



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



“5043 Earl of Mount Edgecumbe passes Leamington Spa with the down Cambrian Coast Express”. The photo was taken by RJ Blenkinsop in the late 1950s.

Message from the Chair
Paul Hatton

A warm welcome to this first copy of the members' *Steam in Trust Newsletter*. We've changed the name of this newsletter from *Tyseley News* to reflect its broad range of updates from the Friends and to emphasise its role as a complimentary publication to *Steam in Trust*. For continuity we are following the issue numbers from *Tyseley News*.

The images above and on the back page are just two of the many that have been digitised by our archivists, Robert Ferris and Michael Hughes. The caption is taken from the original record of the image. We will be carrying a range of historical images in future editions of this newsletter and *Steam in Trust*. If any members have photographs that would be of interest to our members and could be published then please let us know through the contact details on our website.

It is with deep regret that we note the passing of **Arthur Kesterton** on 26th August. Arthur was a long-time member of Vintage Trains Society and then Friends of Vintage Trains. He served on the committee for many years and was an active volunteer at Tyseley.

Arthur was best known to passengers as the *Train Manager* on the Vintage Trains' mainline excursions. Passengers became very familiar with Arthur's voice making announcements over the speaker system.

We will feature a longer obituary in the next *Steam in Trust* with recollections of Arthur from people who knew him well and worked with him. We will miss him greatly and our thoughts are with his wife Marian at this sad time.

The 2023 Friends of Vintage Trains AGM will be held on Saturday 18th March 2023 at the Tyseley Working Men's Club. Full details are on the final page of this newsletter.

The next social and buffet event for members of the Friends will be on Saturday 15th April 2023. More details are on the final page of this newsletter.

We are revalidating our membership database. As part of a thorough review of our membership database to ensure that we continue to provide the best service possible to our members we ask you all to confirm or correct your membership details. This will also help us to save costs, especially postage, on mailing this newsletter and *Steam in Trust* if they are no longer required. A personalised form is enclosed with the details that we have on record for you and offering various ways of letting us know of any errors or if you wish to be removed from our membership records.

The Friends group has re-joined the Birmingham Heritage Forum

(<https://birminghamheritage.org.uk/index.html>). Birmingham Heritage Forum members are organisations concerned with collections, historic sites, museums, galleries, churches, gardens and visitor services within the Birmingham area. Members meet regularly to share news and ideas, and also run workshops on issues of common concern or challenges – as an example, there is discussion about encouraging tourists from Stratford-upon-Avon to venture north to Birmingham, which could raise the profile of the Shakespeare Express both locally and within the wider tourist industry.

The Friends had a stand at the **Warley National Model Railway exhibition** at the NEC on 26 and 27 November. We shared the stand with the Sutton Miniature Railway (SMR) project which raised £550 over the weekend for the Friends and the SMR project.

The Tyseley Station group has been busy preparing the planters for winter following their splendid work throughout the year. For next year donations of plants would be gratefully received plus packets of wildflower seeds. New volunteers wishing to join the team would be very welcome – please use the contact details on our website with any offers of plants and/or help.

In collaboration with Vintage Trains, we propose to develop the **Tyseley picnic area**, collecting together several historical artefacts that can be found around the site. Part of this proposal would be an area for memorial plaques to those who have made an outstanding contribution to the Friends and Vintage Trains, supported by the generous donations made by our members in memory of Henry Pinchin and Peter Brown.

There have been several developments at Vintage Trains. Highlights include:

- On Tuesday 8th July 2022, Clun Castle returned to the Great Northern section of the East Coast Mainline for the first time since 1967. She hauled a special lunch train for BGL Insurance of Peterborough from their home town to Lincoln, returning down the ECML, running without a hitch
- The 2023 tour programme has been announced with several highlights, including celebrating the Centenary of the Castle Class, two Castles up the Lickey Incline on two trains on the same day, double headed Castles on the Welsh Marches Express to Hereford and a four Castle line-up at Didcot on Saturday 4th March
- An expanded Shakespeare Express program for 2023
- Recently acquired Class 37 diesel No. 37 240 will make its debut on VT Explorer excursions
- The Polar Express season has been expanded this year, running from 25th November to 23rd December with unfortunate interruptions from strike days.

See the enclosed Vintage Trains Tour Program for the 2023 excursion program.

Vintage Trains has several specific projects that offer a wide range of volunteering opportunities for people of all interests and backgrounds. These are described on the Volunteering page of the Friends website – any offers of help will be gratefully received by the Friends and Vintage Trains.

Finally, a reminder that you can opt-in to receiving these newsletters by email rather than in print, which would be a saving to the Friends. Please visit the form at <https://friendsofvt.org.uk/nel> to opt in to the newsletter email list.



“Dunlop 0-4-0 Saddle Tank at Tyseley – surrounded by crowds”. *Date unknown.*

The 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Friends will be held on Saturday 18th March 2023 at the Tyseley Working Men’s Club, 573 Warwick Rd, Tyseley, Birmingham B11 2EX (directly opposite Tyseley Locomotive Works). Free parking will be available. The draft agenda is:

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of previous AGM
3. Chair’s report
4. Financial report
5. Election of Committee and Officers

Doors will open at 10:30 a.m. with tea/coffee/biscuits and an 11:00 start. Following the formal meeting there will be a brief presentation on the Sutton Park Miniature Railway project, and we also hope to arrange a tour of the works. Parking will be available in the TLW car park. Keep an eye on our website for more details.

Forthcoming Social

Our next social afternoon and complimentary buffet for members will be on Saturday 15th April 2023 starting at 12.30 at the Tyseley Working Mens Club. Our speaker will be Mike Corbett, who was engaged by the National Railway Museum as project manager for the period of final restoration of Flying Scotsman to operational service in early 2016. Mike will present on his project management experience during the restoration including issues encountered together with the stakeholders involved and including the Tyseley connection.

More details including an expression of interest form to help us plan the afternoon, especially the catering, can be found on our website. It will be a great help if you complete this form if you are able to join us for this social.