

# WEST SOMERSET STEAM RAILWAY TRUST

Welcome to issue No. 12 of the West Somerset Steam Railway Trust Newsletter.

The minutes of the latest West Somerset Steam Railway Trust maybe found on the WSSRT Web site <http://www.wssrt.co.uk/> along with information relating to the Latest News, Membership, Projects and Learning.

If you are unable to access the WSSRT Web site either e-mail the WSSRT via [info@wssrt.co.uk](mailto:info@wssrt.co.uk) or write to:

West Somerset Steam Railway Trust  
The Railway Station, Station Road  
Bishops Lydeard, Somerset, TA4 3BX

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Feedback on any of the reports would be most welcome.

The next Newsletter (No 13) is planned for Christmas 2019 Winter 2020. Relevant submissions are invited, including Member contributions, any time between now and the end of November beginning of December 2019.

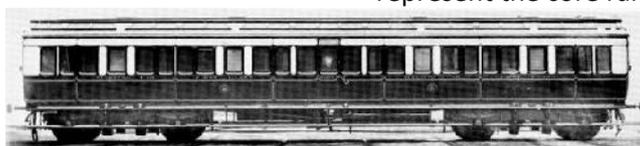
## Updated Trust Business Plan

This has now been finalised and reflects the latest discussions and decisions within the Board of Trustees with particular reference to support to the PLC both in financial terms and in relation to the skills of Trustees. The updated Plan is now on the website.

If you have any queries or questions then do please contact Steve Williams, Company Secretary at [steve@williamsemail.uk](mailto:steve@williamsemail.uk)

## Fundraising Plan

This is also been agreed by the Board but has obviously not been published for ‘Commercial in confidence’ reasons. A programme of work around applications to funds, internal fundraising within the railway and continuing requests for donations via the website represent the core range of activities. In



addition, the Trust is supporting the Association in relation to strategic fundraising for big projects as well as continuing to help the PLC financially where the resources exist, and it is within the Objects and Powers of the Board of Trustees to do so.

### **New Trustees**

Following a recent recruitment campaign, we are hopeful of gaining at least one new Trustee subject to mutual agreement. We continue to look for new Trustees and so if you or anyone else you know might be interested in joining the Steam Trust Board, then please do contact either:

Chris Austin, Chairman at [austinca2@googlemail.com](mailto:austinca2@googlemail.com) or

Steve Williams, Company Secretary at [steve@williamsemail.uk](mailto:steve@williamsemail.uk)

### **Gauge Museum Project**

We are making significant progress on three fronts. Firstly, the Education and Learning Programme being led by Helen Anson is now beginning to bear fruit. There are five school visits planned for June/July where we will be able to apply the Learning Offer in relation to heritage, history and local socio-economic events and materials for primary school age children. We are hopeful that the Learning Offer which has now been circulated to all primary schools in Somerset West and Taunton together with parts of Sedgemoor will be more fully taken up as part of the autumn curriculum.

Helen has done a splendid job in preparation for and implementing the Learning Offer which is also being taken forward in tandem with the Hinckley Point Community Engagement Project being led by Catherine Dance. An example of this is a collaborative approach with the Brewhouse Theatre in relation to their forthcoming production of the Railway Children where materials, costumes and other artefacts from the play

will go on display on the railway. Look out for details on the Trust website.

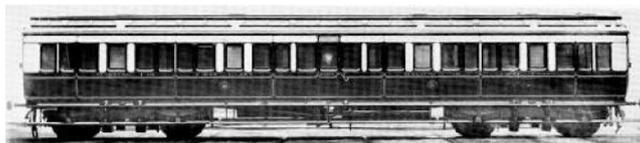
The second component of the project is the refurbishment and redesign of the Gauge Museum itself. Our external partners Smith and Jones have been working with us since April to put together the proposals and the new layout for the Museum. The Project Group is meeting monthly and will be firming up its preferred approach over the next 3 to 4 weeks. A particular focus will be on how we increase the display of the range of artefacts either owned or in the custody of the Trust so as to enhance the visitor experience and their understanding of the WSR and the wider railway network.

Finally, all of this provides an opportunity to and is a driver for, internal improvements within the Museum in terms of decoration and other aspects of the internal environment. We also need to look at future storage requirements. The range and extent of work to be undertaken will very much depend on prioritisation and affordability. Those things which are deemed be priorities, but which cannot be funded through the Project will be subject to further discussion by Trustees and separate fundraising initiatives.

