

Vintage Trains Society

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Message from the Chair Chris Schroeder

Dear Member,

VINTAGE TRAINS APPLIES FOR A PASSENGER CHARTER TRAIN OPERATING LICENCE

We wanted to write to you as soon as we could to bring you this exciting and important news about our future.

Vintage Trains has formed a new company, Vintage Steam Trains Limited (VSTL) as a wholly owned subsidiary and has applied to the Office of Rail Regulation for approval of VSTL's proposed safety management system. This is the first step in obtaining a passenger charter train operating licence.

The next issue of Steam in Trust, which should be sent to you before Christmas, will contain more details about this and Vintage Train's vision for the future. We would also like to invite you to meet with the Trust's development team for a presentation and discussion at the AGM early next year.

A copy of the press release announcing the licence application is shown below.

Chris Schroder

Chairman, Vintage Trains Society

VINTAGE TRAINS STATEMENT TO THE PRESS



VINTAGE TRAINS APPLIES FOR A PASSENGER CHARTER TRAIN OPERATING LICENCE TO CREATE A HERITAGE RAILWAY COMPANY OPEN TO ALL

For the first time in British history, a charitable trust, Vintage Trains, is promoting an application to the Office of Rail & Road for a licence to operate passenger charter trains on the national network.

Our Charity's founding, second and third generation teams have been involved with heritage railway preservation continuously since its inception in 1950. Our team was also amongst the pioneers promoting heritage steam trains on the national railway network from 1964 and played a key role in the return of steam to British Railways in 1972 and since privatisation in 1993. From 1950, our team has continued to innovate and be at the forefront of developments.

The operation of heritage steam express trains on the national network is our charity's reason for being.

During the 1970's and 80's heritage charter trains were operated under the control of British Railways and with the co-operation of the Steam Locomotive Operators' Association. Since railway privatisation in 1993 there have been a number of commercial Train Operating Companies licensed to run steam on the mainline, several of which Vintage Trains have worked with as we promoted our own trains and developed *The Shakespeare Express*. We originally worked with English Welsh & Scottish Railways and our current operator is West Coast Railways, with whom we are continuing to plan future train operations.

However, as a charity, we consider we have a duty to prepare for the long term to ensure heritage steam locomotives continue to operate on the national railway network. This is because our charitable objectives require us to develop sustainable outcomes for public benefit irrespective of personal aspirations.

So, for the first time in British history, a charitable trust is promoting an application to the Office of Rail & Road for a licence to operate passenger charter trains on the national network. We are doing this so we can play a significant role and be an important national voice ensuring the future running of steam locomotives on the national railway network as the modern railway continues to develop. We know this is a long and complex process and we cannot yet say when we will be able to start to run trains of our own or what the exact arrangements will be, but we believe the time is now right to take steps to secure our long term legacy and purpose. This will provide our charity with ownership of all the elements required: steam locomotives, carriages, a workshop, a depot, a tour promoter and a licence to operate. Only by proceeding in this way do we believe we can create a sustainable future for public benefit.

We will take these steps in conjunction with our plans to develop our historic locomotive depot at Tyseley, within the city of Birmingham, as our base for train operations. These ambitions will facilitate securing engineering, operating and business skills for the future. We will also engage with the public in ways we have never done before to ensure they can participate in and derive satisfaction from their involvement with the heritage of steam locomotion, particularly its pivotal role and importance in the development of Birmingham as the “Workshop of the World” which fundamentally changed the world and sowed the seeds for modern civilisation.

We seek to enable the steam locomotive to continue to fulfil its design purpose by running express trains in the 21st Century to create economic and social improvement, public benefit and enjoyment in the development of a tourist business run by a heritage railway company open to all. In doing so, we will create a firm foundation for our next generation to continue to innovate.

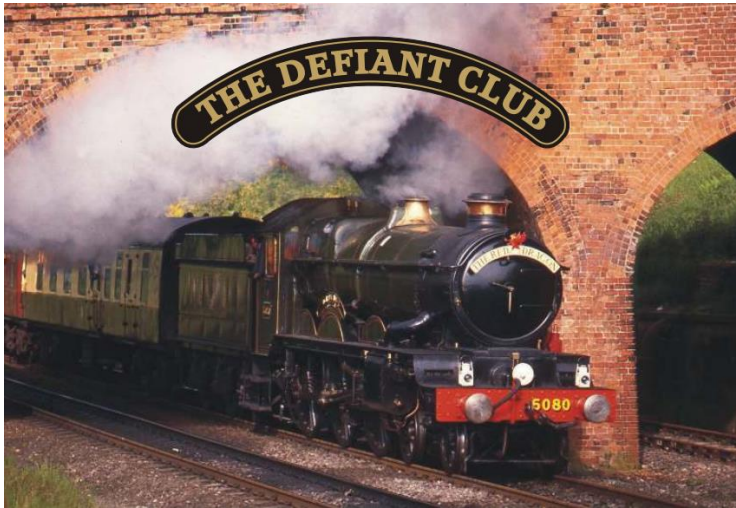
Michael Whitehouse
Chairman Vintage Trains

VINTAGE TRAINS SOCIETY 2017 AGM - 18 MARCH 2017

A date for your diary

Your Society's 2017 AGM will be held at 10.30 am on Saturday, 18 March 2017. The AGM will be in two parts with the Society's business meeting in the morning, followed by a presentation from Vintage Trains in the afternoon, which will be led by Michael Whitehouse, the Chairman of the Trustees, on the Trust's vision for the future. This will be an opportunity to learn about the Trustees' plans for future developments at Tyseley and for Vintage Trains. We will give you exact details nearer the time.

DEFIANT CLUB



As an important part of Vintage Trains' future strategy to enhance its Great Western style brand and provide greater resilience in motive power, Vintage Trains is planning to bring Castle class 5080 DEFIANT home from its present location at Quainton with the aim of overhauling it and returning it to mainline service. This is dependent on sufficient funds being available.

The Defiant Club has been set up to raise money to help pay for the overhaul. The enclosed leaflet gives details of the benefits available to Club members and a form to fill in if you are interested in receiving further details.