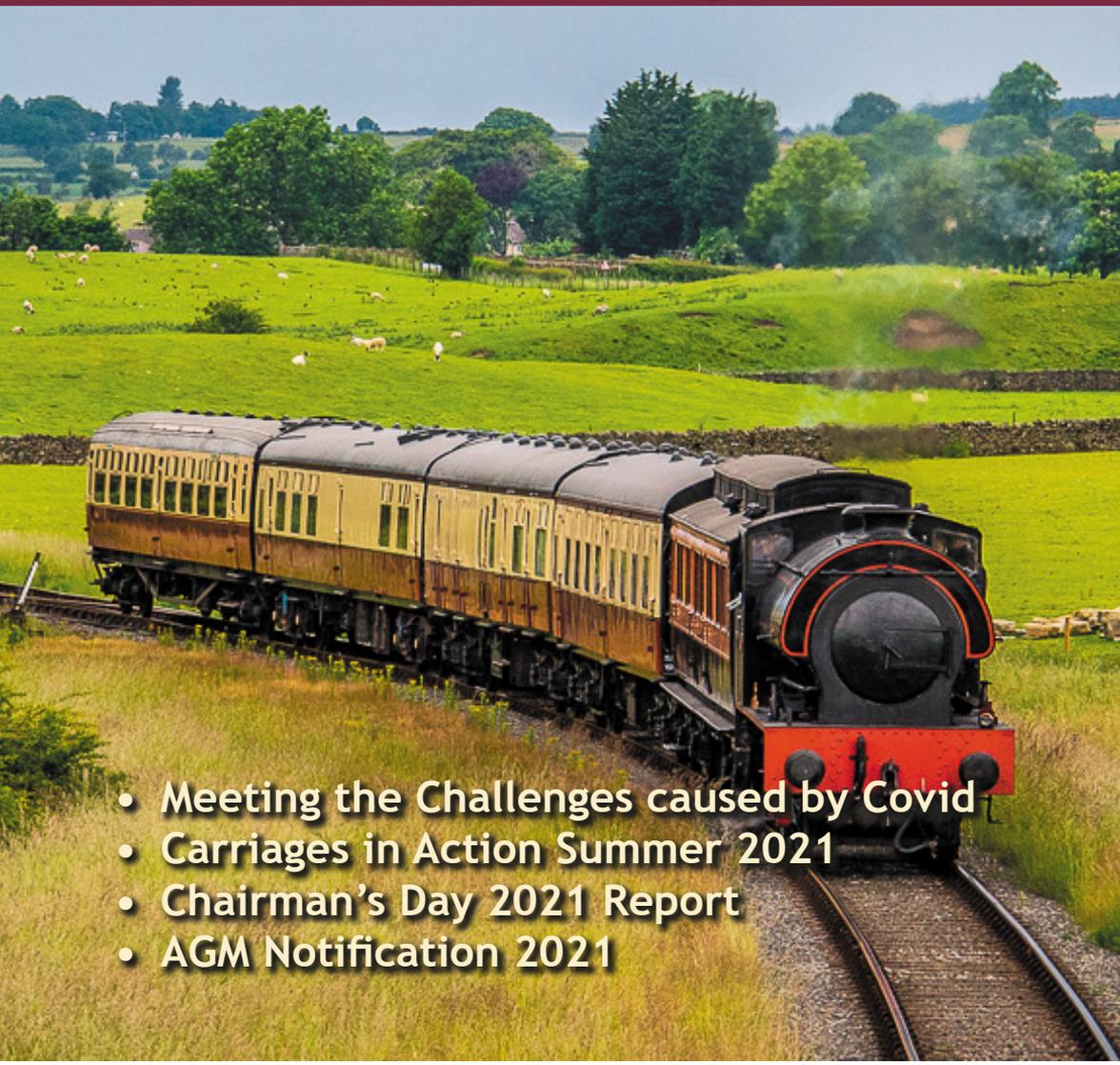




Vintage Carriages Trust

# *Carriage Chronicle*

News for Members: August 2021



- Meeting the Challenges caused by Covid
- Carriages in Action Summer 2021
- Chairman's Day 2021 Report
- AGM Notification 2021

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

Welcome to the August 2021 'Carriage Chronicle'. The really good news is that we have been able to enjoy the benefits of having the museum, shop and workshop open again for the last four months. As a result this issue allows us to update you on our current restoration projects and trading activities. Three of our carriages have been in traffic in recent weeks and details are included below. We are also able to report on Chairman's Day including a summary of how we have met the challenges to VCT caused by Covid. Also there are initial details of our plans for the 2021 AGM.