### **Gauge Museum Project-Progress**

The Gauge Museum Project continues to make good progress against the project plan and timetable. Since the Report to the April Board, key developments have included:

- Successful contribution to Somerset Day on 11th May.
- Confirmation of Recruitment of 3 specialist Learning Assistants.
- Application of the first tranche expenditure from the indicative budget for materials and resources of £500 for learning session items.
- The initial visits by schools and other groups to the Railway some as a direct response to the Learning Offer letter and attachments and others in



conjunction with the Hinckley Point Project. We have at least 6 to 8 visits lined up for July and Helen Anson is working flat-out to prepare the resource materials to support these visits.

- A second meeting with Smith and Jones. We are now on Design 3 draft interpretation with an emerging firming up of configuration and content. The last Project Group meeting went through the Design 3 proposals in detail and we have just received Design 4 proposals. The narrative response to these latest ideas will be with Smith and Jones by the end of August.

As a result of the last Project Group meeting, members also agreed a draft programme for Winter works and redesign preparation. Some of the detail is still to be finalised but this gives the Board an overall sense of timeframe and actions required. In as far as is possible, the programme also reflects the latest understanding from the PLC as to when the railway will be open/closed in the period October 2019 to March 2020.

Expenditure against budget remains under control. Originally it was intended to approach the National Lottery Heritage Fund in May about the drawdown of the second tranche payment of £20,000. However, due to the relatively slow response of schools to the Learning Offer and the need to finalise work on redesign, this will be now be initiated in July.

One of the key issues facing the Project Group and the Trust as a whole will be the extent to which some of the infrastructure improvements discussed as part of the work up to the Project and those subsequently identified in the redesign process can be afforded and/or completed during the closure programme. Discussions will take place with Andrew Young about these proposals and the process for taking them forward. It is inevitable that some aspirations will have to be the subject of separate fundraising

activities and will need to be discussed by Trustees or subsequent inclusion in the Business Plan.

### Identity Badges

The Board of Trustees has approved the creation of identity badges for all current and future volunteers. They will be similar to the existing PLC and Association badges in terms of colouring and border but will be thinner and contain the wording:

West Somerset Steam Railway Trust  
Volunteer Name

Subject to the engravers timetable, it is hoped that the badges will be available for distribution and use by mid/end of July.

### Volunteers

The work of the Trust is expanding as we pursue our own activities and get more involved in the collective work around sustaining the WSR for the longer term. We have been successful in recruiting a number of experienced Learning Assistants for the Education and Learning Programme as well as general stewards for the Museums. As ever, we can always use more people as we progress the carriage restoration programme on TK 3639 and seek to provide a permanent Curator presence at Blue Anchor Museum.

If you know of anybody who you think might be interested in volunteering for the Trust, then please ask them to contact the following people:

**Chris Austin** [austinca2@googlemail.com](mailto:austinca2@googlemail.com)

Carriage Restoration Project

**Geoff Evens** [geoff.evens@wssrt.co.uk](mailto:geoff.evens@wssrt.co.uk)

Gauge Museum

**Ian Colby** [iancoleby@gmail.com](mailto:iancoleby@gmail.com)

Archiving

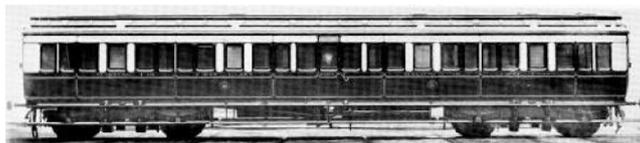
**David Baker** [davidbaker687@btinternet.com](mailto:davidbaker687@btinternet.com)

