



Vintage Carriages Trust

# *Carriage Chronicle*

News for Members: May 2023



- Museum Refurbishment Update
- Chairman's Day 2023
- Sir Berkeley Relaunch
- Workshop Update

# Welcome to the May 2023 'Carriage Chronicle' Members' Update - *Bob Sprat*

Welcome to the May 2023 'Carriage Chronicle'. This issue features the story of the successful completion of the building works of the first phase of our Museum refurbishment. This has dominated our activities since January. As you will read, the work now moves to the implementation of our revised display policy for the newly clad three bays of wall space that have become available.

Additionally in this edition are details of our forthcoming Chairman's Day event on 10 June as well as all the usual updates on our carriages. We are also pleased to report on the successful relaunch back into traffic of our locomotive Sir Berkeley by our friends at the Middleton Railway.



Unloading the wheelsets for Midland Composite No 358 April 2023 - Photo: Richard Jones

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Front cover: Southern Railway 'Chatham' No 3554 being prepared for repainting  
Photo: Richard Jones

## Membership Matters - *Bob Sprot*

**Membership Renewals 2023/4** - This is a reminder that our membership year runs from April 1 2023 to March 31 2024. We are grateful to most Members who have renewed their subscriptions, but we would ask if you can check to see that you have completed the renewal, and if not please send your remittance to us as soon as possible. For a further year, we have held our subscription rate at only £12 as we appreciate that we are going through challenging economic times. We believe this remains great value and we hope you will join us once again and support the work of the Trust.

### Members Update

We would like to welcome the following new members who have joined the Vintage Carriages Trust in the last three months - Channelle Burton, Tristan Hudson, Paul Maiden, Tim Part, Mr.J Pickard, Rob Rhoades, Ian Rose, Toby Ross, Alastair Ross, Margaret Ross and Susan Vesely.

Sadly, we have also been notified of the death of the following members - John Boddy and Alan Mickleboro. John was a valued volunteer at VCT for a number of years and Alan was a great supporter of the Trust especially in the donation of model railway items for resale. The Chairman, Trustees, Staff and Volunteers would like to send their deepest sympathies to their families and friends.



Sir Berkeley in traffic at Middleton 15 April - Photo: John Sagar

# Chairman's Day - Saturday 10 June 2023 - *Trevor England*

Our annual event will take place this year on Saturday 10 June to inform members and guests of the progress made by the Vintage Carriages Trust during the last twelve months. Those attending will be able to meet the Trustees at this event and to enjoy a visit to the museum and workshop. The programme for the day is as follows:-

**10.30 am until 11.00 am** - Tea/Coffee and biscuits will be served near the new mess room. You can then look around the workshop and museum. This will allow you the opportunity to view the present restoration projects. The talks will be held at the front of the workshop to allow general visitors to look around the museum.

