



670 Warwick Road, Tyseley, Birmingham B11 2HL  
[www.friendsofvt.org.uk](http://www.friendsofvt.org.uk)

## Steam in Trust Newsletter No. 33 – Summer 2024



*Earlier this year a small parcel was delivered to Vintage Trains. Inside it was a collection of nearly 150 photographs, donated by Carole Whitworth. The pictures, which have now been scanned to create digital images, were taken by her husband and his father and show locomotives and scenes at Tyseley sheds (and a few at Tyseley station). The photos, taken in spring or autumn, show a working depot in the final days of steam.*

*This shows GWR 2-6-0 9310 on an Up goods at Tyseley station. Unfortunately, there is no date for this picture. 9310 was renumbered to 7332 in October 1958. The locomotive entered service in March 1932 and completed 32 years' service before withdrawal (from Taunton) in September 1963.*

### Message from the Chair

#### Dear Member

Welcome to Steam in Trust Newsletter No. 33, the bi-annual newsletter for Members of the Friends of Vintage Trains.

Whilst we are all still waiting for summer to reliably arrive, we have been busy arranging a couple more social events and our small-but-hardworking Tyseley Station team have been busy tending the flower beds and generally looking after the station. We congratulate Vintage Trains on the 1Z48 railtour, and look ahead to the 2024 Polar Express program (it's never too early to plan for the festive season).

A reminder to our members who follow the stock and workshop lists that we publish in Steam in Trust and are so ably maintained by Geoff Middleton - these are frequently updated, with the current lists always available on our web site. We also have an important message from our membership secretary, Sharon Salter – please see the shaded box on the next page

We always welcome contact from our members – see the *Contact Us* page on our website at [www.friendsofvt.org.uk](http://www.friendsofvt.org.uk) for our contact details and, as always, thank you for your continued support.

**Paul Hatton, Chair**

## What's On?

Our ever-active Social Secretary, Neil Ewart, has arranged two socials associated with the Severn Valley Railway (SVR) at Kidderminster for all fully paid up members of The Friends of Vintage Trains. The SVR made us very welcome at the previous socials there, and the venue was warmly received by members who live south of Birmingham who joined us.



*The Bridgnorth Engine Shed*

The first of these is on Wednesday 4 September to the Bridgnorth Engine Shed. This is limited to 20 places so we will not be able to offer guest places for this visit. The provisional arrangement is to meet at Kidderminster SVR station for the 10.00am train to Bridgnorth or meet on the Bridgnorth platform at 11.00am.

We are having a return visit to the Kidderminster Railway Museum on Wednesday 9 October. Our speakers will be Anthony Coulls, a senior curator at the National Railway Museum, Fraser Pithie, chair of the Friends of the Shakespeare Line and one of only 500 recipients of the Coronation Champion award for his work in the community, which is awarded by The Royal Voluntary Service (RVS), and Glyn Bowsher with a talk entitled *Going supersonic on land!*.

There will be no charge for members to these socials and, for the second event, guests will also be welcome. Details and an Expression-of-Interest form for both visits are available from our web site at [www.friendsofvt.org.uk](http://www.friendsofvt.org.uk), email Neil Ewart (neilewart88@gmail.com) or call Neil on 07805 817711 for more details.

## Developments along the Shakespeare Line

The importance of The Shakespeare Route to Vintage Trains is undeniable. The Friends exist to help promote VT in any way possible although this may not always be monetary or even promoting volunteering.

Recently we were very pleased to initiate two meetings between Vintage Trains, The Shakespeare Rail Line Users Group, Wythall Transport Museum and the new pub on Henley Station. The thinking was to find ways to co operate in marketing each other in a way all will benefit. Vintage Trains was represented by The Friends and Alex Knusden, Vintage Trains' new Marketing Manager. It's early days but the whole group are very keen to move forward and prepare for 2025.

Hopefully, between us we will make The Shakespeare Expresses even more successful and spread the word around a much wider audience.

## Tyseley Station developments

A small group continue to support the Friends' commitment to look after the station in line with every location between Moor Street and Stratford Upon Avon. "Ne'er cast a clout till May is out" might originally have referred to not putting your winter woollies away until the end of May, but gardeners use it as a

### MEMBERSHIP FORMS

Our Membership Secretary asks that members return the renewal reminder form **with their renewal, including if renewing by Bank Transfer** to the Friends' account. We need the completed form to be returned to enable the correct information to be added for any payment received. This especially manifests itself if a donation has been added to a renewal and paid via Bank Transfer; if the form isn't returned Sharon has to guess what the payment is for. She is also unaware that a payment has been made until our Treasurer sees the transfer, who is also unsure of who the transfer is from and for what reason it has been made.