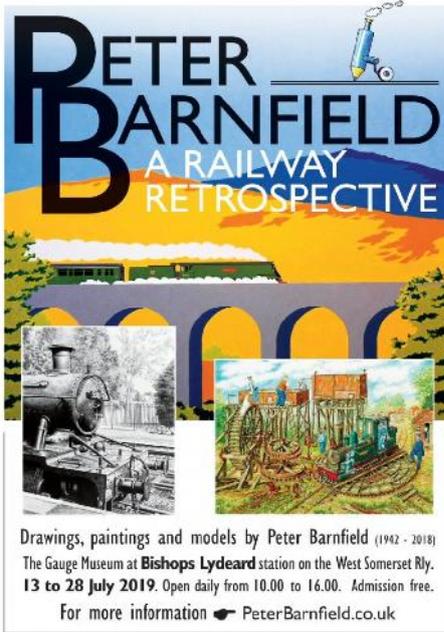
Blue Anchor

**Helen Anson** [helen\\_anson@hotmail.com](mailto:helen_anson@hotmail.com)

Education and Learning

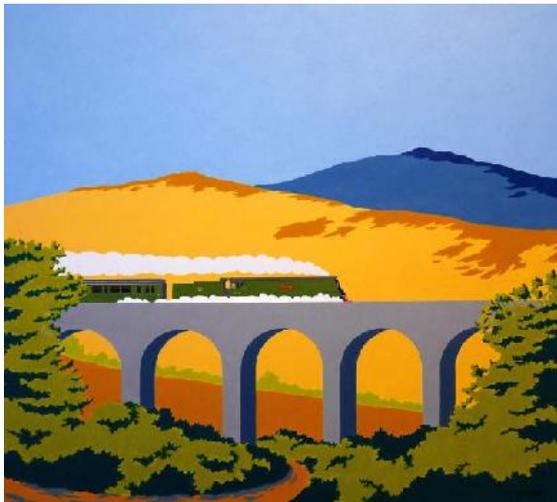
*(Steve Williams)*





**The Peter Barnfield Exhibition, Railway Retrospective.**

On Saturday 13 July the Peter Barnfield exhibition opened in the Gauge Museum at Bishops Lydeard. The exhibition is scheduled to on between 10.00 to 16.00 until 28 July 2019, admission is free.



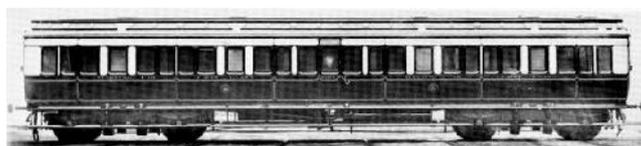
*(Geoff Evens)*

**Gauge Museum to be Refurbished**

The West Somerset Steam Railway Trust is moving forward with the planning of the Gauge Museum Project and is starting to look at the various tasks that are to be carried out during this coming November and the beginning of next year. It is the first time for many years there is an opportunity to completely refurbish the Gauge Museum. As you will all appreciate there is a lot of work to do including the removal of all wall mounted exhibits and the complete repaint of the inside of the museum building. Between now and November the planning process is continuing in partnership with Smith and Jones who are museum and interpretive exhibition designers and are providing much support and ideas as to a way forward. It is the Trust's intention that once the refurbishment is finished the museum will display the railway's story and provide a learning experience for schools as well as holding much of the railway's valuable memories.

If you would like to be involved with this exciting project, we would be very pleased to welcome you into the Gauge Museum team, for more details please email [info@wssrt.co.uk](mailto:info@wssrt.co.uk) or telephone 07742 655 339.

*(Geoff Evens)*



**Gauge Museum Promotion**

We are grateful to Tim Randle for the production of full size notice boards in GWR style to promote the two Trust museums. These are now in position at Bishops Lydeard, Williton, Blue Anchor and Minehead. They are superb and are already encouraging more visitors.

*(Chris Austin)*

**Blue Anchor Museum Update**

This year so far has been quiet for the Museum at Blue Anchor because of the line closure during the early part of the year. The Museum is very reliant of passengers from trains using the down platform. Numbers have started to pick up and we look forward to a busy season with opening on Sunday's, Bank Holidays and Gala Day's.

We continue to be reliant on a small band of volunteers and it would nice to have one or two new volunteers to take the pressure off one or two individuals.

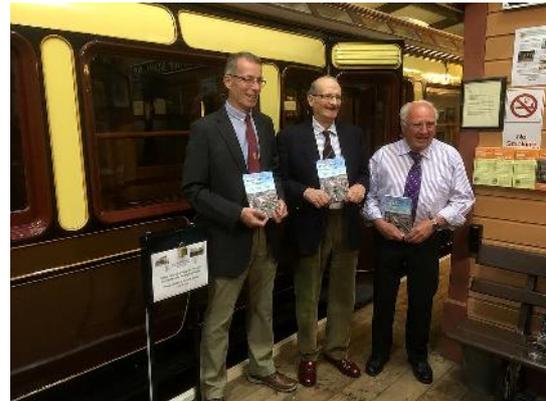
The Trust is looking at whether it can fund the external repairs to ensure the building is weatherproof.

