

**(Draft) MINUTES OF 5<sup>th</sup> AGM OF THE NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY SOCIETY  
as a Company Limited by Guarantee  
and the  
70th AGM of the Society since its formation**

**Held on 8th May 2021 at 15:00 as a Virtual Meeting**

66 Members were present (by proxy): *Chris Askew, Kim Bailey, James Ballantyne, John Berry, Charles Bicheno, Anthony Bradley, Colin Brazier, Derek Brixey, Martin Brown, Harry Chandler, Glenn Clarkson, Paul Clifford, David Colenutt, David Collister, John Crocker, Peter Deacon, Mike Dickerson, Patrick Farrell, Peter Fischer, Michael Gray, Jonathan Green, Robert Griffiths, Alan Hayday, Brian Hillsdon, William Holmes, Robert Howes, Ian Hurst, Nick Hutt, John Huxley, Pete James, Lionel Kay, David Kerr, Brian Kiddy, Peter Kinnear, Bill Knight, Peter Lea, Chris Lemon, Jan Littwin, Don Mann, Jeremy Marsh, Keith Millard, Ian Montgomery, John Moore, Peter Moore, John Organ, Philip Pacey, Chris Page, Alistair Parsons, David Pratt, Mark Prescott, Andrew Roberts, Timothy Sanderson, John Scholes, John Spalding, Ray Stanton, Anthony Steele, Frank Stephen, Michael Stevens, Mike Swift, Keith Taylorson, Mike Tebbett, , John Tennent, Viv Thorpe, Tony Tomkins, Guy Towner, Raymond Wilkinson.*

14 Members were virtually present: *Steven Beith, Moira Biggins, David Collins, Norman Drake, Graham Fairhurst, Adrian Garner, Robert Leadbetter, Andy Morgan, Sydney Leleux, Stewart Liles, Rick Osman, Adrian Shooter, Paul Webb, Richard Yudin.*

8 Directors were virtually present: *Steve Barber* (Company Secretary), *Paul Bennett* (NGN Editor), *Simon Guppy* (Visits Officer), *Jonathan James* (NGN Miniature Railways Editor), *Mick Morgan* (Webmaster), *Iain McCall* (Director for the Membership), *Chris Roberts* (Facebook Administrator), *Robert Watson* (eBay Shop).

5 Officers were virtually present: *Gerry Balding* (NGN UK Editor), *Graham Feldwick* (NGN H&A Editor), *Neil Limbrick* (Webmaster), *Stephen Moore* (Treasurer), *Peter Wilson* (Librarian).

The Meeting was chaired by *Steve Barber*.

It was determined that a quorum (5 Directors and 25 full Members (in attendance or by proxy)) was present and the meeting could conduct business.

The Secretary determined that notice of the meeting had been properly given in accordance with the Articles. The Meeting has been summarily adjourned and reconvened as a virtual meeting due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

A copy of the Minutes of the previous AGM was presented to the meeting, together with the Accounts, Officers' Reports and Appendices, which are available on the Society's website.

The Meeting commenced at 15:02

## **Informal business and reports from Directors, Officers and other groups**

### **Apologies for Absence**

Mike Jackson, Jill Everett, Robert Griffiths, David Matthewson, Nick Hutt, Glenn Roofthoof, Rod Briggs, Edward Draper, Rodney Thorne, Lord O'Neill, Hugh Sykes, Tim Hudson, Alan Burgess.

### **Minutes of 2020 AGM**

See Appendix C.

No objections, corrections or items notified had been received, the minutes were accepted.  
Proposed *Rick Osman* Seconded *Sydney Leleux*.



## **Committee Reports**

### **Chairman's Report**

It is a great regret that, for the second successive year, we cannot meet physically for our AGM and have to rely on technology to enable us to conduct our business.

Covid has dominated all our lives for over a year, and it certainly affected the Society. We did lose members during the 2019 renewal process that perhaps would have remained with us during normal times, and this was something we expected.

We also lost the ability for most of the year to meet in person – at the AGM and committee meetings, on visits organized by the Society, and at publicly open railways. There was a brief spell during the late summer and autumn when activity was possible, but the shadow of Covid seemed to hang over everything.

At the time of writing, it appears that there is a slow return to some sort of normality, and perhaps during the second half of this year we will be to resume meeting in groups.

All this meant that we have relied more than ever on our two journals to stay in touch. For most members, their arrival is the main point of contact with the society, and there has been no interruption in production – and I hope no loss of quality.

Having said all that, we are still in a strong position. Our financial situation remains healthy, and we have again decided not to increase what were already low subscription rates. We believe that we offer excellent value for money.

Maintaining membership numbers is our main priority and in particular attracting the younger generation. This is a problem affecting all societies covering a broad range of leisure interests, to which no-one has yet found a satisfactory answer.

We have had more changes than usual on the committee in the past year, but all the key positions have been filled quickly: our thanks for their contributions to all those who decided to leave, and to the newcomers for giving their time and abilities to help.

Looking forward, the path of the pandemic has been such that we dare not say that things will return to normal - whatever a new normal will be – without the twists and turns of Covid itself and governmental response.

We are planning a summer season of visits to railways but have no clear idea of when that will be possible, whether owners will be willing to accept the perceived risk of hosting a reasonable sized group, and whether members will be happy to attend. We would like to run a get together weekend to replace the AGM, and the same caveat applies.

The library, our great and underused resource, has also suffered from an inability to access the premises at Apedale.

As always, I will end with thanks to all those who have played a part in the life of the society in the past year – directors, committee members, volunteers and contributors to both magazines.

*Alan Burgess*

There were no questions in respect of the Chairman's Report.

### **Treasurer's Report (Appendix A)**

I took over the accounts midway through the year and my thanks to Robert Watson for holding the fort for the early part of the year. The Directors had decided that the accounts should be brought into the 21st century. My first 3 months were spent trying to migrate the accounts on to Sage software.

This I have done, and it has been a learning process for all as a consequence accounting costs are a bit higher this year. There is also an increase in the cost of the magazines mainly due to postage increase. Both Sales and Membership are keeping costs down by using other carriers where there are cost savings.

The financial situation is as reasonably solid even after a year with so many difficulties. The major part of the refunds is that for trips that were paid for and then cancelled due to Covid restrictions both early in the year and then again in August. During the year we also experienced an occasional cost due to the change of committee members responsible for sales and the library. Even so we had a small surplus on the year.

*Stephen Moore*

There were no questions in respect of the Treasurer's Report.



## Secretary's Report

It's very disappointing that we cannot meet again this year due to the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic, and from the Secretary's point of view it has been a most extraordinary year.

Last year, for the first time in the Society's sixty-nine years we were unable to meet, and at short notice my colleagues and I organised an electronic AGM meeting, carried out over several weeks on the Society's web pages. My thanks to *Mick Morgan* for his patience during this period.

This year we are trying a different approach with this meeting being hosted live on the internet. We hope that this will prove a success, attracting members who for various reasons would not normally attend.

Concern has been expressed that the Society is moving to disenfranchise members without the Internet, please be assured that this is not our intention and we continue to make accommodations for postal members.

The Society has its seventieth birthday in November this year and we hope to be able to organise an early Birthday Party in lieu of the AGM weekend, Lockdown circumstances permitting.

In 2020 I dealt with around 4500 pieces of email plus around 20 letters and around 30 postal voting forms: that's an average 12.5 items per day.

There have been some significant items occur during the past twelve months including two instances of infringement of our copyright (both settled amicably), some GDPR incidents (which must be reported by law, none endangered the security of members data) and the transfer of stock that I held to the Sales Officer. I have also dealt with the changes in the Society's executive line-up and organising committee meetings etc.

I have also served as the Secretary to the Electronic Presence sub-Committee which is doing great work in ensuring the Society stays up to date and relevant in this increasingly electronic age

It is also very sad that Coronavirus has impacted some of our older members, but I hope that with the vaccine now available, we can enjoy safe meetings in the near future.

*Steve Barber*

There were no questions in respect of the Secretary's Report.

## Membership Secretary's Report

Having been in post for a year the renewal process this time around has been relaxed compared to last year's 'in at the deep end' scenario.

Given the terrible nature of 2020 and with no major recruitment drives undertaken we ended the year with 33 fewer members. A good result all things considered, although sadly, 15 members passed away during the past membership year.

Working from current membership figures we are experiencing an improved renewal rate for 2021/22 than for the corresponding period last year; let's hope the trend continues.

The majority of our memberships are either full members or e-members, we have 92 members in other categories: 54 Associates, 11 Visits & e-NGN and 27 free of charge which include nine Life Members and reciprocal swaps with other railway organisations.

Once again, I have been amazed at the thoughtfulness and generosity of the members who have made financial donations to the Society as part of their membership renewal. Last year's donations were an impressive £1119 and so far, this year we have received £745 for which your Society is most grateful.

I recently reviewed some inherited Society papers containing past membership details. Back in 1959 our membership figures were 21 Life Members and 154 Annual members. During the past twenty-five years membership for full and e-members reached a peak of 1470 in 2000 and a low of 1174 in 2015. Currently we have 1301 members in these categories.

*Jill Everitt*

There were no questions in respect of the Membership Report.



## THE NARROW GAUGE Editor's Report

During the 2019/2020 membership year we maintained our ambition to continue the increased level of publication and pagination of The Narrow Gauge. We managed seven issues with a little over 280 pages – just over the previous record, and a credit to all our author's efforts.

Two were special issues - *Jim Stancliffe's* account of the Furka Mountain Railway, and *Brian Palmer's* story of garden railways in Suffolk. The latter is not a topic we have traditionally covered, but it was felt that it is a subject in which many members have an interest, and the text showed just how complicated what appears to be simple can be!

The lockdowns provided members with the time to go back into their records or start researching a specific topic, and we have benefitted in articles already printed, and some still to come. Other members sent us reminiscences of visits made some years ago in response to an appeal for material for Narrow Gauge News to replace reports of actual visits. Much of this remains available and is scheduled to be included in TNG.

All this means that I hold a reasonable collection of material, with the promise of more, but there is, yet again a high proportion of overseas texts, and I would be grateful for more on UK subjects.

It is some years since there was any major use of the narrow gauge in industry in the UK (with the honourable exception of Bord de Mona in Ireland), but could we persuade members to dig out pictures and notes and share them for all of us to enjoy? There must be members with memories of industrial lines and the early days of preservation: please consider writing a piece for us.

We know that some members are critical of the high level of miniature and overseas railway content in The Narrow Gauge. We can only print what is sent to us and are always willing to consider ideas for future special issues.

My thanks to members who have provided articles for The Narrow Gauge, and particularly those who sent their first texts during Covid. Do please carry on, we rely on you absolutely.

*Alan Burgess*

There were no questions in respect of the Narrow Gauge Editor's Report.

## NARROW GAUGE NEWS Editors' Reports

### (a) Editor's Report

Since the last AGM, six issues of Narrow Gauge News have been produced; once again I cannot thank too much my colleagues who edit sections of the publication; they are invaluable. *Alan Burgess* edits the Overseas section and *Gerry Balding* the British narrow gauge; *Jonathan James* is responsible for the Miniature Gauges section. *Graham Feldwick* continues to produce an outstanding Archaeology and History section and *Les Tindall* is developing the Modelling section. *Gerry Balding* and *Alan Burgess* proof-read each edition for me and manage to remove my most of my errors.

There have been issues of 36, 60, 52, 56, 40 and 40 pages. Of course, the main event of this period has been the Covid19 pandemic which has prevented many of the activities which normally fill our pages. Consequently, in May, we issued an invitation to members to send us suitable retrospective material. The July edition was largely composed of this content, but so overwhelming was the response that there have been some retro pages in all subsequent editions! Our hope is that up-to-date news will now return, and any remaining retro material has been passed to *Alan Burgess* for possible inclusion in The Narrow Gauge.

Undoubtedly the pandemic will mean that 2021 activity will be different from that of previous years, but first indications are that work on heritage railways is getting under way again and that soon passengers will be invited to return. If you are one of the workers or one of the passengers, do be sure to send a report and photos to the appropriate section editor. Overseas travel will probably remain restricted, so, overseas members, you are our best hope of international material.

The final editing of NGN still takes about a week of work. The section editors do a great deal too. I am willing to continue for a while if the membership so wish.

*Paul Bennett*

There were no questions in respect of the Narrow Gauge News Editor's Report.

### (b) UK and Ireland News Editor's Report

I would like to thank everyone who has been so helpful over the past year and to all those who have submitted reports and photos.



For obvious reasons, this has been a strange year. Reports from railways have continued to come in, albeit slower than in the past, and there is a lot of good work going on despite the pandemic showing the narrow gauge scene is still vibrant.

However, due to railways being closed for large parts of the year, lockdowns and travel restrictions there has been a very large decline in the number of members' visit reports. As railways begin to open up once again, I would please ask all members that when visiting railways or special events (or even volunteering on railways) to take the time to send me a brief report and photos for inclusion in the next Narrow Gauge News. It is these reports which are the lifeblood of the section.

We are well served by news and reports from English and Welsh heritage railways (although there are still a few notable exceptions). I am pleased that we are continuing to receive reports from Ireland.

There are still relatively few reports received about industrial narrow gauge railways. I suspect this is mainly due to the very limited use of narrow gauge railways in industry these days. If any member comes across any locations or news reports I would especially welcome any reports on these.

A number of railways have been very helpful in supplying reports and photos on request. This has proved fairly successful as they recognise the value of the publicity their reports and photos in Narrow Gauge News can provide. I would like to thank them for contributing and wish them every success.

I look forward to working with you all over the coming year.

*Gerry Balding*

There were no questions in respect of the UK and Ireland News Editor's Report.

### **(c) Miniature News Editor's Report**

This time last year we didn't expect the pandemic to impact life quite as much as it has. A number of miniature railways did manage to open last year outside of lockdown, but some have been shut since 2019. Sadly, a few lines haven't made it, the most notable being Kerr's Miniature Railway at Arbroath in Scotland.

We continued to receive a good supply of miniature railway reports for Narrow Gauge News when lockdown restrictions were eased but they reduced to a trickle during lockdown and over the winter months. A few people have continued to submit reports, often about work taking place in preparation for reopening, which has been appreciated.

It has been a difficult year for everyone and my involvement in the NGRS and other railway societies has helped me through this period. Working from home (rather than commuting into London), and then working on NGRS and other publications in the evenings and at weekends, has at times been a welcome distraction but at other times a bit of a challenge.

Hopefully, members will appreciate the work that goes on behind the scenes to keep the society going and I certainly appreciate the various current and historic reports that have been received from members.

Moving from paper to electronic means of communication has been a necessity during the often fast-changing situation, which I appreciate hasn't been ideal for the small minority of members with limited internet and email access. If you don't have email or internet access then maybe find a fellow member who has and can help you keep up to date with developments.

All being well, the roll-out of the vaccine will enable restrictions to be eased and railways to reopen. We may even be able to arrange some visits later in the year. I hope that members will support our miniature railways when they can reopen – and send me a report for the newsletter.

It would be great to hear from members who have private lines, so that we can keep the pages of Narrow Gauge News alive. Information about the location of these railways can be restricted to protect individuals' privacy. The same goes for model engineering societies and some of the lesser-known railways that we often don't hear about.

