, 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, membership number email address or telephone number as these will be required. This will allow us to send out final details and arrange the buffet. At the present time we still await how we can supply the buffet and it may be that individual plates per member may have to be arranged.

The programme for the day is as follows:-

10.30 am until 11.00 am Tea/Coffee and biscuits

11.15 am Welcome - Trevor England

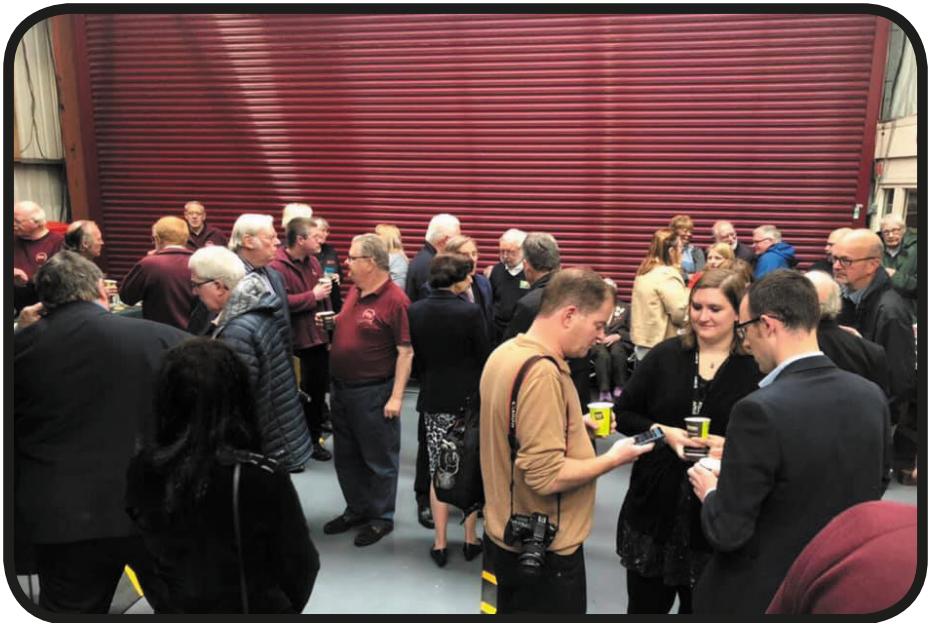
Discussion topics will include:-

- Challenges with dealing with COVID restrictions - Bob Sprot
- Progress on the Midland Carriage - Ian Wild
- Retail Report and Reception - Bob Sprot
- Museum Development - Alexandra Stockdale-Haley
- Future workshop projects - Trevor England
- Rail Story partnership - Debbie Cross
- Locomotive progress - Ian Smith
- Railway Children anniversary & filming - Trevor England
- Conclusion - Trevor England

Chairman's Day Saturday 14th August 2021 - Trevor England

12.30 pm - Buffet lunch

The usual offer of a train ride after lunch on the KWVR is still to be discussed with the railway. At the present time it may be that on this occasion you may have to book through the KWVR and pay for the journey. It is hoped that at least one VCT carriage will be included in a vintage train on this date. The details of this should be known by the time we reply to those members wishing to enjoy the day.



Chairman's Day 2019 - no masks or social distancing! Photo: Alexandra Stockdale-Haley

Meet the new Front of House Team - *Bob Sprot*

After over three years with VCT Alexandra Stockdale-Haley has left us to take up a curatorial position at the Media Museum in Bradford. We wish Alexandra well in her new role and thank her for the important contribution she has made to VCT. We are delighted that Alexandra will continue to work with us as a volunteer to redevelop the Museum.

We welcome to VCT our two new part-time front of house staff members - Lauren Brundell and Richard Jones.

Lauren - Lauren will cover the role on Sundays and Mondays and joins us having recently become a mother to baby boy Henry. Lauren has a background in retail and has recently completed an MA in Railway Studies from York University.

Richard - Richard will cover the role on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and comes to us with a wealth of experience in the railway preservation world including spells as General Manager at Bodmin, Swanage and Operations Manager at the Worth Valley.

Note: Front of House on Tuesdays and Saturdays will continue to be run by our pool of loyal VCT volunteers to whom we are extremely grateful.