*(David Baker)*

**Launch of new 40th Anniversary book, Tales of the West Somerset Railway**

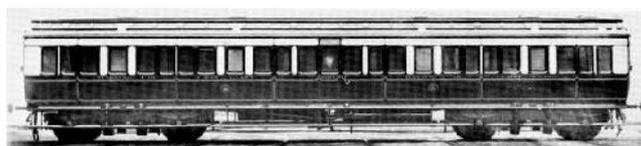
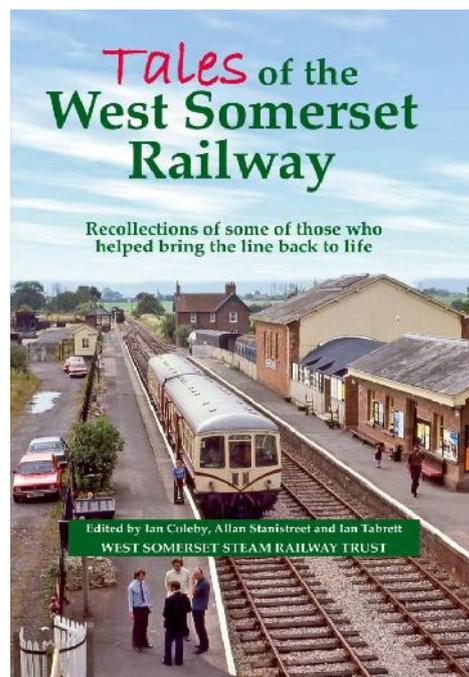
The West Somerset Steam Railway Trust (WSSRT) has published a new 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book chronicling some personal memories and momentous events of the last four decades. The WSSRT hosted a book signing to launch the new book on the evening of Friday 7 June in the Gauge Museum at Bishops Lydeard. Despite the pouring rain and strong winds approximately 70 guests braved the wintery conditions to attend the event. The guests were not only rewarded by being able to meet the three authors they were also able to visit the museum model railway, Gauge

Junction and watch the simulated operation of Powderham signal box on a busy summer's day as happy holiday makers travelled westwards by train along the Exe Estuary. Quantock Brewery were also present providing guests with the opportunity to try tasters of the new 'Quantock Steamer' ale, brewed in commemoration of the WSR 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



*(Ian Coleby, Allan Stanistreet and Ian Tabrett)*

People still wishing to order the Trust's new 40th anniversary 'Tales of the WSR' book by mail order from either the Minehead or Bishops Lydeard shops are advised that the earlier postage rate was incorrect and the new rate to purchase the book including postage and packaging is £11.50.





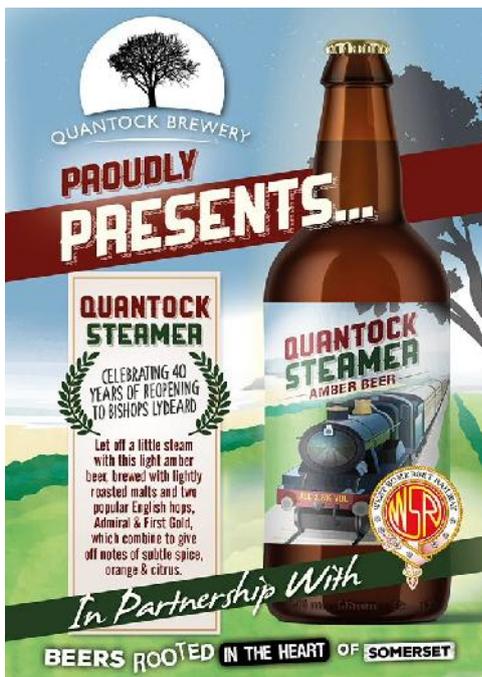
*(Guests attend the 'Tales of the West Somerset Railway' Book Launch)*

*(Geoff Evens)*

### Quantock Steamer to help Celebrate the WSR 40th Anniversary

Over the weekend of 8th and 9th June, the West Somerset Railway (WSR) held a special 40th Anniversary Event and mark it becoming England's longest heritage railway forty years ago in 1979.

Quantock Brewery is one of the closest businesses to Bishops Lydeard station and Quantock brewed an exclusive new beer to mark this special occasion.



*(Quantock Brewery)*

### Gauge Junction Newsletter

2018 would end with our usual seasonal flourish of Santa trains, excited children, and the Winter Steam Festival after Christmas which made a happy finish to our year at Gauge Junction. During the 2018 season we completed 137 operating days and received 10,676 visitors which was down on last year but was largely due to the timetable which often resulted in very short 'turn around' times and did not give visitors enough time to visit us over on Platform 1. Thanks to all our operators who worked so hard during the season to help our visitors have a more enjoyable day for their visit to our railway.

