

VCT News

VINTAGE CARRIAGES TRUST, Haworth Station;
Haworth, Keighley, Yorkshire, BD22 8NJ.

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Most VCT members will have a fair idea of what we are doing through reading the minutes of the committee and annual general meetings. However, the idea of VCT News is to provide a link between members and it is also a useful publicity medium. If you are a new member we welcome you and hope that you find something of interest in this issue. Although we would like to get at least three issues out during the year, a lot depends on how much has happened between issues.

-Editor

ROLLING STOCK NEWS

G.N.R. 6-wheel coach (brake third). The newly-restored exterior of this vehicle has been admired by visitors to the Exhibition Shed at Oxenhope Station. The next stage in its restoration is to bring the interior up to the same high standard, and anyone who has looked into the compartments will know how much work is required.

Metropolitan Rly. No.427 (brake third). Routine maintenance on this wooden-bodied coach has recently been undertaken to ensure it continuing to appear in service. The cost of such work is emphasised by a recent bill in excess of £1800. It was in service on "Enthusiasts Weekend" (19th/20th March) and should appear on Bank Holidays and other special occasions, during 1983.

Met.Rly.No.465 (third). Eight of the nine compartments have been refurbished and it could be running again during 1983, possibly on Bank Holidays and "special" days.

Met.Rly. No.509 (first). Much work is still required to be done on this vehicle before it is seen in service again, though much of the varnished wood is going back into the compartments.

Southern Railway 'Chatham' coach (corridor brake third), S3554S. Still some interior matchboarding to be attended to: a spell outdoors during the "Santa Special" period revealed a severe leak in the roof and it is hoped that the roof covering can be renewed during 1983.

B.R.(Southern)'Bulleid' No.E1469S (open second). Leaks through the roof and sides have caused rapid deterioration of this vehicle's interior. High transport costs have caused plans for sending it away to be professionally restored to be abandoned, but repair work locally is now under way to make it weatherproof at least, as a first step towards its restoration.

M.S.&L.R. 4-wheel coach (1st/2nd/3rd and luggage). A three-year restoration plan for this historical vehicle has been agreed and application for a grant towards this has been made to the Area Museums and Art Gallery Service for Yorkshire & Humberside Region.

(Rolling Stock Notes Cont'd)

Small Locomotives. Resident in Ingrow Shed, with restoration work proceeding, is the Manning Wardle 0-6-OST, whilst the Haydock Foundry 0-6-OWT has recently been the subject of much publicity in the railway press, thanks to the splendid efforts of Vernon Smallwood, and it has certainly attracted quite a lot of attention. Thanks to Terry Sykes' efforts it looks hopeful that the locomotive (hands up all those who remember its name!) may be in steam again this year, though there is still much work to be done before this can become reality.

Thanks to Chris Smyth for collating details for the rolling stock notes.

Have YOU got a specialist interest? If you have (for example: railway posters, German railway books, etc.,) and would be prepared to collect VCT's inward-bound stock of such items, sort them, and help turn them into cash, please contact the Secretary c/o Haworth Station.

VCT Transport Relics Shop. In the editorial files there is a sheet of paper which starts off: "Are you tired of watching 'World of Sport' on Saturdays, or entertaining Aunt Abigail to tea and buns and having the missus drag you to church on Sundays? Look no further! Your weekends can be turned into a golden fountain of joy!: you can extend your vocabulary with non-Oxford Dictionary words when customers discover our super bargains: you can sit beside a heater, with your own desk, self-perpetrated currency receptacle -(cash~register)-enjoy Maxpax tea from the buffet, and, most important, make buckets of money for VCT. All you have to do is man the VCT shop at Keighley station". A light-hearted appeal, and no disrespect intended to those who are regular church-goers. But, as Kevern George, our Membership Secretary points out, there may not be much work involved in looking after the shop, there is a good deal of hard graft put in by certain members in buying, sorting, cleaning, restoring, pricing and, in some cases, living in-between, piles of stock, which then has to be taken to the shop and put on display. This is all apart from the tremendous work involved in attending exhibitions, and it must be remembered that, without the shop, there would be practically no funds, and no VCT.

As Kevern says, a big "Thank You" is due to all those members who have helped in the VCT shop: if you are not on the K&WVLR stations roster at present and feel that you would like to help out in the shop (at the bridge end of platform 4, Keighley station), please write to Malcolm Loukes, 43, Carr Bank Lane, Sheffield, S11 7FB, stating whether you would prefer a Saturday, or prefer a Sunday, and any preferential dates. The idea of this is to cover staffing of the shop, ensuring it is open, when it has not been covered by the K&WVLR stations roster (for obvious reasons it has low priority).

Incidentally, Chris Smyth has passed me a copy of the 'Instructions for the Running of the Shop', and one of the most important points is the first one: "The aim is for potential customers to find the shop and to find it open". It is also worth remembering that VCT members are allowed 12½% (one eighth) discount on purchases: it is as well to have your membership card with you in case the shop-keeper does not recognise you. Payment can be made by cheque, but only if supported by a bank card.

Naturally, all free gifts to VCT for fund raising purposes are welcome but anyone wishing to sell anything to VCT should write to the Secretary c/o Haworth Station, giving details. We do not, as a rule, buy magazines 1970's onwards, or recent 'part' works, and goods are not accepted "on approval". Back numbers of magazines, or specific books, can be looked for amongst our stock on receipt of written details of requirements to the Secretary as above.