*Jonathan James*

There were no questions in respect of the Miniature News Editor's Report.

### **(d) Overseas Editor's Report**

Covid has severely impacted the flow of overseas news during the past year. We rely to a great extent on reports from UK members' travels. Government restrictions and a reluctance to travel meant that visits slowed to a trickle – and in many countries lines simply stopped operations.



Some news did come in from overseas sources, and members with foreign contacts or lucky enough to live where Covid had less effect than Europe. We relied largely on reminiscences of visits in days gone by to provide a reasonably lengthy overseas column, and thanks are due to the large number of members who contributed in this way. Far more in fact, than *Paul* had space to use, and I still hold a head of material which will be transferred to future issues of *The Narrow Gauge* magazine.

Hopefully things will improve in the second half of the year once foreign travel from the UK is allowed (although many in our age group may find it difficult to raise the confidence to travel again).

Thanks again to *Paul Bennett* for making such an excellent job of NGN. I would not hesitate to say that this is best available coverage of the narrow gauge and miniature scene.

*Alan Burgess*

There were no questions in respect of the Overseas Editor's Report.

### **(e) Archaeology & History Editor's Report**

As always, many thanks to everyone who has submitted reports, recollections and photographs of former narrow gauge and miniature lines during the past year, which has enabled me to put together a wide-ranging and varied mix for the Archaeology & History Section (A & H) of NGN. I hope that this section has provided interest to everyone and has given a little inspiration to visit the places that have been included, to carry out further exploration and research.

Narrow gauge railways have long provided the ideal means of transport for so many applications, and whilst they continue to thrive and develop in a variety of situations, a large number are now but a memory. Yet so many of these still offer the opportunity for exploration, both through research and by visiting where they once ran, to gain a valuable insight into their purpose and how they were operated. Every narrow gauge and miniature railway has its place in railway history, and I hope that through the A & H Section we are keeping this alive and adding a little to it.

It's been good to see the A & H section continue to expand, which is of course due to the diversity of the reports that you send in. Whatever you find, do please send me a report and, if you can, a photograph or two. I'm also very happy to receive any queries from members about former lines and what you find and will try to help.

The use of narrow gauge wagons, and especially mine tubs, as roadside memorials has continued to expand, and sightings of these are also welcome. If possible, details of why they are there helps to link them to the past. Thank you for all those reported in 2020, which have also been added to the draft booklet to be produced shortly by the IRS.

*Graham Feldwick*

There were no questions in respect of the Archaeology & History Editor's Report.

### **(f) Modelling Secretary's Report**

Over the year there has been some input from NGRS members though it would be good to see more, especially "how I built it" articles (perhaps even a series of articles from a contributor) which could provide useful information/inspiration for others already modelling or thinking of taking up the hobby. Most reports from members have been in the 16mm "garden railway" scale so it would be nice to have scales were featured. Obviously with lockdown having been in force for quite some time exhibitions have been cancelled, meaning less reports and photos plus manufacturers seem to have reduced output or delayed new models.

Hopefully after June there will be an increase in information with exhibitions "opening up".

*Leslie Tindall*

There were no questions in respect of the Modelling Secretary's Report.

### **(g) Event Diary Editor's Report**

Given the circumstances of the last year, there have been no Events to Diarise. Your Editor looks forward to this situation changing in 2021/22

*Iain McCall*

There were no questions in respect of the Event Diary Editor's Report.

### **Sales Officer's Report**

The past 12 months has seen a lot of challenges due to the Covid pandemic. I took over as sales Officer in about April last year and a lot of the sales stock was inaccessible due to it being stored at the library at Apedale. Also, we have lost a few traders orders because shops were forced to close by the government.



The sales stock was transferred to me in about June and since then things have been going as smoothly as they can be. We have lost one trader due to the Ian Allan Book Store, in Waterloo, London, closing down but all of our other traders have been sending us orders quite frequently. We have also sold a large quantity of the Furka Mountain Railway Book to the Swiss Railway Society which we were very happy to deal with.

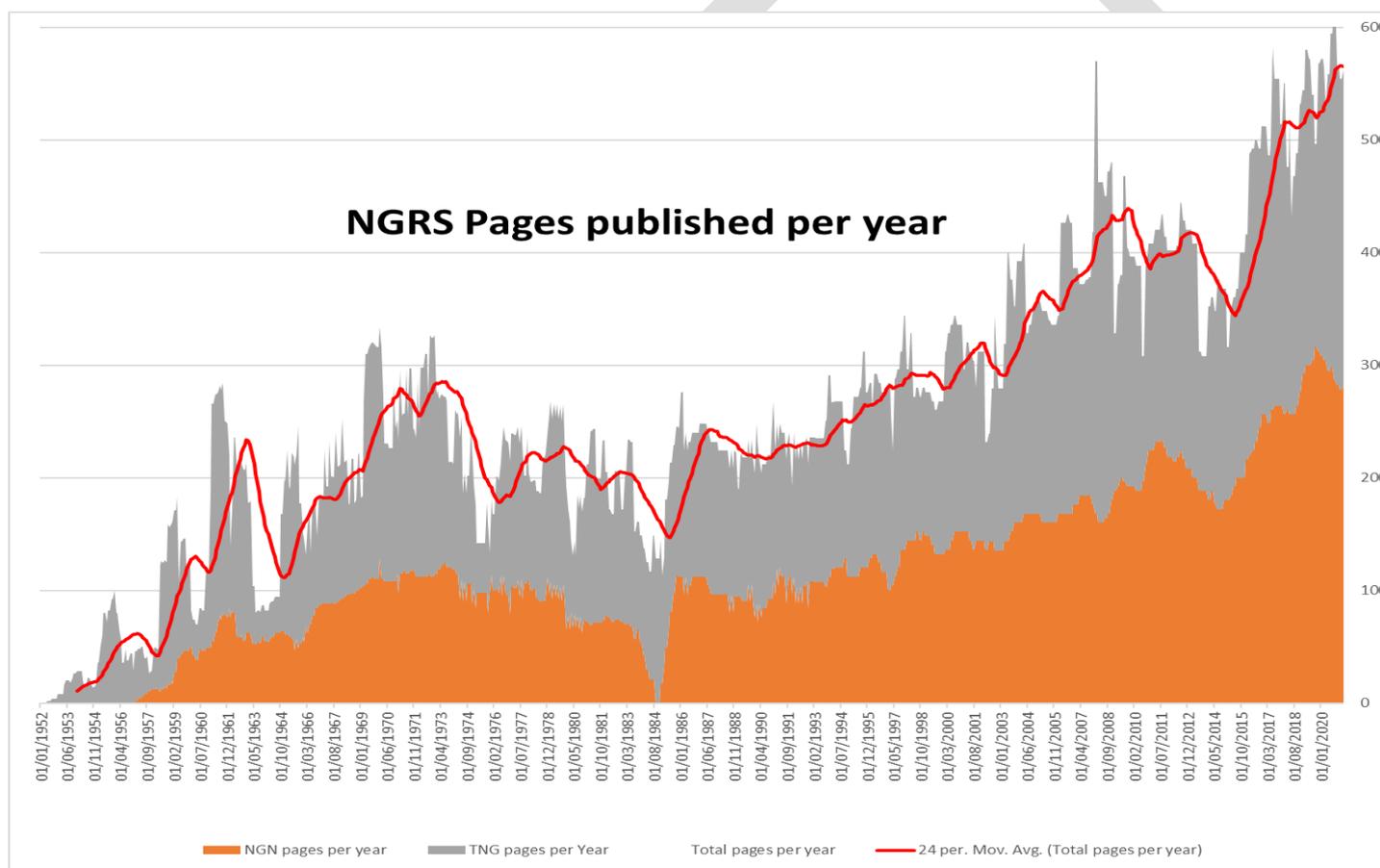
Society clothing has been a bit of an issue in the past 6-9 months. Due to shortages from suppliers and also problems with Covid-19 we have not been able to fulfil orders as fast as what we would have liked. To be able to make an order we need a minimum quantity of 8. So, if only one person orders we need to wait for another 7 which can have an impact on everyone else. I'm sorry, but this is the way it is at the moment, I'm looking at another supplier the used by the Ravenglass preservation society, which makes the clothing up as it is ordered. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me and I'll try and help as much as possible.

*Dan Holbrook*

There were no questions in respect of the Sales Officer's Report.

### Publishing Report

The Committee have concluded that the role of Publications Officer can be dealt with by the Magazine Editors, however, I thought that the graphic below would be of interest. It shows the volume of printed output produced by the Society from its formation in 1952 and reflects the increasing benefits of Society membership and the outstanding value that is delivered for your subscription, currently around 550 pages per year. The red line is a 24 month average.



*Steve Barber*

There were no questions in respect of the Publications Report.

### Legal Assistant's Report

The year 2020 came with its own unique challenges that impacted the NGRS' legal framework. Principal among them was the question of whether the Society could hold virtual meetings since it would be impossible to entertain in-person meetings for much of the year. Given no real alternatives except to proceed with virtual meetings, the Board proceeded in an attempt to be fair and transparent for all members.

2020 also had it more mundane issues, primarily centred about copyright and copyright infringement. Although not impacted by Covid-19, these issues did present questions surrounding what law would apply while in transition from



Brexit in addition to sorting through the complex world of copyright law. We were presented also with one possible question of copyright infringement. I am pleased to report that the infringement issue was resolved amicably.

One of the other on-going issues was discussions with Moseley Railway Trust concerning rental space for our library. As of this writing, no issues have been resolved although the parties remain cordial with one another.

I expect that 2021 will involve more questions of copyright law and may also get us into questions of trademark law, especially as a new NGRS website is created.

*Ken Matticks*

There were no questions in respect of the Legal Assistant's Report.

### **Librarian's Report**

This has been a challenging and unusual year for your Library, with social restrictions and lockdowns that have meant physical closure for and very limited access, even for the Library team.

But before dealing with the year and our plans for the future, may I thank my colleagues *Iain Logie* and *Martin O'Keefe*, Assistant Librarian, who have been involved with the Library for a number of years and without whose deep knowledge and hard work the Library would really struggle to provide the great service it does. *Stephen Teather* and *Rick Bennett* joined us during the year; thought they have had little opportunity to access the Library they have supported *Iain* and *Martin* in continuing the scanning project.

The Library, as I am sure most members know, is situated at Apedale, by courtesy of the Moseley Railway Trust, who have been, as always, great supporters and helpers to us; we are most grateful to them for their friendship and assistance. We occupy two rooms in their services building, which now can only be described as "full", and also a shipping container adjacent (fitted by MRT with electricity and humidity management systems) – best described as "overfull"! However MRT have offered us a further container as back-up storage which we hope to agree terms on shortly and occupy this summer.

In the longer run we continue to support MRT on their plans for their intended new Museum building, the foundations for which are already in place, which it is intended will contain a modern and larger dedicated Library space with easier access for all. That is a way off yet, but progress continues to be made.

This year has concentrated on the digitalisation project begun by *Jim Hay*. The long-term intention is to make a digital copy of anything in our collection which could not be replaced – which covers a lot of material, including slides, prints, negatives, and drawings, but also of course, our subject files, with notes, magazine excerpts, letters, and drawings. We also hold the Motor Rail drawings collection, some on paper and some on microfiche, which will require some long time thought as microfiche technology becomes obsolete.

Digitalisation is the answer to both making access to the collections easier and to safeguarding them. To achieve this within a reasonable period of time we realise means that we will need to acquire a new generation of scanning and storing technology. Not only this, we also need to maintain a live archive of what we have scanned so that we can search quickly and effectively. All this will cost money, alas, and we are hoping to persuade the Committee of your Society to authorise investment soon to do this.

NGRS members and others continue to be very generous in donating and bequeathing very fascinating and often unique material to the Library. That is very much appreciated; we cannot not mention individual donors in the limited space here, but must cite the *Dave Billmore* bequest, an extraordinarily valuable resource some fruits of which have appeared in NGN recently.

We have continued to receive, mostly by email, a steady volume of requests for information on many subjects – some are mentioned in the current NGN - and *Martin* and *Iain* demonstrate an extraordinary knowledge of every aspect of narrow gauge railways. We have not been able to have open days in 2020, or, so far, in 2021, but as the world returns to normal we hope to reintroduce a regular programme of access and to show off the collection. We look forward to seeing you then.

*Peter Wilson*

There were no questions in respect of the Librarian's Report.

### **Assistant Librarian's Report**

Report not currently available

*Martin O'Keefe*

There were no questions in respect of the Assistant Librarian's Report.



## Film & Video Archivist's Report

No enquiries or loans over the whole year.

The library is open.

No additions to library although some 1960s reel-to-reel audio recordings (mostly Vale of Rheidol) will be transferred to digital.

Transfer of library DVDs to external storage as archive is currently paused.

Video Librarian is prepared to remain in post unless any other member wishes to take over.

*Mike Jackson*

There were no questions in respect of the Film & Video Archivist's Report.

## Webmaster's Report

A very quiet year in many ways with almost no visits and a virtual AGM. Visits, like Membership and member mailings are now dealt with through Membermojo. Facebook rather than the website seems to be leading the way in marketing the NGRS to those outside the new company.

Obviously our Local Area Groups and their visitors have been locked down like everyone else and so for some, as with our committee, change has had to be made and Zoom meetings have become their normal communication method.

There have been no member contributions of pictures, videos or articles to the website this year, although these may be being made directly to magazine editors or to social media. Please consider sending in notes and/or pictures, members and prospective members do find them interesting and useful. For information, the website address remains <http://ngrs.org> (or [www.ngrs.org](http://www.ngrs.org)).

You could also have sent them to Yahoo Group "NGRailwaySociety", which had about 247 members, until last December when Yahoo closed it's Groups down. Although we moved to a new IO Groups "NGRailwaySociety" it only currently has 56 members. The new NGRailwaySociety.groups.io is an un-moderated site and does provide a trickle of news, views and questions to a wide audience at home and abroad. Advance announcements can be useful via this medium.

It is however clear that the NGRS Group audiences are very different from IRS Group and Facebook visitors. Facebook in particular attracts a more vibrant group of people who require instant attention and answers. Unlike the IRS, the move to IO Groups does not seem to be particularly useful to members and unless more use of it is made of it, consideration will definitely be given to closing it down this year. Do promote the group among your friends because the NGRS membership is a vast knowledge pool which should be shared with people of similar interests.

TNG's and NGN's 1 to 100 are now online via our Library page and make a very interesting read. Once Covid is over and the library can be re-organised, it is planned to make a good index of publications available to members.

The 14 years since I took the website over from *John Rowlands* (2007) have passed very quickly and while I have enjoyed my retirement hobby very much, technology has moved on faster than myself or my equipment. Having put some plans to one side and while my eyes and body still function reasonably well, it is time that someone else takes it forward.

From the 2021 AGM, the website will therefore be handed over to *Neil Limbrick* ([webmaster@ngrs.org](mailto:webmaster@ngrs.org)).

My wife (*Andy*) and I have had the pleasure of meeting some very lovely NGRS people over the years and I know I am leaving the Society in very capable hands. We look forward to meeting up on many Society visits in the future, once we can all get back to 'normal'.