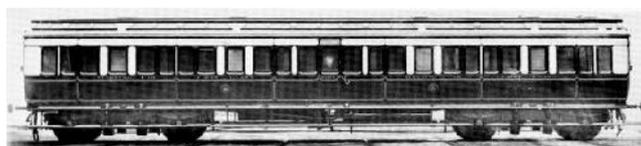
Abiding memories of 2018 will be the starting of 9 new Tracker trainees who joined us during the 2018 season and our efforts to introduce a training and induction system to involve them as quickly as possible and to increase our standards of enjoyment and presentation to the public.

Early January would see us immediately getting on with our winter tasks of maintenance and further development of the layout to increase its visual appeal to our visitors. We faced an additional problem of having to keep contact and the retention of our new trainees through a long closure of the railway which presents an extra problem with younger people in maintaining their interest.



*(Work on Gauge Junction Scenery)*

After discussions with our winter team we introduced a rostered system of involving our trainees in the winter activities and were able



to also teach them modelling skills as well as providing vital social contacts. Our plan proved to be hugely successful and we discovered some new artistic talent among our trainees as well as bonding the team together in other ways. Most of the regular winter team also enjoyed the challenge of teaching the required modelling skills and Matt Sutton co-ordinated the roster and contacts with the trainees. The experience also in many provided a foundation for the very much bigger challenges which will face us in the coming winter under the HLF project.

Matt Jackson acted as project lead for the practical issues which involved a complete relay of the fiddle yard and the related electrical systems as well as general maintenance with James Pearson exercising his talents on developing the scenic side with completion of unfinished work from last season on the front of the layout and was assisted by the creation of a pine wood by Matt Sutton and Matt Loat.



*(Matt Jackson Relaying the Gauge Junction Fiddle Yard)*

Two of our young people, Matt Jackson and Matt Sutton reached the finals of the Lord Faulkner Award and were able to travel along with Lee Robbins nominated by the Operating Department to Birmingham for the final judging stage and presentations. All three were presented with 'runners up' certificates and acted as first rate ambassadors for the Trust and the WSR at the ceremony. With so many of our young people on reaching a

responsible age draining away to other departments it is so very rewarding to still have the support of both 'Matts' and the work they are doing to support Gauge Junction at this time of challenge.

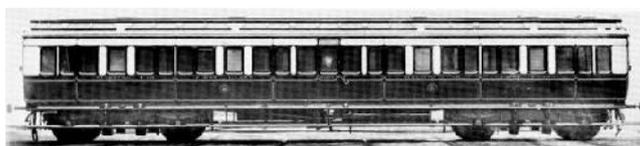


*(Matt Jackson and Matt Sutton reached the finals of the Lord Faulkner Award)*

Our 2019 operating season eventually got underway with opening demonstrations of winter work for Trust members at our AGM on March 23<sup>rd</sup> followed by the first opening to the public on the following weekend to begin our 2019 operating season. With the 2019 season timetable we are seeing an increase in visitor numbers with trains spending more time at BL before returning to Minehead. Two new Tracker trainees have joined us and commenced training although once again we are suffering from experienced seniors moving to other departments which leaves us short of seniors with stock who can act as PIC's and train our younger operators.



*(WSSRT AGM Display March 23 2019)*



The big challenge now is to open as many days as we can for the peak season and also to start to prepare ourselves for next winter as part of the Project Group and to very much play our part in this immense task which will be the main theme of our next report. Matt Sutton writes;

*'Since December, Gauge Junction has been busy trying to recruit new volunteers to encourage people from all walks of life to work on and operate our layout. It is pleasing to see that we now have a reasonable steady flow of new volunteers wishing to join our team which is a good success. Long may that continue.'*

*'This upcoming Winter will be a big step in the unknown for us as the Gauge Museum is having its first major refurbishment. In terms of training at Gauge Junction, we are creating additional new schemes to try and engage all our volunteers through this busy Winter period as operating will be significantly minimised.'*

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Trustees for their total support and to everyone else at BL who helps us in our operations and very much including Kate and her staff in the shop who we very much enjoy working with. My personal thanks go very much to our operators and trainees on whom our existence depends and ever increasingly to my two deputies, Matt Sutton and Matt Jackson for all they are doing to support and promote our activities. We are always pleased to welcome all Trust members and please do come and see us at GJ during the season and have chat with our operators.

*(Alan Meade)*

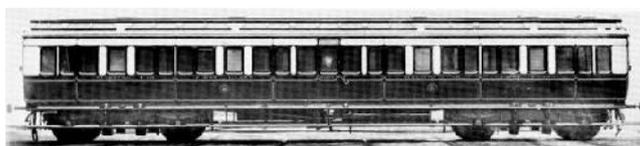
**News from Jonathan Jones-Pratt, West Somerset Railway PLC Chairman.**

The Chairman has announced a complete restructuring of the existing West Somerset Railway Board following a comprehensive business review by the Chairman. The review included an external safety and operational compliance audit, a full review of overheads and staff structure and a detailed financial investigation.

