



Vintage Carriages Trust

Carriage Chronicle

News for Members: August 2024



- Notice of AGM 2024
- Chairman's Day Report 2024
- Museum Refurbishment-Completing Phase 2
- Vintage Trains and Filming

Welcome to the August 2024 'Carriage Chronicle' Members' Update - *Bob Sprot*

Welcome to the August 2024 'Carriage Chronicle'. This issue gives details of our forthcoming AGM, reports on a very successful Chairman's Day event held in June, and outlines the further progress we have made on Phase 2 of our Museum refurbishment now nearing completion.

Our Metropolitan carriages have been in action over the last few weeks, partly on a filming assignment on the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway (KWVR), and partly with Metropolitan 9 Compartment No 465 featuring during the Vintage Train season on the railway.

Finally, there are details of our workshop activities, including progress on both the Chatham and the Midland carriages, a report on the boiler overhaul of Bellerophon, and an article on the work of our Collections Team.



Revised Museum Front Display- Photo: Paul Holroyd

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Front cover: Our 3 Metropolitan Carriages leaving for Filming Photo: John Astley

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 - Mrs M Cain, Mr K Fullard, Mr S Wild and Mrs A Yewdall.

Sadly, we have been notified of the death of the following Members - Mr D Mark, Mr R Marshall and Miss Alison Lockyear. Alison together with her late sister Margaret were great supporters of the work of the Trust and the KWVR, and Alison was often the KWVR Guard on our vintage trains. The Chairman, Trustees, Staff and Volunteers would like to send their deepest sympathies to all their families and friends.

Chris Smyth Ashes Scattering - On 29th June the ashes of our late Chairman and Vice President were scattered in a ceremony with a steam engine on the KWVR. VCT hosted a buffet reception afterwards in the front of the workshop for those attending the event.

Legacies - The Trust continues to be very fortunate in being 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, which will give you further details if you wish to consider leaving items to the Trust.



Metropolitan 9 Compartment Third on 2023 KWVR Vintage Train - Photo: Bob Sprot

Notice of Annual General Meeting 2024

- Dave Carr

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

Notice is hereby given, that the Annual General Meeting of the Vintage Carriages Trust for 2024 will be held at 2.30pm on Saturday 9th November 2024 at The Civic Centre, North Street, Keighley, BD21 3RZ

The Agenda for the Annual General Meeting shall be:

1 Apologies for absence

2 Minutes of the previous AGM held on Saturday 11th November 2023

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, Roster and Publicity g. 'Rail Story' Team

7 Adoption of Annual Report & Accounts for the year ending
31st March 2024

8 Election of Trustees

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 2024

- *Dave Carr*

For Information: Those Trustees who may offer themselves for re-election this year are Ms S Seabrook, Mrs S Astley, Ms A Stockdale-Haley and Mr D N Carr.

FURTHER NOMINATIONS FOR TRUSTEES FROM WITHIN THE WIDER MEMBERSHIP ARE WELCOMED, AND FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON NOMINATIONS AND PROCEDURES 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 Sables.

D N Carr (Hon. Secretary) - 5th August 2024

Tel: 01759 304176

E-mail: d.carr388@btinternet.com



Chatham Carriage No 3554 in new Malachite Livery -

Photo: Paul Holroyd

Chairman's Day - Saturday 8 June 2024

- *Bob Sprot*

Trevor England was pleased to host our annual event this year on Saturday 8 June to inform members and guests of the progress made by the Vintage Carriages Trust during the last twelve months. We were delighted that 70 members and invited guests attended for what we hope was an enjoyable day for all.

After a relaxing start over tea/coffee and biscuits, guests were able to appreciate the excellent work to date on the refurbishment of the Museum, as well as the exciting work being undertaken in the workshop on the Chatham and Midland carriages. (See below in the Workshop report)

There followed a number of interesting short talks given by our Chairman, Trustees and working members as follows:

- Chairman Trevor England detailed the work that had taken place on the refurbishment of the Museum. Paul Holroyd explained the specific themes chosen for each bay, the choice of signage and other artefacts for display, and the role of the important and eye catching interpretative display boards.
- Jonathan Yewdall gave guests the general background on his work in preparing grant applications for the Trust, and specifically the liaison with the newly created Museum Development North, and early conversations with the Arts Council.
- Bob Sprot informed guests on the excellent sales success of the Shop over the last year, but warned of more testing times for the remainder of 2024.
- A summary of the progress in the workshop on the Chatham and Midland carriages was given by Trevor England, who also announced that the KWVR Vintage Train in July and August would include the Metropolitan 9 compartment third No 465. Furthermore, he confirmed that our Bulleid carriage No1469 was remaining at the Embsay and Bolton Abbey Railway until at least March 2025.



Chairman's Day - Saturday 8 June 2024

- *Bob Sprot*

- Ian Smith updated the meeting on the successful running of our locomotive Sir Berkeley at Middleton and its recent visit to Beamish. Ian also explained the further exploratory work being undertaken on the boiler of Bellerophon at Foxfield.
- Dave Carr speculated on the date for the next VCT Museum Accreditation process to begin. This is dependent on the Arts Council, and delays are in place for many Museums due to catching up after the Covid pandemic. Dave also confirmed the date of the 2024 AGM of the Trust which will be held on the 9th November.
- The Chairman concluded the presentations by thanking everyone for their attendance.