**11.15 am** Welcome - Trevor England

Discussion topics will include:-

Museum Development - Trevor England

Museum Interpretation - Alexandra Stockdale-Haley

Retail Report and Reception - Bob Sprot

Midland carriage restoration - Ian Wild

Chatham carriage repaint - Trevor England

Vintage Trains - Trevor England

Locomotive progress - Ian Smith

Bulleid carriage at Embsay - Trevor England

AGM arrangements - Dave Carr

Conclusion - Trevor England



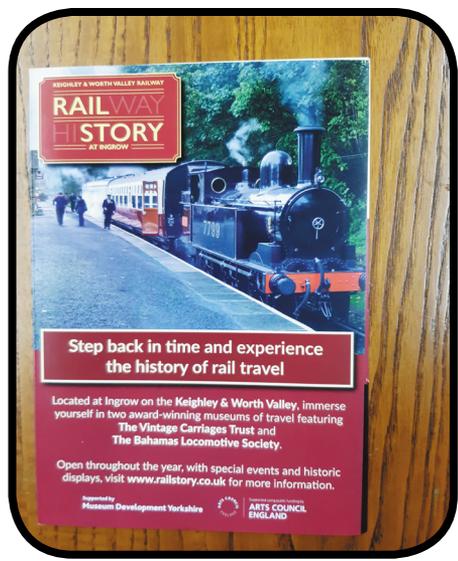
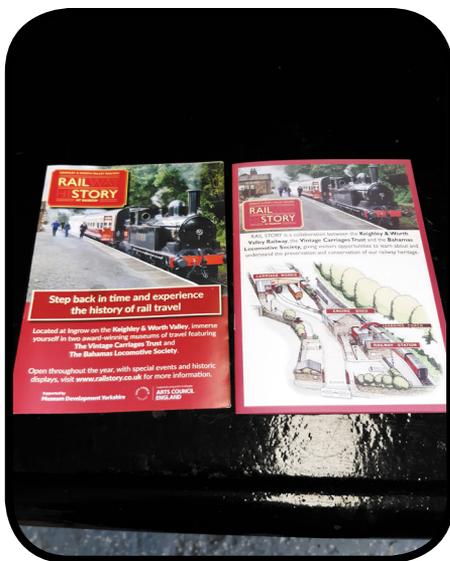
12.15 pm - Buffet lunch in the workshop.

1.45 pm - Meet on Ingrow station platform for a train ride.

The usual offer is given of a train ride after lunch on the KWVR. This will depart Ingrow at 1.51 pm towards Keighley.

Those members wishing to attend will need to inform us by **31st May**, at the latest, so that we can plan for the numbers attending.

This can be done by email to [membership@vintagecarriagestrust.org](mailto:membership@vintagecarriagestrust.org) or by telephone to the Museum between **11.00 am and 4.00 pm** on **01535 680425**. Please state your name and email address or telephone number, as these will be required. This will allow us to send out final details and arrange the buffet.



New Rail Story Publicity leaflets (See page 15) - Photo: Bob Sprot

# Museum Refurbishment - Phase 1 -

## *Bob Sprot/Trevor England*

In the January 2023 Carriage Chronicle we explained our overall strategy and plans for refurbishing the VCT Museum. In summary, our objectives were to use our wall, cabinet and floor space more effectively to display clearly to our visitors the railway themes and stories that support our main collection of carriages and locomotives. The equally important further objective was to increase our quantity and quality of toilet facilities to provide modern style amenities for a changing visitor profile. We have as well realized that as most of our building has been in existence for over 30 years that various parts are now life expired and require replacement.

Phase 1 of this plan had two parts:

### **The External Works**

The first was to put new cladding on the external face of the front of the Museum as the existing material was faded and worn. We also replaced our front facing office window, roof skylight and the much worn front entrance door to enhance further the appearance to visitors. A new sign will be erected shortly to state very clearly 'Vintage Carriages Trust Carriage Works Museum' in keeping with the Rail Story theme used throughout the Ingrow site.



The re-cladded front of the Museum with Midland wheelsets - Photo: Paul Holroyd

# Museum Refurbishment - Phase 1 -

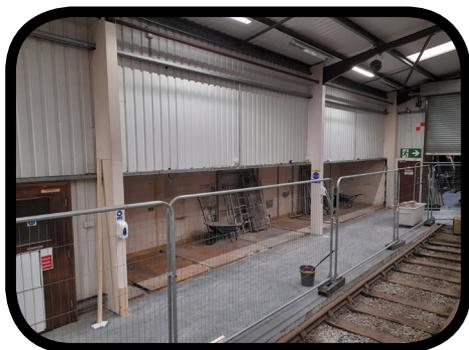
## *Bob Sprot/Trevor England*

### **New Amenities**

The second and more extensive part of Phase 1 was a total renewal of the visitor toilets and our staff mess room by taking in part of our engineering storage space. As explained in January, this involved clearing all railwayana signage from the walls of three total bays of the Museum and to move our carriages away from the front of this area to allow our builders the space to operate.

Portable toilet facilities were situated in the car park at the front of the Museum available for staff and visitors during the building works and the mess room relocated to our upstairs meeting room.

The building works for the amenities area were undertaken by the local Keighley firm of Davric. We are delighted to report that the project was finished on time and on budget and with the minimum of disruption to our staff and visitors. The selection of photographs in this issue show various stages of the project as it unfolded. We would like to thank all those involved for the professional way these works have been completed and we believe that the Museum now has a modern and more than adequate amenities area, and which we hope will be appreciated by all our visitors.



