

# NEWS

Issue 4  
August 2017



# Bestt

Boiler & Engineering Skills Training Trust

[www.bestt.org.uk](http://www.bestt.org.uk)



Patrons - Rt Hon Sir William McAlpine Bt - Lord Faulkner of Worcester - Dame Margaret Weston, DBE - Brian Greenwood

## “...BESTT Keeps the Wheels Turning”

### New Training Opportunities with BESTT



#### New HLF Award

BESTT have received a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), under its *Skills for the Future* programme, for its project to extend syllabus based training for mechanical overhaul across the heritage steam sectors and widen their recruitment.



#### New Opportunities

The project will enable sixteen participants to learn how to overhaul the mechanical components of steam locomotives, ships and road vehicles working at a variety of steam heritage workshops across the UK.

Trainee placements will last up to 15 months and lead to a specialist qualification. The project will follow a tailored steam heritage syllabus, as pioneered by BESTT in its boilermaking training programme, also supported by HLF Skills for the Future. The need for new skilled trainees is now critical in many parts of the steam heritage sector. The last generation who grew up with steam in daily service retire and the ability to maintain operational steam plays a key role in many leisure and heritage tourism operations, often major local employers.

#### Training Syllabus

The basic model is very similar to previous BESTT training - a syllabus, with modules will set out the areas for training and an



independent BESTT assessor will visit to support the trainee and trainer.

To allow for trainees without previous heritage experience some traineeships will be longer with more support to the host railway or workshop in the early stages. Trainees will be paid as in the previous scheme (£11k - 15k, with a £3k completion bonus).

The syllabus will include -

Wheels & Axles • Axle Boxes • Cylinders & Valves • Springs • Lubrication • Brakes • Motions • Frames • Fittings & Pipework



**For further details of the course please contact [enquiries@bestt.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bestt.org.uk)**



-Nick Ralls, General Manager, Severn Valley Railway said “*The Severn Valley and another 5 railways who are partnering with BESTT on the training programme see this as vital to our future. It is part of showing young people that there is a satisfying job with good prospects in the steam sector*”.

- Richard Gibbon, BESTT Technical Panel Member said “*The syllabus based training with independent assessment which BESTT has pioneered for boilers has been shown to work and our mission now is to extend this to mechanical overhaul and create something which any steam repair workshop can adopt*”.



## —Second year trainees receive their certificates—



BESTT Year 2 Trainees receive their Foundation Boilersmith Certificates from Sir William and Lady McAlpine (centre) and (left) - L to R are Henry Cleary (Project Director), Gordon Newton, (Chairman), Steve Budden, Matt Jervis, Joe Fitzjohn, Tom Blight, Nathan Wilson, Tom Heath, Robert Andrews (seconded by North Norfolk Railway), Emma Mountain (shortened course), David Morgan, Hazel Pennack

The Great Central Railway hosted the well attended BESTT AGM on 28th January 2017 at Leicester.

Sir William McAlpine presented certificates to the second year trainees. Of the 16 one year full time trainees recruited in Years 1 and 2, all successfully completed the course. 12 have found paid employment in the sector as boilersmiths, 1 has established his own related business, 3 are considering options including a job in the sector and are continuing as volunteers.

BESTT Chairman, Gordon Newton expressed his thanks to the numerous boiler companies and heritage railways who hosted the course. He also recognised those involved in making this course a great success especially the Heritage Lottery Fund, our Project Director, Training Manager, Assessors, the trainers and finally the trainees themselves.



### Congratulations

Three happy former BESTT trainees now in full time employment at Locomotive Maintenance Services Ltd, Loughborough.

(Chairman, Gordon Newton, Tom Heath, Nathan Wilson & Tom Blight.)

## —Hazel builds head of steam—



A fascination for steam engines has been turned into a career opportunity for Hazel Pennack. Following her life's ambition assisted by an HLF-supported Skills for the Future Project <https://www.hlf.org.uk/about-us/news-features/changing-lives-hazel-builds-head-steam-boilersmith-career>

## —Email releases & updates—

Currently we add Bestt updates & newsletter releases to the website. We will now also be sending the same content as email releases to our current contact list.

If there are any changes or additions to your email address please contact [enquiries@bestt.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bestt.org.uk) so we can update our mailing list.

