



670 Warwick Road, Tyseley, Birmingham B11 2HL  
[www.friendsofvt.org.uk](http://www.friendsofvt.org.uk)

## Tyseley News No. 28 – autumn 2021

### SPECIAL EVENT

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#### ***MEMBER'S 'WELCOME BACK' SOCIAL EVENT***

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**Saturday, 16 October, 1.30pm for 2pm start  
at Tyseley Working Men's Club**

**Speaker: John Perkin**

***'Rails through Birmingham'***  
*a photographic journey through Birmingham in the days of steam*

Buffet will be provided

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*Welcome to a new arrival - 15" gauge miniature railway ... awaiting renovation:*



Dear Member,

Welcome to Tyseley News No. 28, the occasional newsletter for Members of the Friends of Vintage Trains.

As I write this there still remains uncertainty about Covid but we all have to stay optimistic that things are returning back to something approaching normality. Your Committee decided some time ago to organise some social events for you, the Members, but Covid has sabotaged our plans to date. However, we are delighted to say that the first event has been confirmed for **Saturday, 16 October 2021** as a 'Welcome Back'.

This will be hosted at the Tyseley Working Men's Club which is situated opposite Tyseley Loco Works. Doors will open at 1.30 pm for a 2.00 pm start.

There is going to be a guest speaker who is John Perkin from Shropshire. He will give a couple of illustrated talks. The first will be on steam between Lickey Bank and Birmingham, very timely with the Vintage Trains tour on 20 November. The second will be the GWR route from Birmingham to Knowle.

This exclusive member's event is a new benefit for members and there will be no charge for you to attend and to bring a guest for free. A light refreshment buffet will be provided.

If this goes well it is planned to hold regular similar events throughout the year.

Registration is not required, but it would greatly help our planning, especially for the catering, if you would complete the brief registration of interest form on our website: [www.FriendsofVT.org.uk](http://www.FriendsofVT.org.uk), or telephone 07384 471552.

We plan to hold a raffle where the top prize will be a full size replica nameplate for 'Kolhapur'.



It will be an opportunity for Members and guests to meet up after the long Covid lay-off and the Committee hope they will have the chance to meet and chat with many members.

In other event news, we are sad to report that the Warley National Model Railway Show, planned for November at the NEC in Birmingham, has been cancelled, and so, too, has the Open Weekend at Tyseley on 23/24 October. There is a need, still, to take things a little gently and it is very much hoped that these events will be back in our calendars in 2022. Thanks to all of the volunteers who had already offered to help and we hope to see you next year.

As reported in the spring edition of 'Steam in Trust' the Friends held an Annual General Meeting to cover essential business needs. The Minutes of the meeting are given overleaf. The date for the 2022 AGM has already been set for 19 March 2022 so do keep a note in your diary or on your 2022 calendar!

### **Calendars and cards are now on sale**

Following the success of the first ever Friends of Vintage Trains' calendar, the Committee have been busy during the Covid break and created a new one for 2022 which is now on sale. Each page of the calendar has a Vintage Trains related image reflecting 'Memorable Moments/Record Breaking Achievements' over the years using not only the Tyseley Collection locomotives, but some inspiring guest engines, too.



The calendar is A4, spiral bound on the top edge, month-to-a-page with a description of the featured locomotive and an interesting snippet looking back at historical events in that month. The calendar costs £6 plus postage and can be ordered via the website [www.FriendsofVT.org.uk](http://www.FriendsofVT.org.uk) or by using the enclosed order form. The calendars are also available to purchase if you are travelling on a Vintage Trains tour.

The packs of greetings cards are still available to purchase. They are postcard size and have the greeting 'Best wishes' inside. Each pack contains five mixed cards with envelopes and cost £4 per pack, plus postage. Again, these can be ordered via the website or by returning the enclosed order form.