*Mick Morgan*

There were no questions in respect of the Webmaster's Report.

## Facebook Administrator's Report

I will start this year's AGM report with thanks, to all the Facebook users who have contributed to the NGRS group by posting photos and links, or by commenting in discussion threads, thereby keeping interest going for other users during the recent unparalleled times. Thanks also to my co-administrator *Simon Guppy*, who is much quicker than I am in responding to new requests to join the group and other admin tasks.



The Facebook group continues to grow in members with 3177 as of 18th March 2021. Of these 1823 were active in the group during the previous 28 days.

Facebook will have a part to play once NGRS railway visits recommence, in advertising them to potential NGRS members. There is a pool of narrow gauge enthusiasts who enjoy interacting with Facebook but have not as yet joined the Society. Showing them some of the benefits of joining, such as visits to otherwise private sites, is a useful recruitment tool.

The Facebook page (as opposed to the group) remains fairly static but will also receive details of planned visits once available.

There are of course those who do not wish to become involved with Facebook in any way. Because of this there will never be any NGRS official news disseminated only via Facebook. However, there is a lot of material appearing on Facebook, posted by people from all over the World, which is not easily accessible by other means.

*Chris Roberts*

There were no questions in respect of the Facebook Administrator's Report.

### **Visit's Officers Report**

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself as your new Visit Officer, a role which I have now fully taken over. In terms of my background, I have been an NGRS member for about 5 years; I have previously been a local area organiser for the Inter-City Railway Society, Chairman of the Western Rail Society, and have been organising railway visits in one form or another for over 40 years.

When I took on the role, I was challenged by the Society's Committee to tackle a few things:

- 1) To introduce an Online system for visit booking;
- 2) To tidy up the administration around visit organisation;
- 3) To extend the scope of the Society's visits, introducing new locations to our fixture list.

The Online Booking System has been implemented using Membermojo, on which our membership records are held. I thoroughly tested the facility during 2020, and I was able to put it live last summer. Acceptance by members has been very good, and there is general consensus that the system is working well, saving time both for members and for myself. An ongoing measure of success will be for 90% of bookings to be made online. The facility to book via traditional means – using booking forms and paying by cheque – remains, and where numbers are limited, I intend to reserve 10% of places for postal bookings.

All visits are now subject to a fairly straightforward risk assessment, which is a way of making sure that visits do not present any unexpected risks to participants. A record is now kept of those members participating in visits, and members are asked to sign in on arrival. Participants now receive comprehensive joining instructions (which include any specific Health & Safety notices) prior to the visit.

2020 was, of course, a disappointing year in terms of visits, with COVID-19 almost wiping out our visit programme. In the end, we managed to arrange 2 visits, in the space of a couple of weeks in August. We had an "access all areas" visit to Apedale on 20th August, followed by a visit to the Moseley Heritage Museum, near Redruth in Cornwall on 30th August. My thanks go to *Simon Lomax* and *Colin Saxton* respectively for allowing these visits to go ahead.

We did have a number of other visits arranged during August and September, and these were attracting a good level of bookings. Sadly, the second wave of COVID-19 led to the cancellation of these visits. I am hoping to rearrange some of those cancelled visits for 2021.

In terms of extending the scope of our visits, I have been making contact with a large number of railway owners over the last few months and have been positively encouraged by the general response; many of them are keen to host a visit from the NGRS, once the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. I am currently trying to get dates in diaries for visits, and I am hopeful that we can have visits back up-and-running by around July or August. With a late start to 2021's visit programme, I will be happy if I am able to arrange around 10-12 visits this year.

I am strictly the Visit Officer (South), and we had hoped to have a northern equivalent in situ by now. In the interim, I am organising a few visits to northern locations, but I would like to take this opportunity to appeal for somebody to come forward to help with visit organisation for northern (and Scottish) locations.

*Simon Guppy*

There were no questions in respect of the Visits Officer's Report.



## **Publicity/ Exhibition Officer's Report**

Report not currently available

There were no questions in respect of the Publicity/ Exhibition Officer's Report.

## **Director for the Membership's Report**

The role of "Director for the Membership" is a new one for the Society, and some members may be wondering what it entails. Truth be told, at times so do I! It can perhaps be thought of as representing the best interests of the membership at Committee discussions. With that description in mind, I am delighted to report that during a difficult year with many new challenges, my observations are that the Committee has indeed acted at all times in the best interests of the membership. Making sure that as many of the Society functions as possible continue to be accessible to as many members as possible during the pandemic has been no mean feat.

I am happy to serve for another year if so desired by the membership

*Iain McCall*

There were no questions in respect of the Director for the Membership's Report.

## **Electronic Presence sub-Committee Report**

An Electronic Presence sub-committee was convened during a Committee Meeting earlier in 2020, with a brief as follows:

"The role of the sub-Committee will be to investigate, examine, review options and make recommendations to the Committee, in respect of all existing electronic data and data systems belonging to the Society (whether held personally or otherwise), and how it may best be managed, retained, preserved and made robust, so as to be disaster proof. In addition, it shall carry out all of the above in respect of systems that are not currently managed electronically, and /or should be transferred to the ownership of the Society, which they consider would benefit from being so managed".

The sub-committee has now considered the Society's requirements, and is now in the process of putting together recommendations, which will be put to the wider Society committee meeting in May 2021.

I would like to thank the following committee members for their input and contributions to this project:

- *Steve Barber*
- *Jill Everitt*
- *Dan Holbrook*
- *Neil Limbrick*
- *Iain McCall*
- *Ken Matticks*
- *Mick Morgan*
- *Robert Watson*
- *Peter Wilson*

*Simon Guppy*

There were no questions in respect of the Electronic Presence sub-Committee's Report.

## **Area Group Secretary's Reports**

### **Lincolnshire Area**

*Perchance it is not dead but sleepeth*

The Group had had a moderately successful period up until COVID with some very good speakers – the Sri Lankan Sentinel Railcars, Mineral Lines of the Yorkshire Dales, the Railways of Southampton Docks, Crowle Peatworks Project & Humberside Brickworks, (and not forgetting a memorable visit from Peter Van Zeller, which had visitors from Teeside) but always with the underlying thoughts of an ageing membership. During the period we sadly lost (after long illnesses) two members: Mick Drake & Dave Billmore – losses which affected members greatly.

Obviously, things closed down last March, and nothing has happened since.



What the future holds I know not – we will need to find a new meeting room although a number of speakers are lined up. It has been suggested that we close the Group – having founded it nearly 40 years ago this is something I am very loathe to do and my present thought is that we will continue on an informal basis – perhaps meeting in people's homes. Further news will follow.

*Perchance it is not dead but sleepeth*

*Tim Hudson*

There were no questions in respect of the Lincolnshire Area Report.

### **London & Southern Area**

Report not currently available

There were no questions in respect of the London & Southern Area Report.

### **Yorkshire Area**

Report not currently available

There were no questions in respect of the Yorkshire Area Report.

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## **Formal business of the Narrow Gauge Railway Society as a Limited Company.**

Upon motion duly made the financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2020 and the accountants report thereon and the directors' report was accepted (the Secretary to attach a copy to the Minutes. (Appendix A))  
Votes: 93 (66 Proxy+14 virtual+13 Exec)

In accordance with the Articles, there was an election of Directors, each member virtually present or by proxy casting a vote. The Directors standing were as follows:

Alan Burgess (Chairman & The Narrow Gauge Editor)	Votes: 93 (66 Proxy+14 virtual+13 Exec)
Steve Barber (Company Secretary)	Votes: 93 (66 Proxy+14 virtual+13 Exec)
Paul Bennett (Narrow Gauge News Editor)	Votes: 93 (66 Proxy+14 virtual+13 Exec)
Jill Everitt (Membership Secretary)	Votes: 93 (66 Proxy+14 virtual+13 Exec)
Simon Guppy (Visits Officer)	Votes: 93 (66 Proxy+14 virtual+13 Exec)
Chris Roberts (Facebook Administrator)	Votes: 93 (66 Proxy+14 virtual+13 Exec)
Jonathan James (Miniature News Editor (Narrow Gauge News))	Votes: 93 (66 Proxy+14 virtual+13 Exec)
Iain McCall (Director for the Membership)	Votes: 93 (66 Proxy+14 virtual+13 Exec)

Upon motion duly made the foregoing persons were elected to serve as Directors for one year or until the next members meeting

## **Other Informal Business**

Details of the Company Officer structure and contacts details are in Appendix B

## **Company Officers**

Since the previous AGM *Mike Jackson* has stood down as Visits Officer and *Rod Bryant* has stood down as Visits Officer North. *Neil Limbrick* has joined us as the incoming Webmaster

The Committee Officers are currently: *Steve Moore* (Treasurer), *Peter Wilson* (Librarian), *Martin O'Keefe* (Assistant Librarian), *Mike Jackson* (Film and Video Archivist), *Gerry Balding* (NGN British and Irish Editor), *Graham Feldwick* (NGN Archaeology & History Editor), *Dan Holbrook* (Sales Officer), *Neil Limbrick* (Webmaster), *Ken Matticks* (Legal Assistant) and *Leslie Tindall* (Modelling Secretary).

## **Vacancies**

Currently there are Vacancies for:

- Visit Officer North
- Publicity / Exhibitions Officer(s)
- Assistants for the Library and to reduce the administrative workload on the Committee

## **Next Year's AGM**

It is hoped that next year's AGM can be held at Vale of Rheidol Railway on 14th May 2022, Covid-19 restrictions permitting

Should public health restrictions permit it is hoped to organise an early 70th Birthday Weekend later in 2021 in lieu of today's AGM weekend.



## **Any other Business.**

### **Member Voting form Comments**

Thanks to the officers of the Company and Society for all the works produced over the last difficult year.

*Harry Chandler*

Thank you all for all what you do.

*Chris Askew*

Thanks for all you and the committee do for the Society and I look forward to a return to a more normal AGM next year!

*Mike Dickerson*

I attach my e-vote. Hope all goes well, and I send my "humble and hearty" thanks to you and all the other officers for all the splendid work you put in for us.

Cheers (and roll-on 12th April)

*Peter Deacon*

So, the normal members of the Society, in addition to not being able to attend the A.G.M (Which I personally would not – but that is beside the point) cannot access the report + Accounts, and no doubt will miss-out on the revamped visits programme – because those on-line (whatever that is) will have reserved all the places on visits and the 10% will not be able to participate

If this discrimination continues I shall not renew my membership in future years

Stop acting as if you're Unilever, RTZ, Glaxo SK et al and become a Society for those interested solely in N.G railways – that would be a good start

(transcribed from a handwritten note and amended from all capitals)

*Signature Unclear*

Thank you for your volunteer time

*Richard Yudin*

Thanks to all Directors for the work carried out during the past year.

*Frank Stephen*

I hope it goes well...

*David Matthewson*

Please pass my thanks onto the officers for all their hard work to make the society such an interesting and useful organisation.

*Nick Hutt*

Unfortunately I shall be away at the time so will not be able to participate but hope all goes well and that many will be able to 'attend'.

*Rod Briggs*

### **Questions and Comments from Members present**

In response to the Comment "Gentlemen you have the floor", *Moira Biggins* pointed out that there were a few women in the Society but added that she took no offence.

*Adrian Garner* commented: That he would like to thank the Committee for their efforts throughout the year, and that he considered it an excellent organisation.

*Norman Drake* endorsed *Adrian's* comment and added that he wished he was able to join us in the UK for the AGM as he was in Western Australia. He especially praised the magazines and was impressed that we now produce an average of 550 pages a year and that it was really good value. He thanked the Committee for all the effort they put in on behalf of the Members.

*David Collins* asked about the timing of the AGM and the fact that it clashed with the RH&DR Gala, The Secretary responded that this has been an issue for many years due to the number of events taking place and the best



compromise achieve is the second Saturday in May as this avoids clashes with most other NG and Miniature railway events.

*Sydney Leleux* asked: If we could simulcast the AGM on zoom in future so that those who are unable to attend, for whatever reason, can take part. The Webmaster responded that he had been working on similar things in his day job and that we will consider making Zoom available if there was adequate broadband at the host railway. This was widely endorsed by other members present.

*Norman Drake* was disappointed at the poor turnout from the Members for the Zoom Meeting being only a few less than at a physical meeting.

*Robert Leadbetter* commented: That the virtual meeting put names to faces, so now he was able to identify everyone.

*Sydney Leleux* asked: if name Badges/ Stickers could be provided at future AGMs and Visits so that Members could be identified. *Post meeting note: Simon Guppy is investigating the provision of larger badges and stickers for delegates to be used at visits as well.*

The Secretary announced that the Directors had passed a resolution that Mick Morgan, Andy Morgan and Robert Watson be made Life Members in recognition of their service to the Society. *Norman Drake* and *Sydney Leleux* endorsed this move and stated that they would have proposed and seconded it if the Directors had not already made the decision. *Andy Morgan* thanked the Committee for the honour on behalf of *Mick* and herself and looked forward to joining us at many visits.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 15:30 on 8th May 2021

# Appendix A 2020 Accounts



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**NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY SOCIETY  
DIRECTORS' REPORT AND  
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR  
THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**



Nigel Ricks & Company Ltd

Chartered Accountants

42 Glebe Street  
Loughborough  
Leicestershire  
LE11 1JR

**Narrow Gauge Railway Society  
Directors' Report and Unaudited Financial Statements  
For The Year Ended 31 December 2020**



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**Narrow Gauge Railway Society  
Company Information  
For The Year Ended 31 December 2020**



**Directors**

Mr Philip Thompson  
Mr Robert Watson  
Mr Alan Burgess  
Mr Christopher Roberts  
Mr Stephen Barber  
Mr Jonathan James  
Mr James Hay  
Mr Paul Bennett  
Mr Michael Morgan

**Secretary** Mr Stephen Barber

**Company Number** 09925208

**Registered Office**

246 Hillbury Road  
Warlingham  
Surrey  
CR6 9TP

**Accountants**

Nigel Ricks & Company Ltd  
Chartered Accountants  
42 Glebe Street  
Loughborough  
Leicestershire  
LE11 1JR

**Narrow Gauge Railway Society**  
**Company No. 09925208**  
**Directors' Report For The Year Ended 31 December 2020**



The directors present their report and the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020.

**Statement of Directors' Responsibilities**

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period. In preparing the financial statements the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

**Directors**

The directors who held office during the year were as follows:

Mr Philip Thompson	RESIGNED	06/01/2020
Mr Robert Watson		
Mr Alan Burgess		
Mr Christopher Roberts		
Mr Stephen Barber		
Mr Jonathan James		
Mr James Hay	RESIGNED	14/03/2020
Mr Paul Bennett		
Mr Michael Morgan		

**Small Company Rules**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

By order of the board

-----

Date

**Narrow Gauge Railway Society  
Accountant's Report  
For The Year Ended 31 December 2020**



In accordance with the engagement letter dated , and in order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have compiled the financial statements of the company from the accounting records and information and explanations you have given to us.

This report is made to the directors in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken to prepare for approval by the directors the financial statements that we have been engaged to compile, to report to the directors that we have done so, and to state those matters that we have agreed to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's directors for our work or for this report.

