



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

“The Bestt Way Forward...”

First 8 Trainees Complete HLF Funded Course



(From left to right, Gordon Newton (Chairman), Jordan Leeds, Sam Thompson, Nick Frechter, Tom Heath, Robert Goodwill MP (Transport Minister), James Newton, Sam White, Nathan Daws, Philip Mason, Jon Pridmore (Training Manager))

Trainees were presented with certificates by Robert Goodwill MP at the BESTT AGM at York on 23rd Jan 2016 for successfully completing their Modules. Six of the trainees are now fully employed in the industry and one trainee has started his own business. BESTT would like to thank the participating training organisations for their invaluable contribution to the successful outcome.

Masterclass on Boiler Maintenance & Repair Module at Hatch Engineering Swindon.



(From Left to right, Robert Andrews (T), Tom Leach (T), Colin Hatch, Ian Hatch, Gordon Newton, Hazel Pennack (T), Andrew Semple, Jon Pridmore, Thomas Blight (T), Mark O'Brien, Nathan Wilson (T), Joe Fitzjohn (T), Steve Budden (T), Matt Jervis (T), David Morgan.)

A 2 day master class bringing all the final 8 trainees together was held at Hatch Heritage Engineering at Wanborough, near Swindon in February, run by brothers Colin & Ian Hatch.

The trainees were given a briefing by Jon Pridmore,

BESTT's National Training Manager. The trainees were then placed into pairs, each with a mentor- Andrew Semple, Gordon Newton, Mark O'Brien and Jon Pridmore. This was a highly experienced crew! The trainees inspected four different makes of steam boilers in various states of disrepair and identified what was wrong with them and later presented their findings to the rest of the group. The trainees worked well with the mentors identifying what repairs were needed and went away from the course with lots of new ideas and knowledge about the boilers they would see in the future.

Barrow Hill, Roundhouse Chesterfield



The year 2 trainees came together for 4 days to be acquainted with the course and Modules.

HLF Project Success

The HLF funded full time training scheme ends this summer when the 9 year 2 trainees complete with complete complete their course. Henry Cleary, Project Director, said "It is great to see that trainees have performed so well and have good job prospects. We now need the heritage sector to support boilerwork training to carry on this work.

Bestt Extends to Mechanical Overhaul

BESTT has been contracted by Severn Valley Railway to test the feasibility of creating a syllabus for mechanical overhaul on similar lines to that for boilerwork. Two pilot modules are in preparation by Tony Simons and Richard Gibbon and a seminar to discuss the approach will be held in September, details to follow.

Riveter Certification Pilot Course NYMR Gosmont 4-7 April 2016

Six Candidates were selected from the applicants and attended the NYMR on the above dates. Mark O'Brien Forman Boilersmith was our host and our Technician for the event.

After a safety briefing by myself and run through the BESTT Riveting Module the Candidates were let loose, under supervision, on the tools. They first had a number of pieces to practice on with both snap head and countersunk holes. There followed nearly 2 days of trial and error with the Candidates setting and removing rivets and honing their skills. Then on the Wednesday afternoon they were given their individual stamped test pieces to complete. These are the pieces they submit for independent assessment involving sectioning and visual examination. The focus and concentration of the Candidates to get these right was very tangible.

After completion these test pieces were handed to Graham Morris an Independent Assessor. He gave these a thorough examination and then marked each piece individually.

Unique Candidate Numbers, stamped into the pieces, provided anonymity for the Candidates to keep everything as fair and independent as possible.

After a further review of the Module and a Q&A session the Candidates then sat a very tough, 1

hour, short answer exam under exam conditions. The exam was marked and the examination mark was added



to the score from the test piece to give an overall pass or fail mark. The Candidates were then brought back individually to discuss their answers and be given any coaching required and their final result. Standards were generally high and all 6 Candidates passed and will be awarded a Certificate in the next couple of weeks.



Attendees on the course

We learned quite a lot from delivering this pilot course and we are now tweaking how we deliver the next but overall it was a success and delivered the high quality learning experience that BESTT have become known for. Our sincerest thanks must go out to Mark and his team and the NYMR for continuing to support BESTT in this way.

There are two short videos on You Tube of the training being delivered which will shortly be linked onto the BESTT website:

Gordon Newton (Bestt Chairman) - Jon Pridmore (Bestt National Training Manager)

Bestt Washout Pilot 4 day Training Course 25-28 April 2016

The first Boiler Washout training course conducted by BESTT has been held at the Kent and East Sussex Railway.

This 4 day course, based on the BESTT approved training Module, consisted of tuition covering the following tasks on the KESRs loco Pannier tank no. 1638;-

- draining , un boxing, washing out the boiler.
- inspection of pressure parts and ancillary components to meet the requirements of the 'Responsible Person' responsibilities.
- boxing up
- steam testing .

These tasks were undertaken by course participants from the Severn Valley Railway and Worth Valley Railway working under the supervision of KESR staff acting as trainers.

In addition the course was supported by various tutorials covering the following subjects;-

- 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.

Following completion of training and practical tasks, each participant undertook an assessment to demonstrate and record proficiency of training. All participants passed the course.

Finally, opportunity was undertaken to have a course review where all training details were fully discussed between the BESTT representative, KESR staff and participants. These review matters raised will be incorporated into future training. Overall it was agreed with all parties that the course had been beneficial and successful.



Washout course group

Boiler & Engineering Skills Training Trust

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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

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.

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

Data security - Your data will not be used without permission

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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...



Masterclass group with 1st year trainees



Residential week group with 2nd year trainees