

**Reading Society
of Model
Engineers
Charity Number
1163244**



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224**

The Prospectus

February 2024



New Year, new engines, at RSME. Alex Webb looks upon his 47xx 2-8-0 together with Richard Mullard's King; both out for a trial run. Photo John Billard

**TRUSTEE NEWS
BOGIES
CROSSHEADS
FINANCE AUDIT
FAWLEY VISIT**

THE VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

John Billard

The trustees met on 15 January. As this was the first since November there was some catching up to do. We were pleased to see Donald Pickett at his first meeting following the AGM.

We first considered the matters arising from the AGM as follows.

The Trustees agreed the existing facilities in the members toilet are adequate. No further action required. It was agreed that dealing with the raised track carriages were a priority and recognised the dedication by volunteer members to completing the replacement of the carriage bogies. It was also agreed to determine what has happened to the old bogies. Plans were going ahead to obtain a defibrillator with training. It was thought best to have a range of members with first aid training rather than a dedicated person who might not be present when the need arose. Michael Furness has agreed to keep the first aid box stocked. A club Christmas card has been sent to Les Dawson. The meeting was reassured that future planning was a regular feature of trustee meetings (as reported in Prospectus). The focus for 2023 was to increase membership. The club workshop refurbishment will commence in 2024 after which access will be considered but squirrel deterrence for the clubhouse was a priority. A hearing loop for the club house has been obtained and will be installed soon. Finally the trustees were asked to look at safety precautions to prevent a locomotive running away from the train.

Our meeting then allocated duties for the trustees for the forthcoming year.

Nigel Penford - Projects and maintenance manager & boiler inspector

Mick Chalmers - Health and Safety

Peter Culham - Fund raising activities - including public running, private parties and Santa specials.

Stuart Kidd - Secretary to the Trustees

Stephen Millward—Assistant Treasurer until March 2024, Treasurer from April 2024

Jim Brown - Treasurer until March 2024 & Driving Inspector

Donald Pickett - Digital Communications

John Billard - Prospectus Editor and Trustees Chair

It was agreed that Miriam Farley be co-opted as a trustee in order to provide specialised legal advice as required.

Under finance it was reported that the independent examination of the accounts has been successfully completed by Holybrook Associates and the certificate will be sent to the Charities Commission. (See page 6). We continue to pursue with Barclays an application for a community account. In the meantime the move to a high interest savings account has been put on hold until the new account is in place.

Projects and maintenance continue with squirrel proofing, workshop refurbishment planning, further ground level track maintenance, improving con-

tainer security and installing a hearing loop. Yellow markings on the platforms are to be reinstated. Work on the driveway drain and fire door bolts has been completed.

Noting the success of recent club running days it has been decided to move to two Saturdays a month and replacing the Tuesday dates for now. This will commence on 23rd March. Reporting on the success of the Santa Special days this produced a net income of £2872 with great thanks for all those involved during these busy weekends.

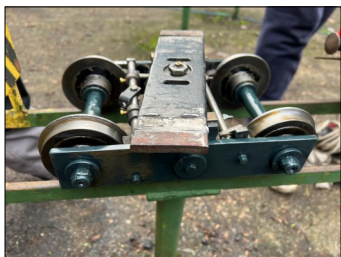
For the forthcoming year it was agreed that private parties should be limited to match the availability of our volunteers and taking account of new club running dates. The price was to be increased to £160 per party.

Future plans will include a visit to the Fawley Railway in June and arrangements for the Stoke Row Rally that month. Following comments by the organisers some changes to the display will be made by the trustees and these will be announced in due course.

Finally it was noted that completion of the new lease documents remained with Reading Borough Council but it was hoped that this will be concluded soon.

Our next meeting will be on 12th February. Please note any paid up RSME member may attend trustee meetings in an observer capacity and can be invited to speak. Please contact the editor for more details.