You have acknowledged on the balance sheet as at year ended 31 December 2020 your duty to ensure that the company has kept proper accounting records and to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view under the Companies Act 2006. You consider that the company is exempt from the statutory requirement for an audit for the year.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit of the financial statements. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the financial statements.

-----

Date

Nigel Ricks & Company Ltd  
Chartered Accountants

42 Glebe Street  
Loughborough  
Leicestershire  
LE11 1JR

**Narrow Gauge Railway Society  
Income and Expenditure Account  
For The Year Ended 31 December 2020**



	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
<b>TURNOVER</b>		43,579	43,415
Cost of sales		(37,843)	(38,607)
<b>GROSS SURPLUS</b>		5,736	4,808
Administrative expenses		(4,313)	(7,009)
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>		1,423	(2,201)
Other interest receivable and similar income		635	949
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) BEFORE TAXATION</b>		2,058	(1,252)
Tax on Surplus/(deficit)		(376)	158
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) AFTER TAXATION BEING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>		<u>1,682</u>	<u>(1,094)</u>

The notes on pages 7 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

**Narrow Gauge Railway Society  
Balance Sheet  
As at 31 December 2020**



	Notes	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Intangible Assets	3		250		250
Tangible Assets	4		30,600		30,851
			<u>30,850</u>		<u>31,101</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Stocks	5	1,391		1,391	
Debtors	6	5,490		4,862	
Cash at bank and in hand		100,540		105,312	
			<u>107,421</u>		<u>111,565</u>
<b>Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year</b>	7	(6,919)		(12,996)	
			<u>100,502</u>		<u>98,569</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)</b>			<u>100,502</u>		<u>98,569</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			<u>131,352</u>		<u>129,670</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<u>131,352</u>		<u>129,670</u>
Income and Expenditure Account			131,352		129,670
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			<u>131,352</u>		<u>129,670</u>

**Narrow Gauge Railway Society  
Balance Sheet (continued) As  
at 31 December 2020**



For the year ending 31 December 2020 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

**Directors' responsibilities:**

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

On behalf of the board

-----

Date

The notes on pages 7 to 10 form part of these financial statements.

**Narrow Gauge Railway Society  
Notes to the Financial Statements  
For The Year Ended 31 December 2020**



**1. Accounting Policies**

**1.1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements**

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the FRS 102 Section 1A Small Entities - The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Companies Act 2006.

**1.2. Turnover**

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, net of discounts and value added taxes. Turnover includes revenue earned from the sale of goods and from the rendering of services. Turnover is reduced for estimated customer returns, rebates and other similar allowances.

**Sale of goods**

Turnover from the sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods has transferred to the buyer. This is usually at the point that the customer has signed for the delivery of the goods.

**Rendering of services**

Turnover from the rendering of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract. The stage of completion of a contract is measured by comparing the costs incurred for work performed to date to the total estimated contract costs. Turnover is only recognised to the extent of recoverable expenses when the outcome of a contract cannot be estimated reliably.

**1.3. Intangible Fixed Assets and Amortisation - Other Intangible**

Other intangible assets are .... It is amortised to income and expenditure account over its estimated economic life of ... years.

**1.4. Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of the fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Leasehold	25% Straight Line
Fixtures & Fittings	33% Straight Line

**1.5. Stocks and Work in Progress**

Stocks and work in progress are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads. Work-in-progress is reflected in the accounts on a contract by contract basis by recording turnover and related costs as contract activity progresses.

**Narrow Gauge Railway Society**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**  
**For The Year Ended 31 December 2020**



**1.6. Taxation**

Income tax expense represents the sum of the tax currently payable and deferred tax.

The tax currently payable is based on taxable profit for the year. Taxable profit differs from profit as reported in the statement of comprehensive income because of items of income or expense that are taxable or deductible in other year and items that are never taxable or deductible. The company's liability for current tax is calculated using tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the end of the reporting period.

Deferred tax is recognised on timing differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities in the financial statements and the corresponding tax bases used in the computation of taxable profit. Deferred tax liabilities are generally recognised for all taxable timing differences. Deferred tax assets are generally recognised for all deductible temporary differences to the extent that it is probable that taxable profits will be available against which those deductible timing differences can be utilised. The carrying amount of deferred tax assets is reviewed at the end of each reporting period and reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that sufficient taxable profits will be available to allow all or part of the asset to be recovered.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured at the tax rates that are expected to apply in the period in which the liability is settled or the asset realised, based on tax rates (and tax laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the end of the reporting period. Deferred tax liabilities are presented within provisions for liabilities and deferred tax assets within debtors. The measurement of deferred tax liabilities and asset reflects the tax consequences that would follow from the manner in which the Company expects, at the end of the reporting period, to recover or settle the carrying amount of its assets and liabilities.

Current or deferred tax for the year is recognised in profit or loss, except when they related to items that are recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity, in which case, the current and deferred tax is also recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity respectively.

**2. Average Number of Employees**

Average number of employees, including directors, during the year was as follows:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Office and administration	10	10
	10	10
	10	10

**3. Intangible Assets**

**Cost**

	<b>Other £</b>
As at 1 January 2020	250
As at 31 December 2020	250
	250
<b>Net Book Value</b>	
As at 31 December 2020	250
As at 1 January 2020	250
	250

**Narrow Gauge Railway Society**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**  
**For The Year Ended 31 December 2020**



**4. Tangible Assets**

	Land & Property			Total
	Freehold	Leasehold	Fixtures & Fittings	
	£	£	£	
<b>Cost</b>				
As at 1 January 2020	30,302	617	1,440	32,359
As at 31 December 2020	30,302	617	1,440	32,359
<b>Depreciation</b>				
As at 1 January 2020	-	578	930	1,508
Provided during the period	-	39	212	251
As at 31 December 2020	-	617	1,142	1,759
<b>Net Book Value</b>				
As at 31 December 2020	30,302	-	298	30,600
As at 1 January 2020	30,302	39	510	30,851

**5. Stocks**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Stock - materials and work in progress	1,391	1,391
	1,391	1,391

**6. Debtors**

	2020	2019
	£	£
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Trade debtors	-	223
Prepayments and accrued income	1,339	330
Corporation tax recoverable assets	-	158
	1,339	711
<b>Due after more than one year</b>		
Other debtors	4,151	4,151
	4,151	4,151
	5,490	4,862

**Narrow Gauge Railway Society**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**  
**For The Year Ended 31 December 2020**



**7. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	1,506	180
Corporation tax	218	-
Subs received in advance	-	12,416
Accruals and deferred income	5,195	400
	<u>6,919</u>	<u>12,996</u>

**8. General Information**

Narrow Gauge Railway Society is a private company, limited by shares, incorporated in England & Wales, registered number 09925208. The registered office is 246 Hillbury Road, Warlingham, Surrey, CR6 9TP.

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**Narrow Gauge Railway Society Detailed  
Income and Expenditure Account For The  
Year Ended 31 December 2020**



	<b>2020</b>		<b>2019</b>	
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>TURNOVER</b>				
Sales		43,579		43,415
<b>COST OF SALES</b>				
Opening stock and work in progress	(1,391)		(982)	
Membership Servicing	-		748	
Magazine Costs	25,001		21,507	
Auction Costs	82		42	
Visit Costs	6,126		4,486	
Binders and Other Costs	895		(89)	
Packaging costs	7,130		11,504	
Closing stock and work in progress	-		1,391	
		(37,843)		(38,607)
<b>GROSS SURPLUS</b>		5,736		4,808
<b>Administrative Expenses</b>				
Travel expenses	423		386	
Insurance	471		1,487	
Advertising and marketing costs	399		271	
Accountancy fees	870		360	
Professional fees	26		180	
Library Costs	1,447		2,766	
Bank charges	427		659	
Depreciation	250		430	
AGM Expenses	-		470	
		(4,313)		(7,009)
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>		1,423		(2,201)
<b>Other interest receivable and similar income</b>				
Other interest receivable	635		949	
		635		949
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) BEFORE TAXATION</b>		2,058		(1,252)
<b>Tax on Surplus/(deficit)</b>				
Corporation tax charge	376		(158)	
		(376)		158
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) AFTER TAXATION BEING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>		1,682		(1,094)



**NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY SOCIETY  
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

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Nigel Ricks & Company Ltd

Chartered Accountants

42 Glebe Street  
Loughborough  
Leicestershire  
LE11 1JR

**Narrow Gauge Railway Society  
Unaudited Financial Statements  
For The Year Ended 31 December 2020**



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**Narrow Gauge Railway Society  
Balance Sheet  
As at 31 December 2020**



Registered number: 09925208

	Notes	2020		2019	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Intangible Assets	3		250		250
Tangible Assets	4		30,600		30,851
			30,850		31,101
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Stocks	5	1,391		1,391	
Debtors	6	5,490		4,862	
Cash at bank and in hand		100,540		105,312	
		107,421		111,565	
<b>Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year</b>	7	(6,919)		(12,996)	
			100,502		98,569
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)</b>					
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			131,352	129,670	
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			131,352	129,670	
Income and Expenditure Account			131,352		129,670
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			131,352	129,670	

**Narrow Gauge Railway Society  
Balance Sheet (continued) As  
at 31 December 2020**



For the year ending 31 December 2020 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

**Directors' responsibilities:**

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- These accounts have been prepared and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.
- The company has taken advantage of section 444(1) of the Companies Act 2006 and opted not to deliver to the registrar a copy of the company's Income and Expenditure Account.

On behalf of the board

-----

Date

The notes on pages 3 to 6 form part of these financial statements.

**Narrow Gauge Railway Society**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**For The Year Ended 31 December 2020**



**1. Accounting Policies**

**1.1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements**

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the FRS 102 Section 1A Small Entities - The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Companies Act 2006.

**1.2. Turnover**

Turnover is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable, net of discounts and value added taxes. Turnover includes revenue earned from the sale of goods and from the rendering of services. Turnover is reduced for estimated customer returns, rebates and other similar allowances.

**Sale of goods**

Turnover from the sale of goods is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership of the goods has transferred to the buyer. This is usually at the point that the customer has signed for the delivery of the goods.

**Rendering of services**

Turnover from the rendering of services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract. The stage of completion of a contract is measured by comparing the costs incurred for work performed to date to the total estimated contract costs. Turnover is only recognised to the extent of recoverable expenses when the outcome of a contract cannot be estimated reliably.

**1.3. Intangible Fixed Assets and Amortisation - Other Intangible**

Other intangible assets are .... It is amortised to income and expenditure account over its estimated economic life of ... years.

**1.4. Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation**

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of the fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Leasehold	25% Straight Line
Fixtures & Fittings	33% Straight Line

**1.5. Stocks and Work in Progress**

Stocks and work in progress are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads. Work-in-progress is reflected in the accounts on a contract by contract basis by recording turnover and related costs as contract activity progresses.

**Narrow Gauge Railway Society**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**  
**For The Year Ended 31 December 2020**



**1.6. Taxation**

Income tax expense represents the sum of the tax currently payable and deferred tax.

The tax currently payable is based on taxable profit for the year. Taxable profit differs from profit as reported in the statement of comprehensive income because of items of income or expense that are taxable or deductible in other year and items that are never taxable or deductible. The company's liability for current tax is calculated using tax rates that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the end of the reporting period.

Deferred tax is recognised on timing differences between the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities in the financial statements and the corresponding tax bases used in the computation of taxable profit. Deferred tax liabilities are generally recognised for all taxable timing differences. Deferred tax assets are generally recognised for all deductible temporary differences to the extent that it is probable that taxable profits will be available against which those deductible timing differences can be utilised. The carrying amount of deferred tax assets is reviewed at the end of each reporting period and reduced to the extent that it is no longer probable that sufficient taxable profits will be available to allow all or part of the asset to be recovered.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are measured at the tax rates that are expected to apply in the period in which the liability is settled or the asset realised, based on tax rates (and tax laws) that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the end of the reporting period. Deferred tax liabilities are presented within provisions for liabilities and deferred tax assets within debtors. The measurement of deferred tax liabilities and asset reflects the tax consequences that would follow from the manner in which the Company expects, at the end of the reporting period, to recover or settle the carrying amount of its assets and liabilities.

Current or deferred tax for the year is recognised in profit or loss, except when they related to items that are recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity, in which case, the current and deferred tax is also recognised in other comprehensive income or directly in equity respectively.

**2. Average Number of Employees**

Average number of employees, including directors, during the year was as follows:

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Office and administration	10	10
	10	10
	10	10

**3. Intangible Assets**

**Cost**

	<b>Other £</b>
As at 1 January 2020	250
As at 31 December 2020	250
	250
<b>Net Book Value</b>	
As at 31 December 2020	250
As at 1 January 2020	250
	250

**Narrow Gauge Railway Society**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**  
**For The Year Ended 31 December 2020**



**4. Tangible Assets**

	Land & Property			Total
	Freehold	Leasehold	Fixtures & Fittings	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Cost</b>				
As at 1 January 2020	30,302	617	1,440	32,359
As at 31 December 2020	30,302	617	1,440	32,359
<b>Depreciation</b>				
As at 1 January 2020	-	578	930	1,508
Provided during the period	-	39	212	251
As at 31 December 2020	-	617	1,142	1,759
<b>Net Book Value</b>				
As at 31 December 2020	30,302	-	298	30,600
As at 1 January 2020	30,302	39	510	30,851

**5. Stocks**

	2020	2019
	£	£
Stock - materials and work in progress	1,391	1,391
	1,391	1,391

**6. Debtors**

	2020	2019
	£	£
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Trade debtors	-	223
Prepayments and accrued income	1,339	330
Corporation tax recoverable assets	-	158
	1,339	711
<b>Due after more than one year</b>		
Other debtors	4,151	4,151
	4,151	4,151
	5,490	4,862

**Narrow Gauge Railway Society**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)**  
**For The Year Ended 31 December 2020**



**7. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year**

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	1,506	180
Corporation tax	218	-
Subs received in advance	-	12,416
Accruals and deferred income	5,195	400
	<u>6,919</u>	<u>12,996</u>

**8. General Information**

Narrow Gauge Railway Society is a private company, limited by shares, incorporated in England & Wales, registered number 09925208. The registered office is 246 Hillbury Road, Warlingham, Surrey, CR6 9TP.

