



## **WIRRAL MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY**

[www.wirralmodelengineeringsociety.co.uk](http://www.wirralmodelengineeringsociety.co.uk)

Newsletter March 2017

Dear Member,

Around one hundred years of stability was demolished when the sandstone wall adjacent to the ground level station succumbed to the contractor's machine. The wall had of course developed cracks and together with a fair bit of settlement it was leaning too far into the field for safety. The trench that was then dug by the contractors for the replacement wall footings removed the roots of the six pine trees that lined the wall! Storm 'Doris' dominated and brought one pine down across the station and severely weakened a second tree that had to be felled. So in the course of a week there were severe changes in the landscape.

Perhaps there could be changes following our AGM? Members are invited to consider nomination for committee. New ideas and input would be very welcome.

The raised track has also undergone a major change with the successful completion of the new rails and anti-tipping rail. Originally there was some doubt as to the timescale and effort that would be available to take on the project. Thanks to members input the project has been completed in very good time. The carriages, originally built in 1986, are now under scrutiny and it will be interesting to see the new versions appear.

Changes are also possible, from what we hear, regarding Royden Park and its management. We are awaiting renewal of our five-year licence that will obviously incur additional costs. Car parking charges are to be introduced at the Park and that may have some impact on the number of visitors to the Park.

However, the Society is in good shape to meet the changes and with member's help, input and assistance it will continue for some time to come.

Contents:

1. Santa Specials 2016
2. Future events
3. Membership renewals
4. Membership news
5. Raised track
6. Housekeeping
7. Society website
8. Items for sale
9. Appendix 1. Synopsis of committee meetings.
10. Appendix 2. AGM notification and nomination form.

## **1. Santa Specials 2016**

The event took place over the two weekends, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December. Having sold all available seats in four hours on the 8<sup>th</sup> October there was 'no pressure!' for the event. Thank you to the setter uppers of the Grotto, the job was completed with time to spare!

Thank you to the ladies who worked in the grotto in both departments as Santa's Elves, no easy task! A huge 'thanks' to Santa – without you the event would have been rather dull.

Large numbers of members and friends turned up on all four days to cover all the various jobs that were required to carry out the event. All very professionally done. We also thank members who used their locomotives to help out; there were always four engines in 'steam' at all times.

A special thank you to the helpers who provided the hot refreshments over the four days. This was very much appreciated.

Finally thanks to those members who supported the event and brought their families and friends along. It was good to see everyone enjoying themselves.

There was a lot of enthusiasm for a further Special in 2017 and those involved agreed to support the Society next December. Once again, we are indebted to Anthony Seel for kindly storing the 'props' and Geof and Debbie who are helping Santa with his presents! Some work has been carried out to prepare the room for the next event, thanks to those members who helped. Are we ready?

## **2. Future Events.**

### **Easter and Bank holidays**

Easter weekend dates this year - **14<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> April.**

The Society hopes to operate on all the Bank Holidays, weather and staff permitting.

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May** - Visit to Doncaster Racecourse for the N.M.E.& M. Exhibition. £28 Deposit required, covering cost of coach & entry to Exhibition. Monies **ASAP** to Alan Pennell (cheques payable A.V. Pennell) 4 Arundel Close, Pensby, Wirral, CH61 8TB. 0151 648 6588. **Coach departs from Hooton Station at 8am.**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June** – **WMES Annual General Meeting.** 7.30pm start.

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June** – Visit, to the tracks, by the Tallylyn Society (Southport branch)

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June** – Members' Running Day at the tracks. An opportunity for members to 'have a go' and perhaps drive a locomotive on both tracks, maybe for the first time!

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July** – Evening Run at the tracks. A chance for the families to experience rides.

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July** – 'Rail & Sail' a joint venture between Wirral Model Boat Club and ourselves with an Exhibition of boats and model engineering which the public will be invited to view. Hopefully all members will support this event and both tracks will be in operation.

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August** – Visit and Display by the Triumph Motor Club.

**Saturday and Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December**  
**Saturday and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December – Santa Special weekends**

**M.M.R.S.** have advised that they will not be holding their usual model railway Exhibition this year at Mosslands School.

Members will receive a diary for 2017/18. Details are being finalised and the diary will be issued soon.

The Society is always interested in obtaining speakers and topics of interest for meetings. If you know of any contacts who would be willing to give a talk or presentation please inform any member of the committee or Barry Harrison. Barry has overseen the diary compilation and we appreciate the work put in to provide the diary.

**3. Membership renewal 2017 – 2018**

Thank you to those who have renewed their Society membership.

Members are respectfully reminded that subscriptions are due from the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2017. The subscription for 2017/18 is £25.00.

Renewal forms are downloadable from the society website or available from the notice board in the Sidings.

Please:

Complete the form and ensure your address and contact details are up to date.

