

STICK Annual General Meeting

Report from the Chair: April 2011 – May 2012

Dear Members of STICK

The Scottish Transport and Industry Collections and Knowledge network (STICK) has been busy over the last year continuing to build upon beginning in 2006, the year STICK came into being.

Committee: Following the AGM at the Tall Ship in Glasgow in March 2011, a new steering group was elected for STICK and individuals assigned to roles and responsibilities. They are:

Committee:	Ex Officio:
Miriam McDonald, RCAHMS, Chair	Alexander Hayward, NMS – outgoing Chair
Justin Parkes, Summerlee, Vice-Chair Admin	Gill Findlay, Museums Galleries Scotland
Kiara King, Ballast Trust, Digital Content Manager	Jilly Burns/Megan Combe, NMS National Partnerships
Rhona Rodger, Dundee City Museums, Treasurer	Rowan Brown, Mining Museum, Industrial Federation Representative
Jennifer Reid, St Andrews Preservation Trust, Membership Secretary	Mark Watson, Historic Scotland, TICCIH Representative
Karen Bell, Almond Valley	
Klaus Staubermann, National Museums Scotland (NMS)	
Ian Brown, NMS National Museum of Flight	
Ellie Swinbank, Scottish Mining Museum	
David Reid, Dumfries and Galloway Aviation Museum	
Laura MacCalman, West Dunbartonshire Council	

Karen Bell has since resigned from the Committee.

How the aims of STICK were addressed in 2011-12:

Promote the care and enjoyment of Transport and Industry collections, Research, Stewardship, advocacy through the Old Tools New Uses Project (see below) as well as Knowledge Sharing events through the Annual Conference which considered the sustainability of industrial heritage, and the sharing of information and expertise with members on steam engine care, maintenance, history and historiography,

STICK encourages wider engagement with technological and industrial history collections across Scotland through actively supporting the importance of oral history through the Scottish Coal Collections Group and by having representation on the committee convened by the National Museum Scotland to consider the impact of Health and Safety asbestos regulations on industrial and transport museum collections.

Projects

Our pioneering project, 'Old Tools, New Uses', celebrated its completion on 26th October 2011 at Summerlee Museum of Industrial Life, Coatbridge. STICK was awarded this, the first special project award as part of the Museums Association's Effective Collections Scheme, supported by the Esme Fairbairn Foundation in 2009. Praised for its 'creativity and collaboration' by the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs Fiona Hyslop, Old Tools, New Uses aimed to identify the treasures and duplicates of tools and domestic technology in Scottish museums. Participants were advised on the importance of items in their collections from our independent specialist advisor, David Woodcock and had access to a schools resource. The project delivered a Master Catalogue (covering sewing machines, typewriters, blacksmiths' tools, cobblers' tools and woodworking tools) and a toolkit for reviewing collections (<http://www.stickssn.org/site/pages/projects/old-tools-new-uses/otnu-master-catalogue.php>), learning resources for schools (to reflect the 3 object types included in the review, domestic hand tools, typewriters and sewing machines, see <http://www.stickssn.org/site/pages/projects/old-tools-new-uses/otnu-learning-resources.php>) and disposed of duplicate items to artisan communities in Africa in partnership with the charity Tools for Self Reliance (www.tfsr.org). This project has inspired the National Museums of Scotland to give Knowledge Exchange Training on how to create loan boxes which will take place on the 13th September 2012 at Summerlee Museum of Industrial Life, Coatbridge.

STICK is also involved with a proposed Scottish Machine Tools Project along with Summerlee Museum of Industrial Life and the National Museums of Scotland. Scoping days have been held to ascertain the remit of such a project. This project will be developed over the next months and aims to continue to build on the 'national catalogue' of industrial and transport collections. STICK also has a presence through its members within many organisations and groups such as the Scottish Industrial Archaeology Panel and The International Committee of the Conservation of Industrial Heritage (TICCIH), as well as the organisations represented by the STICK Steering Committee members.

Partnerships

We also undertook partnerships with Scottish Civic Trust through Doors Open Days (DOD) with a view to raising awareness of industrial and transport sites that participated in DOD across Scotland. STICK's postcard-based activity had a very limited success but we learnt something about the visiting pattern on Doors Open Days generally. We are planning to take part again in 2012, having familiarised ourselves with the logistics of DOD.

As Chair I would like to highlight the network of complimentary national, regional, and local accredited and recognised archives and museums that should be alerted when companies and sites close or go into liquidation and which may be of historical and technological importance. This will allow a measured and appropriate response to the saving of artefacts and records. STICK always encourages such cooperation and will pursue this by building on relationships with its membership as well as groups such as Museums Galleries Scotland, planning departments, RCAHMS, Business

Archives Council Scotland and publicising projects such as the Scottish Archives Network. If any member wishes advice please contact STICK through its website, www.stickssn.org .

Membership: STICK currently has 190 members with 21 new members joining since May 2011.

Finances

STICK currently has £80.00 in credit in its Bank Of Scotland Account. STICK primarily relies on its members to help out in kind (meeting space and certain overheads) for its regular meetings, its spring event and its autumn conference. Any monies taken in through entrance fees etc. are used to pay for limited catering, venue staff time if needed, and to pump-prime the STICK account for the coming year. STICK does not intend to seek membership subscriptions in 2011-12.

Website - See appendix

Staffing

The Steering Group office holders such as Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Website Digital Content Manager and Administration have been doing a great job in keeping the nuts and bolts of STICK together (puns intended). The Committee look forward to taking forward new projects and providing interesting knowledge sharing events for the Membership over the coming year.

The Steering Committee is committed to making STICK, stick.

Miriam McDonald

Chair

09 May 2012

Appendix - STICK Website Report May 2012

Introduction

STICK maintains both a website and blog as part of our online presence. The website is used to provide information about who we are and what we do. It contains documents for download such as minutes of meetings, leaflets and resources like the master catalogue.

The blog is used to share news about STICK activities and highlight external events that are related to industry and transport collections.

Statistics

The statistics below are for the year ending 6 May 2012. The website and blog get very different levels of visits

Website www.stickssn.org.uk

- 7,996 visits
- 16,184 pages
- Top 5 countries: UK, Russian Federation, United States, Ukraine and France
- Top 5 pages:
 1. Home
 2. Old Tools New Uses
 3. Scottish Industrial Archaeology Panel
 4. Almond Valley Heritage Trust
 5. How to join

Blog www.stickssn.blogspot.co.uk

- 445 visits
- 978 pages
- Top 5 countries: United Kingdom , United States, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Brazils
- Top 5 pages:
 1. Home
 2. Steam engines in Scotland knowledge event
 3. Doors open days 2011 and stick
 4. Website
 5. EICR is looking for archives

Kiara King
STICK Digital Content Manager
9 May 2012