A Buffet lunch was set out in the rearward extension of the workshop and enjoyed by all. As always our thanks are due to Ian Wild and Jillian Foster for providing and serving the buffet, and to our Trustee Sheila Seabrook for funding the cost of the event.

A number of guests then had a round trip train ride on the KWVR to complete their day.



Vice Chairman Ian Smith addressing guests at Chairman's Day - Photo: Peter Yewdall

Museum Refurbishment Update

- *Bob Sprot and Paul Holroyd*

Initial feedback on Phase 1

The three wall bays completed last year as part of Phase 1 of our refurbishment programme have met with considerable approval from both our members and other visitors to the Museum. We have strong visual evidence of our visitors spending more time viewing the completed walls and reading the interpretation boards than was previously the case.

New Displays for Phase 2

This has encouraged us to continue with the similar format of signage, artefacts in small display cases, and interpretation for the next four wall bays. These are almost complete as follows:

Bay 1 (nearest the shop door) - The history of VCT to date including reference to some of the people who built up the Trust.

Bay 2 - The evolution of railway carriages from the small four-wheeler through to modern high-speed trains.

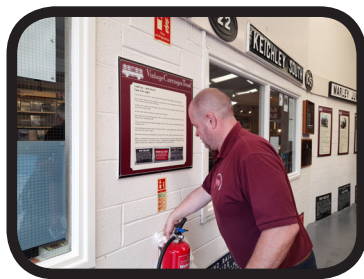
Bay 3 - Railway carriage construction.

Bay 4 - Stations including signage, artefacts, and details of a typical historical station staff.

The same small team that completed Phase 1 under the guidance of Chairman Trevor England and comprising Chris Smith, Paul Holroyd and Norman Overend have worked on the installation of signage and other artefacts on these bays. Paul Holroyd has continued his great work in providing appropriate and interesting interpretation boards for these displays



Dismantling former displays - Trevor England,
Chris Smith and Norman Overend
Photo: Paul Holroyd



Chris Smith completing Museum Front Display
Photo: Paul Holroyd

Museum Refurbishment Update

- *Bob Sprot and Paul Holroyd*

The Front Museum Area - Shop Side

We decided to include the front area of the Museum alongside the shop as part of this latest phase of refurbishment. Old signs were removed from the wall, and Chris Smith then repainted the lower section. The fire extinguisher was relocated to the middle of the wall. The easel stand interpreting the Mayfield Clock was removed and the interpretation renewed as a wall display. Paul Holroyd created new interpretation boards for our three locomotives, and these now sit alongside Lord Mayor. Finally, some general heavy cast iron signs have been positioned at the bottom of the wall again with an interpretive display board.

Phase 3 Development

We are taking a short pause before starting on the next phase of the refurbishment of the Museum. This will be Phase 3 and will see us begin refurbishment work on the other side of the Museum. There are a number of bays where we can re-clad easily, and a number that will be difficult due to the large cabinets currently in situ. These cabinets, whilst still allowing us to give an adequate display of smaller items, were obtained many years ago secondhand from the National Railway Museum and are now getting towards the end of their effective life. Progress on this side of the Museum will also be dependent on the Trust having the funds available to complete the job, especially as the renewal of the large cabinets will be expensive.



Stations Bay Complete - Photo: Bob Sprot

Museum Refurbishment Update

- Bob Sprot and Paul Holroyd



New Interpretation for Carriage Model -
Photo; Paul Holroyd



Carriage Development Bay under construction
Photo Paul Holroyd



Locomotive Interpretation Panels -
Photo: Bob Sprot

Workshop Update - Trevor England

Southern Railway Chatham No 3554

After many months of rebuilding doors and window frames, this carriage has now received the final coats of gloss paint. The sign writer has completed his work of lettering and numbering the carriage after researching the photographs of the time. The final coats of varnish have been applied and the freshly polished brass fittings have been reinstated. The bulkhead behind the handbrake has been strengthened and the guard's area repainted. The interior has received a much-needed refresh and one luggage rack that required immediate attention has been restrung.



Sign Writer Martin Creek at work 1
Photo: Richard Jones



Chatham Sign Writing 2
Photo: Bob Sprot

Midland Railway 6 Wheel Composite No358

The seating in the first class compartments completes the work carried out by Lowbridge Upholstery in all four compartments, and work can now focus on the other areas of restoration required. The doors are now receiving final touches to their interior, and the handles made robust enough to stand the use required, once the carriage is fit to carry passengers again for the first time in preservation. The vacuum system needs to be made fit for purpose and this will require a further lift with the jacks to have the new pipe installed. Once this has been completed, a programme of levelling the doors will be required after all the movement that has been necessary over the last few years.