Wanted—Mike Strain writes



It would be appreciated if anyone holding the original club bogies as per photograph. These were constructed by club members associated with the University of Reading, Reason being that the bogies were free running and ideal for use with 31/2" gauge smaller locos that are struggling to pull the raised track carriages with the modern bogies. If possible the Carriage and Wagon dept would appreciate it if any are available to be returned for overhauling for use.

BUIDING A CLAUD

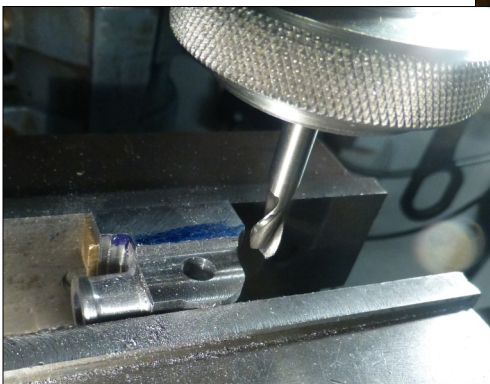
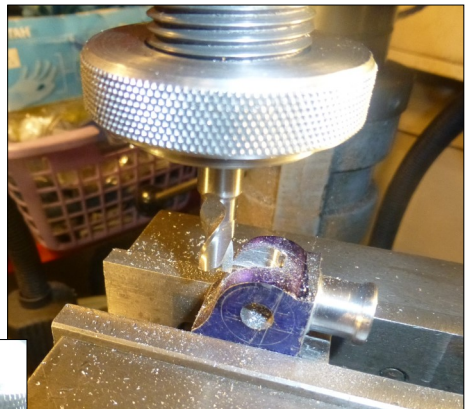
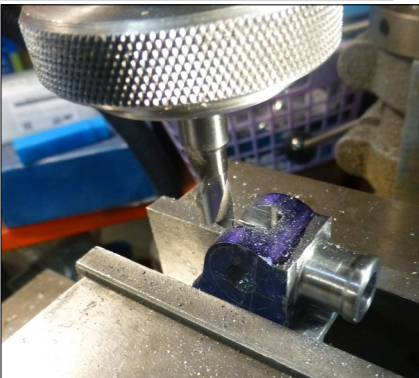
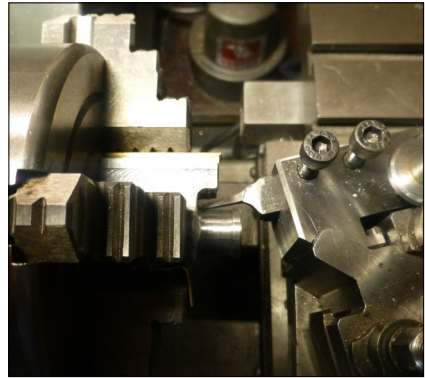
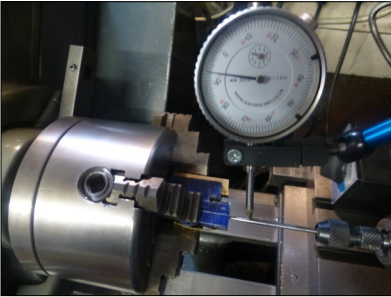
The Crossheads

John Billard

Of all recent jobs I have found that machining the cross heads the most difficult. This was because some of the milling had to be done blind. Taking a block of steel these were done from the solid to ensure proper alignment between the slide bar and the gudgeon pin. Machining errors can happen at any

time but preferably before much work has been undertaken. Final cuts can be nerve wracking! A special cutter was made to machine the piston rod socket.

Not shown are a series of 8 BA holes tapped in the crosshead to take the top cover. I have found that by far the easiest way is to put the tap into the chuck of the milling machine and pull the belt over by hand. Taps can take it axially but they do not bend very well! As our expert colleague John Marrington says, 90 per cent of tap breakage is caused by the tap not being upright.



