



Vintage Carriages Trust

# *Carriage Chronicle*

News for Members: August 2023



- Flying Scotsman at VCT
- AGM 2023
- Museum Refurbishment Update
- Midland Re-wheeled

# Welcome to the August 2023 ‘Carriage Chronicle’ Members’ Update - *Bob Sprot*

Welcome to the August 2023 ‘Carriage Chronicle’. This issue features progress on the implementation of the initial phase of updating the Museum. This includes progress on the recently clad three bays of wall space in front of our new toilet facilities, the acquisition and installation of some much newer display cabinets, and the improvements to our walkway between our carriages.

Additionally in this edition are details of our forthcoming Annual General Meeting to be held on 11 November, a report on our recent Chairman’s Day event, and all the usual updates on our carriages and locomotives including the final re-wheeling of the Midland 6-wheel carriage.

We report as well on the extremely successful visit in May to Ingrow yard of ‘Flying Scotsman’, and the use of our Metropolitan carriage No 465 during the KWVR Vintage Trains season.



New Signage installed on the front of the Museum - Photo: Paul Holroyd

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# Membership Matters - Bob Sprot

## Members Update

We would like to welcome the following new members who have joined the Vintage Carriages Trust in the last three months - Mr.T Bowker, Lewis Burton, Geoff Culshaw, Jessica Read, Steve Roberts, Anne Salmon, Keith Salmon and Joseph Shaw.

Sadly, we have been notified of the death of the following members - John Adams, John Brandrick, Mr.I Osborne, Mr.P Smith and Brian Weldon. As this edition was going to press we also learned of the death of our friend Nick Stringer. Nick was a great supporter of the Trust and in his role as Chairman of the LNER Carriage Association forged productive links between the two organisations. The Chairman, Trustees, Staff and Volunteers would like to send their deepest sympathies to all the families and friends.

## Legacies

The Trust has been very fortunate in recent years to be the beneficiary of a number of legacies. These can vary from a substantial financial bequest to the designation in wills of railway items including books, magazines and model railway lines. We have a leaflet available on request to [membership@vintagecarriagestrust.org](mailto:membership@vintagecarriagestrust.org), which will give you further details if you wish to consider leaving items to the Trust.



Robert Taggart and Bob Sprot checking model railway donations -  
Photo: Ruth Wilson

# Notice of Annual General Meeting 2023

- *Dave Carr*

*(Being the ninth AGM of the Trust as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation)*

**Notice is hereby given, that the Annual General Meeting of the Vintage Carriages Trust for 2023 will be held at 2.30pm on Saturday 11th November 2023 at the The Civic Centre, North Street, Keighley**

The Agenda for the Annual General Meeting shall be:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on Saturday 12th November 2022
3. Matters arising, not otherwise covered by this Agenda
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurers Report
6. Reports of the following: a. Membership Team b. Collections Team c. Museum Mentor d. Carriage Caretakers e. Locomotive Caretakers f. Retail, rostering and publicity g. Rail Story team
7. Adoption of Annual Report & Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2023
8. Election of Trustees: Ms P Bowker, Ms D Cross, and Mr R Taggart 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.



Our Bulleid carriage on the Dales Dining Train at Embsay May 2023 -  
Photo: EMBR Collection

# Notice of Annual General Meeting 2023

- Dave Carr

*For Information:* Those Trustees who may offer themselves for re-election this year are: Ms P Bowker, Ms D Cross, and Mr R Taggart. Please note that Mr C Smyth will not be seeking re-election and this creates a vacancy for a Trustee.

**Further nominations from within the wider membership will be welcomed.**

**FOR FURTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION PLEASE READ THE SEPARATE ENCLOSURE.**

The timetable for the day will be as follows:-

11.00 am - Meet at VCT for Tea/Coffee and biscuits and view progress in the museum and workshop

12.15 pm - Buffet Lunch

1.30 pm onwards - proceed to Ingrow station or bus stop near the church

1.51 pm - Train from Ingrow to Keighley

2.00 pm - Proceed to the Civic Centre on North Street, Keighley

2.30 pm - AGM

There is a Pay and Display car park behind the Wetherspoon pub known as the Livery Stables.

