

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

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INTRODUCTION

and

HIGHLIGHTS

It gives me great pleasure to bring you the annual report of the Society for 2015, a year of progress and consolidation.

- ⤴ Following Norman and Barry's rise to the challenge of the failed LS engine the coach worked out this year under controlled conditions and has performed as expected.
- ⤴ We sold most of the 100 calendars for 2016, again spearheaded by Kevin Openshaw.
- ⤴ We again supported Severn Valley Railway WW II week. Having attended SVR for 20 years we did not send a vehicle this year and relied on the Luton group to provide a vehicle which they duly did. As a consequence it has been decided to finish our arrangement with SVR who will be so notified.
- ⤴ We went to Beamish on 3 days for Halloween, four Christmas Fair days and 3 days for other Transport related events. (10 in total)
- ⤴ In September we supported Newcastle City Council on one day for the Heritage Open Days due to the clash with the Great North Run which the Newcastle group did with great aplomb
- ⤴ Once again we worked during the year with NRM Locomotion Shildon doing limited shuttle duty, our own annual rally and a second display period in November of 14 days in the museum with the K and L types, supported by UEC with the attendance of Bruce Merrick and Phillip Battersby.
- ⤴ We started a programme of providing new embroidered Society jackets, polo and sweat shirts which have been well received.
- ⤴ We had a Christmas lunch at Woodham Golf Club in December with 22 members and friends enjoying the day.

EVENTS - Period 01/10/14 to 30/11/15

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

TYPE	EVENT DAYS	TOTAL MILES	TOTAL ENGINE TIME	FOOTFALL & PASSENGERS
K	6	400	12	4972*
D	8	470	18	425
L	27	865	42	4828*
LHS	8	492	16	908
LS	15	871	31	138
TOW T.	0	0	0	
TOTAL	64	3098	119	11,271

* allows for 3012 visitors at Locomotion

On the basis of 6 regular drivers, plus (3 occasional) the 6 drove roughly 20 hours in a season. Average event mileage, excluding the run to SVR gives about 50 miles per event, = 3.5 gallons of fuel@ £5/gall. & @ 15mpg = £17.5 per event (average).

VOLUNTEER HOURS - over the last year we have averaged 3928 hours in the year, with 174+ active days, 834+ individual volunteer shifts, at an average of 4.7 hours per shift per volunteer. We averaged 12/15 individual weekly attendances again from an annual paid up membership of 42. During 2015 the volunteer hours have been maintained which is a remarkable achievement and members should be well pleased with such a result.

VEHICLE REPORTS

AHN 451B – DAIMLER - a list of minor issues is being worked on by the Teesside group headed up by Ray Knox and Peter Thompson. The demister motor has been repaired and refitted whilst the differential oil seal may be looked at in 2016 but it is not an urgent job.

GHN 189 – BRISTOL K5G – will continue its restricted programme in 2015, however the Teesside group will also work through a schedule of minor works including the Tee Cutting and polishing of the panels, which has been successfully done with the L type last year, thanks to Kevin Openshaw. The Halloween witch worked the platform again but may be mothballed or burnt at the stake next year.

LHN 860 – The L - workshops abandoned the fitting of LED headlights due to technical difficulties otherwise the vehicle continues to work well.

NDL 769G – The Newtonian – has been used much more in 2015 but will retain its Newtonian livery for the foreseeable future. We obtained a pair of new front brake drums from the Manchester Transport Museum.

304 GHN – The LS performs well following the engine change last year and gives an amazing 15/16 mpg which is most welcome. Norman has repaired the fuel gauge.

FHN 923 – The Old Darling – following the work on the LS, the tow truck went back into the workshop. The crane was taken off the chassis, cleaned and repainted. New steelwork has been welded onto the chassis, springs fitted and new crane sub frame steel fitted. We also did well with grant applications for the cost of the works amassing £6000 this year alone with an outstanding application to the Transport Trust awaited.

