



## **STICK Annual General Meeting**

*22nd April 2016 held at Maid of the Loch, Balloch, Alexandria, G83 8QX*

### **Report from the Chair 1st July 2015 – 15th April 2016**

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.

**1. Committee:** Following the AGM at Scottish Industrial Life, Summerlee, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire, 24th July 2015, the steering group for STICK was as follows:

#### **Committee Members**

##### **Office Bearers**

Miriam McDonald, RCAHMS (now HES), **Chair** | Admin.

Linda Ross, (Scottish Maritime Museum) **Vice-Chair** | Admin.

Kiara King, Ballast Trust, **Digital Content Manager**

Beverley Donaldson, Scottish Maritime Museum, **Treasurer**

Ellie Swinbank, National Mining Museum Scotland (NMMS) **Membership Secretary** | Admin.

##### **Ordinary Members**

Justin Parkes, Museum of Industrial Life, Summerlee, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire

Daniela Wellnitz (Scottish Maritime Museum and STICK Project Officer (Machine Tools))

Elsa Cox (formerly Davidson), National Museums Scotland (NMS) and Newcomen Society (Scotland)

Louise Attaheri, Dundee Heritage **Trust**

##### **Ex Officio:**

Mark Watson, Historic Scotland, TICCIH Representative

Klaus Staubermann, ICOTECH Representative

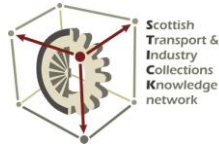
#### **Amendments to the above Committee 'line up' from October 2015**

- Ellie Swinbank has agreed to be Treasurer after Beverley Donaldson had to step down. STICK thanks Beverley for her help as Treasurer.
- Membership Secretary post now vacant although Ellie Swinbank has carried on with this since late 2015.
- Dr Karen Thomson (Gairloch Heritage) has retired from the Board. We thank Karen for the work she did in organising STICK events at Dundee and Bo'Ness.

**2. Membership: 2015/16 summary** (information supplied by Ellie Swinbank (NMMS), acting Membership Secretary)

##### **Period: 1 July 2015 - 15 April 2016**

- Current membership: 294



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- 9 new members in 15/16
- 2 unsubscribed members through Mailchimp
- 47 mail campaigns through Mailchimp. 40% average open rate.
- Top five campaigns of 2015/16:
  - Jim n Gin: Adventures of a Steam Engine (re) Builder, 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016, 46.7%
  - Doors Open Day 2015, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2015, 43.9%
  - Cast Iron Pumps, 28<sup>th</sup> July 2015, 44.8%
  - Raise Your Glass! The Untold Story of Scottish Brewing Heritage, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016, 44.5%
  - Job Opportunity at National Mining Museum Scotland, 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2016, 44.5%

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

#### **1 January - 12 April 2016**

- 39,491 hits on the STICK website
- 2,099 unique visitors to the site
- Twitter - we have 487 followers

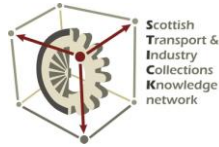
#### **Figures for 2015 for comparison**

- 140,256 hits on the STICK website in 2015
- 7,949 unique visitors to the site

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

### **4. 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 17th October 2015 at S John's Episcopal Church Hall, Union Street, Greenock, STICK held a successful conference entitled: *Collecting Steam*. It was well attended (c35) and was a useful and informative day.
- STICK was involved (along with Historic Environment Scotland, Glasgow University Archives, Heriot Watt University, Friends of Kinneil and others) in arranging a reception at the Scottish Parliament at Holyrood, Edinburgh on 19th January 2016 'Celebrating James Watt' sponsored by Angus Macdonald MSP and with speeches from Aileen Campbell MSP (Minister for Children and Young People) and Prof. Gordon Masterton (Edinburgh University). It was a well attended and interesting



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event which highlighted some areas where celebratory events and projects were discussed. The 'Celebrating James Watt: Shaping the Modern World' group meet intermittently to take forward ideas leading towards 2019 celebration for James Watt.

- An informal evening entitled 'Jim N' Gin' (Edinburgh, April 7th 2016) saw a lively and informative talk by Jim Mitchell, engineering conservation consultant on his various adventures in steam such as the Boulton and Watt Engines at NMS, Edinburgh and at the High Mill in Dundee with the odd compound tandem engine, atmospheric engine and Corliss valve along the way.
- Our next event will be the 2016 Conference on 'unsung innovators' in industry and technology to be held at the National Museums Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, on Friday 28th October 2016. Come along and hear about (amongst others) Percy Pilcher and Dorothea Pullinger.

#### **5. Projects**

STICK has undertaken a project on Scottish Machine Tools along with Scottish Maritime Museum, Summerlee Museum of Scottish 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 was (and still is) based at the Scottish Maritime Museum in Irvine. This project has now been completed and the final workshop was held in December 2015 and the website has been launched. STICK continues to maintain this website and look to enhance it with International information on Scottish machine tools. STICK thanks Linda Ross, Justin Parkes, Klaus Staubermann, Jim Mitchell, Prof. John Hume and Miriam McDonald for providing advice and help to Daniela through the project's Steering Group.

#### **6. 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 the thinking needed to build on the areas in which STICK can make an impact.

#### **7. Partnerships**

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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STICK is also represented on the *Celebrating James Watt: sharing the modern world Committee* which aims to promote and get involved in celebrating 2019 which is the 200th anniversary of the death of James Watt and the 250th anniversary of the granting of the patent for the separate condenser. The Committee has members from various institutions, organisation such as Glasgow University, Heriot Watt University, Historic Environment Scotland, Inverclyde museums and galleries, Friends of Kinneil, Falkirk Council, Scottish Council for Development of Industry and the Women's Engineering Society. Our Board Member Elsa Cox, has recently become Convener of the Scottish Branch of the Newcomen Society and we look forward to working with Newcomen colleagues more closely in the future.

**8. Finances** (information supplied by Ellie Swinbank, acting Treasurer, October 2015 - 22 April 2016)

STICK currently has £729.80 in credit in its Bank Of Scotland Account (before overheads for 7th April event and AGM 22 August 2016). 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.

### **9. 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  
15 April 2016.