



WIRRAL MODEL ENGINEERING SOCIETY

www.wirralmodelengineeringsociety.co.uk

Newsletter December 2016

Dear Member,

Committee thanks all members, family and friends for their support during 2016. It has been a busy year and hopefully there was something within the society activities that was of interest. Or, perhaps more importantly, you were able to contribute and enjoyed your involvement.

Meanwhile the diary for 2016 -17 needs to be firmed up – society activities could benefit from more input from members.

Please do connect with the society website, our Webmaster does a good job in keeping it up to date.

Your views and input to the website or indeed any aspect of the society and its activities are very welcome.

The Committee send You and Yours their Very Best Wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. We hope to see you at our Events both in Royden Park and at Thornton Hough.

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1. Society events during 2016

The society hosted a number of events during the summer and committee wish to thank all those members, visitors and friends who attended and supported these activities.

Would those who enjoyed attending the events please come up with suggestions and proposals for 2017? Your thoughts and views would be welcome.

2. Santa Specials December 10+11th 17+18th - Update

The topic for this year has been a challenge once again. The existing scenery has been stored for us over the past year by Anthony Seel for which many thanks.

Construction of the Grotto will commence on Monday 5th December. Use of the kitchen facilities will therefore be curtailed during the two Santa weeks. Most services will be transferred to the far end of the long shed which will hopefully be tidied up to make some space available. A theme is being worked on and any input and help with the grotto contents would be welcome from Tuesday 6th December.

The grotto will be taken down on the 19th December and the Sidings will hopefully be restored to normal, whatever that is!

If there is any further interest in helping over the two Santa Specials weekends there is a Rota on the notice board. Please add your name for times and dates to suit you.

The time of commencement has been brought forward to 10.30am due to ticket demand. The Santa's have agreed to this, hopefully everyone will be able to start earlier. Finishing times will be extended by about 15 minutes as well!

The Mayor will be attending on the 11th December at 10.30am.

3. Improvements to the Raised Track

Work on the replacement infrastructure and track has continued at a rapid pace. Work has taken place on Wednesdays and Sundays and the weather has helped by being mainly dry. Progress has been impressive and the new track is within hours of being joined up. There are further plans to upgrade the steaming bay facilities with an objective to have the track back in action around Easter time.

Many thanks to all those who have participated, the project has shown just what can be achieved by a group of enthusiastic members.

4. Members

Bob Spencer, our membership secretary, can be contacted on 0151 342 3570 should any member have a query or interest in society activities.

Although the year-end for the Society is still a few months away this is a gentle reminder to those interested that membership renewals can be made from the 1st February 2016. Subscriptions will remain at £25 for 2017/8.

Please use the renewal form to update any changes in your details, thank you.

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome four new members, Mr. Keith Whitehead, Mr. Thomas Chapman, Mr. Mathew Stewart and Mr. Ken Corran. We hope they will enjoy their time with the Society and look forward to seeing them at meetings and at the tracks.

5. Merseyside Model Railway Show 2016

Thanks to Anthony Seel for arranging our presence at the MMRS Show. He reports:

The society again had a stall at the above exhibition held at Mosslands school at the end of October.

Organising the display was made easier with the support of volunteer members.

Thanks in particular to exhibits provided by Albert, Ken and Dave.

Assistance with setting up and breaking down the display was provided by Alan, Ken, Dave and Lance. Valuable discussions with the people who visited our stand were done by Alan, Steve, Dave Chris and Ken. Thanks to all.

Many people commented on the models displayed Ken's dock tank being referred to as a "Jinty" on most occasions. Someone asked where to buy a model like Albert's Scottish loco and tender they were politely informed as to how it had been built. The DVD display went well with many people saying how much they enjoy visiting us at the park.

On the whole a very enjoyable exhibition with excellent refreshments as usual, we have thanked the organisers and catering staff and feel sure we can attend again next year.

Anthony Seel

6. 2017/18 Diary

The Society is always interested in obtaining speakers and topics for meetings. If you know of any contacts that would be willing to give a talk or presentation please inform our secretary.

This is also an appeal for members who would be willing to give a short talk, 10 to 20 minutes, at meetings. The topic can be of your choosing and, much appreciated.

N A M E Exhibition 2017

The Manchester Model Engineering Exhibition will be held at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, Oldham on Saturday 18th February and Sunday 19th February 2017.

Further details are available at the website: www.mmex.co.uk

Leaflets are available in the Sidings and members are encouraged to consider attending the Exhibition.

Northern Model Engineering Exhibition 2017

Being held at Doncaster Racecourse on 12 – 14th May.

W.M.E.S. Annual General Meeting – Thursday 1st June 2017

Commences 7.30pm at Thornton Hough Women's Institute.

'Rail and Sail Day' at our site in Royden Park on Saturday 8th July 2017.

A joint venture between Wirral Model Boat Club and ourselves with an exhibition of model boats and model engineering to which the public will be invited to view.

Hopefully all members will support this event and both tracks will be in operation.

Occasions yet to be finalised:

Visit by the Triumph Motor Club with a display of vintage cars in the field.

Visit by the Tallyllyn Railway, Southport branch, to have a day of railway experience at our size!

