

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2017**

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## INTRODUCTION

and

## HIGHLIGHTS

It gives me great pleasure to bring you the annual report of the Society for 2017, again a year of continued progress and consolidation.

- ⤴ Again we sold most of the 150 calendars for 2017, again spearheaded by Kevin Openshaw, together with Christmas cards of which we also sold about 250. The pictures for both productions being provided by the President John Gibson RA, whose mastery of the paintbrush ( artistic not decorating ) has provided us with a first class opportunity to promote the Society. Again Tony Swanston co ordinated the layout with Potts Printers because he is good with computers.
- ⤴ We went to Beamish on 5 days for Halloween, six Christmas Fair days and 4 days for other Transport related events. (15 in total ) We did 3 weddings, but no Prom and no funerals.
- ⤴ In September we supported Newcastle City Council on two days for their Heritage Open Days tours of the City which the Newcastle group did with great aplomb. Also we did two days at Discovery Museum in October which was very well received by the museums management when the L did runs out supported by NEBPT's South Shields Busways decker. The LS was displayed only on both days.
- ⤴ Once again we worked during the year with NRM Locomotion Shildon for our own annual rally and two display periods in April and November inside the museum with the L, LS LHS and K types. Supported by UEC with the attendance of Bruce Merrick and Phillip Battersby and others.
- ⤴ We had a Christmas lunch at Woodham Golf Club in December 2016 with 35 members and friends enjoying the day, organised by Geoff Reed, who also set up the December 2017 lunch.

## EVENTS - Period 13/02/17 to 31/12/17

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

TYPE	EVENT DAYS	TOTAL MILES	TOTAL ENGINE TIME	PASSENGERS	VIEWERS
K	13	670	28	1156	8100
D	7	320	13	360	1500
L	31	1075	53	3775	22,500
LHS	14	742	30	700	7,100
LS	7	300	12	200	2,000
TOW T.	0	0	0		
TOTAL	72	3107	136	6,191	41,200

On the basis of 6 regular drivers, plus (3 occasional ) the 6 drove roughly 22.6 hours in a season. Average event mileage, excluding the run to SVR gives about 43.7 miles per event, = 2.9 gallons of fuel @ £5/gall. & @ 15mpg = £14.58 per event (average).

**VOLUNTEER HOURS** - over the last year we have averaged 2704 hours in the year, with 157+ active days, 642+ individual volunteer shifts, at an average of 4.2 hours per shift per volunteer. We averaged 12/15 individual weekly attendances again from an annual paid up membership of 44. During 2017 the volunteer hours have been maintained which is a remarkable achievement and members should be well pleased with such a result. Of special mention must go to Angus Buchan, who could sell sand to the Arabs and who continues to run our scrap metal business with credible results.

We currently have Steve Kelly, a new member from Darlington, training for his PCV licence. This is good news as it helps the Society to obtain workforce development grant aid from T & W Museum service and provides the Society with an Aycliffe based full load driver.

## VEHICLE REPORTS

**AHN 451B – DAIMLER** - The Daimler went to Gardiners Spennymoor for a repaint in October and a finish date is awaited. Funding from various sources raised £7000 of an estimated cost of £8000 which kept the cost to the Society well in hand, with an initial £4000 coming from AAP funding.

**GHN 189 – BRISTOL K5G** – will continue its restricted programme in 2018

**LHN 860 – The L - worked well during the season but is now getting ready for some body work. It is 20 + years since its restored launch and has done well thanks to undercover garaging over the years.**

**NDL 769G – The Newtonian – has been used much more in 2017 but will retain its Newtonian livery for the foreseeable future. Workshops looked at the body creaking and concluded it was the lack of available movement on the front springs. Norman duly worked the magic with a spanner and now it is as quiet as can be.**

**304 GHN – The LS performs well following the engine change in 2014 and gives an amazing 15/16 mpg which is most welcome.**

**FHN 923 – The Old Darling – We did well with grant applications for the cost of the works to date amassing £6000 in 2015. We received £700 from local DCC members and £990 from T & W museum service this year which allowed Barry Elliott and Norman Taylor and to continue with the work of restoration. New member Steve Kelly is also working on the tow truck**