Photos John Billard

RSME Visit to Fawley Hill Railway and Museum

Saturday 29th June 2024

RSME members are invited to visit Fawley Hill on Saturday 29th June. **Members who wish to attend should add their name to the attendance list pinned to the clubhouse noticeboard by the end of March 2024. Those attending the invitation day are requested to make a donation of £15 per person towards fuel and maintenance costs, the payment of which will be arranged nearer the date. The number of places is currently limited to 25.**

Fawley Hill is a unique private museum and railway close to Henley on Thames which is maintained and operated by the Fawley Museum Society Ltd. The railway is around 1.25 miles in length and features the steepest adhesion-worked, standard gauge railway in the country with a ruling gradient of 1:13. The site also has a number of preserved railway buildings, including stations and signal boxes, as well as an array of architectural items salvaged from Britain's railways.

The museum is private and not open to the public and admittance is strictly by invitation only. Visitors dogs must be kept on a lead at all times and are not allowed in the museum building itself. Car parking is free. The Museum opens at 12:00 Noon. To make the most of your visit, visitors are encouraged to arrive between 11:30 and 13:00. Trains run at regular intervals throughout the day until around 16:30. You are welcome to ride the train as often as you like.

There is a pop-up café at the rear of the station building or visitors are welcome to bring a picnic. There are several picnic locations around the station area plus a large grassy bank over-looking the railway line where one can sit and watch the train go by.



Photos courtesy Stephen Millward

Charity Commission for England and Wales

Independent examiners report on the RSME accounts

We have received the independent examiners report dated 17th November 2023. It is not suitable for reproduction in Prospectus but a copy can be emailed to members on request. In summary the report is as follows.

The charities trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts, but consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed. This was undertaken by Holy Brook Associates in Reading by Rachel Eden.

It was her responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act and to follow its general directions. She should state whether particular matters have come to her attention.

Her examination included a review of the accounting records kept by RSME and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It included consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that will be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a true and fair view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement following.

In connection with the examination no material matters came to her attention which gives her cause to believe that in any material respect the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act other than that disclosed below, or the accounts did not accord with the accounting records, or the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

She concluded that she had come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in her report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

This report is now with the Charities Commission. (A full audit is not required by the Commission for this year as RSME does not pass the threshold required by such audit.)

Notices to Members

RSME welcomes a new member, Mr David Sexton from Caversham.

A Club Night Talk on the Crofton Pumping Engines by Jon Willis will take place on Thursday 22 February at 8 pm sharp.



RSME IN THE 1990s

Andy Midwinter
remembers
...or tries to!



Left and above ... a young Andy, The fete is at Church End Primary School with Andy and Mike Strain attending with other club members.

Below, Nigel Penford recalls Les Dawson, John Marrington and Dennis Lockyer and son in this view.



DIARY

FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday	4th	Public running	Setting up from 09.30 onwards
Saturday	10th	Club running	10.30 onwards
Monday	12th	Trustees meeting	19.30
Thursday	15th	On the Bench Night	19.30
Tuesday	20th	Club running	10.30 onwards
Thursday	22nd	Crofton, a Talk by Jon Willis	20.00

MARCH 2023

Sunday	3rd	Public running	Setting up from 09.30 onwards
Thursday	7th	On the Bench Night	19.30
Saturday	9th	Club running	10.30 onwards
Monday	11th	Trustees meeting	19.30
Thursday	21st	Club Night Talk The Narrow Gauge Railway Society By Simon Guppy	20.00
Saturday	23rd	Club running	10.30 onwards

Note from the Editor. Please provide photographs as separate files and not embedded into the text. No pdf files please.

Opinions expressed in PROSPECTUS are the personal views of the contributor and cannot be taken as reflecting the views of the trustees or editor.

The deadline for the March issue is 20 February.

Contributions may be submitted in had or soft copy to the editor.

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***Please write for Prospectus. Photos welcomed.
Comments by RSME members on any subject appearing in
Prospectus are welcomed by the editor.***