



NEWSLETTER November 2019

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

December

Club Meeting: Wednesday 4th December – **A talk by Pete Smith about his *Norton Special* Motorcycle.**

Workshop Morning: Tuesday 17th December 10-12 noon.

January 2020

There Is No Club Meeting In January

PEEMS Talk To Residents at Mickle Hill Retirement Village ~ Wednesday 22nd January

Workshop Morning: Tuesday 21st January 10-12 noon.

February 2020

Club Meeting: Wednesday 5th February - **Mark O'Brien from the North York Moors Railway will speak on "*Boiler Smithing*".**

Workshop Morning: Tuesday 18th February 10-12 noon.

CLUB MEETING: Wednesday 6th November ~ Annual General Meeting

There was a reasonable turnout to the AGM and Colin Bainbridge our Chairman welcomed members and a guest. Before the AGM started there were some business announcements:

- **PEEMS Display at Scarborough Library** on Saturday 5th October.

PEEMS had a stand and display at Scarborough Library, along with other clubs and societies, to showcase what hobbies and interests were available in the local area. Whilst the PEEMS stand was in the main library itself, and footfall was good, Colin regarded the event as not a big success from a PEEMS viewpoint. Only a few people stopped and looked at the display and only some of those asked questions.

Although the position of the display in the library wasn't too bad, in Colin's opinion the stand should have really been in the middle, where people would have to walk around the display rather than it being off on one side as it was. The library had estimated an attendance of around 400 people for the day and it appeared not to have been too far off that number. So, lessons were learned for the future. Colin thanked everyone who attended and provided models.

- **Peems Talk (And Model Display) at Mickle Hill Retirement Village** on Wednesday 22nd January 2020.

Jonathan Milner, our new chairman will provide updates for this event over the next couple of months.

- **The Farmers Breakfast** on Thursday 5th March 2020.

PEEMS is to provide another talk to the retired Farmer's group at Amotherby. The date for your diaries is the 5th March 10 to 11.45 am. Jonathan will be providing updates for this event over the next few months

- **Club Workshop.**

Jonathan has taken over managing the Club Workshop, so in future, if members would like to use the workshop, please contact Jonathan for access.

- **Anson Engine Museum Donation**

At the last meeting it was agreed that a donation should be sent to the Anson Museum as a “*Thank You*” for hosting PEEMS. The donation was discussed at the last committee meeting and an amount decided on that was considered reasonable considering the fact that several members had already donated on the day.

- **A “Model Engineer” Magazine Visit To PEEMS.**

John Arrowsmith who is a reporter for the “Model Engineer” magazine, wrote up a visit to the Wrexham Model Club in the last edition.

Mike Sayers was approached at the *Midland Model Engineer Exhibition* by John who wants PEEMS to be the next visit in his “*Club Series*”. This visit would be in early 2020. John’s report on his visit to the Wrexham Club was very good, so PEEMS members should get their thinking caps on as what we can provide for John.

John wants to visit on a workshop day. Any ideas would be gratefully received. John is up in this part of Yorkshire to report on the *Gilling International Meet* which is scheduled for March.

- **Steve Hanson:** Jonathan received the sad news that one of our members, Steve Hanson died on 3rd October. PEEMS would like to extend our sympathy and condolences to Steve’s family at this sad time.

