



670 Warwick Road, Tyseley, Birmingham B11 2HL
www.friendsofvt.org.uk

Tyseley News No. 27 – spring 2021



Pacers arrive at Tyseley -Photograph courtesy of Vintage Trains

Message from the Acting Chair Neil Ewart

Dear Member,

Welcome to Tyseley News No. 27, the occasional newsletter for Members of the Friends of Vintage Trains.

As I write this there remains a lot of uncertainty about Covid but we all have to stay optimistic and look forward to seeing our trains out again.

It has been a long time since the last AGM. Your committee held back organising one in the hope we could get together in a room with all of you. However, events have conspired against us and we have had little choice but to follow everyone else and will be holding a 'virtual' AGM with just the committee on 27 March 2021 to carry out the formal business.

We do sincerely apologise for this but please be assured this is a stop-gap situation until things return to normality.

It is tempting to look back and assume little has been happening. Certainly there have been no trains and volunteers have been unable to access the site. We have been very aware that there has been a danger of losing many of our members due to apparent inactivity. Your committee has met via Zoom on a regular basis and have tried to plan for the future while making every effort to consolidate all that has gone before. We also firmed up a contingency plan so that all Committee posts are covered should the need arise.

Please rest assured that we recognise and highly value your loyalty and the fact you have continued your membership. Also, we'd like to extend a warm welcome to all new members.

During the lockdown the Friends, in conjunction with Vintage Trains, have adopted the main line station at Tyseley. With the assistance of the Shakespeare Line Promotion Group we have embarked on renovating the flower beds and more ambitious projects are in the pipeline.

I can recommend you view the Friends' web site at www.friendsofvt.org.uk which is continuously being updated and checked for accuracy.

A proposal has been accepted for the Friends to take over the entire running of the buffet on future trains. A small working group are putting together the final details.



Photo: Autumn blooms, and spring bulbs planted - restoration of the flower beds on Tyseley station has begun

Steam in Trust has been produced and we have to thank our editor Mark Smee for his very hard and demanding work producing such a commendable publication. The success of the publication is due, in no small part, to your contributions and recently these have been many and varied. If you would like to contribute then do not hesitate to put pen to paper (that dates me!) and send items to Mark at the Warwick Road address or via e-mail to editor@friendsofvt.org.uk.

During the lockdown we produced the first ever Friends of Vintage Trains calendar and that has proved to be hugely successful, resulting in a profit for the Friends. A set of greetings cards has also been created from the calendar pictures and these are available to purchase via www.friendsofvt.org.uk website or by using the order form sent out with the latest edition of *Steam in Trust* which you should have received in December, the packs cost £4 each for a set of 5 cards, plus postage and packing. Plans for the 2022 calendar are well advanced so do look out for further details later in the year.

The Committee are looking at ways of improving the benefits for you as members. One certainty is that there will be social events organised, with guest speakers, as soon as we are able to do so. The intention is that these will be free to members. In addition anyone attending will be able to bring a guest for whom there will also be no charge.

As per our Constitution we have pledged donations towards specific projects. However, we are very conscious of the fact that this is your money and we are waiting for an announcement that the projects are actually going ahead and we will be given details in writing. One such project is to help to restore a vital Pullman coach.

We are extremely grateful to our Members who have made some additional financial donations over the year, particularly in memory of Henry Pinchin and Peter Brown. The Committee felt the most appropriate use of the Henry Pinchin Memorial Fund would be to contribute towards the restoration of the Pacers for VT railtours. We sadly lost Henry last March and his interest lay very much in the journeys we undertook, not just the locos, so we think this would be a fitting tribute to his memory.

We also sadly lost Peter Brown in September and the money donated in his memory we think will be best used on the Tyseley Station flower bed project where he was a very active volunteer. We hope you approve of these donations.

We must ensure we have enough reserves to continue producing *Steam in Trust* for you all plus finance the planned socials, etc.

