

# NEWS

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Issue 1 - February 2015

# Bestt

Boiler & Engineering Skills Training Trust



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

## “BESTT NOW AT FULL PRESSURE”

In the 10 years since our first efforts to save traditional locomotive type boiler smith skills, BESTT has come a long way, encouraged by railway locomotive, traction engine and maritime trusts.

In 2014 supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund we achieved our goal - the first national training scheme of this type since the end of BR steam.

Newsletters will be issued quarterly keeping you up to date with our programme. Why not become a Member of BESTT and get a behind the scenes look at what we do -



### HLF Lottery Grant

April 3rd 2014 a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant of £469,000 to establish a national training programme to help maintain steam operations on preserved railways, traction engines and ships was awarded. This is the first training programme on heritage boilers for 50 years.

### The Bestt Project

The project will increase the number of skilled boiler smiths to help maintain steam operations into the future. Over 2 years, 16 trainees will each undertake a 12 month-long paid placement, leading to a specialist qualification.

Trainees will also receive specialist training at national master classes organised by BESTT and their work will be accredited with award of a BESTT Foundation Certificate after completion of 8 modules of the BESTT syllabus on boiler repair and manufacture. Shorter courses for more experienced volunteers are also planned.

### Charitable status

Following a protracted negotiations with the Charity Commissions Bestt was granted charitable status on 1st October 2013 Registered charity number 1153592.

### Trainees

In 2014 we successfully placed 8 trainees at

- Llangollen Railway
- Bluebell Railway
- Severn Valley Railway
- North York Moors Railway
- Hatch's Steam Engineers
- Israel Newton and Sons (Cromford)
- The Flour Mill (locomotive repair works)



### Candidate selection

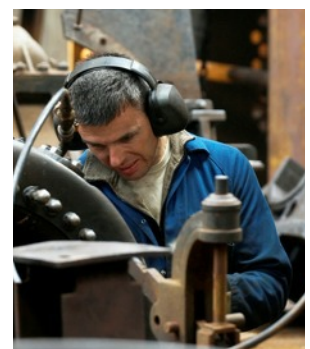
We are now inviting applications and commencing interviews for trainees 2015/16.

Initial interviews take place at several venues throughout the country. Short listed candidates are invited to a taster week at a boiler works to give the opportunity to understand the trade and Bestt to assess suitability. Final interviews are then organised. Any persons interested in applying are invited to contact us.

### Training manager

Jon Pridmore has been appointed Training Manager to oversee progress and look after the trainees needs.

Jon is highly qualified with a background of Steam both with the National Railway Museum and the newly built locomotive “Tornado”.



## Trustees

There are 9 Trustees / Directors led by the Chairman Gordon Newton who is also acting Treasurer.

Henry Cleary, Bill Hillier, Tony Hunt, Bob Garnett, David Morgan, Andrew Semple, Nick Beilby and Lawrence Donaldson.

During the past year there have been 4 retirements, Brian Burton, Andrew Southall, Andrew Scott and Elaine Cleland. We record our sincere thanks for their work all of whom have made invaluable contributions in meeting our goal.

## Committees

The following have been created -

- Technical
- Training and Education
- Communications and Publicity
- Fundraising and Membership

## BESTT Advisors and Assessors Panel

In addition to the main Board we are fortunate to have a network of advisers and assessors whom we can call upon on particular topics to reflect their expertise and experience or who carry out training assessments as part of the BESTT Training Programme. These include Richard Gibbon, formerly of the National Railway Museum, who, together with Tony Simons, wrote the BESTT syllabus, Brian Burton, Liz Fuller, Colin Hatch and Nev Cumberland who leads the team of assessors.

## Recruitment & Fundraising Events

We need to create awareness as widely as possible for the training opportunities which exist and encourage membership.



Bestt have an exhibition stand and events have already taken place at The Otley Transport Extravaganza, The Cabit Event

at Locomotion NRM Shildon and the London Model Exhibition at Alexandra Palace. We are exhibiting at the MOD, Future Careers Transition Partnership at Newbury.

We urgently need new locations and we have a shortage of volunteers to work on the stand. Please advise if you could help.

## Membership & Fundraising

Bestt is funded by grants from the Heritage Railway Association, National Traction Engine Trust and Maritime Heritage Trust together with donations from clubs and societies and individual contributions.

The Heritage Lottery Fund Grant can only be used for our training programme and not the day to day running costs of Bestt.

We urgently need new members to help support our good work without which our task would be difficult. Your help in identifying sources of income would be of great help.

Corporate and individual application forms together with donations can be downloaded from - [http://www.bestt.org.uk/donation\\_form.pdf](http://www.bestt.org.uk/donation_form.pdf)

## Web site

We encourage you to visit our website [www.bestt.org.uk](http://www.bestt.org.uk) which details all aspects of the project including updates and the modules trainees need to complete to achieve their certificates. The web site is averaging 2,000 visits per month.

## Members (AGM)

An AGM is held in November to which patrons, members and participating organisations are invited. Timely notice of the date and venue will be given.

If you require future issues of the newsletter to be emailed please advise.

Should you wish to help with the project. We will be pleased to hear from you.

## Supporting Organisations



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

February 2015

## Membership and Donation Form

The Boiler and Engineering Skills Training Trust is a charity entirely devoted to the training of new heritage boiler-smiths 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

NAME

ORGANISATION  
CORPORATE MEMBERS

ADDRESS

TEL. NO.  
HOME  
MOBILE

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





## Trainee Application Form

NAME

ADDRESS

TEL. NO.  
HOME

MOBILE

EMAIL ADDRESS

Age under 25yrs

Training Interest

Mature Learning Interest

Interests

Railway

Traction Engine

Maritime

Other

Comments & Interests

To apply please provide the information and send by post to -  
BESTT, 14 Greenfield Lane, Idle, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD10 8PT.

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