

## Crofton powers on to new heights

The steaming season continued with higher visitor numbers through the August Bank Holidays and on to the Steam Gala in September. In addition to continuing work on the Heritage Lottery Fund bid, the big push this year was to raise the £45,000 for the anticipated boiler repairs over this winter.

What a generous set of visitors we have had in 2016. Additional to their donations for the boiler appeal came additional funds from private individuals and local government. It is a testament to fondness that Crofton has in the hearts of the steam community, Wiltshire and beyond that we have been able to meet the total. Work starts in January to replace the 400 or so rivets in the lower section of the boiler. Keep an eye on the website for any opportunities to watch work in progress. It will be a noisy time!



Our senior Boiler Bear has been retired to rest on his laurels for the time being but looks forward to being revived for additional fundraising activities when need arises. The small knitted Boiler Bears were very popular with the children of all ages and we are very grateful to Christine Morgan and the knitting team for making them so successful.

The other major strand of the Crofton Story is the work being done to complete the bid for the HLF funding to cover a range of activities from much needed building repairs to further improvements to the visitor experience. To assist with this we have welcomed Bob Hill to the team to project manage the bid. A number of elements have to be pulled together in a highly structured way and the management team are very focused on making this a success. Bob brings with him a wealth of historic building experience that will be helpful in ensuring a successful bidding process.

During September Crofton took part in the Heritage Open Days and welcomed many visitors to the site. Later in the month we had a visit from Sir William McAlpine-during our Steam Gala. Sir William had been due to visit when the Red Wheel award was made by the Transport Trust but was unable to make that day. It was a pleasure to show him around the site.



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Becks Skinner, Crofton's Site Manager (pictured above right), gave talks on Victorian dress and illustrated this with her excellent home-made outfit

that any lady would have been proud of.

Not ones to sit around the volunteers have started the closed season by stripping the brickwork around the boiler, carrying out a range of groundworks and investigating repairs to the leat. David and Gill Payne, recent Crofton volunteers, are entering fully into the spirit and not holding back in ruining their manicures.



Our stalwart Treasurer, Geoffrey Snelgrove is scaling down his commitment to Crofton after many years of sterling service. It's vital behind the scenes work like this that keeps Crofton afloat, and we shall miss his contribution, Ann

Snook, Kenavon Venture crew member and CRT Education volunteer is now involved, and we welcome her to this vital role. We bid a farewell to another volunteer, Charlotte Dunford, who is taking some time out from Crofton. Charlotte intends to visit us at least one steaming day each year with her son Logan.



We are all looking forward to the coming season but there is a lot of rebuilding work to do once the boiler repairs and tests have been completed so we can be ready and running for Easter.

Crofton is powered by its volunteers who are always willing to turn their hands to any task that is offered. It takes a wide range of skills to keep the station running and we thank and encourage them in their second careers.

David Throup

### **Stop Press – Crofton 2017 Steaming Dates**

April 15, 16 & 17 (Easter)  
April 29, 30 & 31 (Bank Holiday)  
May 27, 28 & 29 (Bank Holiday)  
June 24, 25  
July 29, 30  
August 26, 27 & 28 (Bank Holiday)  
September 23, 24 (Steam Gala)