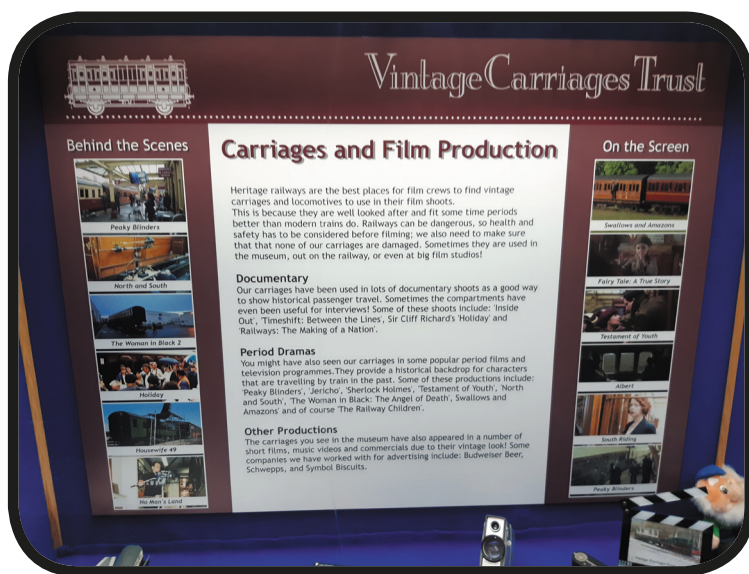


Richard Jones and Lauren Brundell. Photo: Bob Sprot

Museum & Collections - Alexandra Stockdale-Haley

Due to the most recent lockdown there have been no huge developments to the displays and collections. However, the plans for a bigger redevelopment are ongoing with our application for a suitable grant having been paused whilst we reassess our options. To summarise, this project will involve new museum toilets, cladding for improved wall displays, new display cabinets, children's activities, museum decor and digital interactives.

In the meantime, new display boards have been ordered for the display cabinets with the VCT branding, to match the prototype shown below. These aim to better explain some of the social history concepts surrounding our collection. The next task is to refresh the display boards on the central walkway in our museum which tell the histories of our carriages; the current boards are looking a little worn out!



The new style Filming Display Board. Photo: Bob Sprot

Since our plan for the upstairs area was implemented, which included developing set areas for object storage, archives, research/library and office files, we have decided to look further into our strategy for collections care. Our priorities include ensuring we have the correct materials available for object handling, pest control and safe storage.

All Change! - Shunting at VCT - *Bob Sprot*

From time to time we undertake a major shunting operation of our museum and workshop. One such occasion happened recently just before we reopened and cameras captured most of the action.

Why do we have to do it? The two main reasons for a shunt at VCT are firstly the need to change the carriages being worked upon in our workshop and secondly the use of one of our carriages on either the Worth Valley or another railway. In the most recent major shunt the key objective was to reunite the Midland underframe with its body which for some time have been worked on separately.

Planning the Shunt: With finite space available in our workshop and museum careful measuring needs to take place prior to each shunt. This is usually undertaken by our Chairman Trevor England and our CME Chris Smith well before the day of the shunt. Crucially Trevor also organises a suitable engine (diesel) and crew.



I) No358 Midland Underframe during the recent shunt. Photo: Bob Sprot



II) Metropolitan No 465 in its current 'Railway Children' livery. Photo: Paul Holroyd

Other Considerations: In the planning process careful thought is given to the carriages to be within the VCT museum allowing access to their compartments for our visitors from the central walkway. This includes maximising the number of doors we can open to the public and making the best use of the Audio Visual systems within the carriages. Obviously for safety reasons we keep the museum closed during the shunting process. Before the process begins we have to ensure that all doors of the carriages are closed, foot flaps lifted up, AV leads disconnected, floor rail protectors removed, and that there are no static obstacles in the way.

All Change! - Shunting at VCT - *Bob Sprot*

After the Shunt: When completed and the diesel shunter has departed the reverse process is carried out of reconnecting AV leads, restoring access to carriages from the walkway and changing descriptive boards. At this point we are ready once again to allow access for visitors.



A half empty museum during the shunt. Photo: Paul Holroyd



Everything back in place! Photo: Paul Holroyd

The Railway Children Carriages -

Alexandra Stockdale-Haley

The Keighley and Worth Valley Railway is famous for the 1970 film of Edith Nesbit's 'The Railway Children'. The film centres on three children's adventures in Yorkshire, particularly involving the local railway line, whilst also discovering the truth about the disappearance of their father.

The Vintage Carriages Trust owns five of the carriages that were used in The Railway Children productions, which are now on display in the Carriage Works museum. The carriages used in the 1970 film were: Metropolitan Railway 427, Metropolitan Railway 509, Great Northern Railway 589, Midland Railway 358, and Metropolitan Railway 465. Three of these also starred in the lesser known 1968 TV series of the same name for BBCTV. Sometimes carriages don't have to play a starring role to be part of a film production. Our Southern Railway 'Chatham' No 3554 carriage was used as a dressing room on the set! Our locomotive Lord Mayor was also used in promotional photography for the film.