MHN 131W – Leyland National. The need for other priorities will see the National continue on the back burner in Unit 25 and may not re appear for sometime.

NEW HOME PROJECT – once again this is a back burner job but not forgotten. We continue to occupy space at Riverside Park Middlesbrough. We floor share with 2 narrow gauge locos, a half scale model of HMS Endeavour, (ex Cleveland Centre) plus a number of military vehicle restorers. My recent contacts with Middlesbrough Council continues to suggest that they are happy to let us be forgotten about and to act as Caretaker for the Council's goods.

AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT & OUTREACH

The Archive and Digitization programme has slowed but continues. We now have a phone line and broadband connected into the Units. The proposed links with Locomotion, Head of Steam and Beamish will follow which will enhance our educational outreach and influence in the region. Chris Hall continues his filing and scanning of the photographic collection.

WEBSITE

The Society received a grant early last year (2014) for the redesign of its website. On behalf of the Society and with the recommendation of both the North East Museum Service and the Newcastle Council for Voluntary Service I engaged Mason Clark Media of Newcastle to do the job. Our initial consultations went well: it was clear that the web designer understood how our existing site worked and he provided a

design which largely replicated the function. The new site went live around the end of February 2014.

However a number of problems arose which I could not attend to immediately due to work commitments and by the time I put in that time MasonClark Media had ceased development work and were not answering my e mails outlining the shortcomings which were apparent. This position persisted for some months.

Louis McGlen of NCVS then intervened on our behalf and about a month ago the major faults have been rectified and I entered the 2015 programme on the website. The website address remains www.aycliffebus.org.uk Unfortunately as a result of the take over of the domain by MasonClarkMedia we have lost our mailing list but I am working on this problem and I am confident that it will be resolved shortly.

It has been a frustrating year but I hope that we are now able to take full advantage of the new site which I am developing together with the e mail system and that we will soon have an acceptable solution. I will give a full to date report at the AGM on the 24th January 2016.

Peter Mitchell

TRUSTEES

Your current Trustees are John Gibson, Kevin Openshaw, Ian Wiggett, Peter Smith, Mike Clayton, Alan Tweedy who met on 4 occasions over the year and undertook to carry out the requirements of the Charity Commission under the Constitution. In September 2015 Peter Smith stood down as Treasure after 12 years and the post has been filled by Tony Swanston. The Trustees also approved an additional Trustee of Geoff Reed with effect from April 2015

ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE and ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW

The Secretariat continues to do its work and we have had no particular problems or surprises to deal with.

Peter Smith and Neil Cockburn have continued to run the finances which is very much appreciated. The balance sheet is attached. Peter Smith will report that the Society has had another successful year financially yet again with an increase in income over last year.

FORWARD PLAN and ACCREDITATION

The Forward plan has been updated in order to meet the accreditation renewal date of September 2015. Following on from this we were required to apply for the renewal of our accreditation status by September 2015 and the application duly met the required deadline. Our mentors at Tyne and Wear Museums do not anticipate us having any problems. We have 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 networking contacts and hence programme bookings. It is also an excellent way of finding out about current trends and grant funding streams.

CURATORIAL REPORT - JOHN WILKS

I have met with Ian Wiggett twice in the last year so as to be advised about the activities of the Society. Members should continue to feel justifiably proud that 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 Society's high standing in the regional museum network is reflected by the fact that Locomotion and Beamish continue to ask the Society to provide vehicles for them on numerous occasions in 2015 and that the Society's accreditation application appears to be progressing without problem. As I have said before these requests should not be dismissed lightly as there are many organisations who would dearly love to get the same opportunities that the Society rightly receives.

CONCLUSIONS

The consolidation of our efforts, together with the streamlining of some of our activities continues and we should be justly proud of being members of an active professional organisation which has a wide range of skills. Clearly as we get a little older there is a need to recruit new 'blood' but at the present time we have no immediate problems.