D N Carr (Hon. Secretary) - 5th August 2023

Tel: 01759 304176

E-mail: [d.carr388@btinternet.com](mailto:d.carr388@btinternet.com)



Another VCT cake will be present on 11 November!- Photo: Alexandra Stockdale-Haley

# Chairman's Day - Saturday 10 June 2023 - *Bob Sprot*

Our Chairman's Day event took place this year on Saturday 10 June to inform members and guests of the progress made by the VCT during the last twelve months. The event was attended by over 60 members and guests who were able to meet the Trustees, Staff and Volunteers, as well as viewing the latest activities in the museum and workshop. A series of short talks followed:

- Chairman Trevor England summarised the considerable work that had taken place in the last year not least being the successful renewal of the amenities area and the start of further museum refurbishment. Alexandra Stockdale-Haley expanded on our plans for further improving the displays in the Museum.
- Bob Sprot reported on the current successful sales from our retail offer pointing out that our visitor profile was changing gradually from purely railway enthusiasts to many more family groups.
- Ian Wild and Trevor England updated the attendees on the progress being made on our Midland carriage and the repaint of the Chatham carriage into malachite green.
- Trevor also thanked our friends at Middleton for the successful relaunch of our locomotive Sir Berkeley, and gave updates on the initial work being undertaken on the overhaul of Bellerophon, and the planned use of our Bulleid carriage at Emsay

The morning session was followed by a buffet lunch in the workshop organised and served by Ian Wild and Jillian Foster and followed by a train ride after lunch on the KWVR.



KWVR Pacer 144 011 makes an appearance at Chairman's Day Photo: Robert Taggart

# Museum Refurbishment - Phase 1 -

## Bob Sprot

In the January and May 2023 editions of the Carriage Chronicle, we explained our overall strategy and plans for refurbishing the VCT Museum and confirmed the successful completion of our visitor toilets and mess room. Further work since May is as follows:

### The External Works

Following the completion of the new cladding on the front of the Museum a new sign is in place for the 'Carriage Works Museum' in keeping with the Rail Story theme used throughout the Ingrow site. A second sign has been installed on the railway side of the Museum encouraging passengers to alight at Ingrow to visit the Museums.

### Wall Displays

We have made substantial progress on placing new displays of railwayana in the form of signs, totems and posters on the recently re-cladded 3 bays of wall space. We started with three local area themes one for each bay covering Keighley, Bradford, and Leeds and West Yorkshire. With the upgrade of the Museum a number of signs were taken into the workshop for attention, these were cleaned, and the poster frames were re-varnished or repainted ready for redisplay. At our recent Chairman's Day event we asked for feedback on how far we had got with developing these themes. The comments received were largely supportive and we will continue with this style of display and clearer interpretation as the refurbishment programme progresses.



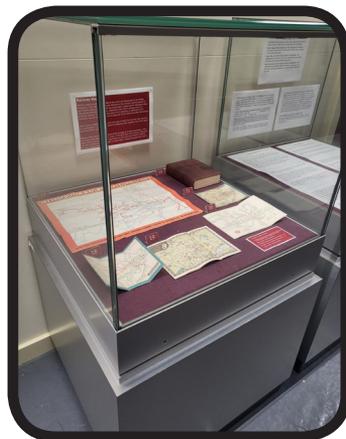
## Inside the Museum - *Alexandra Stockdale-Haley*

In addition to the refurbishment to the wall displays, we have also been working on using our new cabinet displays.

**Cabinets** - VCT were fortunate enough to receive second-hand display cabinets from the National Science and Media Museum and all in good condition. Not only does this benefit us from a display perspective, but it also highlights the importance of sustainability in the museum sector. Our old/existing cabinets have served us well for many years, having come from the National Railway Museum originally, but just like anything else, there is a shelf life. Our new cabinets will be better for preservation of the objects that are displayed in them, and we aim to add more efficient monitoring systems for factors such as light and humidity levels, which will enhance this aspect. Dismantled and transported by a team of volunteers to VCT and re-erected in the Museum these newer cabinets give us a more modern appearance than the existing cabinets and at a fraction of the price of buying brand new models.

**Cabinet Displays** - New displays in the cabinets are yet to be completed, but some changes have been made in the interim. Our lovely carriage model has been moved to the carriage prints display, as a way to complement the story of passenger travel (which will be a much bigger theme in future phases of museum redevelopment). The locomotive model has been put back in our locomotives display, to the same effect.

One of the stories of passenger travel that we have always been keen to highlight is the railway involvement in the standardisation of time. To allow this, we have moved our timetable display into a bigger cabinet with some of our lovely clocks.



# Inside the Museum - *Alexandra Stockdale-Haley*

Other new smaller cabinet displays include tributes to the late Bill Black, a map display, and signalling. Expect these smaller displays to move more frequently, once we have decided on the types of objects we would like to move out of storage and into public viewing!