Include any family members as appropriate.

Enclose your subscription. Forms without payment cannot be processed!

The membership secretary, Bob Spencer, can be contacted on 0151 342 3570.

**4. Membership News**

**Something to celebrate – 90 years on!** Following a very entertaining Quiz that attracted a good attendance at Thornton Hough, on 26<sup>th</sup> January, Leslie (John) Dobbing's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday was celebrated. Members shared a chocolate tray bake supported by a lemon drizzle swiss roll. We were very pleased that Les brought his wife Kit to share in the celebration. Kit remarked that she was a 'chocaholic' and wished to know where it had been bought! Pictures of the occasion are on the website.

The Society now has 3 members who have reached the august age of 90 including Bill McGlade (92) and Albert Kanes (91). Congratulations Gentlemen!! Have we missed anyone out?

**5. Raised Track** – This will be open for Easter and it would be nice to have a small celebration to acknowledge the hard work that members have put into its refurbishment. Please can we have some suggestions, from you the members, on how best to celebrate the occasion? Please direct your suggestions to any member of the Committee.

**6. Housekeeping** – would members who use the facilities at The Sidings please help to keep them clean and tidy. Also, if Society property is damaged in use, or found damaged, please make it known to a committee member so that repair or removal from service can be arranged.

**7. Society Website** – We thank Alan Banks for continuing to keep the website fresh, but he welcomes articles and photographs from members. Access to the Members section of the website is restricted by use of a code. If you wish to be

reminded of the code this can be obtained from the Secretary. Please, as with all access codes, keep the login confidential to yourself.

**8. Items for sale** – Members can arrange with Alan Banks to have their items put on our website. We have had advice from Andrew Dunn, of Lancaster & Morecambe M.E.S., that he is planning to introduce a Classified Section in their quarterly Newsletter at no charge. If you wish to use this service please send to: [editor@lmmes.co.uk](mailto:editor@lmmes.co.uk) mentioning you are a member of WMES.

**9. Appendix 1 Synopsis of committee meetings**

The attached minutes of the recent committee meetings are provided for members' information. Should there be any items or topics that provoke interest, please contact the secretary for further information.

Minutes of **Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016** were reported as Brief Notes in the last Newsletter (December).

**25<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

Matters arising from the minutes - Mr Stewart and Mr Corran have now joined as new members. The PAT testing has now been carried out. Secretary's correspondence - a letter has been sent to Wirral Evolutions thanking them for clearing the leaves and brash. The new lease is awaited from Wirral Borough Council. Treasurer's Report - the Balance sheet and Profit and Loss accounts had been circulated. The directors approved the financial statement for 2015/2016. Thanks were given to the Treasurer and his 'secretary' for their work on the accounts. Membership - renewals of membership are progressing well. Raised Level Track - weekly reports on progress have been circulated; the new track is looking good. Carriage re-gauging is in hand; new axles and wheels will be required. A print out of the summary of the day sheets is required. It is essential that all the work done be properly recorded. Ground Level Track - maintenance is ongoing on the locos and track. A list of problems recorded on the day sheets was circulated, this identified problems and problem areas that need to be addressed. Prices have been obtained for the new steel required for track maintenance on the field. The state of the track will be reviewed for discussion at a future Committee meeting, this will be reviewed in May. The mileages for the Roanokes were recorded as Royden 1121 miles and Clifty 1421 miles. Junior Member - currently we have no junior members. Publicity - nothing to record, we should consider revamping our publicity material. Thanks were given to Anthony for storing the Santa material. Premises and Security - some of the fluorescent lights are starting to fail, we should consider replacing them with LED lights. It was approved that one unit should be fitted in the workshop. Steps have been taken to reduce the number of items that require PAT testing. Site Inspection - the Council have found a fund that would cover repairs to the boundary wall. Risk Assessments/Society Records - all risk assessments are up to date. It is essential that all records are kept up to date and the work done on the tracks should be properly documented. Programme/Future Events - the AGM has now been moved to June. The Triumph Car Club are able to come on the 20<sup>th</sup> August or the 10<sup>th</sup> September, both these dates were confirmed as available with Paul Greenslade. No reply has been received from the Tallylyn Society regarding a visit. Barry Harrison is arranging a talk by the Stephenson Society in October, they would also like to pay us a visit. The Santa 2017 appears to be going ahead. In view of possible parking problems we should review the booking procedure with a possibility of booking on line. We will advise the public in July of arrangements. Web/Newsletter - thanks were offered to

Alan Banks for updating the Web. Newsletters will be produced as required, we will need one before the AGM. Any Other Business. - AGM preliminaries need to be put in place in the near future. It was noted that the Council are proposing to introduce parking charges in public parks. It was mentioned that some of the hard-working members missed out at the post-Santa parties in so much as the mince pies and sherry had all gone before they had returned to the shed.