- **Annual General Meeting**

- **Apologies for Absence:** John Heeley
- **Accounts:** Updated copies were handed out to those members who had not received them by e-mail.
- **Minutes Of The 2018 AGM:** Proposal that the minutes are a fair record.
Proposer: David Proctor. Seconder: Brian Stephenson. All in favour.
- **Matter Arising:** Item 8 ~ Proposal by Peter Bramley to purchase a traction engine for the Club. At the following Club meeting in December, the membership were asked if that was what they wanted. The membership rejected the proposal. That decision was not opposed at the 2019 AGM.
- **Chairman’s Report**
 - **Introduction:** When I stood before you this time last year, I said that I hoped to build on the good work started by my predecessors and that I felt my year in office would probably be one of continuity and not one of radical change. Well I can’t really claim to have moved things on significantly in my year in the Chair, but I think I can confidently say to you that it has been a year of continuity. In preparing these notes in readiness to provide you with a review of the past year, what struck me straight away was the sheer diversity of our activities and interests that fall within the scope of engineering.
 - **Talks:** Our excellent talks this year have included, Steam Rocket Bikes, Marshall Field Tractors, Workshop Machinery and Silver Soldering.
 - **Visits:** Our visits included: The British Horological Institute, North Sea Winches and the Unison Pipe Bending Company. Who can forget our visit to Ivan Shaw’s workshop to see his one-man personal light aircraft G-SEKA and more recently our visit to The Anson Engine Museum in Cheshire?
 - **Annual Dinner:** We paused in March to have a very successful Annual Dinner at the *Mickle Hill* Retirement Village.
 - **School ‘Science Day’ and PEEMS Railway at The Ryedale Show:** Along the way we also did a bit of “outreach” by putting on a *Science Day* at Alne Primary School and by providing the railway for *The Ryedale Show* in July.
 - **Model Displays:** We did also find a bit of time for model engineering, enjoying a successful “*Bring and Brag*” meeting and by providing models and a stand at The Doncaster Show, Mickle Hill Summer Fayre and Scarborough Library.
 - **Garden Party:** We finished our local summer social activities with an invitation to Brian and May’s lovely Garden Party held at their new home.

I think you will agree with me, that even if you didn’t attend all of the events I have just listed, that is a very impressive line-up of activities for any Club.

My only regret is that the list should have included our annual visit to *Welburn Hall School* to provide the children with entertainment. The weather on this occasion defeated us, but I do also take a personal responsibility in our non - attendance this year, for in trying to arrange an alternative date, I didn't fully realize the difficulty involved in moving the dates from early to late summer.

I would say that what the Club does, it does well but all of this is only possible because individuals and The Club Committee put in a lot of work behind the scenes to make it all happen. The Chairman is maybe the visible presence of the Club, but the real work is done by others ...in the engine room so to speak.

- **Acknowledgements:** I wish to acknowledge all the support given to me this past year by the Officers and Committee:

David Proctor – Membership Secretary and Doncaster Show Organiser.

David Hampshire – Keeping the books in order and thus the Club finances on a firm footing.

Tony Leeming – Our outgoing Club Secretary who has kept me on the straight and narrow regarding protocols and procedures.

Neville Foster - Our Publicity and Newsletter Editor who does a superb job.

Jonathan Milner – who has been Vice Chair this year and at times has had to deputize for me during the year, who I sincerely thank.

John Powell and George Gibbs who have looked after the workshop and related matters so well and who are both standing down this year – Thank You

Jim Everett - Committee member, for supporting of my efforts as I have stumbled my way through the years programme. And an extra thanks to you Jim in all the organization you put into our recent trip to the *Anson Museum*.

Ted Fletcher – Who arranges the speakers for our Club meetings

And finally,

Mike Sayers, our President – For kindly providing the Committee Room, Workshop space, and outings car park spaces. Also thank you for coordinating the Doncaster Show with David Proctor this year.

- **Special Thanks:** I should also like to offer my thanks to all members who helped at our various engagements throughout the year by giving their time models and equipment.

It is at this meeting gentlemen, that we take the opportunity to thank two special members of the Club who without their input at our meetings, the quality of our evenings would be that much poorer. I am referring of course to Anne and May who look after us so wonderfully with tea and biscuits.

Anne and May were each presented with a gift for their contribution.

- **Chairman's Award.** Now gentlemen, the next item is *The Chairman's Award*. This award is as you know a 'thank you' from the Chairman to the person who in the Chairman's view has contributed something extra in the last year.

I am especially pleased this year to be able to honour this person because he has filled a "behind the scenes" role that ordinarily goes largely unnoticed, but is never the less vital to the wellbeing of the Club. He has done this with absolute efficiency and professionalism. I am of course referring to our outgoing Secretary – Tony Leeming who has done such a sterling job for the Club over the past eight years.

Tony was presented with *The Chairman's Award* for his contribution.

○ **Financial Report ~ David Hampshire**

Every member attending the AGM had received the latest updated Treasurer's Financial Spreadsheet along with the Minutes of the 2018 AGM.

At the bottom of the financial spreadsheet are the overall balances for the Club for this year and the previous year. The overall balance of the Club for 2019 is 11% higher than it was for 2018.

- **Railway:** This made a "theoretical profit", however it should be noted that the expenses members incur during operations are not submitted to David, so go unaccounted. For example, petrol bills for the engine are paid voluntarily by members, but are not submitted and therefore not recorded in the Club accounts. Included in these "unaccounted expenses" are costs involved in getting the railway to and from the events. Another point is that all the effort put in to running the railway at Ryedale pays for the insurance.

- **Workshop:** This has also made 'surplus income' from the sale of materials. This money can be used to buy equipment for the workshop. There are also transactions between members which are not submitted and therefore not recorded in the accounts.
- **The Club:** On paper the Club has an excess of revenue over expenditure. Some of this excess was made on the coach trip to Upton Hall. This was because of a sudden late increase in people wanting to go. Also, May and Anne pay for the tea and biscuits themselves, so that is shown as a donation to Club funds. If the surplus due to the coach trip and the tea and biscuits is discounted, the Club would have a "theoretical loss".
- **Subscriptions:** Taking into account the entrance fee for club meetings and the nominal annual subscription, if members attend all eleven meetings in the year, then they pay a high subscription when compared with other clubs like York. David was hoping to reduce the entrance fee for Club meetings, but was unable to. Subscriptions cannot be increased as they are high enough already.
- **Exceptional Expenditure: Insurance.** Tony found out that the insurance company had been under insuring the Club. This doesn't mean that we were unable to make a claim, it's just that we just didn't pay enough. The insurance bill has subsequently increased by 21.5% over the year for both the Club and the Railway. This was split 69% for the club and 31% for the Railway.
If the membership keeps falling eventually the insurance bill will be unaffordable. If the Railway and Workshop were discontinued then the insurance would be around 24% of the current bill. It's the "Engineering" aspect of the Club that is the reason for the high insurance costs. However, this is something the membership will have to think about in the future, if the membership keeps on falling.

○ **Subscriptions.**

The Treasurer recommended that the annual members' subscription should remain the same as last year. Proposed Peter Bramley and seconded Jim Everett. All were in favour.

○ **Election of Officers.**

Chairman – Jonathan Milner had agreed to be Chairman for the following year (2019/2020). He was proposed by Tony Leeming and seconded by Colin Bainbridge. All agreed.

Vice-Chairman – Paul Hayward had volunteered for this role. He was proposed by Tony Leeming and seconded by Colin Bainbridge. All agreed.

Secretary - The Chairman said that David Proctor was willing to stand as Secretary. Proposed by David Hampshire, seconded by Tony Leeming. All agreed.

Treasurer - David Hampshire agreed to stand again. Proposed by Colin Bainbridge, seconded by Tony Leeming. All agreed.

○ **Election of Committee.**

Peter Bramley, Nevile Foster, George Gibbs and John Powell were all unanimously elected as committee members.

Nevile Foster agreed to continue with the Newsletter and Publicity,

David Proctor agreed to continue as Membership Secretary.

Jonathan Milner takes over as Workshop Liaison Officer.

Ted Fletcher was willing to continue in the role of Meeting Speaker Secretary but at his wish, not serving as a committee member. He did in addition agree to deal with the tea money on club nights.

Brian Stephenson proposed a mark of appreciation to Colin Bainbridge and thanked him for his work. All applauded.

○ **Chairman's Address**

As is the privilege for an outgoing Chairman, I would like to finish my address with some thoughts as to the future direction of the Club.