Jonathan Jones-Pratt comments “the focus is now moving from ‘turn-around’ to ‘recovery’ but for shareholders and staff we owe it to them to be transparent. The results of the review highlight some critical business failures which have resulted in significant financial losses accruing to the PLC. Results for the 15 months to 31 March 2019, when published, will illustrate the extent of the sharp decline in the financial condition of the PLC. We also wish to share this with the wider heritage community, since other heritage railways are beginning to recognise the changes needed in the sector. We wouldn’t want them to encounter the pain that we have been through and for that to become normal in the sector”

As the business goes forward there will be a further focus on the future management/leadership structure given the recent poor performance of the business. The board will shortly arrange to meet with shareholders/staff/volunteers and other stakeholders to give a further briefing. The final structure will be one that all stakeholders can recognise as a positive step forward.

The Chairman continues “The business must and will be ready for 2020 operations. We may need to take some further tough decisions as we aim to ensure a professional operation of the WSR in the future. I am always so privileged to see the support shared across the WSR community and I am absolutely committed to see this through and ensure it becomes a Railway that we can all be proud of, whether for past, present or future members. The Railway deserves time to breathe and rebuild but tough decisions remain ahead. A first step was taken last Friday with the removal from the Board of the existing General Manager of the railway who was appointed to the Board in 2018. It was felt that the role of General Manager is to run the daily operation and should be reporting back to the Board, not participating in the development of the PLC strategy.”



Next steps will be to embark upon a recruitment drive to bring in new Directors with the following portfolios:

1. Operations
2. Commercial (Interim Adviser in place)
3. Engineering (Approved and already in place)
4. Finance
5. Safety and Compliance (Approved and already in place)
6. PWAY and Infrastructure

A recruitment drive will take place to allow the right people to be appointed. Initial appointees will join as interim advisors for three months, similar to the process for the Safety and Compliance role.

After a satisfactory probation period, the Board will seek election of the successful candidates. The Chairman (Jonathan Jones-Pratt) and Vice Chairman (Mark Smith) will sit outside of the six portfolios to oversee communications and continue to provide clarity and strategic drive for the PLC.

*(Johnathon Jones-Pratt WSR PLC Chairman)*

### **West Somerset Railway Winter Works Programme**

The railway is planned to close as usual for most of November (with possible exceptions to be confirmed) and of course for most of Jan/Feb and early March. We will operate the Dunster by Candlelight and post-Christmas trains as usual, but for the rest of the 'pre-Christmas events' in December there will be restrictions across the line.

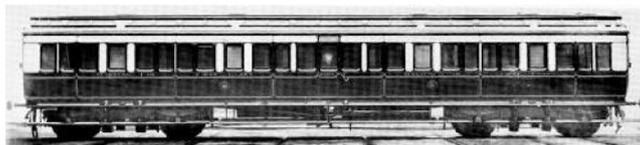
These line restrictions will enable the infrastructure team to make some serious progress where the line needs most attention. Hence, there will not be any Santa trains from Minehead this year. The focus will be on the BL section of the line, with some exciting new energy to push the WSR onto the festive map for years to come. For the avoidance of doubt, we will operate a standard timetable as usual

between Christmas and New Year including the Winter Steam Festival.

In 2020, we have decided we will not operate at February half term through choice as we have looked at the historical costs of doing so and determined it is not worth the small amount of revenue it generates - and then we will plan to re-open the line fully on 21st March. We also plan to hold a Spring Gala next year, most likely towards the end of April, after the Easter School holidays, to bring in some much-needed extra revenue.

This year, we plan to open up some structured opportunities to volunteer in other areas, beyond your usual departments. For example, this might include providing admin support to our commercial and marketing team, touring the local pubs and attractions to distribute brochures, forming a carriage and wagon painting and decorating team, helping out with the line infrastructure work and so on. We also would like to form a volunteer gang to deep clean our coaches which are still below the required cleanliness standard for our business, we have Book online at <http://www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk> recently appointed a new lead to take this forward, and for those interested in joining this team, please contact Simon Ball on [simon.ball@wsrail.net](mailto:simon.ball@wsrail.net)

If we can form a few of these teams, we can get the work done much more efficiently. Please try your best to support these roles over the winter period. In summary, we want to present this winter as 'business as usual' to the outside world. It is fine to stress the urgency of the ongoing infrastructure work because it is imperative that we continue to raise the funds to support it. But it should be positioned as work that is ongoing in between our usual timetabled operation. We must keep a sense of balance in our communications - I know that our high-profile announcements last year led some of the public to think that we are still closed - so this time, we need to communicate that we are



back in business and will operate as usual in 2020.

