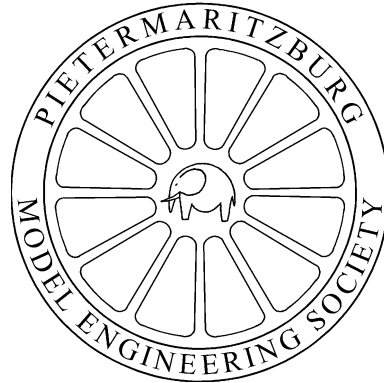


Maritzburg Matters

March



2018

PIETERMARITZBURG MODEL
ENGINEERING SOCIETY



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Postal Address- P. O. Box 100430
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Pelham
Pietermaritzburg
3201
(No postal delivery)

Club Meetings- **General Meeting:** Third Monday of each month at 19H45 at Halley Park. Visitors welcome
Running Day: First Sunday of each month
Committee meetings: First Monday of each month
Work Day: Saturday following the General Meeting

Web Page- www.pmes.co.za

Facebook-  Find us on Facebook (Pietermaritzburg Model Engineering Society)

GPS co-ordinates- 29.5833° S, 30.4167° E

No responsibility is taken by the Society for any subject matter in this Newsletter other than official Society notices.

It is once again my pleasure to report on the activities and progress of the Club over the past year! Although there haven't been any huge glamorous projects, much has been accomplished in the way of proper ongoing maintenance of all moveable and immovable infrastructure. All rolling stock and locomotives are performing well, the track has seen some concerted efforts at re-sleepering and proper alignment which was begun in the previous year, not much remains to be done. The grounds are looking superb with the trees starting to come into their own in the newer areas. The buildings and associated structures are all in good nick, some additional security measures have been taken following some minor thefts and vandalism. The finances are in excellent condition allowing us to get on with all projects, statements will be available as usual at the AGM.

As is usual, I would like to express my thanks to those who have added so much value to the PMES over the past year. I would like to start with Roy Clemitson who as treasurer has managed to keep us under tight control while growing the bank balances considerably. Also to him and his wife Cynthia thanks for doing the unenviable party bookings, as well as grass cutting and a host of other functions. Ray Teichmann for his totally committed support in all aspects of the Club, no less than the efforts on Fridays, workdays, birthdays and running days, someone who we can always rely on! Harry Chalmers for his steady support and willingness to assist wherever he is needed. Alan Hill for his enthusiasm and support; Andries Keyser also for his unending enthusiasm and sense of humour; Les Cloete, Lucas Steyn and Hugh Wylie for their support on the committee and for their involvement; Theo de Jong for keeping the coffee shop open and for willingly helping out where necessary; Dave Tanner and Andre Jonck for getting involved and being prepared to help; Johan Pretorius, Chris Grobbelaar and Roy Chilcott for being prepared to drive all the way from their homes to be able to take part and help to make our running days always so successful; Meredith Thrash who continues to help out with transport of ballast, steel, and many other bits; and also to those whose names have not been mentioned but who have also contributed to the successful running of the Club over the year. I must pick on another member, Charles Polkey, who has been so involved in the Club for so many years as

Secretary and then as President, and who has always had the well-being of the PMES at heart, thank you!

All of our wives have also to be thanked for their perseverance and patience, many have threatened to set up beds at the Club (for their husbands), thank you to you all!

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our new members, we all hope that you have a long and fruitful membership!

I wish all of you the best for 2018 and hope to see some new projects come creeping out of the woodwork, don't be afraid or shy to show your work, it is all well worth while!!

Back to the steam age for converted Land Rover

Patrick Sawyer



Frank Rothwell driving his coal and steam powered Land Rover down a country lane in Lancashire

With its array of pulleys and levers and great clouds of belching steam this contraption may at

first appear to be one of the fantastical machines conjured up by the great cartoonist W. Heath Robinson. But it is in fact a perfectly roadworthy Land Rover, whose petrol engine was taken out and replaced by its owner with a steam-driven engine.

So efficient was its conversion from petrol back to the steam age that Frank Rothwell now uses the car for his daily commute.

It has taken an estimated 400 hours and £24,000 for Mr Rothwell to strip out the 50-year-old Land Rover's petrol engine, repair the mildew encrusted

bodywork and install the steam engine. But then, as Mr Rothwell says of his project, it keeps him out of the pub.