VCT Metropolitan Carriages passing Ingrow. Photo: Paul Holroyd

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Front cover: Bulleid S1469 on the Dales Diner at Embsay. Photo : Paul Livsey

## Membership Matters - *Bob Sprot/Chris Smyth*

**Membership** - Many thanks once again to all members who have renewed their subscriptions and given financial donations to VCT this year in what have been difficult times. We can report that membership numbers are almost at 2019/20 levels. We are pleased to welcome to VCT the following new Members: Mr. S Bradley, Mrs. L Dale, Mr J Hodgson, Mr. W Pearce, Mr. H Richardson, Mr. T Rickerby, Mr. C Rickerby, Mrs. C Shaw, Mrs. B Steadman, Mr. J Yule, and as new Staff Lauren Brundell and Richard Jones and as Volunteers Megan Wilkinson, Peter Yewdall and Ian Goater.

Sadly we also have to report the deaths over the last eighteen months of a number of our Members: Mr. K Cahill, Mr. I Campbell, Rev. C Carter, Mr. J Doran, Mr. B Egan, Mr. N Hunt, Mr. M Johnson, Mrs. A Kinghorn, Mr. C Maw, Mr. D Nelson, Mr. R Phizackerley, Mr. W Salt, Mr. G Scurr, Mr. A Sutton, Mr. N Thornley, Mr. A Walker, Mr. R Webster, and Mr. D Wilkinson. The Chairman and Trustees would like to extend their sympathies to all of their families and friends.

**Legacies** - Railway Collections - Over the years we have stressed the benefits of having a will and we have a legacy leaflet available on request. However often our railway collections are not mentioned and our family and friends tend not to give these any great value. Please consider these as well when you next update your will.



VCT Legacy Leaflet Photo: VCT Collection

## Notice of Annual General Meeting 2021 - *Dave Carr*

1. Notice is hereby given, that the seventh Annual General Meeting of the Vintage Carriages Trust as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation will be held at 2.00pm on Saturday 13th November 2021 at the Bronte Hotel, Crossroads, BD22 8RA. **THESE ARRANGMENTS ARE ONLY PROVISIONAL AND ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON THE PREVAILING CONDITIONS WITH REGARD TO COVID-19.**

The Agenda for the Annual General Meeting shall be:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on Saturday 14th November 2020
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 2021
8. Election of Trustees: Mrs S Astley, Ms S Seabrook, Messrs D N Carr & C G Smyth 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.

**NOMINATIONS FOR TRUSTEES:** Those Trustees who may offer themselves for re-election this year are: Mrs S Astley, Ms S Seabrook, Messrs D N Carr & C G Smyth. Further nominations from within the wider membership will be welcomed.

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

D N Carr (Hon. Secretary) - August 2021  
Tel: 01759 304176  
E-mail: d.carr388@btinternet.com

# Chairman's Day 2021 Report - *Bob Sprot*

It was a pleasure to be able to welcome Members, Staff and Volunteers back to Chairman's Day on Saturday 14th August 2021 following the cancellation of the event in 2020.

46 attendees were welcomed into the VCT museum by Chairman Trevor England and after morning refreshments and a chance to look around a short programme of presentations was made as follows:

Challenges with dealing with COVID restrictions - Bob Sprot

Progress on the Midland Carriage - Ian Wild

Retail Report and Front of House - Bob Sprot

Future Workshop projects - Trevor England

Locomotive progress - Ian Smith

Railway Children anniversary & filming - Trevor England

Most of the content of these presentations is detailed separately in this issue of the Carriage Chronicle.



Chris Smith working on Midland 358 Photo: John Sagar

# Chairman's Day 2021 Report - *Bob Sprot*

## Museum Development

An excellent presentation was also given by Alexandra Stockdale-Haley who outlined the main development opportunities for the VCT Museum.

This included progress to date on the creation and installation of the new large display boards in our cabinets which have been well received. The next project will be a renewal and update of the carriage display boards on the museum walkway which are now showing signs of wear.

Alexandra then outlined the approach that we will be making to obtaining grants to assist us in updating the Museum and widening its appeal to younger and diverse audiences. Alexandra has been working with our fellow volunteer member Jonathan Yewdall on this approach and we are grateful for their hard work to date. This approach will have five key strands:

1. Recladding the museum walls and redefining the displays into recognisable stories.
2. The purchase of new display cabinets to replace the life expired current fixtures.
3. The upgrade of the toilet facilities.
4. Improving Access and providing opportunities for visitors with hidden disabilities.
5. The overhaul of the Trust's Diesel Railbus to become a working 'Mobile classroom' to support the further development of the Rail Story project.