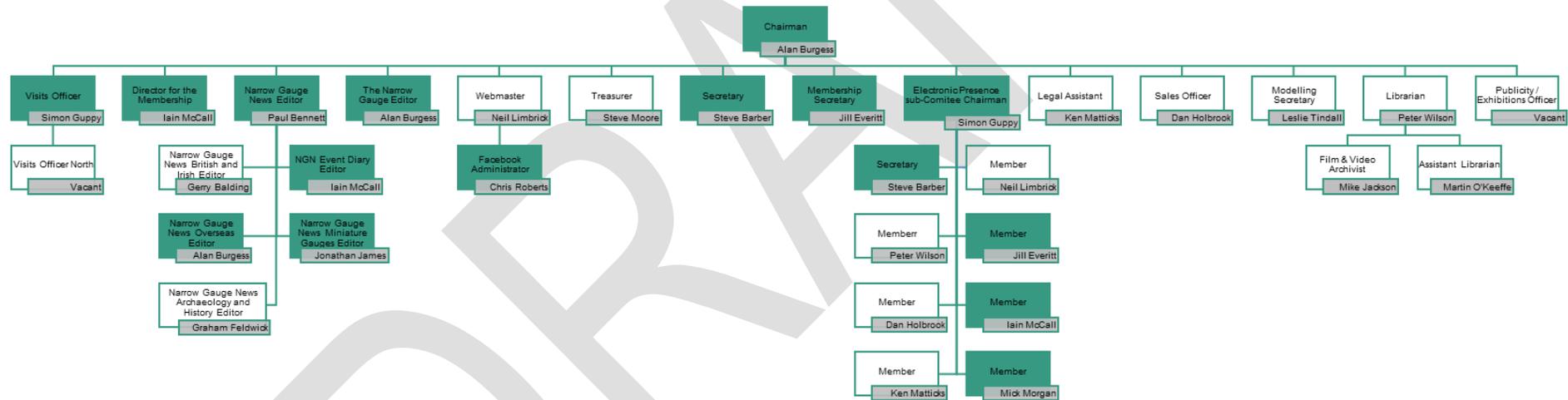
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# Appendix B Directors, Committee Members & Vacancies 2021



## Narrow Gauge Railway Society Directors and Company Officers (08/05/2021)



 Solid Shading indicates NGRS Company Director

# NGRS DIRECTOR and COMPANY OFFICER CONTACT LIST – 08/05/2021



Chairman	Alan Burgess	Director	6 The Crescent, Orton Longueville, Peterborough. PE2 7DT	<a href="mailto:alanburgess390@outlook.com">alanburgess390@outlook.com</a>
Secretary	Steve Barber	Director	"Hillbury Cottage", 246 Hillbury Road, Warmingham, Surrey. CR6 9TP	<a href="mailto:secretary@ngrs.org">secretary@ngrs.org</a>
Treasurer	Steve Moore		10 Badger Close, Guildford, Surrey GU2 9PJ	<a href="mailto:treasurer@ngrs.org">treasurer@ngrs.org</a>
Membership Secretary	Jill Everitt	Director	4 Barnside Way, Moulton, Cheshire, CW9 8PT	<a href="mailto:membership@ngrs.org">membership@ngrs.org</a>
Librarian	Peter Wilson		Homestead, Ramsgate Street, Edgefield, Melton Constable, Norfolk, NR24 2AY	<a href="mailto:library@ngrs.org">library@ngrs.org</a>
Assistant Librarian	Martin O'Keeffe		10 Meadowcroft, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 1BD	<a href="mailto:hecla777@hotmail.com">hecla777@hotmail.com</a>
Film & Video Archivist	Mike Jackson		6 Coastguard Cottages, Upper Road, Dover. CT16 1HS	<a href="mailto:mikejackson6@btinternet.com">mikejackson6@btinternet.com</a>
TNG Editor	Alan Burgess	Director	6 The Crescent, Orton Longueville, Peterborough. PE2 7DT	<a href="mailto:alanburgess390@outlook.com">alanburgess390@outlook.com</a>
NGN Editor	Paul Bennett	Director	90 Stortford Hall Park, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5AN	<a href="mailto:publications@ngrs.org">publications@ngrs.org</a>
NGN British and Irish Editor	Gerry Balding		75 Vane Close, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich, Norfolk NR7 0US	<a href="mailto:gerry.balding@btinternet.com">gerry.balding@btinternet.com</a>
NGN Miniature Gauges Editor	Jonathan James	Director	31, Beacon Road, Chatham, Kent. ME5 7BW	<a href="mailto:min.rail.editor@ngrs.org">min.rail.editor@ngrs.org</a>
NGN Archaeology and History Editor	Graham Feldwick		22A Ropers Lane, Wareham, Dorset BH20 4QT	<a href="mailto:feldwick@globalnet.co.uk">feldwick@globalnet.co.uk</a>
NGN Overseas Editor	Alan Burgess	Director	6 The Crescent, Orton Longueville, Peterborough. PE2 7DT	<a href="mailto:alanburgess390@outlook.com">alanburgess390@outlook.com</a>
NGN Event Diary Editor	Iain McCall	Director	3 Broadleaze, Upper Seagry, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 5EY	<a href="mailto:iain@mainlineandmaritime.co.uk">iain@mainlineandmaritime.co.uk</a>
Sales Officer	Dan Holbrook		8 Woodside, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear SR2 7ET	<a href="mailto:sales@ngrs.org">sales@ngrs.org</a>
Webmaster	Neil Limbrick		14 Connaught Avenue, Kidderminster, Worcestershire DY11 6LS	<a href="mailto:webmaster@ngrs.org">webmaster@ngrs.org</a>
Facebook Administrator	Chris Roberts	Director	296 Torrisholme Road, Lancaster, LA1 2TU	<a href="mailto:chrisxroberts7@gmail.com">chrisxroberts7@gmail.com</a>
Visits Officer	Simon Guppy	Director	16 Mascot Road, Windmill Hill, Bristol BS3 4PP	<a href="mailto:simon@jomat-management-services.co.uk">simon@jomat-management-services.co.uk</a>
Visits Officer North	Vacant			
Legal Assistant	Ken Matticks		3413 Fountain Way, Granbury Texas USA 76049	<a href="mailto:matticks@airmail.net">matticks@airmail.net</a>
Modelling Secretary	Leslie Tindall		47 Cliff Court, Currie Road, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 8NU	<a href="mailto:leslie.w.tindall@gmail.com">leslie.w.tindall@gmail.com</a>
Publicity / Exhibitions Officer	Vacant			
Director for the Membership	Iain McCall	Director	3 Broadleaze, Upper Seagry, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 5EY	<a href="mailto:iain@mainlineandmaritime.co.uk">iain@mainlineandmaritime.co.uk</a>



## Society Officer Vacancies

The NGRS has a number of vacancies for people willing to help with the running and development of the Society. The duties are not greatly time-consuming, and enthusiasm is more important than experience – help will always be available as you get to grips with the detail. Attending two committee meetings a year, one on the day of the AGM in May and the other in October is expected.

If you can help, we would be delighted – please get in touch with the Secretary, Steve Barber (246 Hillbury Road, Warlingham, Surrey, CR6 9TP) or send an email to: [secretary@ngrs.org](mailto:secretary@ngrs.org). If you have any queries or require further information, please contact the Secretary

### Visit Officer North

Members' visits to lines otherwise difficult-to-access have become very popular and we would like to have on board a volunteer to develop this activity in the northern half of the UK. Duties would involve identifying potential lines, negotiating access, and organising the visits themselves.

### Publicity / Exhibitions Officer

We would like to recruit a Publicity Officer to progress the Society's image and presence. Ideally you would be involved in running and manning our stand at the Statfold open days, and this might be extended to other appropriate venues. Beyond that, we have no fixed ideas as to how the task might be approached, although the use of social media and PR would be beneficial. Some liaison with the general railway press will also be required, as will an ability to write persuasively.

The Society would be happy to have many members acting as Publicity Assistants, undertaking this role on a local level or with an individual Railway

### General

The Directors are always pleased to be offered assistance with administering the Society. It should be noted that several of the Directors and Society Officers are fulfilling more than one role and it would be prudent to reduce their commitments.

Assistance in organising visits and AGMs etc. is also gratefully accepted and is usually required on a geographic basis.

If you believe you are able to help in any of the forgoing areas or you are prepared to give general assistance including assisting in cataloguing our library (books, images, moving images/ other) please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary or other Director or Society Officer for further information.

# Appendix C

## Minutes of Previous Meeting

### MINUTES OF 4<sup>th</sup> AGM OF THE NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY SOCIETY as a Company Limited by Guarantee and the 69th AGM of the Society since its formation

#### Held on 27th June 2020 at 15:00 as a Virtual Meeting

46 Members are present (by proxy): *Peter Kinnear, John Huxley, Peter Deacon, Brian Craven, Harry Chandler, William Grisenthwaite, Tim Bridge, Michael Sarsfield, Mr R Wolfe-Coe, Martin Brown, Peter Fischer, Lionel Kay, David Collister, Chris Gerrard, Andrew Roberts, Ian Porter, Tony Stratford, John Gilby, John Smith, Mike Swift, Paul Webb, John Organ, John Scholes, Richard Haworth, Ian Hurst, John Moore, Julian Garratt, Harry Chandler, John Kitchenman, Francis Hugh Smith, Alan Hayday, Martin Brown, Sydney Leleux, Norman Drake, Frank Stephen, David Cross, Dennis Humphries, John Price, Terence John Steele, Stewart Liles, John Davison, Gerry Cork, Bernard Gudgin, Colin Brazier, George Cash, Richard Haste.*

7 Directors are virtually present: *Steve Barber* (Company Secretary), *Alan Burgess* (Chairman/ The Narrow Gauge Editor/ Narrow Gauge News Overseas Editor), *Mick Morgan* (Webmaster), *Chris Roberts* (Facebook Administrator), *Robert Watson* (Treasurer), *Jonathan James* (NGN Miniature Railways Editor), *Paul Bennett* (NGN Editor).

13 Officers are virtually present: *Jill Everitt* (Membership Secretary), *Martin O'Keeffe* (Assistant Librarian), *Mike Jackson* (Film and Video Archivist, Visits Officer), *Gerry Balding* (NGN UK Editor), *Graham Feldwick* (NGN H&A Editor), *Iain McCall* (NGN Event Diary Editor), *Simon Guppy* (Visits Officer (South)(in Waiting)), *Rod Bryant* (Visits Officer (North)(in Waiting)), *Ken Matticks* (Legal Assistant), *Leslie Tindall* (Modelling Secretary, NGN Modelling Editor), *Dan Holbrook* (Sales Officer), *Peter Wilson* (Librarian), *Stephen Moore* (Treasurer).

The Meeting was chaired by *Alan Burgess*.

It was determined that a quorum (5 Directors and 25 full Members (in attendance or by proxy)) was present and the meeting could conduct business.

The Secretary determined that notice of the meeting had been properly given in accordance with the Articles. The Meeting has been summarily adjourned and reconvened as a virtual meeting due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

A copy of the Minutes of the previous AGM was presented to the meeting, together with the Accounts, Officers' Reports and Appendices, which are available on the Society's website.

#### **Chairman's Address**

Dear Members, may I welcome you to our first Virtual AGM, the extraordinary circumstances of the Coronavirus pandemic have resulted in us taking this unusual course of action, and we hope that things will return to normal by next year.

I encourage you all to exercise your right to speak in the virtual domain and submit your Questions etc. to the Secretary for inclusion on this page and the Directors and Officers will in turn will give their responses. You can of course tackle the meeting in any order you like as it does not take place in real time, and we will look after the administration and post your question/ comment in the relevant section. I anticipate that this will deliver a successful virtual AGM

I hereby formally declare this meeting open and I look forward to receiving your contributions.

*Alan Burgess*

The Virtual Meeting was declared open on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020

#### **Informal business and reports from Directors, Officers and other groups** **Minutes of 2019 AGM**

See Appendix C.

As no objections, corrections or items notified were received, the minutes are considered as accepted.



## Committee Reports

### Chairman's Report

Any report at this time is overshadowed by the coronavirus pandemic and your Directors and committee members are focused on preserving the Society for the future rather than looking back to the last year.

However, I have to say that in March before the Government action to contain the Coronavirus began, we were in a stronger position than for some time. The impact of the resignation of two Committee members has been overcome by others stepping up to undertake additional duties, and by earlier decisions that anticipated potential problems and planned for dealing with them.

The recent death of our former Membership Secretary *Lawson Little* was a blow and we will all miss his contribution and presence. He was a real pillar of the society.

Our financial situation remains healthy and as a result we have been able to maintain what were already low subscription rates. We continue to believe that we offer excellent value for money.

Narrow Gauge News continues to thrive, with some bumper issues in the past year, and we have stepped up the frequency of *The Narrow Gauge*, with a particularly large edition covering the Great Bush railway.

We were planning another summer season of visits, but the early ones are already cancelled, and we have no idea whether there can be a resumption later. A great shame for those involved with their planning.

Clearly, we do not know how our year will continue. We hope to continue mailing our publications, but this depends on the printer continuing to function. The library is temporarily suspended due to the inability to access the premises.

I traditionally end this report with a moan about the burden of work falling on the Society's Officers, and this has never been more relevant. Without their help in overcoming the resignations of directors, this report would be pessimistic. We are very grateful to those who have stepped forward to help in the past few months, but it remains unsatisfactory that the vast majority of the work necessary to ensure the continuation of the society falls on a very few individuals, some of whom are doing more than one job. We should all be extremely grateful for their time and efforts. If you think you can help, please volunteer – we can find something for you to do.

I am optimistic that our core strengths mean that we will continue to be successful whenever normality returns.

*Alan Burgess*

There were no questions in respect of the Chairman's Report.

### Treasurer's Report (Appendix A)

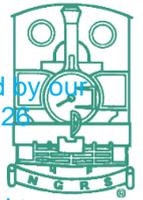
As has already been referred to, *Phil Thompson* resigned in early January, having been instrumental in steadying the society's finances over the past few years and providing financial and management accounting to a standard that only a profession could. I regret his departure more than most, as it has led to me temporarily taking back the Treasurer role. The role is not particularly onerous, requiring at a minimum a few bills to be paid each month, some basic book-keeping and liaising with an accountant to produce the annual accounts. So why do I need you to consider taking on some or all of the role? The fact is that I have work and other interests which make undertaking the role an imposition and I just know that there must be at least one member of the society out there who is comfortable with numbers and who wants to play a part in planning the future of the society. Please get in touch!

*Phil* could not have left the financial management of the society in a better state – his spreadsheets for 2019 were basically finished and it has taken longer to find a local accountant and get him engaged than it has taken him to produce the statutory accounts from *Phil's* spreadsheets and his immaculately prepared information folders. Thanks *Phil!*

The key points from the accounts are as follows:

- Turnover was slightly down in 2019, primarily as a result of a small fall in membership
- Costs increased, as a result primarily of increased magazine costs
- The net effect of this is that a small loss was made overall (£1,094 after tax)
- This is very much in line with the budget, which was set to start to balance profits made in previous years – the financial object being to be 'not for profit' over the medium term.

Other points to note are:



- At a detailed level, some costs have moved from one line to another, as a result of conventions used by our new accountant (you know the story that if you ask 25 economists for a forecast you will get at least 25 different views, well this seems to apply to accountants too)
- *Phil* provided a considerable amount of extra detail, not required in the statutory accounts, but helpful to understand the detail of how the society functions financially. I have not had the time to provide this. If you would like more detail, then now is the time to volunteer to produce it!
- Subscriptions for 2020/2021 were not increased by your Committee on the basis that with no immediate need for the funds held on deposit (broadly £80,000 at the lowest point of the year, just before subscriptions start to arrive) it would be acceptable to incur a bigger loss in 2020. Subscriptions for 2021/2022 will be considered this autumn on the basis of actual expenditure for the year to date at that point and forecasts for membership and costs in 2021.

*Robert Watson*

There were no questions in respect of the Treasurer's Report.