Mr Rothwell gutted the 50-year-old red Land Rover and replaced the motor's original petrol engine with a steam engine - complete with its very own boiler

The custom-built motor works like a traditional steam train, with a coal fired boiler heating the water up to steam pressure in order to run the small engine. Driving for an hour takes around 100 lbs of coal.



Mr Rothwell, 67, a steam engine enthusiast who once appeared on the TV survival show Bear Grylls' The Island, said: "We all need a hobby and I like doing things that are difficult. "I'd already built a 1910 steam wagon and got a real kick out of that so just thought what else can I do? I wanted it to be something unique and recognisable and something which no-one had ever done before."

At full steam the car, which is fully taxed and insured, is capable of speeds of up to 15 mph - which may give Mr Rothwell a thrill, not to mention a sense of personal satisfaction, but is no doubt rather irritating for his fellow road users stuck behind him on the Lancashire lanes of his journey to work. Still, it provides no end of fun

for his three grandchildren. "They absolutely love it, they find it so exciting to have a ride on it and chug along," said the businessman, who runs a series of car park lots and storage units. "I think it's really good for children of this era to do things like lighting fires and using coal because they have little access to using things like that these days."



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The custom-built motor works like a steam train with the boiler being fired by coal which then heats the water up to steam pressure which runs the small engine.

Mr Rothwell, from Oldham, Greater Manchester, bought the Land Rover from a manufacturing company. "The original owners of the Land Rover called the car engine Mildred because of all the mildew - that's the type of state the car used to be in," he said. "I decided not to tell them what I was doing, as think if you have any ideas, then the best idea is not to tell anyone. In the back of my mind I knew it could be done because of my skills, it's just second nature to me to get things done. "It was a case of having the money and obviously the time to do it."

Now he hopes to show off the vehicle at car shows and rallies around the North West, including Carfest North, being staged at Bolesworth Castle in Cheshire, in July, by Chris Evans, the broadcaster.

In a happy coincidence, Mr Rothwell's Land Rover is 50 years old, the same number of years he has been with his wife Judith. "She thinks I'm crazy and hasn't even had a ride on it yet," he admitted. "But at least it keeps me out of the pub."

Club Notices

- The next **General Meeting** will be the **AGM** on Monday 19th March at 19h45, please see the notice and forms that follow this!!
- **Please note that subs are now due**, they remain at R100.00. Any EFT payments must be accompanied with your name as the reference, without a reference it becomes very difficult to see who has paid what!!

The banking details are:

- Account number: 1027801757
 - Branch code: 134025
 - This is a Cheque account
 - Nedbank
 - Reference: your name+subs
- Colin Healey will be having an open morning on 10th March at his home in Kloof, the address is 25 Epping Drive, Forest Hills.

Notice of the Annual General Meeting of the Pietermaritzburg Model Engineering Society

to be held in the
Clubhouse at 78 Rudling Road, Bisley, Pietermaritzburg,
at 19H45 on Monday 19th March 2018.

Agenda

- Welcome
- Apologies
- Presentation of the minutes of the AGM of 2017
- Matters arising from the minutes
- Chairman's report
- Treasurer's report
- Election of office bearers
- General

Please ensure, that should you not be able to attend, that you contact the Secretary with regard to proxy voting if you so wish. *(on the form provided)*

If anyone would like to stand for the committee or to nominate someone else, please do so. *(either at the meeting or on the form provided)*

Refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Please make sure that your membership is paid up, non-members will not be able to vote.

This is the most important meeting of the year at which we decide the direction and management of the Club. It is the responsibility of all of us to ensure that we make whatever input to this process that we deem necessary to ensure that the Club stays healthy, and that it prospers.

Pietermaritzburg Model Engineering Society

Proxy voting form (To be returned to the Secretary)

I,,
do hereby instruct

.....,
to vote on my behalf as s/he so wishes at the PMES AGM.

Signed: Date:

Pietermaritzburg Model Engineering Society

Nomination form (To be returned to the Secretary)

I,,
do hereby nominate

.....,
to stand for election to the PMES Committee for 2018.

Signed: Date: