

**ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

**and**

## **HIGHLIGHTS**

**It gives me great pleasure to write the annual report for what is effectively 2012 a year that was bitter/sweet, a year of sadness, progress and celebration.**

**The LS was finished and rolled out and the workshop staff have been left with minor issues to resolve. Thanks again to Norman Taylor for his unfailing enthusiasm and great depth of knowledge.**

**We renewed our Accredited Museum status in October 2012 under the new control of the Arts Council guide lines.**

**We celebrated 100 Years of United by displaying at Newcastle, Darlington, Locomotion and at Croft 1940's weekend.**

**We moved the deckers from Cargo Fleet Depot to Riverside Park and have made progress in getting the shed floor space into good order and manageable use. There is still work to be done with Graeme Binns but we are getting there.**

**We took on Unit 25 and renewed the leases of units 21 and 23 at Aycliffe for 5 years certain. A little pricey but better than a farm barn. We also took the opportunity to take Unit 13 as it was on offer at a reduced rent. It is presently in use by a sub tenant/member who covers the overheads.**

**We did 4 days outreach with Northern Stage Newcastle upon Tyne as part of the Olympic torch events. They used the Daimler for 4 days, Alnwick, Newcastle, Durham and Middlesbrough. A different event for us but one that paid well.**

**We continued to support Locomotion at Shildon**

### **EVENTS - Period 01/10/11 to 31/10/12**

**The statistics for the programme year are set out below and speak for themselves**

<b>TYPE</b>	<b>EVENT DAYS</b>	<b>TOTAL MILES</b>	<b>TOTAL ENGINE TIME</b>
<b>K</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1540</b>	<b>54</b>
<b>L</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>2810</b>	<b>107</b>
<b>LHS</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>382</b>	<b>17</b>

LS	6	140	6
TOW T.	3	210	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>5462</b>	<b>206</b>
<b>EVENTS</b>			

On the basis of 9 regular drivers, plus (3 occasional ) the 9 drove roughly 22 hours in a season. Average event mileage, excluding the run to SVR gives about 50 miles per event, = 4 gallons of fuel @ 15mpg = £25 per event (average).

**VOLUNTEER HOURS** - over the last 3 years we averaged 4800 hours per year, 200 + days in the year, 950 individual volunteer shifts, at an average of 5 hours per shift . Obviously workshop banter, tea drinking and chatting took its toll but we had on average 15 individual weekly attendances from an annual paid up membership of 42.

## **VEHICLES**

**AHN 451B** Norman sorted out a couple of issues with the engine, alternator drive shaft and the cooling system. The bodywork is in need of attention together with the oil seal on the differential.

**GHN 189** – Apart from guest appearances the K is not likely to be used in 2013. It is looking decidedly dog eared, however the upper corner panels have been repaired and painted.

Changes in HLF funding in 2013 could provide the funding for it to go to a sub contractor for restoration but time will tell.

**LHN 860** – The L type has had a very good season after the fitters took a look at and cured most of the exhaust smoke and reduced the loss of compression. This resulted in being able to get out of Goathland ( Aidentsfield ) with 24 on board. However more work is to be done on the engine at the close season to get the compression up to better standards. Bodywork also needs attention.

**NDL 769G** – The Newtonian does not get much use but is a useful back up. The accelerator slave cylinder is to be changed and the steering box needs attention. We put radials on the front and put the removed crossplys on to the K rear nearside which were in poor condition. Minor body work also to be carried out.

**304 GHN** – The coach finally “came of age “ in 2012 and is a beautiful addition to the fleet. Thanks to the efforts of many people and the generous offer to paint it by Arriva it came out for the first time at Darlington Market Square for '100 Years of United' on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 2012. Once the workshop staff have finally snagged it out we can use it in the NE region for a season before we launch out into further areas.