### **Secretary's Report**

This year I have organised the usual AGM and Committee meetings (though the current Public Health Emergency has impacted on this) and prepared the agendas and minutes. It is with great regret that this year's AGM Meeting and entertainment has had to be cancelled, but I hope that you will all understand the reasons why

The AGM this year is taking place as a virtual meeting and I hope that many of you will participate. The minutes will be offered for approval at the next AGM by when I hope normal service will have been resumed

At the end of 2019 I thought that the Company was running well, however the resignation of *Phil Thompson* and *Jim Hay*, together with the sad loss of *Lawson Little* increased the workload and administration required for all the Directors and Officers. If this wasn't bad enough the impact of Coronavirus has only added to the necessary workload.

Still the good news is that a number of executive positions have been filled. Thanks are due to those who have volunteered to fill them. However, as in previous years there continue to be Committee vacancies and I would encourage you all to consider if you are able to fill one of these roles or offer support in a smaller way, an increased number of Committee members are already undertaking more than one role and this limits how effectively the Directors/ Committee can operate. If you volunteer, we are happy to provide assistance, guidance and encouragement. I assure you that it is both rewarding and fun, most of us don't bite (unless it's lunchtime).

I would like to thank my fellow Directors and Company Officers whose tireless enthusiasm, input and support ensures the largely smooth operating of the Company and are doing their best to us get through the current difficulties. The Directors and Officers are continuing to examine ways to modernise the Society and provide the best value for money to the membership.

The General Data Protection Regulations have changed the way that we communicate, including by email, and we are still adjusting to the requirements, but please be assured that we take data security seriously and have taken any necessary corrective action.

I regret to report, yet again, that a new lease for the Library facilities at Apedale remains outstanding, and we are currently proceeding under a rollover lease with the agreement of the Moseley Railway Trust. The Progress with the new Museum/ Library building at Apedale is currently stalled but I remain hopeful that there will be progress soon and this matter can be progressed.

Unsurprisingly since the new year the number of items I have been dealing with has increased greatly amounting to an average 25 emails a day, fortunately it's not always this intense, normally being this number a week.

May I also extend a warm welcome to all our new members, I hope that you are enjoying our publications and events. Additionally I must also include in that welcome several new Committee members whose input helps us to keep the Society relevant and vibrant.

In summary this has been a successful year, with a secure Society; I am sure that the current difficulties will soon be behind us and things will be back to normal.

*Steve Barber*

There were no questions in respect of the Secretary's Report.



## Membership Secretary's Report

Back in February *Lawson* and I discussed the Membership Secretary's report and decided we would each make a contribution. As you are aware *Lawson* sadly passed away just as the membership renewal process was starting to gather pace. I have since spoken with *Sheila*, *Lawson's* widow, on how to proceed with reporting for the past year and it was agreed *Lawson's* words should be printed exactly as he wrote them: -

2020 marks my 25th year in office, and as such seems to be a suitable point in time at which to "pass the baton". Accordingly, *Jill* is in the process of taking over the role from me, a process which will be completed after the first rush of renewals is over around May/June.

I have greatly enjoyed my tenure of office which has enabled me to make many new friends. Unlike some Committee Members I have always regarded the Society as a group of enthusiasts with similar interests rather than a business operation, and I'm sure that *Jill* will maintain that approach. Over the years I have shared many condolences and sympathies with members, who in turn I believe have appreciated the "personal approach".

Unfortunately, Old Father Time has finally caught up with me, so it's time give the keyboard a rest and leave matters to those younger and more computer-literate than I to carry the flag forward.

*Lawson Little*

With *Lawson's* agreement and encouragement, I have been performing the Membership Secretary role since the beginning of 2020. Unfortunately, I do not have all the finalised information I would like to complete this report due to the present emergency restrictions. Consequently, this report has been compiled earlier than would normally be the case and is based upon the information currently available.

Despite no major recruitment drives during the year and the effect on numbers of members who joined as a result of previous recruitment drives deciding not to renew, we ended 2019 with just 34 fewer members than we started the year – a good result considering. From current renewal figures we are experiencing a healthy renewal rate for the coming 2020/21 year. Sadly, 14 members have passed away during the year.

A collection of around 100 renewal letters was made from *Lawson's* home on 22 March and these have now been processed.

As a newbie I have been amazed at the thoughtfulness of the many members who have made financial donations to the Society as part of the renewal process. On behalf of the Society, thank you. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

As you are aware the role of the Membership Secretary had been split between three people. With my appointment it will now revert to being fully covered by one person.

I am conscious that I have some pretty big boots to fill and I hope I can serve you as diligently as *Lawson* has over the past 25 years.

*Jill Everitt*

There were no questions in respect of the Membership Report.

## THE NARROW GAUGE Editor's Report

During the 2019/2020 membership year we maintained our ambition to continue the increased level of publication and pagination of *The Narrow Gauge*. We managed five issues with 260 pages – slightly below the record 280 in the previous year, but still a credit to members' efforts.

There were two special issues – one a particularly detailed history of the Great Bush railway. I am very grateful to *Ian Oughton* for writing this, the most complete history of a relatively small preserved railway that we have produced. I think it was well worthwhile doing so – it really got to the heart of the sheer hard work preservation involves.

The second special issue, of course, was on the Maine 2-footers, a fascinating group of lines. It was well worthwhile highlighting what remains today.

A growing resource for TNG materials is contained in additions to the library and this formed the basis for the third special issue, featuring the late Ron Redman's pictures from trips in the Society's formative years.

I still have a reasonable backlog of material but would welcome more, especially on UK subjects (an annual plea of mine). Could we persuade our more mature members to dig out their pre-1970 pictures and notes and share them for



all of us to enjoy and learn from? There must be members with memories of industrial lines and the early days of preservation: please consider writing a piece for us.

We know that some members are critical of the high level of miniature and overseas railway content in The Narrow Gauge. We can only print what is sent to us and are always willing to consider ideas for future special issues of TNG: I have only one at the moment, so the chances of early publication are good.

My thanks to members who have provided articles for The Narrow Gauge. Their number is limited, but without them the magazine could not continue.

*Alan Burgess*

*Stewart Liles* asked: Whilst I very much welcome the increase in size of The Narrow Gauge, would it be possible to use a thicker cardboard for the covers? This is particularly relevant to single topic 'Specials' which may be read and referred to more regularly than the normal issues and therefore may become creased and worn more quickly. I realise that this may add to the weight and therefore possibly the postage cost.

*Alan Burgess* responded: All TNGs should have a cover that is a heavier weight than other pages – usually 200/160gsm. It is particularly important for the heavier 'specials' such as the Great Bush, Barsi and Robert Hudson and unfortunately the Great Bush 'special' had a standard weight cover in error. We will ensure printers are instructed to use a heavier stock for the covers of future TNGs – although this is not felt to be a problem when pages do not exceed 36. There is no great financial penalty and print/postage cost is not an issue.

## **NARROW GAUGE NEWS Editors' Reports**

### **(a) Editor's Report**

Since the last AGM, six issues of Narrow Gauge News have been produced; once again I cannot thank too much my colleagues who edit sections of the publication; they are invaluable. *Alan Burgess* edits the Overseas section and *Gerry Balding* the British narrow gauge; *Jonathan James* is responsible for the Miniature Gauges section. *Graham Feldwick* continues to produce an outstanding Archaeology and History section and *Les Tindall* is developing the Modelling section. *Lawson Little* has been a superb proof-reader right up to the March 2020 edition; his sad death means that there will be more of my errors which appear in future editions; our debt to him is tremendous. *Gerry Balding* continues proof-reading so there is still some hope that my blunders will be spotted. *Alan Burgess* has offered to take over where *Lawson* left off.

There have been issues of 42, 56, 64, 58, 44 and 36 pages. I still cannot help feeling that many members visit railways without sending in a report; we often rely on websites and press releases to keep us informed when a member's comment would be very welcome. The web edition has been produced for each issue, too. Thanks again to *Mick Morgan* for his careful presentation of that.

During the year production has changed from a Windows program, Serif PagePlus, to a mac program, Affinity Publisher (both are British!). You may have noticed some glitches early on, but the editing has proved easier since the change. I am also consulting a graphic designer with a view to improving presentation still further.

The final editing of NGN still takes me about a week of work. The section editors do a great deal too. I am willing to continue for a while if the membership so wish.

*Paul Bennett*

There were no questions in respect of the Narrow Gauge News Editor's Report.

### **(b) UK and Ireland News Editor's Report**

I would like to thank everyone who has been so helpful over past year and to all those who have submitted reports and photos. Could I please ask all members that when visiting railways or special events (or even volunteering on railways) to take the time to send me a brief report and photos for inclusion in the next Narrow Gauge News. It is these reports which are the lifeblood of the section.

We are well served by news and reports from English and Welsh heritage railways (although there are still a few notable exceptions). Over the past year we have seen more reports from Ireland and some from railways not covered before. However, there are still relatively few reports received about industrial narrow gauge railways. I suspect this is mainly due to the very limited use of narrow gauge railways in industry these days. I would especially welcome any reports on this area.

A number of railways have been very helpful in supplying reports and photos on request. This has proved fairly successful as they recognise the value of the publicity their reports and photos in Narrow Gauge News can provide.



Indeed, some have gone further and commented on the positive role of the Society in their journals and encouraged their members to join.

More and more reports these days are coming via Facebook and other social media. There currently seems to be a trend for reporting news on social media rather than by press releases or via websites. Whilst I will use these (where possible) the format and quality of these articles makes the collation of a concise report for British and Irish Narrow Gauge News difficult. Hence, members' reports are crucial.

Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic in mid-March, the supply of news has all but dried up. While this situation is likely to continue for some time, the impact on railways and the content of British and Irish Narrow Gauge News is difficult to anticipate. It is my intention to continue work and to produce British and Irish Narrow Gauge News as far as available reports allow.

A pleasing feature of the past year is to see some new projects getting off the ground, new locomotive builds progressing and existing projects developing their facilities and running lines. It seems the narrow gauge scene is thriving (notwithstanding the Covid-19 pandemic) and a lot of excellent work is being undertaken. I wish them all every success for the future and look forward to reporting their progress.

I look forward to working with you all over the coming year.

*Gerry Balding*

There were no questions in respect of the UK and Ireland News Editor's Report.

### **(c) Miniature News Editor's Report**

I have continued to receive a good supply of miniature railway reports for Narrow Gauge News during the year, including a few from members who have not contributed previously. It would be great to see this continue throughout 2020 and into 2021, especially when we get past the current restrictions.

A number of lines have a healthy volunteer network but miniature railways of all sizes are expensive to run, and a number are commercial operations that rely on summer traffic.

Once that the current restrictions are lifted, I hope that members will make some time to seek out their local miniature railway, spend some money, and send me a report.

Whilst the current restrictions are in place, it would be great to hear from members who have private lines, so that we can keep the pages of Narrow Gauge News alive. Information about the location of these railways can be restricted to protect individuals' privacy.

We have also forged a friendship with the 10¼ inch Gauge Society, who carried an advert for the NGRS in their winter newsletter, and in return we carried an advert for them in our March newsletter.

*Jonathan James*

There were no questions in respect of the Miniature News Editor's Report.

### **(d) Overseas Editor's Report**

The NGN overseas news pages ticked along much as before, with the increase in number and quality of pictures maintained – to the point where selection of illustrations by the overseas editor is necessary in order to provide the editor with a manageable choice. Even so, the editor also has to cull quite a few.

Do please not let this selection process put you off submitting accounts of your visits, and accompanying pictures. We do try to print at least one illustration with each story, and we rarely omit reports – this only happens when duplications occur, usually on the more popular lines in France and Germany. It certainly does not happen when members visit rarely accessed locations in Bangladesh and rural Russia!

My thanks as usual to the relatively small number of members who take the time and trouble of contributing. We do rely absolutely on them. Sadly, I anticipate a rapid decrease in reports received as the world locks down for the coronavirus crisis and railways everywhere close.

Thanks go again to *Paul Bennett* for making an excellent job of editing NGN. I would readily recommend it as the best read on the market in the overall narrow gauge and miniature field.

*Alan Burgess*

There were no questions in respect of the Overseas Editor's Report.



### **(e) Archaeology & History Editor's Report**

Firstly, many thanks to everyone who has submitted reports and photographs of former narrow gauge and miniature lines during the past year, all of which resulted in a rich mix for the Archaeology & History Section (A & H) of NGN. Thank you too if you helped with my requests during 2019 for sightings of preserved roadside tubs and other wagons – the response to this was very good and the resulting booklet, to be produced in due course by the IRS, will reflect how many of these there are across the UK.

The extensive use of narrow gauge railways over the years has, of course, been both widespread and varied and, whilst we all enjoy visiting working narrow gauge lines, the importance of recording the remains of former locations is vital in order to continue and complete the history of them, and cannot be underestimated. From the trackbeds and buildings of well-known former passenger-carrying lines, whose histories are recorded in books and on websites, through to the humble, but no less important, lines that once were a vital part of a long-gone industry and are now remembered through a short length of track across a roadway or some stone blocks or rusting rails in the grass, all have their place in the history of narrow gauge, as have the smaller gauge lines that have gone before in the world of miniature railways.

I'm always very pleased to receive details of anything that you've come across, and I can often add a few more details if required, so whatever you find please report it, photograph it and send it in to me!

*Graham Feldwick*

There were no questions in respect of the Archaeology & History Editor's Report.

### **(f) Modelling Secretary's Report**

The Modelling Section in NGN has been a feature for a few months now with photos of layouts and exhibitions from a number of members plus new product information and dates of upcoming exhibitions.

It is difficult to gauge how many readers have an interest in modelling, but I would like to expand the current single page to two pages. To achieve this are there any members out there who would like to send in short articles and photos on "how they made" a loco, wagons, coaches, buildings, scenery etc. Hopefully this may inspire other to recreate their favourite line, engine or era in miniature and ensure the continuation of this section.

*Leslie Tindall*

There were no questions in respect of the Modelling Secretary's Report.

### **Sales Officer's Report**

Following the resignation of *Phil Thompson*, I took over the role of Sales Officer as a temporary measure. Sales in the first few months were reasonably good with circa £185 of sales up to the beginning of March. As a temporary measure the sales stock has been held in the Library, the items being despatched through the good offices of *Martin O'Keefe* (Thank you *Martin*).

The current Coronavirus Pandemic has resulted in the Library becoming difficult of access due to the Airedale Country Park being closed, we are therefore unable to fulfil any pre2020 orders.

In addition, our regular trade outlets have closed and have cancelled their repeat orders. The 2020 issues will be offered through the website and I hope that some of those who purchased from the trade outlets may come to us directly.

I hope that we may find an online retailer, who will take our magazines and offset what appears to be a long period of minimum sales, which will obviously have an impact on our accounts.

I hope that the current situation will not last too long and that the retailers will survive to take our publications once more.  
*Steve Barber*

There were no questions in respect of the Sales Officer's Report.

### **eBay Shop Administrator Report**

There have been no eBay Sales in the 2019/2020 year

*Robert Watson*

There were no questions in respect of the eBay Shop Administrator's Report.