*(West Somerset Railway)*

### **WSR Infrastructure Appeal and Other Donations**

This has started to progress, and the Trust has received a number of Donations which have been put into our WSR Fund and will be passed over to WSR later this summer, where appropriate Gift Aid will be claimed and added to the Fund.

In the letter sent out to Shareholders there was an error in my e-mail address, it should have read [fraserdon1@live.co.uk](mailto:fraserdon1@live.co.uk). I now also have a Trust e-mail address you can use which is [don.fraser@wssrt.co.uk](mailto:don.fraser@wssrt.co.uk)

Anybody donating directly into our Bank Account could assist me in identifying you by sending me an e-mail or posting me the Gift Aid declaration at the bottom of the letter.

Unfortunately, our Bank Statement only shows partial names due to the number of characters allowed.

On our website page we have added a "Just Giving" option. This allows donation to the WSR Infrastructure Support Appeal, TK 3639 Restoration and Tarpaulins needed to preserve our Coaches. The amount given maybe adjusted to any chosen amount. We also give an option for a General Trust donation, just click on the arrow to select your option.

We can also accept Charity Aid Foundation (CAF) donations either On-line of via CAF Vouchers.

*(Don Fraser, WSSRT Treasurer)*

**There is an open invitation to existing and new Volunteers to join the Museum teams at the Gauge Museum, Bishops Lydeard and the Blue Anchor Museum.**

It is the intention of the Trust to open and staff both the railways two Museums every Sunday, Bank Holiday and Gala day during the WSR running season.

The Gauge Museum will be open but in general not staffed on all running days and Gauge Junction, the museum model railway, will be open for as many days as volunteers can be found.

If anyone is interested in helping in the Gauge Museum, including help during the refurbishment period, please contact Geoff Evens on 07742 655 339 or email [info@wssrt.co.uk](mailto:info@wssrt.co.uk)

Blue Anchor opening hours are normally between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm (depending on the number of visitors around and wishing to visit).

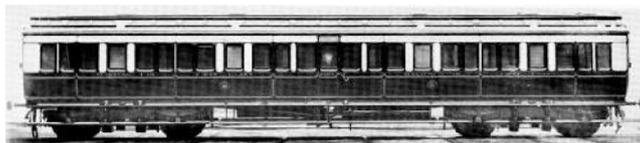
If anyone is interested in helping at Blue Anchor, please contact David Baker on [davidbaker687@btinternet.com](mailto:davidbaker687@btinternet.com) or 07776 388 744.

The Somerset and Dorset Railway Trust also have a museum at Washford Station. If you are interested in what they may be doing please visit their Web page <http://www.sdrtr.org/> or email [info@sdrtr.org](mailto:info@sdrtr.org) or write to Somerset and Dorset Railway Trust, 1 Station Rd, Washford, Watchet TA23 0PN

*(Geoff Evens and David Baker)*

### **Specialist Library at Bishops Lydeard**

A fine collection of books on the Great Western Railway and Isambard Kingdom Brunel has been assembled in the Gauge Museum from the collection of Dr Anthony Dickens, a WSR supporter from Bristol who died 2018. These are part of a generous gift by Sandi Stuckey, Dr Dickens daughter and include a complete set of the many books by Somerset railway author Colin Maggs along with an extensive collection about Brunel.



There is also a fine collection of GWR books from the 1920s and 1930s, including GWR tourist publications and a first edition *History of the Great Western Railway* by E.T. MacDermott. Around 400 books are now collected in the Gauge Museum office and will be made available to *bona fide* students for reference next year. We hope to start cataloguing the books and put them onto the Trust database shortly.

Further donations of books on these specialist subjects are always welcome, particularly GWR publications.