In my opinion by far the most important factor in the health of a Club is the size and age range of its members. The future well-being of any Club is its ability to at least maintain its number of members year on year and to look to increase these numbers if at all possible. Opinions differ as to where and how we should look to draw in new members, but the facts as they stand are that our numbers are getting less, and the age profile of our remaining membership is getting older. Left unchecked this will lead to the Club 'fading'.

Going forward, we as a Club must do everything possible to bring in new members whilst still maintaining our core interests. Those core interests are the appreciation of engineering in its various forms, and the engineering practices embodied in the exercise of craft and skill, but not overlooking solutions offered by new technologies. I consider it part of our reason for being, to continue to foster and pass on knowledge and skills to others, be they young or old. In the case of the young, the inspiration should be that the journey to a finished model or item is every bit as pleasurable as the destination.

Our Club has four fairly well-defined aspects as to what it is we do:

- we have meetings and talks.
- we go on visits.
- we go out and tell or inform others of what it is we do, which is 'outreach'. 'Outreach' also includes the deployment of the portable railway.
- we have a Club workshop to satisfy the practical side of our interest.

If we are to encourage others to join us, young and old, we must explain to them that the four headings I have just identified are in fact the doors that lead to more exciting spaces beyond. For example, look at the breadth of subjects that we have had talks on, the places we have visited and the educational value of these visits. No one is ever too old to learn more.

Then there is 'outreach' by way of giving talks to other types of groups and Clubs, which in the past we have not really developed. Hopefully in the New Year we will start do more of this 'missionary work', when we give our first talk to the residents of *Mickle Hill* Retirement Village. I hope in due course this will then become an established way for us to recruit new members.

There are also the occasions when we are invited to visit schools. Whilst I am not suggesting we are doing much to gain new members by our attendance, we are flying the flag for the Club and more importantly giving something back to the community with our time, enthusiasm, and knowledge. With 'outreach' it could be said that our age profile can work in our favour. As older age dampens the enthusiasm to do 'active hands-on' activities in the Club, 'outreach' provides us with the opportunity to meet people, talk about the hobby and perhaps make new friends.

I think the Club workshop has not reached its full potential. However, as newer members come in, perhaps its existence will be the very start they need to fully develop their own interest in engineering, model or otherwise. It may also provide the older members with a new stimulus to embrace new technologies and start a new project or help others so to do.

When we talk of model engineering to the public, in my opinion, we are perhaps guilty of encouraging people to think that it is only about new build and owning lots of expensive equipment. I urge you to keep an open mind about this, for the next generation beyond us will first and foremost require maintenance and repair skills to maintain and refurbish OUR models and the engineering that they will inherit. Looked at in that way, rather than perhaps our own view of "I have a workshop, what can I make with it?", new members may say "I have a model or piece of engineering, do I need a workshop?". Maybe they will only require an appreciation of what machine tools do. New technologies are offering a glimpse of a new future in engineering practice and perhaps what model engineering will become in the 21st century.

This then is the both the problem and the solution as to where we as model engineers stand. As a generation we straddle both these points of view. We come from a time of 'hands on' construction but are now looking at a possible future of working 'hands off' where new machines such as 3D printers and CNC machining centres (perhaps working in unison) will be doing the work for us. This along with the availability of ready-made quality parts may significantly change what it will mean to be a model engineer. Viewed from this angle I think you will see that future members may also come from those who would not necessarily have felt they have an interest in engineering. They may only require enough knowledge and appreciation of how something works, and the materials used, to make an informed decision as to how to affect a repair or the renewal of a part.

We then as a Club have all the right ingredients to make the best of this future. We can foster and encourage traditional engineering methods and skills to those that wish to learn them. At the same time we know what a 'thinking machine' can do for us, and to what quality. We are therefore in a position to either develop this way of working for ourselves, or to help others to do so. The future really can involve everyone.