## Publishing Report

The Directors have determined that the Role of Publications Officer would be undertaken by the Editors of The *Narrow Gauge* and *Narrow Gauge News*, with additional input from the Membership Secretary.

There were no questions in respect of the Publishing Report.

## Legal Assistant's Report

Over the past twelve months, I have been asked to opine on two important issues. The first is General Data Protection Regulation (known as "GDPR"). The concern is what measures the Society must take to protect the data of our members, especially the officers of the organization. We now believe that how we store and protect data is in line with GDPR.

The second major issue involved how to handle our inability to have a "live" AGM and whether we could have a virtual AGM. Neither the Companies Act 2006 nor our organizing documents contemplated a situation where we could not actually have an AGM in the time specified and we could not determine when a live AGM might be held. The officers determined a procedure for calling the meeting to order, and lacking a quorum, adjourn it to a later date to be held virtually.

Both of these issues were novel and unique. With the first, our goal for the GDPR issue was to comply with the law as closely as possible. With the virtual AGM question, the goal was to meet the standard of fairness to the membership that is part of our by-laws and by Corporations Act.

*Ken Matticks*

There were no questions in respect of the Legal Assistant's Report.

## Librarian's Report

Before I report on progress with the society library, I would like to express thanks to firstly *Jim Hay* and secondly to *Iain Logie*.

*Jim* recently stepped down as society librarian a post he has held over a number of years. *Jim* has been responsible for developing the library at Apedale a fairly mammoth task, as well as dealing with the plethora of tasks associated running the library. Much of this is done behind the scenes but recent changes in personal circumstances has meant that his time to devote to the society has been very much restricted and *Jim* felt he ought to step down. Thus the society is now looking to find a new librarian. I very much enjoyed working with *Jim* and would like to pass on my personal thanks to him.

*Iain* has been very much involved in recent years scanning and documenting material from the NGRS photographic collections. Whilst much of this has been carried out at home, *Iain* has also been assisting me at Apedale which is much appreciated.

Perhaps I should explain what has been going on at the library in recently. I had been assessing the material from *WJK Davies* and that has been added to the catalogue albeit in summary form. Material continues to be added and more is in the offing. *Iain* and I have regular visits to the library so we can keep an eye on things and deal with administration matters.

A series of open days had been planned for 2020 but sadly the health emergency has put everything in abeyance. Once things return to normal a new set of dates will be announced. In the meantime, we are happy to endeavour to answer queries by email and I am very grateful to a group of members who have come forward with specialist knowledge to help answer these.

Given these difficult times it seems a good opportunity to review aspects of the library to see what can be done to meet the changing circumstances which will no doubt follow. One area is digitizing more of the collection, some of this has already be done but undoubtedly this is an area that could prove useful in both ensuring conservation of material and making it more accessible.

Finally, can I also thank our friends at Mosley Railway Trust for making us feel welcome when we are on site.

*Martin O'Keeffe*

There were no questions in respect of the Librarian's Report.



## Film & Video Archivist's Report

Another very quiet year with no loans or donation of material or requests of transfers from VHS to DVD.

Master DVDs are now being transferred to an external hard disc & thanks are due to the Hon. Secretary for doing this work.

An updated Library List will be published soon, meantime 105 DVDs are available for loan.

No action has been taken with the suggestion that the contents of the library are transferred to the internet for members' viewing - quite beyond the limited computer skills of the Video Librarian & no pressure is felt as there seems to be no demand from the membership to watch the library.

However, if anyone would like to take on this project, I'm happy to resign & pass the Video Librarians post over to him [or her].

If no volunteers come forward, I'm agreeable to remain 'in post' for another year if the membership so wish.

*Mike Jackson*

There were no questions in respect of the Film & Video Archivist's Report.

## Webmaster's Report

A very different year for everyone, and no different for the Webmaster who was tasked with updating and amending every page of the website, deleting and changing some and adding renewed linked company documents.

Many new pages were produced to encourage new members with offers for Facebook users, Statfold visitors and visited railway operators. New pages and folders were also produced and have been constantly reviewed for members to show information about Visits and about the AGM and virtual AGM with their relevant application forms. However, the Corona virus made it necessary to re-provide many of these pages as circumstances changed during March.

Membermojo has automated the issue of emails to all members and everyone is advised to check their email addresses, particularly if they have changed this year. Email accuracy is crucial for everyone, especially as ALL members are emailed with a link to the electronic NGN every two months, not just the e-Members.

Thanks go to Local Area Groups who are advising and promoting their meetings and other events of interest during this year, it does show the outside world, as well as ourselves, that the NGRS is alive and active in local areas, both for its members and potential members with similar interests.

There have been no member contributions of pictures, videos or articles specifically for the website this year, although these may be being made directly to magazine editors or to social media such as Facebook instead. Do consider sending in notes and/or pictures as both members and prospective members do find them interesting and useful. For information, the website address remains <http://ngrs.org> (or [www.ngrs.org](http://www.ngrs.org)).

If you do have contributions, you can also send them to the Yahoo Group "NGRailwaySociety", which has 247 members or to our new io Groups "NGRailwaySociety" which currently has 36 members (in March). The new [NGRailwaySociety.groups.io](http://NGRailwaySociety.groups.io) is an un-moderated site and was set up when Yahoo advised it was closing all their groups down. The site does provide a trickle of news, views and questions to a wide audience at home and abroad and advance announcements can be useful via this medium. It is however clear that the NGRS Group audiences are very different to IRS Group visitors and Facebook visitors, Facebook in particular attracting a more vibrant group of people who require instant attention and answers.

Unlike the IRS, the move of the NGRS to Groups does not seem to be particularly useful to members and unless more use is made of this medium, consideration will be given to both groups' closure.

Do promote the group among your friends because the NGRS membership is a vast knowledge pool which should be shared with people of similar interests.

Looking forward, we will soon have TNG's and NGN's online in an NGRS-Library cloud and once a good index and access to them has been improved, members will be notified.

*Mick Morgan*

There were no questions in respect of the Webmaster's Report.



## Facebook Administrator's Report

This report is being written on 30th March 2020 at a time when social media of all types are facilitating social interactions when most other forms are impossible. Many railway enthusiasts are using their new-found free time to scour old photo archives and share pictures from their collections as a substitute for making new visits.

The NGRS Facebook group has seen a surge in usage recently, over the last 28 days there have been 122 new members bringing the total to 2357. In that time there have been 148 new posts, and 1774 members interacted with the group in some way. This suggests that there is a real need being felt to communicate with other enthusiasts.

Of course, many of the Facebook group members are not members of the NGRS, and the group continues to be used to inform its members of the advantages of signing up to the Society. A special offer to new members recruited via Facebook ran through the month of March. NGRS special events such as the AGM and railway visits (when these start to happen again) are also advertised. This is a useful reminder to existing NGRS members while also helping to demonstrate the benefits of joining.

The Facebook page, as opposed to the group, is updated occasionally and remains to help direct anyone searching the internet to either the Facebook group or the NGRS website. The page has 1189 followers who will receive notifications when any new item is added to the page.

Behind the scenes there has been a recent change to the Facebook admin team with one person leaving and another joining. It always helps to have more than one person with admin privileges so that there is as little delay as possible in dealing with any issues that might arise (thankfully rare) or to approve applications to join.

*Chris Roberts*

There were no questions in respect of the Facebook Administrator's Report.

## Visit's Officers Report

After a successful 2019 visits season all 2020 visits are 'on hold' until there is an improvement in the Covid-19 pandemic & 'gatherings' are again permitted.

The Cappy visit, advertised earlier in the year by Email attracted 22 Email-registered members & when the visit was advertised with the March NGN mailing two more attendees applied to join.

The March NGN also included booking forms for seven visits & despite the problems of the prohibition of 'gatherings' it was gratifying that 24 bookings were received for the eight visits advertised, in hopeful anticipation that the visits would take place.

Another nine visits have been arranged & may be announced with the May mailing & the committee will discuss in April whether these visits should be advertised, depending on the progress of the pandemic. Members may be invited to apply for these visits, on the understanding all cheques will be returned if the visits do not take place.

Cappy cheques have already been banked but refunds will be made if the visit is cancelled.

A lot of work has been done on internet booking for future visits & it is hoped to introduce the system if booking invitations are distributed with the May NGN.

There will be a further announcement on the internet booking system in the May NGN and/or at the 'virtual AGM'. Non-internet members can be reassured that visits bookings will continue to be accepted in the 'normal' manner.

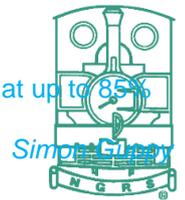
This will be my last AGM as Visits Officer & I wish good luck to *Simon Guppy* & *Rod Bryant* who are taking over as Visits Officers North & South respectively & to Webmaster *Mick Morgan* who, with *Simon*, is deeply involved with the internet booking system. Thanks, are also due to former Treasurer *Phil Thompson* who initially set up the system.

*Mike Jackson*

The Membermojo system, which holds all of the Society's membership records, also includes an Online Store. We have developed – and fully tested – a process, whereby members can book and pay for visits, using the Membermojo Online Store. In the future, we will be able to advertise forthcoming visits via email, to those members for whom we hold an email address. Members will then be able to go to the Online Store, in order to book and pay for visits. This will save members having to complete paper booking forms, write cheques, and send their bookings via the post.

We plan to put the Online Booking facility live, as soon as we are able to resume visits. We know that we do not hold email addresses for all members, and therefore we will retain the existing facility of being able to book via paper booking

forms; nevertheless, we hope that members will find this new facility to be beneficial, and we are hoping that up to 85% of bookings will be made online in the future



There were no questions in respect of the Visits Officer's Report.

### **Publicity/ Exhibition Officer's Report**

Report not currently available

*Vacant Position*

There were no questions in respect of the Publicity/ Exhibition Officer's Report.

### **Area Group Secretary's Reports**

#### **Lincolnshire Area**

I am able to offer a brief report on the activities of the Lincolnshire Area Narrow Gauge Group.

We meet in Lincoln some six times a year and offer a focus point for those interested in the smaller gauges, both from Lincolnshire & further away – we have regular attendees from (for example) Nottingham, Loughborough & Doncaster.

We have a wide range of speakers - in recent time our speakers have covered such subjects as the Brickworks & Tileries of Humberside, the Crowle Peatworks railways, the Eastwell ironstone system and the history of the railways of Southampton Docks – not narrow gauge but certainly of interest.

The Group meets in the 'Golden Eagle' on Lincoln High Street – a friendly establishment, on the 2nd Wednesday of alternate months.

Unfortunately, we live in an ageing society and we have been hit by the deaths of two long-standing members in the last twelve months: Mick Drake and our de facto Chairman Dave Billmore. In addition, our longstanding 'Lady Member', Nora Hanley, has decided that, at 94, she can no longer support us. All in all, a drain of members and few new people coming along means that the future of the group is 'problematical' – we do need new members.

*Tim Hudson*

There were no questions in respect of the Lincolnshire Area Report.

#### **London & Southern Area**

Here is the report from the London and Southern Area to the Society's 2020 AGM. This will be my final AGM report as this month I am standing down from the area secretary role.

As has been the case for a number of years, the Area's activities over the last season have been focused on a series of monthly meetings held in London jointly with our friends from the Welshpool and Llanfair Light Railway. Our meetings season ran from October to April although the last meeting was in fact in March because of the onset of coronavirus precautions.

Attendance during the season was generally good, and we were able to cover our costs at Keen House.

Speakers during the last year have been *Adrian Garner, Alex Zivanovic, Geoff Gauntlett, David Mitchell, Donald Wilson* and *Geoff Warren*. Their presentations, slides and films were all most enjoyable, and in their different ways emphasised the enormous wealth of narrow gauge knowledge they share. We are grateful to them all for putting the time aside to come and talk to us, and for all the preparatory work such high quality shows entail.

We would also like to thank Hugh Smith for hosting our meetings at Keen House on behalf of the Model Railway Club and for all his help.

My thanks go too to *Paul* and *Mick* for advertising our meetings in NGN and on the Society website.

This has been my forty-eighth and last season as Area Secretary. My first was in 1972/73 when we used to meet at Caxton Hall, SW1. I'm grateful to all the Society members who have supported our programmes over the years; and particularly so to all the enthusiasts and photographers who have come to entertain and educate us with their presentations and slide shows about the narrow gauge. Thank you all.

No-one has come forward to take over from me, anyway as yet. A decision about the future of the London and Southern area will be published in the NGN in due course.



There were no questions in respect of the London & Southern Area Report.

### **Yorkshire Area**

Report not currently available

There were no questions in respect of the Yorkshire Area Report.



## **Formal business of the Narrow Gauge Railway Society as a Limited Company.**

Upon motion duly made the financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2019 and the accountants thereon and the directors' report was accepted (the Secretary to attach a copy to the Minutes.(Appendix A))

Votes: 65 (45 Proxy+20 Exec)

In accordance with the Articles, there was an election of Directors, each member virtually present casting a vote. The Directors standing were as follows:

Alan Burgess (Chairman & The Narrow Gauge Editor)

Votes: 66 (46 Proxy+20 Exec)

Steve Barber (Company Secretary)

Votes: 66 (46 Proxy+20 Exec)

Paul Bennett (Narrow Gauge News Editor)

Votes: 66 (46 Proxy+20 Exec)

Mick Morgan (Webmaster)

Votes: 66 (46 Proxy+20 Exec)

Chris Roberts (Facebook Administrator)

Votes: 65 (45 Proxy+20 Exec)

Jonathan James (Miniature News Editor (Narrow Gauge News))

Votes: 66 (46 Proxy+20 Exec)

Robert Watson (eBay Shop Administrator)

Votes: 66 (46 Proxy+20 Exec)

Iain McCall (Director for the Membership)

Votes: 65 (45 Proxy+20 Exec)

Upon motion duly made the foregoing persons were elected to serve as Directors for one year or until the next members meeting

## **Other Informal Business**

Details of the Company Officer structure and contacts details are in Appendix B

## **Company Officers**

Vacancies

- Publicity / Exhibitions Officer
- Assistants to reduce the administrative workload on the Committee

None of the members came forward to fill these vacancies

## **Next Year's AGM**

Next year's AGM is planned to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2021 and likely to be at the Statfold Barn Railway.

## **Any other Business.**

*Harry Chandler* commented: This must have entailed considerable extra work for the Society Committee and Company Directors. Thanks to all of you for this and your work throughout the previous year.

*Norman Drake* Commented: Thanks to you and all the other officers for keeping it all together in these strange times. All your hard work in organising the AGM etc all for naught and now all this. Thank you so much for giving so much of your time, it is very much appreciated. I wish I could do more but do hope now, to be at next year's 70th Anniversary meeting, along with you all!

*Frank Stephen* Comments: Thanks to you and everyone involved for the time, energy and imagination that has gone into this unique event.

*Richard Haste* commented: Thank you to all the officers for everything they are doing for the running of the NGRS at this difficult time.

## **Virtual AGM Proceedings**



As notified on the webpages, any member who objected to these arrangements should email or write to the Secretary by 10th June 2020. No objections have been received

The Directors and Officers considered the proceedings on 22nd June and were satisfied. The Chairman declared the business of the Virtual AGM, to be dated 27th June, to be complete and the minutes thereof to be published online and presented for approval by the members at the next AGM.