**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, one standard gauge loco ( new ) plus a number of military vehicle restorers. My recent contacts with Middlesbrough Council again 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 to a halt and will need to be revitalised. We now have a phone line and broadband connected into the Units. We have continued our links with Locomotion, Head of Steam and Beamish which will enhance our educational outreach and influence in the region. Tony Swanston is preparing a specification for the purchase of new and updated laptops plus printers immediately after the New Year.**

## **WEBSITE – Peter Mitchell**

**The website was contracted out to Mason-Clarke in Newcastle upon Tyne a couple of years ago. The result was initially promising but**

eventually was unsatisfactory since M-C went out of business when there were several design faults to eliminate; the faults were only minor but enough to impede effective operation. The consequences of that episode are slowly being eliminated but some remain.

The M-C site was abandoned and the old site reactivated. For most of this year the old site has been in effective use but was still under redevelopment. As of the Christmas/New Year holiday, the undeveloped parts are now active again. So the site is now largely complete and fulfilling its designed intention.

The users' area requires users to register and log-on. There have been some teething problems with that system, but they seem now to have been resolved.

A new development this year has been the implementation of an information system to support the running of bus services at the Society's events. It aims to emulate the systems nowadays appearing at bus stops and in railway stations. It facilitates a display of routes, times and bus allocations. This development would not have been possible with the M-C site, so this is certainly an advance.

As a consequence it is possible to amend the display in the course of an event from a hand-held mobile device: it coped with a late unexpected arrival at the Locomotion event in August which then took part in the bus service. The system was in use again for the two-day event at the Newcastle Discovery Museum in October.

A left-over from the M-C episode is that e-mail addresses on the domain [aycliffebus.org.uk](http://aycliffebus.org.uk) are no longer available. Reactivating that facility remains a project for the future and I am discussing the implications of this with Tony Swanston.

The electronic mailing list has served the Society well during the last year. It makes easy notification of events, changes of plan and other matters of interest by despatch of a message to a single e-mail address. New members who supply an e-mail address are included as a matter of routine. Old members, who may have only recently discovered the delights of e-mail, are welcome to join on notification of the desire to do so.

The Facebook page has developed a following over the last year. It has regular postings and attendant conversations serviced by two

members of the Society. Members who have a Facebook account are welcome to follow it.

There is growing collaboration with Locomotion over the use of social media, and theirs and Society's web and Facebook pages were coordinated for the rally there in August with great effect.

The blog is currently dormant.

## **TRUSTEES**

**Your current Trustees are John Gibson, Kevin Openshaw, Ian Wiggett, Mike Clayton, Geoff Reed, Tony Swanston and who met on 4 occasions over the year. They undertook to carry out the requirements of the Charity Commission under the Constitution.**

## **ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE and ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW**

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

**Tony Swanston has run the finances from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015, with David Mackintosh as Auditor which is very much appreciated. The balance sheet is attached. He will report that the Society has had another successful year financially yet again with an increase in income over last year. The e banking arrangements have been further refined and the whole system is a delight to see.**

## **FORWARD PLAN and ACCREDITATION**

**The Forward plan was updated in order to meet the accreditation renewal date of September 2015 and the application duly met the required deadline. On the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017 we had a visit from a representative from the Arts Council based at Birmingham when John Wilks, our Curatorial Mentor and Society Secretary met altogether. We now await their response but the Arts Council lady felt that the renewal should be straightforward.**

**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 in order 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, Beamish and others continue to ask the Society to provide vehicles on numerous occasions in 2017.**

**I was in attendance when the AC representative came to view the work of the Society in November with regard to the renewal of the Accreditation status. I was impressed by her professional attitude and her understanding of the way in which the Society operates and maintains its museum functions. I am confident that the Society will obtain their renewal this year.**

**In conclusion I would say that the ongoing development and progress of the Society can be judged by the continuing number of requests for its services from both museums and general public. This is entirely due to the efforts and hard work of the members and reflects well on the Society at Museum and other general meetings**

## **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.**