The empty shell of the toilets and mess room  
- Photo: Paul Holroyd

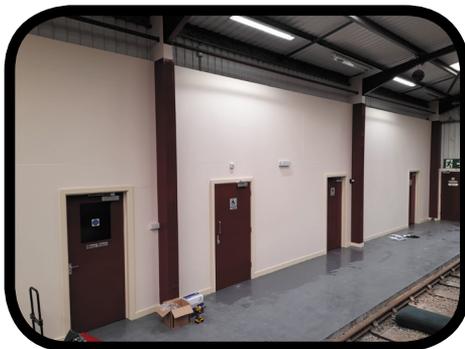


The new walls being built -  
Photo: Paul Holroyd

# Museum Refurbishment - Phase 1 - *Bob Sprot/Trevor England*



The new cladding in place  
Photo: Paul Holroyd



The inside style of the Museum  
Photo: Paul Holroyd



Toilet Refurb - New Interiors  
Photo: Paul Holroyd



New Mess Room Facilities  
Photo: Paul Holroyd

# Museum Refurbishment - Phase 1 -

## *Bob Sprot/Trevor England*

### Wall Displays

We are now starting on the task of placing new displays of railwayana in the form of signs, totems and posters on the 'blank canvas' of the re-cladded walls. Our aim is to be able to give our visitors a much clearer message for each bay with appropriate interpretation to explain the signs, buildings, operational notices and the roles both these signs, railway staff and passengers played in the evolution of the railways in previous generations. We are starting with three local area themes one for each bay covering Keighley, Bradford, and Leeds and West Yorkshire.



The start of restoring the wall displays - Photo: Bob Sprot

# Workshop and Carriage Update- Trevor England

## Midland Railway 6 Wheel Composite No 358

Work on the fabrics of the first class compartments continues to be carried out by Stuart Mellin and Ian Wild. Lowbridge Upholstery are now making some progress ready for fitting out the first class compartments. The machining of the axle boxes has been completed by Riley Engineering and these, along with the wheelsets, have been returned to us. Chris Smith can now start the fitting process. Once this is completed and the vehicle back on its wheels, progress on aligning the doors, fitting the gas lighting components on the roof, and reinstating the brake gear can begin as the next stages of this overhaul. This has been a much slower process than we first envisaged firstly because of the Covid restrictions and later by the other projects we are undertaking with a fairly small workforce.



Midland Axle Boxes Reworked - Photo: Paul Holroyd

## Southern Railway 'Chatham' No 3554

The decision has been made to repaint this carriage into Southern Railway Malachite green in time for its centenary in 2024. One side has been rubbed down and now sports a grey undercoat. There has been a need to upgrade some of the exterior wood and rebuild the doors as this work progresses. The Keighley end brake cylinder still requires an overhaul, but this is unable to be carried out until the Midland carriage is back on its wheels and moved out of the workshop extension area.

# Workshop and Carriage Update- *Trevor England*

## W&M Diesel Rail Bus E79962

The progress described in previous issues in 2022 shows the agreed way forward for this vehicle. There is much work still to do in refitting new ceiling and wooden interior panels and the refitting of the steel outer panels. At a later stage, the seat bases will be removed again to fit the lino and seat covering. The work on Midland Railway 358 and the Museum refurbishment is now dictating that there is likely to be a period of delay before further progress can be made.

## Metropolitan First Class No 509

This carriage has received an overhaul of one of the brake cylinders. The chalked date, which is standard practice, would imply that it last required attention back in March 1952. Although it has been the least used of the three Metropolitan Railway carriages in preservation the length of time that this has worked without requiring any further attention is a credit to the workmanship of the time.



Removing the brake cylinder from Metropolitan 509 - Photo: Paul Holroyd



The 'dated' brake cylinder from Metropolitan 509 - Photo: Paul Holroyd

## BR Bulleid Design No S1469

The Emsay and Bolton Abbey Railway have agreed to keep this carriage for a further twelve months loan until March 2024. This has been of considerable assistance in relieving the pressure on space inside the Museum whilst the building works have been taking place.