New Cabinets already in use - Photos: Paul Holroyd/Bob Sprot

**Walkway Signage** - We have also been working on new display boards for our central walkway, which tell the stories and historical information of our carriage fleet. The existing boards have served a great purpose up until now, but after many years of wear and tear, it is time for something fresh. A prototype new display has been tested thanks to John Brailsford Printers, and we hope to have all of these completed in the near future. The illustration shows a prototype of the new signage fitted temporarily below the existing description.



Prototype new carriage descriptive board (bottom) - Photo: Paul Holroyd

# Inside and Outside the Museum

- *Alexandra Stockdale-Haley*

**Walkway Foot Flaps** - We have renewed the largest foot flaps into a lighter and more manageable form allowing our visitors to continue to access our carriages in the Museum.



New lightweight foot flaps for visitor access to carriages - Photo: Paul Holroyd

**Gardening** - For a number of years the area outside the front of the Museum has been resplendent with flower baskets and border plants. Our volunteer Susan Stephenson has cared for this area superbly, and recently she has enlisted the help of a friend and new volunteer Chris Bassett to assist in keeping on top of encroaching foliage. This will further improve the appeal of the area immediately in front of the building.



Gardening activity - Volunteer Chris Bassett at work - Photo: Susan Stephenson

# Workshop and Carriage Update- *Trevor England*

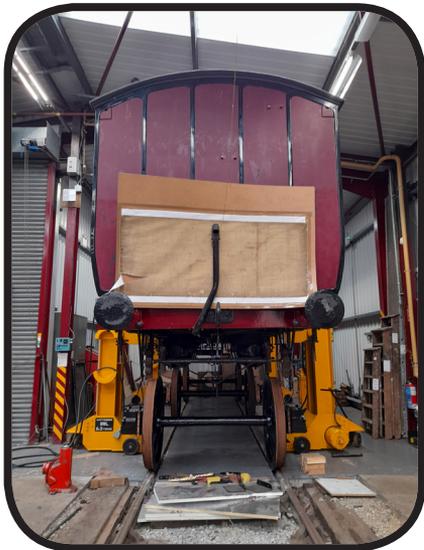
## Midland Railway 6 Wheel Composite No.358

Work continues to be carried out by Stuart Mellin and Ian Wild on the fabrics for the first class compartment and Lowbridge Upholstery are now making some progress ready for fitting out the first class compartments. Chris Smith has completed the re-building of the axle boxes and on 29th June the vehicle was placed back on its wheels. This was followed by a hand-shunting move by six volunteer to move the carriage into the main workshop area. Progress on fitting the gas lighting components on the roof, the re-instating of the brake gear, and fitting the springs can now begin as the next stages of this overhaul.

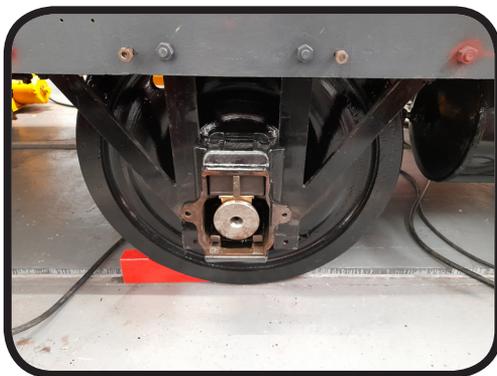
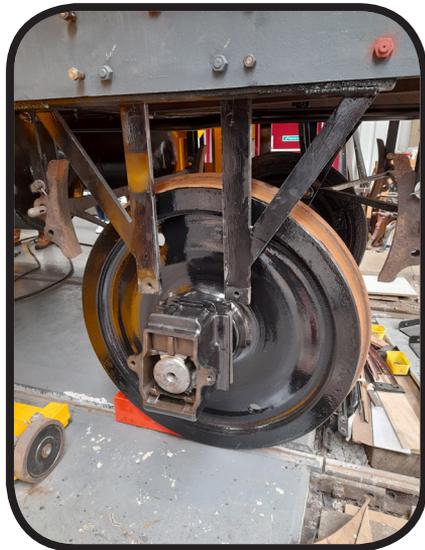


Midland Wheelsets prepared and ready to be fitted to the carriage Photo: Paul Holroyd