Next Meeting - 22nd February 2017 at 09.30 at the Sidings re-arranged to 1<sup>st</sup> March.

**Brief Notes** taken at the meeting **1<sup>st</sup> March 2017** (unconfirmed) Matters arising from the minutes - the light over the workshop bench has been replaced with an LED light. The Talyllyn Society has now contacted us regarding a visit. Secretary's Correspondence - we still await the Lease from Wirral Borough Council, the Secretary will give them a prompt advising them that this is now due for renewal. Two further letters have been received, one junk mail and one from our Canadian visitors. Treasurer's Report - the Balance sheet and Profit and Loss accounts had been circulated, committee members had no further comments. Annual accounts have been sent to the accountant and our auditors. The Treasurer and his 'secretary' were thanked for their work on the accounts. Membership - the current membership is now 47 including partner members with about another 12 members still to renew. Raised Level Track - Len Williamson has compiled a folder for raised track information; the daily running sheets should be used to record any maintenance requirements. The track itself has now been tested and is fit for purpose. Work is still in progress on the overhaul of the passenger trucks, members of the public will not be carried until the trucks are checked. It was suggested that it may be better to provide new trucks once a design has been established. Before public running commences two directors should sign off the track. The provision of a station seat is being considered. Ground Level Track - station refurbishment is on hold until the fallen trees have been removed. The signalling system is working well and work is in progress to connect 4/5 point into the system. Publicity – for running times on operating days the board at the station should be consulted. The exhibition at Mosslands School has been cancelled. Richard Guthrie (NAME Treasurer) is trying to establish a list of club events being held by Societies during the year, details of which would be placed on the NAME website. Site Inspection. - The number of PAT items to be tested has been reduced by 13. The shed roof needs clearing of debris. Risk Assessments/Society Records - these are up to date. Work done on the raised track is now being recorded. Programme/Future events - A visit from the Talyllyn Society has been confirmed for the 3<sup>rd</sup> June and the Triumph Car Club visit has been confirmed as the 20<sup>th</sup> August. Barry Harrison is producing a list of events. Web/Newsletter – Our 'contact us' page on the website is being regularly monitored. Pictures of the fallen tree may be of interest for inclusion on the website. Mr Banks has asked to be kept in the loop. AGM Preliminaries - forms for any motions for the AGM and nominations for Committee will be sent out with the newsletter. Three members will be standing down having completed their three years. **Date of Next Meeting - 12<sup>th</sup> April.**

**Disclaimer:** This Newsletter is published for the Wirral Model Engineering Society. The Society, Committee or Editor does not necessarily endorse any views expressed.

## 10. Appendix 2

### Notification of the Society AGM, nominations to committee and motions to be considered at the AGM.



## WIRRAL MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY

Registered Office :- The Sidings, Royden Park, Frankby, Wirral, CH48 1NP.  
Registered in the UK: 03154024

Reply to:-  
Mr J Meadows  
(Company Secretary)  
43 Colemere Drive  
Thingwall  
Wirral  
CH61 7XT  
13 March 2017

Dear Member,

#### **Notice of Wirral Model Engineering Society AGM**

Notice is hereby given that the date of the Society's Annual General Meeting is  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 at 7.30pm  
The meeting is to be held at the WI Meeting Hall in Thornton Hough.

#### **Notice of Ballot for Directors**

The Articles of Association of the Society allow a minimum of four and a maximum of nine Directors. In accordance with the Articles of Association the following Directors are due to retire at the AGM in June 2017 having completed their 3 year term.

1. Barry Birch
2. Ian Eccles
3. Robert Spencer

Vacancies exist for a term of three years.

Any fully paid up Member is eligible for nomination including retiring directors.

In the event of more than five nominations, a ballot will be held.

Nominations close on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

A nomination paper is appended to this notice.

#### **Notice of call for Motions to the AGM**

Members are invited to submit any motions for debate at the AGM. Motions should be sent to the Secretary of the Society by Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017 with the signatures of three members (a proposer and two seconders).

Please send motions to:-

Mr J Meadows (Company Secretary),  
43 Colemere Drive, Thingwall, Wirral, CH61 7XT

# Wirral Model Engineering Society

## Committee Nomination Form

Nominee.....(Print Name)

I agree to accept the nomination for office and to serve the term of three years following the AGM 2017.

Signed.....Dated.....2017

Proposer.....(Print Name)

Signed.....Dated.....2017

Secunder.....(Print Name)

Signed.....Dated.....2017

All nomination forms to be lodged with the Secretary by 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

Photocopies or hand written copies of this form are acceptable.

Send completed form to:-  
Mr J Meadows (Company Secretary)  
43 Colemere Drive  
Thingwall  
Wirral  
CH61 7XT