

Single News – the KSM Volunteers News-brief – February 2023

Volunteer forum

The volunteer forum of 7th February, attended by all nine KGET Trustees and around 30 volunteers, was a successful and informative event. Chair John Anderson opened proceedings by confirming that the Trust intended to obtain accreditation for the museum. Run by the Arts Council, this scheme ensures that museums operate to nationally agreed standards in a way that is sustainable, focused and trusted, and inspires the confidence of the public and funding and governing bodies. This would bring great benefits to the museum, not least making it much more likely that we would be successful in obtaining grants to fund large improvements such as use of the old boiler house. Once accepted for the scheme museums are given three years to obtain the accreditation and the Trust will work hard to achieve this.

Jerry Scholefield then spoke about the desire to move the mechanical workshop to a new location thus creating more space for visitor use. A number of thoughts and ideas were put forward and Jerry will progress these and also hold further discussions with the volunteers.

Stephen Fielding then talked about the possibility of returning No 7 to an operational condition. There were mixed views about this with some volunteers preferring to see No 7 retained as a static exhibit providing close-up viewing for visitors through the guided tours. Various options were explored and for now the restoration work will continue to its current high standards and in such a way as to not exclude the possibility of a return to steam with a minimal amount of extra effort at some point in the future.

The final item was a question and answer session at which a number of volunteers asked the Trustees about some of the issues being progressed by the Trust.

These sessions are valuable opportunities for the Trustees to listen to the thoughts and concerns of the volunteers and to allow the volunteers to ask questions of the Trustees. The intention is to hold four of these each year with the next one likely to be in June.



Barring engine repair

Following concerns about the clattering noise coming from the bottom end bearings of the East side No 6 barring engine, repair work is now being carried out. Substantial disassembly was required so that the crankshaft and conrods could be removed and sent to Percival Engineering, the company that worked on them 25 years ago! New bronze bearing blocks have been received from the foundry and are currently being machined to size. The work, which is being carried out by Bob Webb, John Barber and Rod Ambler, is planned to be complete by mid-March to allow No 6 to be in operation for the March evening event and steaming weekend.

Introducing the Finance Committee

The final committee to mention following the merger of KGES with KGET is the Finance Committee. Chaired by Martin Wicks and with membership of John Anderson and John Barnes, it has the following responsibilities:

- ◆ Financial compliance
- ◆ Financial reporting
- ◆ Fundraising
- ◆ Forecasts and budgets
- ◆ Accounts management

New Trustee

I am pleased to announce that a further new Trustee, Abdullah Seba, has recently joined KGET. Abdullah is experienced in strategic governance within the cultural heritage and charitable sector. He is passionate about history, industrial heritage, historic buildings and engineering. He is Chief Executive of Walthamstow Pumphouse Museum and a trustee at Markfield Beam Engine and Museum.

For further information on any of these items or on other goings on at Kempton please speak with your team leader, or view the previous issues of Single News available on the website volunteer area.