

# NEWS

Issue 3

# Bestt

Boiler & Engineering Skills Training Trust



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

## “Bestt Goes Mechanical..”

### —Nine Complete 2nd HLF Year—



The HLF sponsored 2 year boiler maker / repair course has now been completed and we are pleased to announce that all trainees successfully completed the course and most have found full time employment in the heritage sector.

The certificates for completing the modules will be presented at the BESTT AGM in January.

We are most grateful to the host organisations who have provided the training and the assessors who travelled far and wide.

A few words from our trainees.....

*‘It’s the best thing I’ve done in my life, it’s a fantastic traditional trade, and we cannot let it die out like so many other trades in this country, and I hope to be doing it for many years to come’*

*‘Well done to all people involved in the scheme and placements, I have thoroughly enjoyed it and wouldn’t have missed or give it up for anything it the best job I’ve had and it’s great to be a part of our heritage industry’*

*‘I am grateful to BESTT for finding me a new placement so quickly and also for the help I have received from them’*

*‘I feel I have learned an awful lot and am hoping to find employment in this sector, and become a fully competent craftsman’*

*‘BESTT have been great, the syllabus, masterclass, training elements and people are all to be commended.....they have done outstandingly’*

*‘very enjoyable and I have learnt a great deal from my mentors ....and I will be continuing within the Heritage Steam industry’*

### —BESTT Riveting 4 Day Course—

Following the initial success, BESTT are offering 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. For further information and course dates please contact [enquires@bestt.org.uk](mailto:enquires@bestt.org.uk).



Exam piece



Trainees riveting

### —BESTT Boiler Washout & Inspection Course—

Following a pilot course in this subject, BESTT is pleased to offer additional courses in 2017. The first one in January is fully subscribed. The course is supported by various tutorials covering..

- 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 and details of systems in use at KESR.

## BESTT Extends To Mechanical Overhaul

The standards for the inspection overhaul and repair of steam locomotive components and assemblies in preservation have been laid down by documents such as MT276, and subsequently GMRT 2004 for the last 25 years. However the methods and processes involved carrying out the work to achieve this specification are unspecified.

The hope is that laying down methods that will achieve the desired standards will bring about a better understanding of what is needed to inspect, repair and overhaul steam locomotives to satisfactory and uniform standards. This might enable training of apprentices and newcomers to the industry to gain a full and consistent understanding of what is required.

BESTT was approached to see if they could facilitate this process. It was agreed that they would produce a list of the major categories which would be covered by a series of learning modules. It was also agreed that a prototype module would be created so that interested parties may be able to understand the proposal.



### Proposed Modules

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

*Edited from a report by Richard Gibbon - OBE C Eng F I MechE Former Head of Engineering at the NRM 1989 to 2003 & Tony Simons - Former Team Leader Mechanical & Electrical Engineering York College*

## Events & Publicity



*We exhibited at The London Model Engineering Exhibition at Alexander Palace January 2016. BESTT also exhibited at Fawley Hill Rally by kind permission of our patron The Hon Sir William McAlpine Bt.*

Please contact us at [enquiries@bestt.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bestt.org.uk) to exhibit at your events

## Acknowledgements

**Jon Pridmore** For his contribution in making the HLF Skills for the Future programme a success.

**Neve Cumberland** Leading Assessor.

### Host Boiler Shops

North Yorkshire Moors Railway PLC  
Locomotive Maintenance Services Ltd  
Llangollen Railway, Festiniog Railway  
Severn Valley Railway PLC, North Norfolk Railway, Hatch Heritage & Steam Engineers Ltd, The Flour Mill Ltd, Israel Newton & Sons Ltd.



## Been There Done That...



Gordon Reed retired in April 2016 as 'Britains oldest working boilermith'. He started work at Darlington Works in October 1948 with Arthur Peppercorn the C.M.E. At the works they built 'Gresley Engines' for the LNER. B1's, L1's, A1's and unbelievably J72's. They also built the last new boilers which were V2's. Gordon sends his best wishes to the new trainee boilermiths.

## Future Activities

BESTT is embarking on developing a boiler inspection training course.

BESTT is working on a new syllabus for mechanical repair funded by Severn Valley Railway and others. *See above left.*

BESTT is applying for a further HLF funded training scheme based on mechanical overhaul to follow the syllabus work.

### 2016 AGM of BESTT

Held at 11 am on Saturday 28th January 2017 at The Platform Cafe, Leicester North (Great Central Railway) Leicester North Station, Greenacres, LE4 3BR. *Courtesy of GCR.*

The Yr 2 trainees will receive their Foundation Certificates from The Hon. Sir William McAlpine. BT. Food is available to purchase.

After lunch visitors can stay for a talk on the GCR/NRM museum proposals and travel on the steam railway (Steam Gala weekend).

For Boiler Washout & Riveter Courses, please contact [enquiries@bestt.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bestt.org.uk).

Boiler & Engineering Skills Training Trust  
14 Greenfield Lane, Idle, Bradford,  
BD10 8PT  
[www.bestt.org.uk](http://www.bestt.org.uk)  
[enquiries@bestt.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@bestt.org.uk)



# The Boiler and Engineering Skills Training Trust



# Bestt

Boiler & Engineering Skills Training Trust



## Membership and Donation Form

The Boiler and Engineering Skills Training Trust is a charity entirely devoted to the training of new heritage boilersmiths 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 current training scheme of 16 full time one year trainees 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

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

Registered Company Number 05677191

Registered Charity Number 1153592