**FHN 923 – The Old Darling – We looked for PRISM funding this year and have been successful in getting £4000 worth of grant ( 50%) having failed last year. It did the honours for Charlie at the end of August when the “Chief Engineer” needed his expertise and the reports of the funeral are available from the UEC website.**

**PROJECT WORK - MHN 131W – Leyland National. Following the purchase of the vehicle from Ken King we have started restoration in earnest and the standard of work is of a very high quality thanks to Mark Johnson, Barry Elliott and Norman Taylor. We are hopeful of some restoration grant funding in 2013 which will restore the draw down on the restoration fund.**

**NEW HOME PROJECT – this tends to be a back burner job but not forgotten. On the other hand we vacated Cargo Fleet Depot by the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 but were delighted to be offered 6,500 sq ft of space on Riverside Park Middlesbrough as a new facility. We have 2 years certain and then on 6 months notice. If the unit users get their act together, we floor share with narrow gauge locos, 3 No, a half scale model of HMS Endeavour, ex Cleveland Centre and military vehicle restorers, I am confident that we should get Middlesbrough Council to give us 5 years clear, bearing in mind the state of the economy and the low up take of industrial premises. The fact that the Secretary once managed the units for Middlesbrough in another life is purely coincidental.**

#### **AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT and BROADENING HORIZONS**

**We finished Broadening Horizons last year in conjunction with St Francis CE Primary school and their animation project. This was very well received particularly by Arts Council NE who are now our mentors for museums.**

**The Archive and Digitization programme continues its work and we are hopeful of a broadband connection in the not too distant future. Links with Locomotion, Head of Steam and Beamish will then follow which will enhance our educational outreach and influence in the region.**

#### **ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE – WE ARE SOLVENT**

**Peter Smith and Neil Cockburn are now settled to run the finances which is very much appreciated. The audit this time was done in almost record time once Peter found that the 50 pence discrepancy was the bank's fault and not his. The gift aid recovery for the year amounted to some £3800 which is a very good result and easy money now that the system is set up. We continue to recover VAT without any question, the certification for VAT has just been renewed from our original start date of February 2003. Peter Smith now does the VAT returns on line.**

**The Secretariat also continues to do its work and we have had no particular problems or surprises to deal with. Derek Kirby and Tony Swanston have assisted with PC work, e bay sales and website updating in co-operation with Peter Mitchell the web master and John Colquhoun who dabbles with the occult as our Halloween consultant.**

**The balance sheet is attached to this report. Although we show a deficit again this year of £925 as a result of the expenditure of some reserves from the restoration fund. However the balance sheet does not allow for the recovery of gift aid which is in the region of £3800 which could in fact be said to be our profit for the year.**

**I must also thank Angus Buchan who never fails to amaze with his recycling efforts. Cans, coins, scrap generally, sale room items which continue to bring in a steady stream of money which is gift aided giving an additional 25%.**

#### **FORWARD PLAN and ACCREDITATION**

**We adopted a new forward plan in 2010. It should be borne in mind that this is only a forecast and can be changed. Following the audit of our conservation standards and skills which scored a resounding 79%, we submitted our Accreditation renewal application on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2012. We were in the first batch of 5 to go to the Arts Council panel from the voluntary independent museums of the NE and were accepted on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2012 for full Accreditation status. We also spotted and changed the title of our Acquisition and Disposal Policy to Development Policy even though it was hidden deep in the new criteria rules for accreditation. Could have been tricky if we had not done so!! We continue to support the voluntary independent museum workshops run by Sarah Carr, Senior Museum Development Officer, Discovery Museum. This is a useful way of building up contacts and hence programme bookings.**

#### **CURATORIAL REPORT - JOHN WILKS**

**Members should feel justifiably proud that all the museum items ( both large and small) in the Society collection are being looked after and cared for in such a way that they will be available, not only for the current membership to enjoy but also for future generations. The renewal of Accreditation status recently revised and upgraded by the Arts Council is to be applauded and keeps the Society in high esteem within the voluntary independent ranks of the north east.**

**The Society standing in the regional museum network is further enhanced by its input into the voluntary independent organisations programme, a forum which meets approximately 4 times a year to promote the interests of voluntary run museums in the region.**

## **CONCLUSIONS**

**2012 saw the death of Nick Shakesby our Chairman for over 10 years and he will be missed by those who knew him and had the privilege to work with him. Also Charlie Bullock the “ old goat “ and the once owner of the tow truck. He departed this world to go for a job with the Chief Engineer in August 2012 having outlived at least 5 designated drivers who were to drive him to the crematorium. Dave Phipps did the driving on the day having been assured by Philip Battersby that the vehicle was not jinxed.**

**So in 2013 we get to use the LS, make progress on the Leyland National and enjoy the fruits of our labours.**