

# STRATHAVEN MODEL SOCIETY Ltd

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## News Letter October 2017

Dear Member,

### Members Information

Work at the park and the workshop continues with a reduced numbers of members being available during September mainly due to members being on holiday along with some illness. Hopefully we will have more members out over the next few months. It would be good to finish laying sleepers on the main track before winter sets in, this is of course dependent on weather and availability of members on a Monday.

We took delivery of anthracite coal last month and we are finding it to be of good quality and burns well in both EVA and MARGARETS fire boxes. Kane's also supplied us with Columbian coal after sampling some from the new stock it is also excellent quality and we will purchase more at the start of 2018 running season.

### Website

Some updates carried out on site with new videos added and new documents regarding drivers list etc.

**Steve Driver** has been looking after the calendar and other parts of the website but has been asked to be relieved of this task due to other commitments. Thank you Steve in helping to get the website up and running and the initial teething issues that we had. I am now looking for a volunteer who would take on this task it probably requires about an hour per month maximum to update info and keep in touch with the webmaster (Les Hoggan ) editor of the Strathaven local paper and photographer. Please let me know if you are willing to do this work for the club website.

### Passenger Numbers

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to all the members who have participated at the park this year running the railway or in the background keeping the engines and rolling stock in good condition.

**Our total number of passengers for 2017 was more than last year with 1242 extra passengers buying tickets for the railway than last year. Giving us a magnificent total of 13,851 passengers for the year.**

**This appears to be our highest number of passengers for quite some time, it would appear that we need to go back to the 1990s for a higher result. VERY WELL DONE EVERYBODY in helping us achieve this figure.** Our average numbers per running day were up as you would expect from 221 for 2016 to 243 for 2017, we had the same number of running days, and also the same number of rained of days compared to last year . 63 running days 6 no running days.

### Kiosk Electrical supply for blower.

**Another big THANK YOU to Ian Kerr.** He spent a large part of last Monday working on the electrical supply in the kiosk to repair and checkout the power supply, rectifier, fuse box and the extension cable out to the blower finding several faults that has plagued the system all year. The blower also needed some TLC , I can now report the system is fully working and should give us no issues going forward. Please be aware that the insulated crocodile clips on the rim of the cable drum should be left as they are and the clips from

the blower attached to them. If this is done we should have no more issues with burnt out wiring or blown fuses. Thank you IAN. The fish van braking unit has also had a new dedicated charger purchased which is now installed onto the kiosk wall with a flying lead which is again insulated and connects to a lead connected to the battery in the fish van.

### **Strathaven Castle**

Supplier has agreed to our request to delay delivery of new locomotive until late February 2018. This gives him time to iron out the issues with gearing and have the locomotive painted and passed OK before delivery to us next year. Delivery in February will give us time to go through driver training before the new season starts on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March one week before Easter holiday weekend.

### **Work Going Forward**

We are starting to compile the winter work list for this year and spring of 2018 at present only a few items on the list but I am sure this will increase once we start doing the work. Number one priority is to have all the coaches checked over after a year of running after the work carried out last year. Secondly the airline brake system that has been a bone of contention over the summer will be stripped and checked over ready for next year's passengers. If you know of work to be carried out please let myself, Brian, Mike, Campbell or Eric know so that we can add to the task list.

### **Events**

The special events that will occur in the park this year are:-

**Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> of October (Club Open Weekend) No public running.**

**Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> of October (Club Open Weekend) No public running.**

On arrival at the park please sign in at the kiosk where badges have been prepared for all member's please wear this so that it is visible, especially for our visitors// guests.

**If possible please bring a donation of home baking and deliver it to the Barry shelter beside the bowling green where the catering team will be preparing hot food and drinks over the two days.**

It is expected that running of locomotives will commence any time after nine am until late. Please assist our visitors to have an enjoyable time by helping them with bringing in or removing locomotives from the track to steaming bays or sidings beside the turntable. Coal & sticks will be available outside the kiosk for the ground track. Water for the ground track will be by hose as usual and watering cans and a Barrel for the raised track.

Looking forward to seeing you at this event

**South Lanarkshire** School holidays are later in the month of October commencing on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October which is after our open weekend, depending on weather and staff we may run a diesel service at this time.

**GUY FAWKES NIGHT. Will be held in the park on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> of November. Again this is a big night for us as a club with several hundred passengers hauled that evening. Please add your name to the diary if you are available to assist during the afternoon set up and or the evening running. We require at least 10 volunteers for this busy night please add your name to the list as soon as possible or send me an email.**

Kind Regards

IAN.