*(Geoff Evens)*

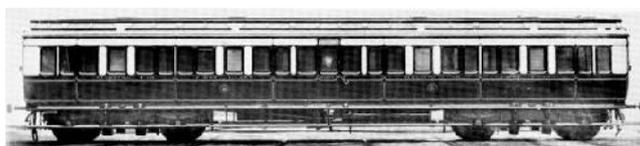
### **Finishing Coach BCK6705**

After ten years hard work, the coach is substantially finished and just awaits its fitness to run exam, which will now need to include ultrasonic testing of axles prior to being handed over to the PLC to add to the feet of passenger carrying coaches. Whilst most of the components are original, some did not return from the USA when the coach was repatriated in 2007, and the swing door in the corridor between first and third class, for example, has been painstakingly recreated by Ray Clack, while Richard Gibbs has been able to produce some replacement light covers and Roger Legg's scumbling skills are now legendary! So many other regular volunteers including Greg McNelly, Ronnie Wainhouse, Mike Jones, Peter Sennett and Ray Walter have all put in many hundreds of hours to produce a great result for the WSR.



*(There is new lino on the corridor floor, the mats being only a temporary measure to stop scuffing.)*

Initially, the coach will be running without gangway connections (although we hope to add these next year), and it is old enough to have door handles that have to be turned to secure, rather than slide catches like the Mark One coaches in general use on passenger trains. For these reasons, it is intended that an attendant will ride with the coach when it is running, to assist the guard in securing the doors, and to provide information and assistance to passengers (as well as making sure that children do not stand on the seats!) Steve Bailey has kindly added a section to the Guards Training Manual for the operation of 6705 in passenger service, and the attendants (who do not have to be passed guards) will need to familiarise themselves with these special instructions before working on the coach.





*(BCK 6705 - the toilet has only just been completed.)*

*(Chris Austin)*

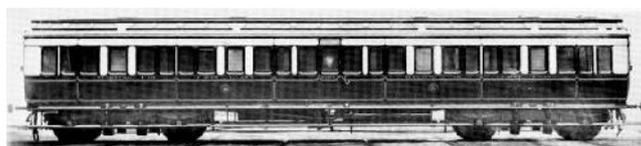
**Facebook and Web site**

As you will appreciate updating of the WSSRT Web site and Facebook pages is a constant and ongoing process. Remember to follow the Trust on our Web Page and Facebook page. If you would like to post a contribution, please do not hesitate to send it to [info@wssrt.co.uk](mailto:info@wssrt.co.uk) or call Geoff Evens on 07742 655 339.



The Trust would always welcome suggestions or stories that could be published. We are also interested in any improvements you would wish to make – remember you are members and it is your Trust.

For the latest information please visit the WSSRT Web site <http://www.wssrt.co.uk/> the



Trust Facebook page or e-mail the Trust on [info@wssrt.co.uk](mailto:info@wssrt.co.uk)

*(Geoff Evens)*

**Taunton Shuttle**

Whilst not specifically a Trust project, Chairman Chris Austin prepared and submitted a bid to Great Western Railway’s Customer and Communities Improvement Fund for the running of a shuttle train service between Bishops Lydeard and Taunton on selected days this year. The bid was successful, and Chris has been working with both Great Western and PLC colleagues to turn the submission into reality. The first tranche of dates has been announced (all Saturdays), and five shuttle trains each way will run on the following dates:

27 July, 3,17 and 31 August, 7 and 21 September and October 5<sup>th</sup>. On 3 August, the trains will also call at Norton for visitors to the rally.

Most trains will run into platform one at Bishops Lydeard, so increasing the footfall passing the Gauge museum and Gauge Junction.

Further dates are being planned for later in the autumn and possibly during December, and these will be announced as soon as available. Further details are shown on all the railway’s websites. Fares are £4 single, £6 return with half fare for children, and tickets are sold on the train.

*(Chris Austin)*

Join the Trust: You can now become a member of the Trust for a minimum donation of £1 per month, although most members contribute more than this, thereby helping fund the work of the Trust. Membership forms are on the website <http://www.wssrt.co.uk>

Carriage restoration volunteers are welcome at the regular weekday sessions at Williton – Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. New volunteers for carriage restoration or the museums can contact Chris Austin for further details e-mail [austinca2@googlemail.com](mailto:austinca2@googlemail.com)

To make sure that the information we hold on members is up to date', if you have moved house, changed your email address, are no longer eligible for Gift Aid, please inform the Membership Secretary.

In order to continue to receive Trust Newsletters and other information relating to the Trust changes can either be e-mailed to [info@wssrt.co.uk](mailto:info@wssrt.co.uk) or [don.fraser@wssrt.co.uk](mailto:don.fraser@wssrt.co.uk) (Membership Secretary), or sent by post to:

The WSSRT, the Railway Station, Station Road, Bishops Lydeard, Taunton, Somerset. TA4 3BX.

If you would like to check what information we hold, please use the same address.

