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Tyseley News 26, Spring 2020

Annual General Meeting, 4 April 2020 Postponed

Dear Member

Just like the proverbial bus, no sooner do you receive *Steam in Trust* from the Friends of Vintage Trains then this *Tyseley News* follows swiftly behind - things do have a habit of happening quickly in this day and age! However, there is a reason for sending out this quick communiqué. We are all aware of the concerns surrounding the Coronavirus outbreak and this is even more an issue given the age profile of our much respected and gallant band of Members who are largely in the high risk category. The well-being of our Members is our absolute priority, and you can be assured that health and safety has our full attention, it is therefore our considered opinion that we should postpone the Friends of Vintage Trains' Annual General Meeting, planned for 4 April 2020. The new date will be 5 September 2020 and although this is outside our normal 15 month reporting requirement as per our Constitution, we hope you will understand - these are extenuating circumstances. We are sorry for any inconvenience this postponement may cause and if you have any questions or issues you would like to discuss, please feel free to get in touch. We have also postponed the Social Evening, planned for 14 May, until later in the year.

We are fully supportive of Vintage Trains who have recently issued the following press release:

"HMG has clearly advised: "Now is the time for everyone to stop non-essential contact with others and to stop all unnecessary travel. We need people to start working from home where they possibly can. And you should avoid pubs, clubs, theatres and other such social venues."

We will maintain our recently announced position that April trains are cancelled and others are still booking and Vintage Trains will continue to submit specifications to NR. This position will be reviewed as and when appropriate"

All volunteering at Tyseley is now suspended. We will aim to keep our website www.friendsofvt.org.uk as up-to-date as possible so that is a good first point of contact if you have access to the internet.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and loyalty. Let's hope this situation resolves itself quickly and life can resume some form of normality! Stay safe.

Neil Ewart

Acting Chairman

Electronic Mailing List Opt-In

To reduce postage and other costs associated with mailing out newsletters and to allow the Friends to use more of its funds in support of main line steam, we invite all Members, where possible, to opt-in to receiving future communications by e-mail rather than post, including notification of the availability of these newsletters on the web site. Other mailings will be limited to occasional e-mails with details of Friends' events such as the Annual General Meeting, social events, volunteering opportunities and any other (rare) urgent notifications; your details will not be passed on to any third parties, including Vintage Trains Limited.

To opt-in to receiving electronic communication please either:

- email the Friend's secretary at secretary@friendsofvt.org.uk; ensure that you include your membership number, or
- complete the opt-in form at <https://friendsofvt.org.uk/newsletter-emailing-list>

Completing this form does not imply opting-out of receiving printed copies of our flagship publication *Steam in Trust*, which you will continue to receive in print.

If you joined the Friends on-line then you gave consent to receiving electronic communications, but we would also be grateful if you can re-confirm your agreement to ensure that our records are up-to-date and that we are respecting all Members' communication preferences.

Opting-in will help to reduce our overheads and use of paper which would be much appreciated, but please be assured that we will continue to post out paper copies of the newsletter and other urgent communication if that is your preference. Thank you for your assistance.

Dates for your diary

Date	Event	Timings	Location
Sundays, 19 July-6 September	Shakespeare Express Season		
Saturday, 5 September 2020	Annual General Meeting	10.30am	Tyseley Working Men's Club

Shown here are the dates for the *Shakespeare Express* which, as a benefit of your Friends of Vintage Trains membership, you will receive a discount on your ticket for a *Shakespeare Express* return journey.

For the latest up-to-date tour programme or to book tickets please visit www.vintagetrains.co.uk or telephone bookings can be made by calling the Vintage Trains Office on 0121 708 4960 during office hours Mon - Fri 09:30 - 16:30 hrs.