Thank you



*The Tyseley Station middle bed*

guideline, too, and begin to plant out their hardened off bedding plants during the month of May. So we duly began planting up the three 60ft long flower beds which also benefited from a good weeding before being replanted with seasonal summer bedding. We hope it will be a pretty display once again. The gardening team also took the opportunity to plant up two new shrubs in the 'memorial bed' a Forest of Flame (Pieris) in memory of Stuart Brighton, and an azalea in memory of Richard Moreton, two of our wonderful volunteers who sadly passed away in March.

For many years the station nameboards said "Tyseley. Alight for Railway Museum". This was causing a lot of confusion with passengers alighting only to be disappointed that the museum has been closed for several years! With the permission of West Midlands Railways and English Heritage we have painted out the reference to the long-defunct museum. We are pleased to hear that the ticket office will be staffed again; currently this will be for four mornings a week which is real improvement.

The team would welcome offers of help, especially from anyone local to Tyseley who could spare a couple of hours a week, especially with the watering. If you can help please contact us through our website or email [neilewart88@gmail.com](mailto:neilewart88@gmail.com)

### **Do you know what was happening on the railways on your birthday?**

... well, the month and year of your birthday. We are always pleased to receive book donations which help with our fundraising for various VT projects and recently we have been gifted a set of *Railway Magazines* and *Trains Illustrated* for the period 1948 to 1960. Before we put them on sale we thought we would ask you if you would like to have one of these magazines for the month and year of your birth, If you would then get in touch using the contact form on our website and we will see if we have it. All we ask is for a SAE to cover the cost of postage (2nd class standard letter postage will be fine) and we will send it to you, but let us know first and we will confirm if we have the copy. Afraid May 1953 has already gone to one of your Committee but we have two copies so don't despair !!

### **The Sutton Miniature Railway project**

The Sutton Miniature Railway project has been relaunched as the Tyseley Miniature Railway Project. This new approach provides a focus for the project as a vehicle to encourage new and budding engineers to get involved in railway engineering within the more manageable scale of the 15" gauge. The project now has its dedicated website at <https://tmrp.uk/>

A particularly urgent requirement arises since the Petrol Railcar has a fairly rare engine - a 1920s Morris Commercial Engine. The project is looking for volunteers who may be able to help us so if you have some expertise in this area please do get in touch by email to [volunteering@vintagetrains.co.uk](mailto:volunteering@vintagetrains.co.uk) as it is a very unique build.

### **Congratulations to Vintage Trains on the 1Z48 Tour**

The Vintage Trains tour 1Z48 on 10 May marked 60 years since *Clun Castle* achieved the then-fastest-ever run from Plymouth to Bristol, one of the final steam journeys during the days of British Rail. *Clun Castle* hauled the train on that occasion in May 1964 for part of the route, from Plymouth to Bristol. It reached a top speed of 96mph, notching up the fastest ever non-stop run between the cities in 2 hours, 13 minutes and 9 seconds.

After a marathon two days which saw Team Tyseley take 7029 *Clun Castle* to Bristol, Plymouth and thence to London Paddington for the first time since 1965, Vintage Trains are incredibly proud of the team



*The team pose for a photograph with 7029, after a non-stop, unassisted run in from Bristol.*

effort that went into delivering an excellent experience for our passengers on The Great Western, 1Z48. It was difficult to describe the feeling as *Clun Castle* simmered on the blocks at the terminus of The Great Western Railway, under the watchful eyes of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's statue.

### **The Polar Express 2024**

Whilst the festive season isn't quite yet upon us, it's time to look ahead to the 2024 Polar Express. Vintage Trains will be visiting the North Pole on 23, 24, 30 November and selected dates in December. Full details, including a booking link, can be found at <https://vintagetrains.co.uk/train-rides/polar-express/>. The trains are always popular, especially the earlier weekend trains for families with small children, so early booking is advised.

### **And finally ...**

We end with another photograph from the collection donated by Carole Whitworth.



*GWR 4-6-0 7918 "Rhose Wood Hall" at Tyseley on 25 November 1962. 7918 entered service in April 1950 and spent the next 14 years allocated to Tyseley (84E) shed. Withdrawn at the end of February 1965, 7918 was broken up by Cohens of Morrision in May 1965.*

#### **Welcome to new members**

Welcome to the following new members; we hope to see you at one of our forthcoming events:

Mr J Austin, Mr P Williams, Mrs J Healy and Mr D Ashead

Members attending the 2007 AGM requested that we reduce the Friend' ever-increasing postage and printing costs by emailing this Newsletter in pdf format to members who have internet access – in particular the relentless rise in postage costs is a steadily-increasing drain on our finances.

If you are able to help us reduce these costs please opt-in to receiving these Newsletters in pdf format by email rather than in print. Please visit the form at [friendsofvt.org.uk/nel](http://friendsofvt.org.uk/nel) to opt in to the newsletter mailing list.

Thank you.

**Remember to visit our website at [www.friendsofvt.org.uk](http://www.friendsofvt.org.uk) which is regularly updated with news of member benefits, social events, latest news from the Friends and Vintage Trains, volunteering opportunities with Vintage Trains and much more.**