Photo: Alexandra Stockdale-Haley

# Chairman's Day 2021 Report - *Bob Sprot*

This was followed by a Buffet lunch organised by Ian Wild and assisted by Gillian Foster and sponsored by Sheila Seabrook to whom we give grateful thanks. After lunch a number of delegates were able to enjoy a round trip ride on our Metropolitan Brake Third carriage No 427 which together with our 9 Compartment Metropolitan Third No 465 were part of the weekend KWVR Vintage Train service.



Members enjoying the buffet lunch Photo: Alexandra Stockdale-Haley



Members about to enjoy a ride up the line Photo: Jack Stockdale-Haley

# Meeting the Challenges and Impacts of Covid - *Bob Sprot*

What have been the key challenges with which we have had to contend at VCT over the last 18 months as a result of the Covid pandemic? We have selected the five key issues we faced and how we hope we have overcome them.

**Health and Safety** - Our most important challenge has been to ensure that the VCT Museum, Workshop and Shop have been as safe as possible for everyone. This started back in May 2020 with the writing of detailed risk assessments for a return to operating the VCT building. The outcomes of this were the purchase of large quantities of social distancing signage, sanitisers, masks and gloves and a programme of daily cleaning for all surfaces deemed 'at risk'. In 2020 this meant a 2 - 3 hour daily sanitising regime! As further knowledge and vaccinations have emerged this has now been reduced to a 25 minute routine.

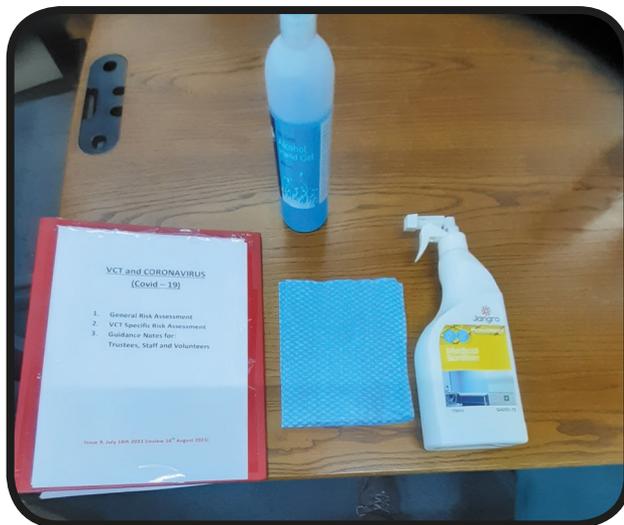
**Practicalities** - We have closed and reopened the building three times since March 2020, which involved when closed external and internal security checks by volunteers. Once we re-opened we have also had to contend with the pleasant but challenging problem of what to do with large donations of books and magazines. Undoubtedly these have boosted our sales although in turn we have had to resolve considerable storage and sorting problems.

**Assisting the KWVR** - In the first lockdown and thanks to the ingenuity of our CME Chris Smith we were able to house securely in the museum three diesel locomotives from the KWVR trapped north of the dismantled Bridge 11 at In-grow. This process has continued for the last year where to assist the railway we have had various rolling stock in our museum and workshop. Conversely this has meant the use of our own compartment carriages on some service trains and as a result we have carried out a series of complicated shunting days at VCT. (See separate article in June issue)

# Meeting the Challenges and Impacts of Covid - Bob Sprot

**Staff, Volunteers and Visitors** - Our staff and volunteers have responded magnificently to the constantly changing methods we have had to employ to ensure we meet our health and safety challenges. Obviously our visitor numbers were decimated in 2020 and early 2021 where instead of welcoming around 15,000 people a year this was reduced to just over 2,000 visitors who to our benefit were mainly railway enthusiasts prepared to purchase items from us. The good news is that numbers are increasing again in 2021 although not yet back to 2019 levels.

**Financial** - At the start of the lockdown in 2020 the financial stability of the Trust, although never in question, was nevertheless high on our agenda. Through the benefits of furlough income and closure grants from central government obtained by our Treasurer Paula Bowker, a limit on our actual expenditure, together with the financial generosity of you our members, the Trust is currently in a very sound financial position. This means that we have been able to restart our 'stalled' key projects including the restoration of our Midland 6 Wheel carriage and the overhaul at Middleton of Sir Berkeley. However, and despite good shop sales since April this year, the immediate future remains unpredictable and we will continue to be cautious in safeguarding our financial resources.

