

these requests for vehicles 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.

TRUSTEES

Your current Trustees are John Gibson, Kevin Openshaw, Ian Wiggett, Mike Clayton, Geoff Reed, Tony Swanston who met on 4 occasions over the year and 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. He 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. To date we have had no reply from Arts Council. 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 once 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 2016 and that the Society's accreditation application for renewal would appear to be progressing without problem. As I have said before

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, Norman Taylor and Neville Gelder to continue with the work of restoration.

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 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 needs 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.

WEBSITE – Peter Mitchell

Since about a year ago, the Society has yet another new website, this time produced in-house, still using the same domain name aycliffebus.org.uk It includes details of the Society's collections and activities. In particular it has a members/users area which is steadily developing. There is a calendar of the current year's activities.

There are currently about twenty registered users. There is a plan to develop a real time information system for the use of the Society's Rally at Locomotion. There has also been a proposal to use the web site to market items which bear the Society's identity, such as Christmas cards and calendars, that development awaits a detailed plan of the items to be stocked, of how to deal with sales inquiries and the means of facilitating payment and volunteer(s) to take that project forward.

The e mail circulation list is also working well and e mail address owners who are not on the current list are asked to register with me in order that they can be kept up to date with Society affairs.

EVENTS - Period 01/10/15 to 30/11/16

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	2	75	4	1600*
D	9	550	19	6500
L	29	1586	53	33150*
LHS	10	506	16	12,300*
LS	13	882	28	11,802
TOW T.	0	0	0	
TOTAL	63	3599	120	65,352

* allows for visitors at Locomotion and Beamish

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 57 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 3754 hours in the year, with 167+ active days, 812+ individual volunteer shifts, at an average of 4.6 hours per shift per volunteer. We averaged 12/15 individual weekly attendances again from an annual paid up membership of 44. During 2016 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, who continues to run our scrap metal business with credible results.

VEHICLE REPORTS

AHN 451B – DAIMLER - The demister motor has been repaired and refitted whilst the differential oil seal may be looked at in 2017 but it is not an urgent job. We hope to get a quote from Garners Spennymoor for a repaint in 2017.

GHN 189 – BRISTOL K5G – will continue its restricted programme in 2016.

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 2016 but will retain its Newtonian livery for the foreseeable future. Workshops have looked a number of times at the body creaking and have concluded that it is best to let it develop before being worked on.

INTRODUCTION

and

HIGHLIGHTS

It gives me great pleasure to bring you the annual report of the Society for 2016, a continued year of progress and consolidation.

- ⤴ 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. 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 9 weddings, a Prom and a funeral with the Daimler for an ex Darlington Corporation Transport driver.
- ⤴ The Bishop of Durham used us during his 2 day sojourn around the Stockton on Tees diocese whilst on his meet the people walks the second day ended at Wynyard Hall where we were provided with tea and scones.
- ⤴ 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.
- ⤴ Once again we worked during the year with NRM Locomotion Shildon doing limited shuttle duty, our own annual rally and two display periods in April and November inside the museum with the L, LS LHS and L types, supported by UEC with the attendance of Bruce Merrick and Phillip Battersby.
- ⤴ We had a Christmas lunch at Woodham Golf Club in December with 25 members and friends enjoying the day, organised by Geoff Reed who ended up with a hospital appointment on the day and could not attend.

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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