The 1970 'Railway Children'. Photo : Sportsphoto/Allstar

The Railway Children Carriages -

Alexandra Stockdale-Haley

It is no secret that the KWVR are involved in the current production of the sequel to the popular motion picture, which will involve a few of the same characters but will focus on a new generation of 'railway children'. Our Southern Railway Chatham No 3554 and our Metropolitan Railway Brake No 427 carriages are featured in the film.

Until the end of June, VCT will host a 'Railway Children' exhibition involving our carriages alongside the North Eastern 21661 'Old Gentleman's Saloon' and the GWR No 5775 Pannier Tank, which featured in the original film.



VCT carriages in 'The Railway Children' film. Photo: Robin Lush

VCT Rolling Stock Update - *Bob Sprot*

We thought you would be interested in a brief summary of the current status of each of our Carriages and Engines:

Carriages

No S3554 SR Brake Third Corridor 'Chatham' - Available for hire and for museum display. Currently based at Oxenhope and on hire to the Worth Valley.

No 176 MS&L (GC) Four Wheeled Composite Carriage - Restored in Great Central livery and available for filming and museum display only.



MS&L No 176 having a spruce up in the VCT workshop. Photo: Paul Holroyd

No 358 Midland 6 Wheeled Composite - Our No 1 restoration project is in the VCT workshop. Body and underframe are now reunited.

No 589 Great Northern 6 Wheeled Brake Third - Restored in GNR teak livery and available for filming and for museum display only.

VCT Rolling Stock Update - *Bob Sprot*

No 2856 Great Northern Composite Brake - Restored in GNR teak livery and available for filming and for museum display only.

No 427 Metropolitan 7 Compartment Brake Third - Recently fitted with new moquette and available for hire and for display. Currently based at Oxenhope on hire to the Worth Valley.

No 465 Metropolitan 9 Compartment Third - Recently overhauled and painted in its 1970 Railway Children livery. Available for hire and for museum display.

No 509 Metropolitan 7 Compartment First - Restored in Metropolitan teak and available for hire and display.

No S1469S Bulleid Open Third - On hire to The Yorkshire Dales Railway for 2021 and in use on their 'Dales Diner'.



GNR No 2856 on a rare outing from the museum. Photo: Paul Holroyd

VCT Rolling Stock Update - *Bob Sprot*

Vans

No S1125S Southern PMV -Unrestored and soon to be a project for our VCT workshop team.

Engines

Haydock Foundry 0-6-0 Well tank “Bellerophon” - At the Foxfield Railway awaiting plans for its next overhaul to be finalised.

Manning Wardle 0-6-0 “Sir Berkeley” -At the Middleton Railway and currently in the middle of an extensive overhaul including painting into Logan and Hemingway contractor’s livery.

Hudswell Clarke 0-4-0 “Lord Mayor” -Static and much loved VCT museum exhibit.

W & M Diesel Railbus E79962 - Awaiting a full review with costings before any restoration begins.



Lord Mayor outside VCT during the recent shunt. Photo:Bob Sprot

Book Review - *Dave Carr*

Seats of London: A Field Guide to London Transport Moquette Patterns by Andrew Martin

Published by Safe Haven Books [2019] £14:99

Paperback 192 pages

ISBN 978 1 9160435 1 6

Those of you who remember the BBC documentary “Between the Lines,” some of which was filmed on the KWVR, or have read a novel featuring Jim Stringer, railway detective, will be familiar with the versatile writing of Andrew Martin.

He has had a long interest in transport in London,

“ Underground, Overground: A Passenger’s History of the Tube” - 2012], so it will come as no surprise that he has undertaken a comprehensive overview of the moquettes utilised in all forms of public transport in the capital. The illustrations are lavish, each pattern of richly coloured moquette accompanying the description of the vehicles in which it has been used.

Whilst moquette may appear to be something of a niche subject, Andrew’s style is that of the raconteur and should engage a far wider audience than we enthusiasts. He has engaged with designers, manufacturers [including our friends at Holdsworth’s] and passengers to enliven the story.

My only reservation would be the omission of VCT in the pages describing just where you might take a ride on these historic moquettes. Let’s see if there is a revised edition in a few years’ time



Occupants on display in our MS&L first class compartment.
Photo: Paul Holroyd

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