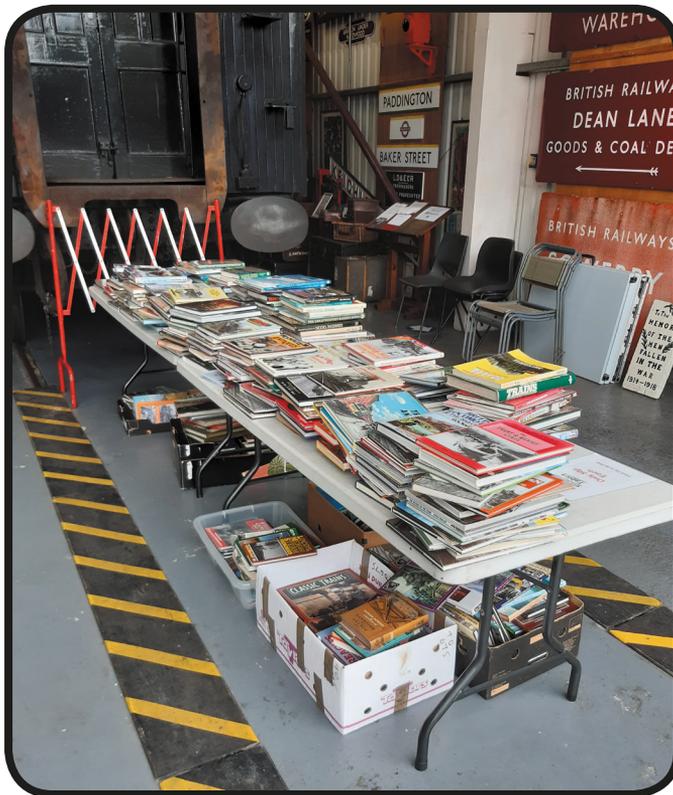


'Essential Tools' :Risk Assessments, Cloth and Sanitiser  
Photo: Bob Sprot

## Trading Update - Bob Sprot/Chris Smyth

**Donations** - VCT Members and Friends have been extremely active during the last lockdown and clearly a tremendous amount of spring cleaning has taken place! The evidence is a huge and welcome surge in donations of books and magazines. Please call in and take a look as we have some real bargains for sale. Further donations particularly of model railway items and railwayana are always welcome.

**Trading in the Shop** - Sales in the shop have grown steadily since we reopened on 12th April especially after the KWVR trains started to stop at In-grow in late May. A conservative sales budget was set for the year and this is likely to be achieved with ease assuming no further disruption due to further lockdowns.



Great Value Book Sale! Photo : Bob Sprot

# Carriages in Use - *Bob Sprot/Richard Jones*

## Bulleid at Emsbay

Our 1950 Bulleid Open Third Carriage No S1469 continues to perform well at the Emsbay and Bolton Abbey Steam Railway. It is in regular weekly use on the 'Dales Dining' train where it is part of a five coach rake which serves breakfasts, lunches and afternoon teas and occasionally special evening trains such as 'Murder/Mystery'. The carriage is planned to remain at Emsbay for the remainder of this year.

## Metropolitans 427 & 465 at the Keighley and Worth Valley

Metropolitan 7 Compartment Brake Third No 427 and Metropolitan 9 Compartment Third No 465 have been part of the KWVR Vintage Train set for 6 weekends in late July which culminated in a Railway Children weekend on 28- 30 August. Brake 427 was in use with its recently renewed moquette while No 465 has been resplendent in the livery it wore in the famous Railway Children film of 1970.



Metropolitan Carriages at Keighley on KWVR Vintage Trains Photo: Bob Sprot

## Workshop Update - Trevor England

**Midland Railway 358** - Since the body was reunited with the underframe the securing bolts have been fitted. The roof canvas has been fitted and the gutters and end beading reinstated. The replacement gas light fittings are in the process of manufacture, and the ventilators taken out of storage. New piping on the roof will be required once these are in place. The electric wires can then be fitted in to take the LED lights to give the effect as in the Great Northern Railway carriages. The new windows are in the process of fitting. Shortly we will be lifting the body and underframe together to remove the wheelsets. This will allow them to go for tyre turning, and the axle boxes to be overhauled.