# Locomotives Update - *Bob Sprot*

## Sir Berkeley Relaunch Event.

On Saturday 15th April at an event at the Middleton Railway in Leeds, our locomotive Sir Berkeley was rededicated and placed back into traffic after its recent overhaul.

Hosted by Middleton Vice President and VCT Vice Chairman Ian Smith and attended by over 60 invited guests, Sir Berkeley was in steam in its shining new Logan and Hemingway contractor's livery. Guests included Roger Crombleholme who was responsible for saving the engine many years ago, Baroness Judith Blake of Gledhow and other Leeds City Councillors, various editors of the Railway Press, Members of the Middleton Railway, The Keighley and Worth Valley Railway and the Vintage Carriages Trust.

The rededication included speeches by Anthony Coulls of the National Railway Museum in York, who had suggested some time ago that the engine should be painted in its original contractor's livery. In rededicating Sir Berkeley, mainly to the memory of the navvies who built the railways, Anthony also emphasised the importance of recognising that often in an unsung way small steam engines used to carry out great work every day. Trevor England Chairman of VCT also congratulated Middleton Chief Mechanical Engineer Steve Roberts and his team on a successful overhaul of the engine.

The locomotive then went into action on the Middleton service train with VCT Trustee Robert Taggart being the Fireman.



The rededication of Sir Berkeley with Anthony Coulls, Roger Crombleholme, Ian Smith and Trevor England - Photo: Tom Marshall

## Locomotives Update - *Bob Sprot*

The invited guests enjoyed a buffet lunch and then a further ride on the train behind Sir Berkeley and Brookes No1 to complete this event. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Middleton Railway for their hospitality on the day.



Sir Berkeley sat outside the Middleton Museum building - Photo: John Sagar



Sir Berkeley exiting the tunnel on the way to Park Halt - Photo: Tom Marshall

# Locomotives Update - *Bob Sprot*

## **Bellerophon**

The overhaul at Foxfield is continuing as planned with the majority of the necessary work to bring the locomotive back into use being concentrated on the boiler. As you may remember, we completed an extensive and expensive amount of work when the engine was in the middle of its last running period on the axles, and the chassis and wheels remain in good shape for its next return to traffic. If finances allow the overhaul this time will include replacing the safety valves with more authentic Ramsbottom units and a remodelling of the bunker to its original size.

## **Bellerophon Model**

The latest news from KR Models is that the 00 Gauge model of Bellerophon is expected to be released in the late summer/early autumn of this year.



The prototype Bellerophon 00 Gauge Model - Photo: John Astley

# Events and Publicity - *Bob Sprot*

## **KWVR Steam Gala March 2023**

For 4 days from March 9 - 12, the KWVR mounted a very busy steam gala featuring three Black Fives, two Jubilees and engines from the home fleet. Although VCT had none of our carriages in use, nevertheless this was an extremely well attended event despite some very wintry weather. A large number of visitors took the opportunity to visit our Museum, including many enthusiasts and our shop sales were excellent over the few days of the event.



Wintry Scene at Rail Story for the KWVR March Gala - Photo: Robert Taggart

## **Flying Scotsman**

The visit of Flying Scotsman to the KWVR will take place during the month of May. Full details will be available on the KWVR website but it is expected to be in Ingrow yard on static display for some days during the month.

## **Vintage Trains 2023**

Vintage trains will be running on the Worth Valley every weekend from 22 July to the 20 August. As yet, we do not know if any VCT carriages will be involved but if they are we will announce the details on our websites.

## **Publicity**

In cooperation with our partners, the KWVR and BLS, two leaflets have been produced for the Rail Story site. A 4 page introductory leaflet is in use externally to encourage visitors to come to Rail Story. An 8 page leaflet gives details of what to find at Rail Story including the collections inside the Museums and is given to visitors on arrival.



Sir Berkeley and Brookes No1 double heading on the Middleton Railway  
15 April 2023 Photo: Tom Marshall

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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

Design by Robert Taggart

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](http://www.vintagecarriagestrust.org)  
E-mail: [admin@vintagecarriagestrust.org](mailto:admin@vintagecarriagestrust.org)  
[membership@vintagecarriagestrust.org](mailto:membership@vintagecarriagestrust.org)