### **New Volunteering Project**

The photograph at the front page shows a recent new arrival at Tyseley – a 15" gauge miniature railway. The Thursday night volunteer group have been assigned this as a project to restore and more details will be coming in the next issue of 'Steam in Trust'. If you would like to join the group email [volunteering@vintagetrains.co.uk](mailto:volunteering@vintagetrains.co.uk) or telephone 07384 471552 and a message will be passed on.

I, and my fellow Committee members, look forward to seeing you at the Social Event in October or around and about Tyseley.

Best wishes and stay safe.

**Neil Ewart**

Chairman, Friends of Vintage Trains

## **MINUTES OF THE FRIENDS OF VINTAGE TRAINS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Held on 27 March 2021 via Zoom due to Covid-19 restrictions**

### **1. ATTENDED**

Robin Coombes, Neil Ewart, Paul Hatton, Mary McCullough, Dave Martin, Sharon Salter, Chris Schroeder, Tony Watson, Bernard Wright. Mark and Fiona Smee attended as independent observers.

### **2. APOLOGIES**

Geoff Middleton, Jeff Robinson

### **3. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME**

The Chairman thanked the Committee for giving up their time to attend this AGM via Zoom. It was disappointing not to meet up with Members but there had been little choice than to hold the meeting remotely due to the Covid-19 restrictions in place at the time to the meeting.

### **4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 MARCH 2019**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2019, circulated ahead of the meeting, were taken as read. No matters were raised and were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

### **5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

This is the first Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Vintage Trains following its transition from Vintage Trains Society approved at the AGM in 2019. The full Chairman's report had been published in 'Tyseley News' No. 27 and was taken as read.

After a period of ill-health, Chris Schroeder felt he would not be able to devote the appropriate amount of time required to continue in the role as Chairman and was formally standing down at this meeting. He expressed his thanks to the Committee for their support and particularly to Neil Ewart for picking up the reins as Acting Chairman. The Committee asked Chris to continue on the Committee on a co-opted basis which he confirmed he was happy to do. The Committee thanked Chris for his outstanding Chairmanship and wished him well for the future and were delighted to see him looking in such good health.

## **6. TREASURER'S REPORT**

The Treasurer, Bernard Wright, presented the financial report for the period 1 January to 31 December 2020 which had been audited and which had been sent to Members in 'Tyseley News' No. 27 and therefore taken as read.

The key factors were income was £10,127.92, expenditure £6,369.31 giving an overall surplus for the year of £3,758.61. Total funds available were £19,617.43 of which there is a commitment of £10k for the refurbishment of the Pullman Cars which would be paid once work had been completed leaving a sum of £9,617.43 of total funds available. Membership subscriptions had remained at a steady level which was very encouraging and the Committee are grateful for Members' support, particularly during this very difficult time.

## **7. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE**

All current Committee members had confirmed they would all be willing to stand for election: Robin Coombes, Neil Ewart, Paul Hatton, Dave Martin, Mary McCullough, Geoff Middleton, Jeff Robinson, Sharon Salter, Bernard Wright.

Tony Watson, the Volunteer Co-Ordinator for Vintage Trains, had been advising the Committee on a co-opted basis and he was appointed to the Committee to help continue this line of communication.

Mark Smee, Editor of 'Steam in Trust', has been asked to join the Committee on a co-opted basis to enable a streamlined communication link.

The election of the Committee had been reported in 'Tyseley News' No. 27 and as no comments had been received to the contrary, all Committee Members were duly elected.

## **8. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEE OFFICERS**

Chairman – Neil Ewart

Deputy Chairman – Paul Hatton

Treasurer – Bernard Wright

Secretary – Mary McCullough

These Officers were duly elected on a show of hands.

## **9. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR**

Proposed to appoint Kevin McCullough to act in the capacity of Auditor. Mr McCullough is not a member and therefore will act in an independent capacity. Proposal approved.

## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It was proposed to hold the 2022 Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 19 March 2022 at 10.30am at the Tyseley Working Men's Club.