**Chatham S3554S** - This carriage has been involved in the Covid recovery train services on the railway for over twelve months. It was then used together with Metropolitan brake 427 on the recent filming assignment, before returning to the museum. A great deal of cleaning and bottom end painting was carried out by Chris Smith to bring the carriage back to the standards we require for museum display. It may be used again in December for the Elf Express trains.

**DRB E79962** - After a long period of not seeing much progress we are planning to move this vehicle over the pit in the workshop. This will allow us to look at the known issues with the state of the brake discs on both axles. Until a solution can be found, and costs calculated, the restoration cannot begin. Having removed asbestos at considerable expense and assessed the state of the floor the only practical way forward is to look for grant assistance. We now need to put together a fully costed overhaul as the next step.



DRB entering Witham from Maldon in July 1958.  
Photo: VCT Archive

## Workshop Update - Trevor England

**PMV S1125S** - Having acquired this from the City of Wells support group two years ago we need to find space and time in the workshop to allow the doors and side panelling to be renewed. This will then give us additional storage space once it is secure.

**LMS M12066M** - Those visiting on Chairman's Day were surprised to see this vehicle in the workshop. When we took on the DRB in 2013 this vehicle was one of three others we considered. The condition of the two side by side possibly shows that the DRB is still likely to be a less costly restoration. The KWVR Carriage and Wagon Department are looking at the likely task to restore it back to working condition and we suggested that space in our workshop was available for this assessment. As the only complete one of only four of its type left it is a significant vehicle in carriage preservation. What a pity we don't have all the funds and facilities to preserve and restore such an iconic vehicle ourselves.



KWVR LMS Carriage and VCT DRB in our Workshop Photo: Richard Jones

## Locomotives Update - Ian Smith

**Sir Berkeley** - is now the main priority for the workshop team at Moor Road, on the Middleton Railway. New boiler tubes have been ordered and welding repairs commenced to the fusible plug holes in the firebox. These have been enlarged and new metal 'welded in' so that the new plugs can be manufactured and then fitted. The chassis has now been lowered back on to the wheels, the axle-boxes having also been 'fettled'. The outside frames are resplendent in maroon, lined red as per its Logan & Hemingway contractor's livery. Work has begun on the repainting into its historic L&H colours, which will be time consuming, but well worth the considerable efforts being made by the MRT paint team. The loco was very ornately lined out and will be once again, only the nameplate betraying the fact that she isn't in full L&H condition - but no-one wants to ditch those nameplates, which actually came from a sister loco some years ago.



Sir Berkeley back on its wheels with the lining started on the frames and the 2 tone wheels.

Photos:Robert Taggart

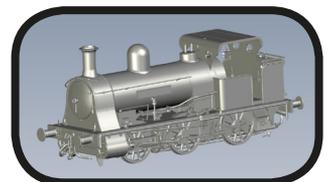


Repairs to the fusible plug holes in the firebox

The condition of **Bellerophon** is still being investigated at Foxfield and we hope to report progress next time.

### STOP PRESS !

An 00 Gauge model of Bellerophon is being produced by KR Models with availability still to be confirmed. However the pre order booking is now open. Please visit the following website:  
[www.krmodels.co.uk/bellerophon-oo](http://www.krmodels.co.uk/bellerophon-oo) for more details



CAD model.

Photos:KR Models

# Visitors and Volunteers

## Captain Tom Moore - Family Visit

In early July we were delighted to welcome to the Rail Story site, including the VCT Museum, Benjie and Georgia Ingram - Moore, the grandchildren of Captain Tom. They were accompanied by the Mayor of Keighley Julie Adams and her husband Chris and were hosted by VCT Vice Chairman Bob Sprot, the Chairman of BLS Keith Whitmore and Rail Story Education Office Matt Arnold.



Captain Tom Moore's Family Visit Photo: Matt Arnold

## Volunteers John Morris and Norman Overend

KWVR driver and VCT workshop volunteer John Morris is now the senior driver on the KWVR railway with over 50 years footplate experience and in 2018 drove the 50th Anniversary Reopening Train. Well done John!

Our VCT workshop volunteer Norman Overend has been busy improving the look of some of the external features of the VCT building, including painting our storage container, and he has also given the museum gates a much needed makeover.



VCT Volunteer Norman Overend and the newly painted VCT Container. Photo: Bob Sprot



VCT Volunteer and KWVR Senior Driver John Morris on board USA5820 Big Jim  
Photo: John Sagar

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The Trust's Membership records are included within this  
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