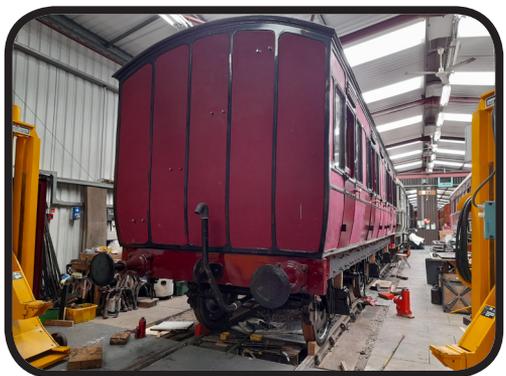
# Workshop and Carriage Update- Trevor England



Wheelsets under the Midland Body and Underframe - Photo: Paul Holroyd



Midland Close up of Axle boxes in place  
- Photo: Paul Holroyd



The Midland Carriage with wheelsets  
attached and moved - Photo: Paul Holroyd

# Workshop and Carriage Update- *Trevor England*

## Southern Railway Chatham Brake No.3554

The repaint of this carriage into Southern Railway malachite green in time for its centenary in 2024 is continuing to make progress. The second side is now being progressed and half of this side has been 'rubbed down' ready for the grey undercoat. The upgrade of some of the interior woodwork is being carried out by Norman Overend to compensate for the wear and tear after a number of years on display and in intensive use on the KWVR during the Covid period. The Oxenhope end bogie springs are being changed and the original ones can then be sent away for overhaul. Keighley end springs can then be exchanged in the future. The brake cylinder at this end still requires an overhaul before the carriage can be offered for vintage train service.



Chatham being prepared for repainting - Photo: Bob Sprot

## Metropolitan Third No. 465

This carriage had a full inspection by the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway Carriage and Wagon Department and a small amount of work carried out before it went into service on the Vintage Trains. This included a seat base having a new section of moquette fitted by Dave Carr. A number of door and interior screw fittings were re-tightened, axle boxes topped up with new oil, and all door locks checked.

# Locomotives Update - *Bob Sprot*

## Sir Berkeley

Sir Berkeley is being 'run in' at Middleton and has performed well so far. As always, the engine is a firm favourite with crews and is always polished to perfection when in service. On 30th July, it was steamed as a replacement for failed Brookes No 1 and ran the afternoon service. Providing all goes to plan, it is intended that the engine will be made available for hire from next year. The locomotive is an elderly Victorian machine and we are very much aware that it is unlikely to pass a full BR style fitness to run examination suitable for a 25mph line hauling several Mk 1 coaches. We will be making potential hirers aware of this and recommending they come and inspect the engine before hiring. Nevertheless, it can, and does, perform very well on short runs and in station limits and we believe it will prove as popular as ever.



Sir Berkeley working at Moor Road, Middleton on 29 July - Photo: Middleton Railway

## Bellerophon

Work continues on replacing girder stays in the firebox area of the boiler. The boiler needs lifting and this will be done once workshop space is available and will allow the engine to be pulled outside to remove the boiler. Trevor England and Dave Carr visited Foxfield in July and discussed progress with Foxfield CME Matt Healey. It is still hoped to be able to steam the engine in 2024 for its 150th anniversary.

**Bellerophon Model** The latest news from KR Models is that the 00 Gauge model of Bellerophon is expected to be released during September of this year.

# Events and Publicity - *Bob Sprot*

## Flying Scotsman

The visit of Flying Scotsman to the KWVR took place during the month of May. For five days at the start of the month the locomotive was positioned in Ingrow yard alongside the VCT Museum. This enabled visitors to have planned cab access to the locomotive. We were extremely busy during this period as we partnered the railway by providing the basic catering needs for visitors as well as allowing the use of our new toilet facilities. In the five-day period over 2,500 people visited us, which is more than our usual total for a peak month and included 350 scouts and their families in a 3-hour period one evening! We were also very pleased that towards the end of the month when the locomotive was in service on the KWVR trains we again had above average visitation. This helped boost our sales from a largely family market of ice cream, confectionery, soft drinks, children's lines and gifts.

## Vintage Trains 2023

Vintage trains ran on the Worth Valley every weekend from 22 July to the 20 August. VCT were represented by Metropolitan 9 compartment third No.465 still in its Railway Children livery.



The KWVR 2023 Vintage Train including Metropolitan No 465 approaching Oxenhope on 29 July  
Photo: John Sagar



Metropolitan 465 with the Vintage Train at Oxenhope on July 29 and being serenaded by the Queensbury Brass Band - Photo: John Sagar

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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)