### **Chairman's closing address**

Dear Members, Thank you for your support of our first Virtual AGM, the extraordinary circumstances of the Coronavirus pandemic resulted in us taking this unusual course of action, and I am pleased that so many of you chose to express your appreciation of the Society through this page.

For the record we have received 46 proxy votes, 2 questions, several items of praise and thanks to the Committee. I'm pleased to say that there have been no objections to the administration and processes of this meeting, and the Committee are happy that we have conducted the business of the meeting as properly as we are able in the circumstances.

I hereby formally declare this meeting closed and I hope to be seeing you all in person next year.

*Alan Burgess*

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 15:15 on 27th June 2020

# Appendix A 2019 Accounts



Registered number: 09925208

## **NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY SOCIETY UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

Nigel Ricks & Company Ltd

Chartered Accountants

42 Glebe Street  
Loughborough  
Leicestershire  
LE11 1JR



**Narrow Gauge Railway Society  
Unaudited Financial Statements  
For The Year Ended 31 December 2019**

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**Narrow Gauge Railway Society  
Company Information  
For The Year Ended 31 December 2019**

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<b>Directors</b>	Mr Stephen Barber Mr Michael Morgan Mr Paul Bennett Mr James Hay Mr Jonathan James Mr Christopher Roberts Mr Alan Burgess Mr Robert Watson Mr Philip Thompson
<b>Secretary</b>	Mr Stephen Barber
<b>Company Number</b>	09925208
<b>Registered Office</b>	246 Hillbury Road Warlingham Surrey CR6 9TP
<b>Accountants</b>	Nigel Ricks & Company Ltd Chartered Accountants 42 Glebe Street Loughborough Leicestershire LE11 1JR



**Narrow Gauge Railway Society  
Accountant's Report  
For The Year Ended 31 December 2019**

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In accordance with the engagement letter dated , and in order to assist you to fulfil your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have compiled the financial statements of the company from the accounting records and information and explanations you have given to us.

This report is made to the directors in accordance with the terms of our engagement. Our work has been undertaken to prepare for approval by the directors the financial statements that we have been engaged to compile, to report to the directors that we have done so, and to state those matters that we have agreed to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's directors for our work or for this report.

You have acknowledged on the balance sheet as at year ended 31 December 2019 your duty to ensure that the company has kept proper accounting records and to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view under the Companies Act 2006. You consider that the company is exempt from the statutory requirement for an audit for the year.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit of the financial statements. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the financial statements.

-----

Date

Nigel Ricks & Company Ltd  
Chartered Accountants

42 Glebe Street  
Loughborough  
Leicestershire  
LE11 1JR



**Narrow Gauge Railway Society  
Income and Expenditure Account  
For The Year Ended 31 December 2019**

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	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>TURNOVER</b>	43,415	44,805
Other income	949	830
Cost of raw materials and consumables	(27,103)	(27,217)
Staff costs	(386)	(396)
Depreciation and other amounts written off assets	(430)	(437)
Other charges	(17,697)	(14,834)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) BEFORE TAXATION</b>	(1,252)	2,751
Tax	158	(158)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<u>(1,094)</u>	<u>2,593</u>



**Narrow Gauge Railway Society  
Balance Sheet  
As at 31 December 2019**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fixed assets	31,101	31,193
Current assets	111,235	112,868
Prepayments and accrued income	330	2,186
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	(12,596)	(15,483)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>98,969</b>	<b>99,571</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>130,070</b>	<b>130,764</b>
Accruals and deferred income	(400)	-
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>129,670</b>	<b>130,764</b>
<b>RESERVES</b>	<b>129,670</b>	<b>130,764</b>

Notes

**1. Average Number of Employees**

Average number of employees, including directors, during the year was as follows:

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
Office and administration	10	9
	10	9

**2. General Information**

Narrow Gauge Railway Society is a private company, limited by guarantee, incorporated in England & Wales, registered number 09925208. The registered office is 246 Hillbury Road, Warlingham, Surrey, CR6 9TP.



**Narrow Gauge Railway Society  
Balance Sheet (continued)  
As at 31 December 2019**

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For the year ending 31 December 2019 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

**Directors' responsibilities:**

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions.

On behalf of the board

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Date



**Narrow Gauge Railway Society  
Detailed Income and Expenditure Account  
For The Year Ended 31 December 2019**

	2019		2018	
	£	£	£	£
<b>TURNOVER</b>				
Sales		43,415		44,805
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>				
Interest receivable and similar income		949		830
<b>COST OF RAW MATERIALS AND CONSUMABLES</b>				
Opening stock and work in progress	(982)		(350)	
Membership Servicing	748		1,090	
Magazine Costs	21,507		17,875	
Auction Costs	42		352	
Visit Costs	4,486		6,624	
Binders and Other Costs	(89)		644	
Closing stock and work in progress	1,391		982	
		(27,103)		(27,217)
<b>STAFF COSTS</b>				
Travel expenses	386		396	
		(386)		(396)
<b>DEPRECIATION AND OTHER AMOUNTS WRITTEN OFF ASSETS</b>				
Depreciation	430		437	
		(430)		(437)
<b>OTHER CHARGES</b>				
<i>Other direct costs:</i>				
Packaging costs	11,504		9,576	
<i>General administration costs:</i>				
Insurance	1,487		625	
Advertising and marketing costs	271		524	
Accountancy fees	360		-	
Professional fees	180		180	
Library Costs	2,766		2,547	
Bank charges	659		707	
AGM Expenses	470		675	
	6,193		5,258	
		(17,697)		(14,834)
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) BEFORE TAXATION</b>		(1,252)		2,751

...CONTINUED



**Narrow Gauge Railway Society**  
**Detailed Income and Expenditure Account (continued)**  
**For The Year Ended 31 December 2019**

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<b>Tax on Surplus/(Deficit)</b>		
Corporation tax charge	<u>(158)</u>	<u>158</u>
	<u>158</u>	<u>(158)</u>
<b>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<u><u>(1,094)</u></u>	<u><u>2,593</u></u>



Registered number: 09925208

**NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY SOCIETY  
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019**

Nigel Ricks & Company Ltd

Chartered Accountants

42 Glebe Street  
Loughborough  
Leicestershire  
LE11 1JR



**Narrow Gauge Railway Society  
Balance Sheet (continued)  
As at 31 December 2019**

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For the year ending 31 December 2019 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

**Directors' responsibilities:**

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.
- These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the micro-entity provisions and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime.

On behalf of the board

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Date

# Appendix B

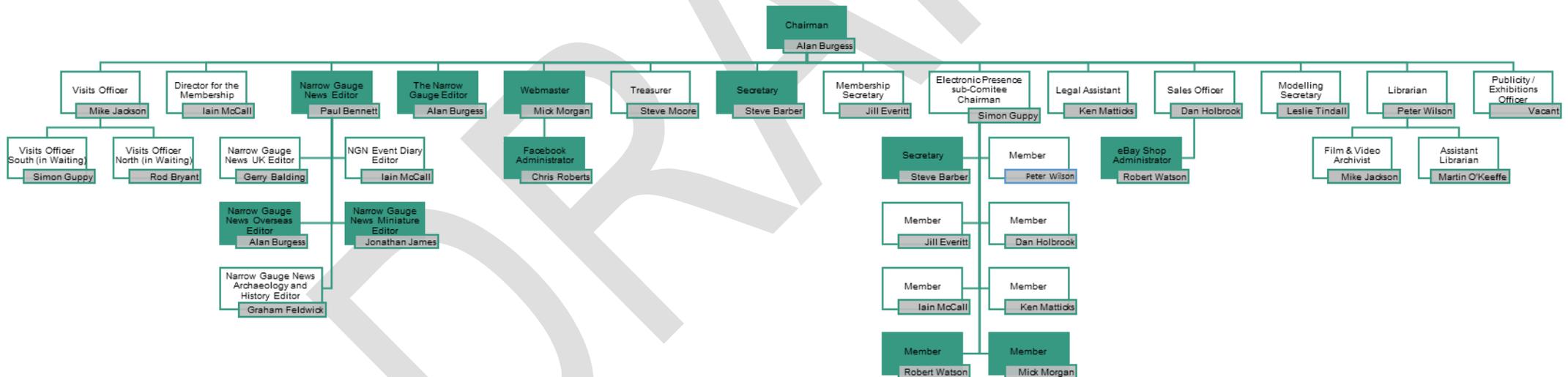
## Directors, Committee Members & Vacancies 17/06/2020

(Subject to approval of the AGM)



# Narrow Gauge Railway Society

## Directors and Company Officers



Solid Shading indicates NGRS Company Director

# NGRS OFFICIALS CONTACT LIST – 11/04/2019



Chairman	Alan Burgess	Director	6 The Crescent, Orton Longueville, Peterborough. PE2 7DT	<a href="mailto:aamarketing@btconnect.com">aamarketing@btconnect.com</a>
Secretary	Steve Barber	Director	"Hillbury Cottage", 246 Hillbury Road, Warlingham, Surrey. CR6 9TP	<a href="mailto:secretary@ngrs.org">secretary@ngrs.org</a>
Treasurer	Steve Moore		10 Badger Close, Guildford, Surrey GU2 9PJ	<a href="mailto:treasurer@ngrs.org">treasurer@ngrs.org</a>
Membership Secretary	Jill Everitt		4 Barnside Way, Moulton, Cheshire, CW9 8PT	<a href="mailto:membership@ngrs.org">membership@ngrs.org</a>
Librarian	Peter Wilson		Homestead, Ramsgate Street, Edgefield, Melton Constable, Norfolk, NR24 2AY	<a href="mailto:library@ngrs.org">library@ngrs.org</a>
Assistant Librarian	Martin O'Keeffe		10 Meadowcroft, Whitchurch, Shropshire SY13 1BD	<a href="mailto:hecla777@hotmail.com">hecla777@hotmail.com</a>
Film & Video Archivist	Mike Jackson		6 Coastguard Cottages, Upper Road, Dover. CT16 1HS	<a href="mailto:mikejackson6@btinternet.com">mikejackson6@btinternet.com</a>
TNG Editor	Alan Burgess	Director	6 The Crescent, Orton Longueville, Peterborough. PE2 7DT	<a href="mailto:aamarketing@btconnect.com">aamarketing@btconnect.com</a>
NGN Editor	Paul Bennett	Director	90 Stortford Hall Park, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5AN	<a href="mailto:publications@ngrs.org">publications@ngrs.org</a>
NGN UK Editor	Gerry Balding		75 Vane Close, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich, Norfolk NR7 0US	<a href="mailto:gerry.balding@btinternet.com">gerry.balding@btinternet.com</a>
NGN Miniature Editor	Jonathan James	Director	31, Beacon Road, Chatham, Kent. ME5 7BW	<a href="mailto:min.rail.editor@ngrs.org">min.rail.editor@ngrs.org</a>
NGN Archaeology and History Editor	Graham Feldwick		22A Ropers Lane, Wareham, Dorset BH20 4QT	<a href="mailto:feldwick@globalnet.co.uk">feldwick@globalnet.co.uk</a>
NGN Overseas Editor	Alan Burgess	Director	6 The Crescent, Orton Longueville, Peterborough. PE2 7DT	<a href="mailto:aamarketing@btconnect.com">aamarketing@btconnect.com</a>
NGN Event Diary Editor	Iain M'Call		3 Broadleaze, Upper Seagry, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 5EY	<a href="mailto:iain@mainlineandmaritime.co.uk">iain@mainlineandmaritime.co.uk</a>
Sales Officer	Dan Holbrook		8 Woodside, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear SR2 7ET	<a href="mailto:sales@ngrs.org">sales@ngrs.org</a>
eBay Shop Administrator	Robert Watson	Director	24 Hillcrest Drive, Loughborough, Leicester. LE11 2GX	<a href="mailto:robertngrs@robertwatson.org">robertngrs@robertwatson.org</a>
Webmaster	Mick Morgan	Director	29 Groby Road, Ratby, Leicester. LE6 0LJ	<a href="mailto:mick@ngrs.org">mick@ngrs.org</a>
Facebook Administrator	Chris Roberts	Director	296 Torrisholme Road, Lancaster, LA1 2TU	<a href="mailto:chrisroberts7@gmail.com">chrisroberts7@gmail.com</a>
Visits Officer	Mike Jackson		6 Coastguard Cottages, Upper Road, Dover. CT16 1HS	<a href="mailto:mikejackson6@btinternet.com">mikejackson6@btinternet.com</a>
Visits Officer South (in waiting)	Simon Guppy		16 Mascot Road, Windmill Hill, Bristol BS3 4PP	<a href="mailto:simon@jomat-management-services.co.uk">simon@jomat-management-services.co.uk</a>
Visits Officer North (in waiting)	Rod Bryant		The Acres, FAUGH, Cumbria CA8 9EG	<a href="mailto:rod_bryant@live.co.uk">rod_bryant@live.co.uk</a>
Legal Assistant	Ken Matticks		3413 Fountain Way, Granbury Texas USA 76049	<a href="mailto:matticks@airmail.net">matticks@airmail.net</a>
Modelling Secretary	Leslie Tindall		47 Cliff Court, Currie Road, Sandown, Isle of Wight, PO36 8NU	<a href="mailto:leslie.w.tindall@gmail.com">leslie.w.tindall@gmail.com</a>
Publicity / Exhibitions Officer	Vacant			
Director for the Membership	Iain M'Call	Director	3 Broadleaze, Upper Seagry, Chippenham, Wiltshire SN15 5EY	<a href="mailto:iain@mainlineandmaritime.co.uk">iain@mainlineandmaritime.co.uk</a>

# Society Officer Vacancies

The NGRS has a number of vacancies for people willing to help with the running and development of the Society. The duties are not greatly time-consuming, and enthusiasm is more important than experience – help will always be available as you get to grips with the detail. Attending two committee meetings a year, one on the day of the AGM in May and the other in October is expected.

If you can help, we would be delighted – please get in touch with the Secretary, Steve Barber (246 Hillbury Road, Warlingham, Surrey, CR6 9TP) or send an email to: [secretary@ngrs.org](mailto:secretary@ngrs.org). If you have any queries or require further information, please contact the Secretary

## Publicity / Exhibitions Officer

We would like to recruit a Publicity Officer to progress the Society's image and presence. Ideally you would be involved in running and manning our stand at the Statfold open days, and this might be extended to other appropriate venues. Beyond that, we have no fixed ideas as to how the task might be approached, although the use of social media and PR would be beneficial. Some liaison with the general railway press will also be required, as will an ability to write persuasively.

The Society would be happy to have many members acting as Publicity Assistants, undertaking this role on a local level or with an individual Railway

## General

The Directors are always pleased to be offered assistance with administering the Society. It should be noted that several of the Directors and Society Officers are fulfilling more than one role and it would be prudent to reduce their commitments.

Assistance in organising visits and AGMs etc. is also gratefully accepted and is usually required on a geographic basis.

If you believe you are able to help in any of the forgoing areas or you are prepared to give general assistance including assisting in cataloguing our library (books, images, moving images/ other) please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary or other Director or Society Officer for further information.