A copy of the balance sheet giving an overview of the audited accounts for 2020 is included in this newsletter along with the minutes of the AGM held in 2019, if you have any questions you would like to raise please write to the Secretary by 16 March at Friends of Vintage Trains, 670 Warwick Road, Tyseley, Birmingham B11 2HL, or via e-mail secretary@friendsofvt.org.uk and we will ensure any questions are raised and addressed. The Committee's response will be posted on the Friends website and reported in the next edition of *Steam in Trust*.



Committee meeting in full flow, remotely ...

Finally, I must thank your Committee - Robin Coombes, Paul Hatton, Dave Martin, Geoff Middleton, Mary McCullough, Jeff Robinson, Sharon Salter, Bernard Wright – for their hard work, particularly during this very challenging period, and all of whom have indicated they are willing to stand for re-election and to remain in post for another twelve months.

In addition I would like to mention Christine Brown who has picked up Peter's reins as Membership Secretary and Hugh Wright who deputises as Treasurer. Also Chris Schroeder who had to stand down as Chairman but is co-opted onto the Committee where he invariably dispenses valuable advice. There is a vacancy on the Committee following Peter's sad passing and I would like to recommend Tony Watson to you to fill this vacancy. Tony has been a long-standing Thursday night volunteer at Tyseley, and a Train Steward. He has recently taken on the role of Volunteer Co-ordinator for VT so I think he is in a unique position to join the Committee and contribute to our discussions. Unless there are any objections to this proposal, this will be voted on at the AGM.

Looking ahead, the Vintage Trains stand at the Warley National Model Railway show at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, on 27/28 November 2021 has been booked and we hope we will see many Members there, and on the trains when we are allowed to begin running

On behalf of the Friends of Vintage Trains I, as Acting Chairman, thank you again all for your support throughout these tricky times.

Neil Ewart

Acting Chairman

Friends of Vintage Trains

January 2021

A promotional graphic for '5 GREETING CARDS' featuring vintage steam trains. The graphic includes the Friends of Vintage Trains logo, website, and contact information. The text reads: 'FRIENDS of VINTAGE TRAINS', 'www.friendsofvt.org.uk', 'Supporting main-line steam for future generations', '5 GREETING CARDS', 'Featuring Photography by Robin Coombes & Clive Hanley', 'Best wishes', 'Message inside', 'E: enquiries@friendsofvt.org.uk', and 'www.friendsofvt.org.uk'. There is also a small logo for 'FRIENDS OF VINTAGE TRAINS' in the bottom right corner.

FRIENDS OF VINTAGE TRAINS

Income and expenditure account for the year to 31st December 2020

	Full Year	
	2020	2019
<u>INCOME</u>	£	£
Members Subscriptions	6,387.89	6,351.42
Members donations	455.30	847.58
Bank account interest	16.44	28.71
Souvenir/Calendar/Greeting Cards Sales	1,884.69	126.69
Other (contribution to Steam in Trust from VT)	558.60	266.00
Donations to Henry Pinchin/Peter Brown Memorial Fund	625.00	
Donations to Kohlapur Appeal	200.00	
TOTAL INCOME	10,127.92	7,620.40
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	£	£
Postage	16.60	485.77
Steam In Trust	3,681.75	3,024.85
Subscriptions (Heritage Forum)	40.00	40.00
Donations - 7029 Clun Castle	-	-
Donations - Vintage Trains Ltd (Matt Self)	600.00	-
Repairs and Materials	23.99	1,256.22
Printing of calendars and greetings cards	1,605.21	
Printing		483.95
Social Events	113.99	531.00
Internet/web site fees	165.46	101.93
Stationery	50.85	
Other expenditure	71.46	237.26
TOTAL	6,369.31	6,160.98
PROFIT FOR THE YEAR	£3,758.61	1,459.42

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2020

	Full Year	
	2020	2019
<u>BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES</u>	£	£
Current Account	14,501.66	11,759.49
Deposit Account	5,087.96	4,071.52
Cash Float	27.81	27.81
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	19,617.43	15,858.82
less future commitments to VT (Pullman Coaches)	10,000.00	
NET TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	9,617.43	

The above financial statement for the Friends of Vintage Trains gives a true and fair view of their affairs as at 31st December 2020 and its profit for the year ended 31st December 2020. The supporting documentation and audit evidence made available is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Kevin McCullough ACMA