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INTRODUCTION

and

HIGHLIGHTS

It gives me great pleasure to bring you the annual report of the Society for 2018, again a year of continued progress and consolidation.

- ⤴ Again we sold most of the 150 calendars for 2019, 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.
- ⤴ 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 4 weddings, 1 Prom and 2 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 at the Stephenson Railway Museum we did one day in August (the Daimler) and two days in November (Bristol L and NEBPT's Bristol MW), very well received by the railway.
- ⤴ 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 and LHS types. Due to PLI insurance issues, still to be resolved with Zurich, we did not have David Slater's Durham and District L type on display.
- ⤴ We had a Christmas lunch at the Bay Horse, Middridge in December 2017 with members and friends enjoying the day,organised by Geoff Reed, who also set up the December 2017 lunch.
- ⤴ In 2018 we welcomed 4 new members, Tracy Dean, Mr and Mrs Andrew and Angela Cuttmore plus Tony Cuttmore (father).
- ⤴ We hosted the Spring meeting of NARTM again using the Holiday Inn at J59 A1(m) It was a well attended meeting with reps from across the UK.

EVENTS - Period 1/02/18 to 31/12/18

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	12	527	28	644	6680
D	11	430	20	750	3580
L	29	1073	44	2228	25,180
LHS	14	1122	33	1308	11,412
LS	7	300	12	200	2,000
TOW T.	0	0	0		
TOTAL	75	3446	138.5	5,129	56,282

On the basis of 7 regular drivers, plus (3 occasional) the 7 drove roughly 19.7 hours in a season. Average event mileage gives about 46 miles per event, = 3 gallons of fuel @ £5/gall. & @ 15mpg = £15 per event (average).

VOLUNTEER HOURS - over the last year we have averaged 2701 hours in the year, with 147+ active days, 606+ individual volunteer shifts, at an average of 3.8 hours per shift per volunteer. We averaged 12/15 individual weekly attendances again from an annual paid up membership of 44. During 2018 the volunteer hours have been maintained which is a remarkable achievement and members should be well pleased with such a result.

Steve Kelly, a new member from Darlington, trained for his PCV licence and passed. This is good news as it also helped the Society to obtain workforce development grant aid from T & W Museum service and has provided the Society with an Aycliffe based full load driver.

VEHICLE REPORTS

AHN 451B – DAIMLER - The Daimler went to Gardiners Spennymoor for repanelling and repainting in October 2017 and was finished by March 2018. Funding from various sources raised £7000 of an estimated cost of £8000 which kept the cost to the Society well in hand. An initial £4000 came from AAP funding, via local DCC councilors.

GHN 189 – BRISTOL K5G – will continue its restricted programme in 2019

LHN 860 – The L - again 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 – is 50 years old in 2019 and we are hopeful of raising funds for a repainting and repaint this year.

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 – during the summer progress slowed but in more recent times Barry Elliot, Andrew and Tony Cuttmore and Steve Kelly have put in some good hours which is showing positive results with the cab roof being rebuilt.

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.

THE SHED – We continue to occupy space at Riverside Park Middlesbrough, floor sharing 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 have continued our links with Locomotion, Head of Steam and Beamish which will enhance our educational outreach and influence in the region. The need to make progress with the Archive has been highlighted in the comments from Arts Council following our Provisional Accreditation approval in November 2018.

WEBSITE – Peter Mitchell

The website is now largely functional based on the original design of some years ago; we have effectively overcome the abortive attempt to contract it out.

There are some persistent difficulties with logging in to the users' area. It has proved difficult to diagnose this since members have other things to do with their time than repeatedly attempt to log-on in hope. I have made some changes in the hope of eliminating the difficulty.

The timetable display for events has had some further development. It was in use at the Stephenson Railway but owing to problems with the power supply at Locomotion it served little purpose at our rally there.

The domain ayliffibus.org.uk is available for e-mail addresses once more and the E-mail circulation list is working well.

The Facebook page has developed a following over the last two years. 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.

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 3 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 1st September 2015, with David Mackintosh as Auditor which is very much appreciated. The balance sheet is attached. This year the role of Treasurer has been done by David Macintosh with Tony Swanston taking over the role of Auditor due to domestic pressures..

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 submission deadline. On the 6th 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 all together. The Arts Council have at last given their decision on our renewal of accreditation which is provisional until reviewed again in November 2019. The Trustees have issues to resolve on the documentation but they are confident that these requirements can be met.

We have continued to support the Voluntary Organisations Network which represents independent groups 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 have continued to ask the Society to provide vehicles on numerous occasions in 2018.

I was in attendance when the AC representative came to view the work of the Society in November 2017 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 also confident that the Society will obtain their full renewal later this year. I am also pleased that provisional registration has been awarded at this time because if it were a brand new application we would be refused on the grounds that we do not fit the orthodox style of a museum, eg. we do not have public access at the Society's premises.

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