



STICK Annual General Meeting

Report from the Chair April 2013 – March 2014

Dear Members of STICK

This Scottish Transport and Industry Collections and Knowledge network (STICK) has been busy over the last year building on the firm foundations set down since 2006, the year STICK came into being.

Committee: Following the AGM at The Falkirk Wheel on March 2013, the steering group for STICK was as follows:

Committee:	Ex Officio:
Miriam McDonald, RCAHMS, Chair	Alexander Hayward, NMS – previous Chair
Linda Ross, (SMM), Vice-Chair Admin	Rowan Brown, Mining Museum, Industrial Federation Representative
Kiara King, Ballast Trust, Digital Content Manager	Mark Watson, Historic Scotland, TICCIH Representative
Rhona Rodger, Dundee City Museums, Treasurer	Lori Anderson , Museums Galleries Scotland representative
Jennifer Reid, NMS, Membership Secretary	
Justin Parkes, Museum of Industrial Life, Summerlee, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire	
Klaus Staubermann, National Museums Scotland (NMS)	
Elsa Davidson, National Museums Scotland (NMS)	
Ellie Swinbank, Scottish Mining Museum	
Beverley Donaldson (Irvine Maritime Museum volunteers co-ordinator/Industrial Museums Scotland)	
Karen Thomson (Gareloch Heritage)	

Jennifer Reid, NMS, **Membership Secretary** (retired from committee, AGM, 31 March 2014). STICK wishes Jennifer well in her new role in Stratford Upon Avon.

Membership: 2013/14 summary (information supplied by Jennifer Reid, Retiring membership Secretary)

- Current membership as of 30 March 2014: 266 (215 in 2012)
- 42 new members in 13/14
- 3 postal forms; 23 mailchimp sign ups; 16 sign ups through Mailchimp
- 4 unsubscribed members through Mailchimp
- 59 mail campaigns through Mailchimp. 30% average open rate.

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Top five campaigns of 2013/14:

STICK AGM 2013	44.83% Open Rate
Model maker required	38.89% Open Rate
STICK Thinktank Review	38.83% Open Rate
Save the Date! "Archive Collections in Museums"	
Workshop and STICK AGM Monday 31st March 2014	38.65% Open Rate
Scottish Canals launches 25-year Heritage Strategy	38.55% Open Rate
On Offer: Equipment from Cobbler's Shop	38.54% Open Rate

Website (information supplied by Kiara King, Digital Content Manager)

There were 144,000 hits on the STICK website in 2013 with 8,500 visitors to the site. There are plans to restructure and revamp the website over the next 18 months.

Events

On 19th October 2013 at Riddles Court, Lawnmarket, High Street, Edinburgh, STICK had a successful 'Form or Function: What is more important?' conference as well as a seminar at Bo'ness on early railways organised by Karen Thompson in November 2014.

Projects

Our pioneering project, 'Old Tools, New Uses', has inspired STICK to undertake a broadly similar project on Scottish Machine Tools along with Scottish Maritime Museum, Summerlee Museum of Industrial Life and the National Museums of Scotland. Scoping days have been held to ascertain the remit of such a project. As a consequence (and with a grant awarded by Museums Galleries Scotland) Jim Mitchell (Consultant) wrote a project scoping document to provide evidence for funding applications that STICK is taking forward. Linda Ross (leading), Justin Parkes, Klaus Staubermann and Miriam McDonald are involved in putting together a grant application to Museums Galleries Scotland for submission mid-2014.

As part of the funding acquired for the Early Railways seminar in November 2013 from MGS STICK is to produce, in collaboration with a consultant, volunteer and curatorial guidelines for looking after 'big' objects in industrial/transport collections. This will be aimed at volunteer co-ordinators, volunteers and curatorial staff generally.

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Action Plan

A small group (Linda Ross, Kiara King, Beverley Donaldson and Miriam McDonald) put together an Action Plan for STICK. This will aid our collective memory about what projects/events/themes we are planning around as well as linking these in with the aims and objectives of the group. Based around a similar exercise carried out by the National Strategy for Business Archives this, I feel, will help STICK consolidate and build on the areas in which it feels that it can make an impact.

Partnerships

Some STICK Committee members have been involved in the Re-INVENT initiative run by the NMS. This project will explore nineteenth century Scottish manufacturing practices by reconnecting material culture evidence from historical artefacts with science and engineering evidence from historical technology. So far public events and seminars have been held. This project has been awarded with funding for a phase 2. Re-INVENT was funded by a Knowledge Exchange Network grant by Royal Society of Edinburgh and Scottish Government. Please visit the University of Glasgow and STICK's websites for more information.

STICK also has a presence through its members within many organisations and groups such as the Scottish Industrial Archaeology Panel, International Committee for the History of Technology (ICOTECH), and The International Committee of the Conservation of Industrial Heritage (TICCIH), as well as the organisations represented by the STICK Steering Committee members.

Finances (information supplied by Rhona Rodger, Treasurer)

STICK currently has £70.07 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 for the foreseeable future.

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



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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 are committed to making STICK 'stick' for the foreseeable future.

Miriam McDonald

Chair of STICK, 28th March 2014.