7. Society website and access for members to the secure area.

Many thanks to Alan Banks for his work in maintaining and updating the Society website. The website has been arranged to provide sections of society business, with access restricted to members only.

The code is available from the secretary.

User

Password

As with all access codes please keep the login confidential to yourself. This minimises unauthorized access and the risk of hacking.

8. Newsletters

This will be the final Newsletter for 2016.

Items, articles and content for Newsletters are sought. If you can help in any way it would be appreciated.

If you would prefer Email communications rather than hard copy please let the secretary know, or indicate this on your renewal form. It all helps to reduce costs!

Thanks to Derek Jones for printing the Newsletters over the past year.

9. Appendix 1 Synopsis of Committee Meetings

The attached Minutes of 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 8th June** were reported as Brief Notes in the last Newsletter.

28th September 2016

Matters arising – it was agreed that welding inside the shed could be carried out if the inflammable cupboard doors are shut and locked, there should not be a flash hazard.

The minutes of the Santa Meeting on 17th August were recorded. Secretary's

Correspondence - an offer of a chip & pin machine from Barclaycard was declined.

The Project Group had been thanked for the grass cutting. The Mayor is to be invited to this year's Santa event.

Treasurer's Report – the Accounts sheets had been circulated and approved. Santa ticket sales to members were going well. The Treasurer recommended WMES keep the Society's account with HSBC. A supported computer accounting package was approved.

Membership Report – two membership applications were received and approved, from Mr. Keith Whitehead and Mr. Thomas Chapman. Mr. Waddington

has recorded his thanks for being awarded honorary member status. Raised Track –

the track is closed and weekly e-mail reports have been made on the renovation works, which are hoped to be complete by next Spring. Ground Level Track – an

interlocking problem with the signalling system was being corrected. Work is continuing at the station, suggestions had been made to use block work instead of flags. Gauge problems on the meadow will require rail replacement in due course.

Publicity – weekly reports and monthly meeting reminders are circulated. Leaflets for the Mosslands Exhibition and booking arrangements for Santa tickets were available.

Premises Report – an external power socket is now fitted outside the coal shed. Front door locks have been attended to. The alarm system continues to have problems and is being attended to.

Site Inspection – the wall problem between GL station and the field has been reported by letter to the site team leader. The dishwasher requires

replacement despite remedial efforts. Discussion agreed a Bosch model would be best to purchase. Risk Assessments/Society Records – nothing to report. New members

will only be sent copies of the rules. Programme/Future Events – thanks were given to those who helped with the Tuesday running in August. Mosslands Exhibition on

29/30th October, help is required setting up and manning the stand. Suitable models

are needed for the display. Santa Specials booking going well, public sales start on 2nd October. Queuing people to be kept informed on the ticket availability to assist them

in adjusting their requirements. The theme for the event is Santa's Wrapping Shed.

Barry Harrison is working on the programme for next year. Web/Newsletter – the

Webmaster is happy to continue but needs input from members.

Next Meeting 16th November 2016.

16th November 2016 Brief Notes (unconfirmed)

Matters Arising – the accounts package has been acquired. The dishwasher has been obtained, installed and is working. Secretary's Correspondence – a report received from the Council regarding the station wall defines it as dangerous and in need of rebuilding. Treasurer's Report - Santa ticket sales are complete and the society insurance has been paid. Rent for the Park is due. A commemorative bench in memory of Carol Couling will be investigated. 2017 subs. proposed to remain at £25. Replacement gazebos considered not necessary at this time. Membership Report – two enquiries received for membership, Mr. Mathew Stewart and Mr. Ken Corran, both were approved. Raised Track – refurbishing is proceeding steadily. Carriage bogies will probably need replacing when track is finished. Ground Level Track – maintenance is continuing. Replacement of track on the meadow will be on hold till the RT is finished due to limited storage space for materials. A new competitive source of plastic sleeper material has been found. Junior Members – Lance and Danny had both helped at Mosslands. Premises/Security – at present the alarm system is working well. Site Inspection – PAT testing is due before year-end and a decision is awaited on who carries it out. The station sandstone wall is the Council's responsibility, the cost has been estimated in region of £10,000. Risk Assessments/Society Records – are currently up to date but all documentation is to be reviewed in the New Year. A risk assessment is required for the Santa event. Future Events – the Mosslands Exhibition went well with lots of interest in our Society, thanks were given to those who loaned models and helped in manning the stand. Speke Aerodrome Heritage Group asked if we would exhibit there next May. This will be declined as it would not be feasible being out of our area. Organisers at Hadlow Road had asked if we could help in running a NG track on their site – not possible but we are willing to advise. Santa's – a review of the operational procedures and a Rota has been prepared to enable members to indicate when/where they may wish to help. Grotto arrangements are in hand and presents are being purchased. Running times, on the 4 days, have been extended with cooperation of the Santa's. It was suggested that the 2017 AGM be moved to 1st June 2017. The Triumph Club and Tallyllyn Railway were both keen to visit us during 2017, dates to be agreed. Website/Newsletter – the website is progressing well and is up to date but does need input from members to keep it fresh.

Date of next Meeting – 25th January 2017.