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## —BESTT continues to provide short courses—

**Riveting** - BESTT is continuing to offer Riveter Certification Courses which gives the opportunity to learn the skills of hot metal riveting.

The course can be tailored from novice to expert from 2 to 4 days and gives hands on training with distance learning, a practical assessment by an independent assessor completing with a short exam. The skills acquired can be used for the fabrication of heritage pressure vessels and structures.



**Washout & Examination** - BESTT is pleased to continue offering washout & examination courses in 2017.

- Examination and details of washout plugs and fusible plugs
- Details and techniques in replacing washout plugs and mud hole doors as part of 'boxing up' the boiler
- Examination, testing parts and components on the boiler, identifying faults, corrosion etc.
- Overview of water treatment principles.

For further information and course dates please contact [enquiries@bestt.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bestt.org.uk).

## —Join the Heritage Mechanical Team—

Our advertisement published in the heritage press

### Can you pass your skills to a young person?



#### **BESTT (The Boiler and Engineering Skills Training Trust)**

has recently completed a 2 year programme funded by Heritage Lottery Fund for 16 trainees with over 80% of trainees securing paid heritage employment. BESTT uses a recognised syllabus, independent assessment and we are looking to expand activities including short courses, sponsored work and a new HLF supported project on mechanical overhaul.

See [www.bestt.org.uk](http://www.bestt.org.uk)

Have you an engineering, training or educational background, an interest in steam heritage and in training young people? Work opportunities are around the UK and a mix of voluntary with expenses and sometimes paid work.

**Can you help? To** find out more, contact Gordon Newton, BESTT Chairman, at: [newtonboilers@aol.com](mailto:newtonboilers@aol.com) or Henry Cleary, Project Director at: [jhenrycleary@aol.com](mailto:jhenrycleary@aol.com)



## Membership and Donation Form

The Boiler and Engineering Skills Training Trust is a charity entirely devoted to the training of new heritage boilersmiths & skilled mechanics in order to maintain the working steam fleet of railway locomotives, steam vessels and road vehicles for future generations to enjoy.

We have raised substantial Heritage Lottery Funding for our training schemes but we can only continue if we have a base of donations from those who support us.

To learn more about BESTT visit: [www.bestt.org.uk](http://www.bestt.org.uk)

☐ **Corporate Membership** - Heritage railways, Museums, Preservation Groups, Clubs & Societies and professional organisations **£75 per year**

☐ **Associated Membership** - Limited individual. One **£12 per year**

☐ **Donations** - Donations are a great help and can be made on a single or yearly basis. You will receive an acknowledgement and details of our Gift Aid scheme. Newsletters will be forwarded on to you.

NAME

ORGANISATION  
CORPORATE MEMBERS

ADDRESS

TEL. NO.

DATE

EMAIL ADDRESS

To join BESTT and support our work, please provide the information and send by post, with your subscription to:

BESTT, 14 Greenfield Lane, Idle, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD10 8PT.

You can also email: [enquiries@bestt.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bestt.org.uk).

Cheques made payable to - **"Boiler & Engineering Skills Training Trust"**

Data security - Your data will not be used without permission

FEB 2016

### Supporting Organisations



*Israel Newton & Sons Limited*

Locomotive Owners Group (Scotland Ltd)





# Membership advantages....

- Membership gives the opportunity to be involved with BESTT.
- Keep up to date with newsletters and web site.
- Receive first hand information regarding opportunities for both trainees and mature students.
- Receive information regarding technical training modules.
- Know who is involved and where we exhibit.
- Have the opportunity to get behind the scenes and look at what we do.
- Offer your own skills and expertise.
- Know that your subscription / donation is keeping BESTT alive and enable the scheme to continue into the future.
- Notice and invitation to the AGM.

"The steam locomotive is one of Britain's greatest gifts to the world. It can only continue in working order if we pass on our skills to new people to maintain and repair it safely."

*Gordon Newton, BESTT Chairman*

## Thank you for your support - keeping steam alive...



Registered company address

Unit 5, Concept Court, Kettlestring Lane  
Clifton Moor, York, YO30 4XF

Registered Company Number 05677191

Registered Charity Number 1153592

For more details visit

[www.bestt.org.uk](http://www.bestt.org.uk)

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