

# STRATHAVEN MODEL SOCIETY Ltd

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## News Letter August 2017

Dear Member,

### Members Information

Work at the park and the workshop continues with a reduced numbers of members being available during July mainly due to members being on holiday along with some illness. Hopefully we will have more members available during August which will include the Balloon Festival Weekend. In the local newspaper the Echo two pictures of the railway were published and will be added to the web site in the near future. These pictures were taken due to Strathaven Park winning a Green Flag for the second year running and is in line for a national award again this year. The pictures were of Park and council staff after the award ceremony which had taken place in the bowling green area. See last page of letter for pictures.

A reminder that the cash float in the bag for the park has been changed , there will be only one £50.00 float of 5 x £5 and 25 x £1.00 coins in future. Please remove float from the bag at the end of the running day before counting the day's takings and placing them in the cloth bags provided. Return the float in a plastic bag to the leather pouch ready for the next running day.

### Passenger Numbers

Mixed weather during July made for interesting days and numbers. During July we had numbers as low as 4 and as high as 300 passengers on a given day during the month.

At the end of July we have now taken **9,274** paying passengers, which is up on last year's numbers by **1534**. An excellent result year to date, well done to all who have assisted with the running of the railway either at the park or in the workshop keeping our locomotives, carriages and track serviced and in good order to achieve this result.

### Balloon Festival

During August last year we carried **2844** passengers during the month making it one of the most important months of the year for passenger numbers. The Balloon Festival weekend achieved over **2000** paying passengers, with the Saturday having the major numbers of the weekend. Last year we were in the park from early morning through to seven o'clock in the evening. This is due to the Balloon flights scheduled for morning and in the early evening of each day. At present we only have two volunteers for each day we require six to make this a safe and enjoyable day for all (Staff and Customers) please let us know if you are available.

### Strathaven Castle

Work progresses with our locomotive just not at the speed we had hoped for. She will be taken to a local track this week for running trials and then returned to the workshop and stripped back done to her key components for painting. The loco will then be re-assembled and tested and then delivered to us. Date of delivery depends on the running tests this week but we should be looking at delivery mid to late August. Builder will be in contact with Brian nearer the time to confirm delivery and commissioning at the park. Training then of members on operating and maintaining the loco will commence.

## Work Going Forward

**Black 5 (Highlander)** In the workshop the Black 5 pistons have been made and fit tested. The motion work relating to the cylinders has now being finished and assembly will take place over the next few weeks. Thereafter the timing will be checked before more of the motion work and wheels are finally fitted. Fiona will have her steam test on Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> and if all goes well, will be ready for members to use at the park over what is left of the summer. Holmeside had to have parts made to allow her to be hydraulically tested hopefully this will allow for a steam test during late August early September.

We have several sections of track to complete with approximately 1000 sleepers still to be replaced in the outer track. This will leave only the turntable track and the track from the steaming bays to be completed. For the rest of the season, if it is dry weather, we will continue working on the track to try and complete the outer track before the open day in October. No work carried out in July mainly due to shortage of members throughout the month. **This means we need as many members who are fit and able to be available to assist us complete this major work on Mondays.**

## Events

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

Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> of August **Balloon Festival**

Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> of August **Balloon Festival**

Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> of August **Balloon Festival**

Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September (**September weekend holiday**)

Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> of September (**September weekend holiday**)

Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of September (**September weekend holiday**)

Sunday the 1<sup>st</sup> of October last running day (Any running after this date in the Park would be donations only)

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

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

**South Lanarkshire** School holidays are late this year with the October week's holiday commencing on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October which is after our open weekend, depending on weather and staff we may run a diesel service then.

**Thank you to those who have already entered their names into the diary when they are available to help operate the railway during the forthcoming weeks.**

Kind Regards

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