



## **STICK Annual General Meeting, 24th July 2015 held at Museum of Scottish Industrial Life, Summerlee, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire**

### **Report from the Chair 1st April 2014 – 1st July 2015**

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 Sir Duncan Rice Library, University of Aberdeen, 31 March 2014, the steering group for STICK was as follows:

<p><b>Committee</b></p> <p><b>Office Bearers</b></p> <p>Miriam McDonald, RCAHMS, <b>Chair</b></p> <p>Linda Ross, (SMM), <b>Vice-Chair</b>   Admin</p> <p>Kiara King, Ballast Trust, <b>Digital Content Manager</b></p> <p>Rhona Rodger, Dundee City Museums, <b>Treasurer</b></p> <p>Ellie Swinbank, National Mining Museum Scotland (NMMS) <b>Membership Secretary</b></p> <p><b>Ordinary Members</b></p> <p>Justin Parkes, Museum of Industrial Life, Summerlee, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire</p> <p>Klaus Staubermann, National Museums Scotland (NMS)</p> <p>Elsa Davidson, National Museums Scotland (NMS)</p> <p>Beverley Donaldson (Irvine Maritime Museum volunteers co-ordinator/Industrial Museums Scotland)</p>	<p>Karen Thomson (Gairloch Heritage)</p> <p>Louise Attaheri, Dundee Heritage</p> <p><b>Ex Officio:</b></p> <p>Alexander Hayward, NMS – previous <b>Chair</b></p> <p>Mark Watson, Historic Scotland, TICCIH Representative</p>
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#### **Amendments to the above Committee 'line up' from 1st April 2015**

- Rhona Rodger, Dundee City Museums, **Treasurer** is retiring from the committee (as of AGM, 24th July 2015). STICK wishes Rhona well in her new role as Collections Manager at Perth Museums.
- Beverley Donaldson acting Treasurer since 5th July 2015.
- Membership Secretary now Ellie Swinbank as of 1st April 2014.
- Lori Anderson, Museums Galleries Scotland representative has retired as ex-officio member, as of 1st June 2014.

#### **Membership: 2014/15 summary** (information supplied by Ellie Swinbank (NMMS), acting Membership Secretary)

- Current membership as of 3rd July 2015: 286 (266 in March 2014)
- 11 new members in since December 2014, all through Mailchimp
- 43 mail campaigns through Mailchimp since December 2014
- 6 unsubscribed members since December 2014

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

There were 76,502 hits on the STICK website to date (8 July) in 2015 with 4,397 unique visitors to the site.\*

There are plans to restructure and revamp the website over the next 18 months.

#### **Events**

Stick held a spring workshop event on Monday 31st March 2015 at The Sir Duncan Rice Library, University of Aberdeen, Bedford Road, Aberdeen, on Archive Collections in Museums.

On 18th October 2014 at **McManus Collections Unit, Barrack Street, Dundee**, STICK held a successful conference entitled: *The Scottish Diaspora: International Mobility of Industry, Technology, Ideas, Products, People*. It was well attended and was a useful and informative day.

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SICK and Glasgow University Archives held a 'Watt's The Story: Celebrating James Watt 2015 and 2019' event at Glasgow University Library entitled 'The Separate Condenser 1765: The Invention that Changed the World'. It was a well attended and interesting event which highlighted some areas where celebratory events and projects were discussed. A meeting of the Watt's The Story Committee will meet soon to take some of these ideas forward.



Prof. Colin McInnes (Watt Professor of Engineering at Glasgow University), left and Daniela Wellnitz (STICK Collections Officer) at the 'The Separate Condenser 1765: The Invention that Changed the World' 5th June event.

### **Projects**

STICK has undertaken a project on Scottish Machine Tools along with Scottish Maritime Museum, Summerlee Museum of Industrial Life and the National Museums of Scotland. Funding was awarded through Museums Galleries Scotland and Daniela Wellnitz was appointed as Collections Officer for this project in early December 2014. Daniela is based at the Scottish Maritime Museum in Irvine. The project aims to re-focus Scottish engineering and machine tools collections as an accessible resource for understanding basic engineering principles and processes. We aim to better understand our collections in the context of industrial, social and technical history and to share that information with our peers via a master catalogue. This will meet one of the key aims behind the founding of STICK, to help curators better understand their industrial collections. STICK thanks Linda Ross



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(leading), Justin Parkes, Klaus Staubermann, Jim Mitchell and Miriam McDonald for providing information and for helping to put together the grant application to Museums Galleries Scotland in mid-2014.

As part of the funding acquired for the Early Railways seminar in November 2013 from MGS STICK (Dr Karen Thomson) produced, in collaboration with Jim Mitchell (consultant), volunteer and curatorial guidelines for looking after 'big' objects in industrial/transport collections. This is aimed at volunteer co-ordinators, volunteers and curatorial staff generally.

#### **Action Plan**

The Action Plan inaugurated in 2013/14 (by Linda Ross, Kiara King, Beverley Donaldson and Miriam McDonald) has been updated and 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-CREATE initiative run by the NMS. This follows on from Re-INVENT and this project explores nineteenth century Scottish manufacturing practices in textile production 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 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.



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**Finances** (information supplied by Rhona Rodger, former Treasurer and Beverley Donaldson, acting Treasurer)

STICK currently has £533.57 in credit in its Bank Of Scotland Account (before overheads for 5th June event 2015). 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 nuts and bolts of STICK together. 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, 18 July 2015.

*\*For comparison - there were 144,963 hits on the STICK website in 2014 with 8,535 unique visitors to the site.*