The brake gear and springs can then be fitted, the roof painted, and the gas lamps and pipework fitted. Then there is the painting and lining out to do. This year has seen some real milestones on the restoration achieved, but there is still a year or two left before we can have the pleasure of riding in the vehicle.

Workshop and Carriage Update - Trevor England

September Museum Shunt

The first week in September should see a shunt in the Museum that will allow full access to the completed Chatham carriage. This will allow the sound system to be available for our visitors to enjoy.

KWVR October Mini Steam Gala

Three of our carriages are due to feature in the mini KWVR Steam Gala planned for early October. The third class Metropolitan 9 compartment carriage will be working out of Oxenhope on the Friday. This will be on a pre-booked train and details will be available on the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway website. The Chatham carriage and the first class Metropolitan carriage will be working out of the Vintage Carriages Trust Museum on the Saturday and Sunday. Timings are still to be arranged, so at the time of writing we do not know if these are shuttles between Ingrow and Keighley, or if there will be the opportunity to travel the full line.

However we hope this will give members the opportunity to travel in the Chatham carriage in its centenary year and now resplendent in the sunshine livery of the 1940's which it has never carried in preservation. Furthermore, the Metropolitan first class carriage will be having its first outing in passenger service since the delayed Railway Children event back in 2021. Please check the KWVR website for further details nearer the time.



Chatham Renewed Luggage Rack - Photo: Ian Wild

Locomotive Report - Ian Smith

Sir Berkeley

Our Manning Wardle Sir Berkeley is proving to be a little cantankerous at present. On return from Beamish, a steam leak was identified as a blown packing and a new one produced and fitted, with the engine re-entering service shortly afterwards. However, the packing has failed another two times since and Middleton is now looking towards other methods of solving the steam leak problem. Old engines have a habit of surprising us, and Sir Berkeley is no exception to this, but the engine will soon be up and running again. There has been an invitation for Sir Berkeley to attend a railway extension opening ceremony in 2025 and we will let members know details later.



Sir Berkeley at Middleton Photo: Ian Smith

Bellerophon

Bellerophon has been the subject of some correspondence between VCT and Foxfield Railway recently due to delays in the overhaul schedule. We are pleased to announce that we have reached a satisfactory outcome, with the boiler now having been removed from the frames and transported to a base at Cromford in Derbyshire for the repair work to continue. VCT Trustees will also visit the premises in due course to be able to monitor the work that is being undertaken. The boiler will be examined thoroughly and a schedule for the necessary work complete with costings provided for approval by VCT Trustees. In the meantime, the locomotive's chassis remains at Foxfield and this requires very little work, as much was done during the last few years of the engine's last working period.

Bellerophon OO Gauge Model

The model has now gone into production following various amendments to the original samples. KR Models expect stocks to be available late in 2024.

The VCT Collections Team - *Bob Sprot*

Role of the Team - Over 5 years ago the Trustees and our then Museum Mentor Anthony Coulls set up a Collections Team (formerly known as Curatorial) as a sub group of the full VCT Committee with an agreed annual budget. Under the Chairmanship of Trevor England the team includes those Trustees with Museum experience, our Archivist and a number of other key volunteers.

The objectives of the team are to review our existing collections whether on display or stored, consider on a quarterly basis recently donated items, which then may be either added to the collection, resold or returned to the donor, and to recommend to the Trustees both accessions and possible disposals. The team will also undertake the updating of existing displays in the Museum. A final specific objective was that this group would be the designers and implementation team for the Museum Refurbishment programme.

Latest Projects - Obviously as widely reported in recent editions of the Carriage Chronicle the Museum project is well underway with attention turning to planning Phase 3. Other projects that are being undertaken currently are:

- The restoration of our large nineteenth century Bradshaw map currently on display in the Museum and which is showing considerable signs of wear.
- The refurbishment of the degraded 'Waverley' carriage roof board so that it can be displayed at the top of one of the newly re-cladded bays.



Bradshaw Map to be restored -
Photo: Bob Sprot

Events - Bob Sprot / Trevor England

KWVR Diesel Gala - June 2024

The annual KWVR Diesel Gala took place from 20 - 23 June. Although this did not feature any of our VCT carriages, we enjoyed both increased visitor numbers and more importantly increased sales of books and dvd's on diesels!

Metropolitan Carriages on a Filming Assignment

On Monday 3 June, our three Metropolitan carriages were used on a filming assignment on the KWVR. Further details of the film will be available on the KWVR website later this year.

Metropolitan 9 Compartment Third No465 on KWVR Vintage Trains

The Third class 9-compartment Metropolitan carriage has been in service again on the KWVR Vintage Trains along with some of the Lancashire and Yorkshire carriages and the North Eastern saloon. This is a repeat of the consist of the vintage train from last year. At the end of this period of use, it will remain at Oxenhope until the proposed early October gala.



Our Metropolitan Carriage No 465 on KWVR Vintage Train- Photo: John Sagar

Bulleid S1469 at Embsay

Our Bulleid carriage has seen occasional use on the Embsay and Bolton Abbey Steam Railway.



Bellerophon Boiler going to Cromford. Photo: John Eastwood

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