To sum up: I think we have a very asset rich Club – you the members and your collective knowledge is that asset. We have a very strong structure in the way the Club goes about doing things: arranging informative talks, arranging interesting visits, doing 'outreach', a Newsletter that is the envy of other clubs and a fantastic workshop.

Please continue to give the Club your active support. If someone asks you what is PEEMS about, tell them about the four doors leading to exciting spaces – The four good reasons you find to be involved in something stimulating. Then tell them to come and join us and become a member.

○ **New Chairman's Remarks.**

Good evening. For those who do not know me yet, I am Jonathan Milner. I have only been a PEEMS member for two years and so have not got to know all of you yet. I would like to say thank you to Colin for all his dedication and hard work this last year.

I saw an advert in the Handy Mag advertising PEEMS and attended a meeting out of curiosity. Richard Gretton was talking about his clock-making hobby and I confess to not knowing much about the subject. It was a most fascinating evening and I decided to join up.

I wasn't born and bred here, but have lived in Thornton Dale for thirty-five years. My father farmed up on the Wolds and when I was about thirteen, he bought an arc welder but could not make much of it. Looking back, the travelling salesman made it look easy. However, I got the hang of it so got the job of repairing things. I enjoyed taking things apart, but as we all know that is the easy bit.

I enjoyed metalwork at school and got an apprenticeship with the Central Electricity Generating Board based at Eggborough Power Station. Transport was required and much to my parents' dismay it was a motorcycle.

For some reason I decided to go to sea. It was a spur of the moment decision and worked out well for me. Because of my background I was put on steamships, They were known as 'manomatics' as the automatic didn't really work, so it was a case of 'flying by the seat of your pants'. It was hard work sometimes but we also played hard. After six years at sea I left and went for a look around Australia and enjoyed every minute.

I came home and ended up with a job with British Telecom. That was going to take me through the next couple of years before something else turned up, however I retired thirty-one years later.

I have always been interested in model engineering and thought when I give up motorcycling would be the time to start, but I am still tinkering with bikes. I've some ideas about model engineering, so maybe next year. I have been involved with racing bikes most of my life but leave the racing to others. I enjoyed preparing bikes and supporting riders. The best moments have been when a rider, male or female, have got their first 100mph average lap on the Isle Of Man circuit on one of my bikes.

Next year will be a big challenge for me, but I am really looking forward to it. I have watched Colin closely this year and learnt a lot. I would very much welcome if anyone will contact me or any committee members with any ideas or suggestions to do with the club.

It looks like we will have another enjoyable and interesting year ahead of us.

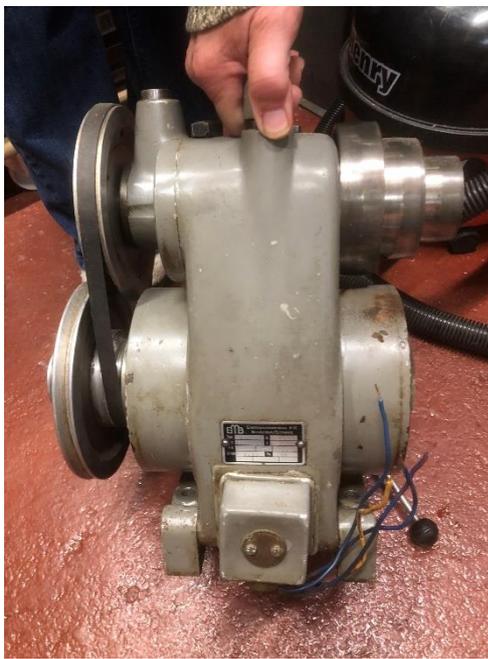
The meeting ended with an excellent "Pie and Peas" supper.

Item For Sale:

A good home is sought for a motor driving both V belts and Flat belts.

Any contribution would be welcomed. The seller is not looking for much, or anything, but would like it to be of use, and used, by someone.

If members want to contact Paul Hayward on 01653 694196 then he can pass their interest on to the seller for him to contact them.



Contact:

If you would like to contribute to the Newsletter, the contact is:
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