

West Wiltshire Model Railway Circle Report to Steeple Ashton Parish Council 2023

We are now in our eighth year in the premises in Acreshort Lane, and it works well for us. The well kept surroundings and the car parking are much appreciated.

Sadly we have to report the death earlier this month of our Chairman, Ron Pybus, who has served the club for many years and was one of those who oversaw our move to Steeple Ashton and the work that was done to render the ex-cowshed serviceable for our needs and the occasional use of others (not least the Guides).

The number of our meetings increased during `lockdown` so as to meet in groups of not more than six, and we have decided that we will continue to meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings (as well as Wednesday evenings) – we get more done !

There has been a spate of donations to the club this year – some items kept, some sold to members and others sold to the trade – so much so that we have been forced to adopt a policy on the matter !

We participated in Trowbridge Town Council's `Celebrating Trowbridge` last year, but were disappointed with the attendance (due, we think, to very poor advertising on the Council's part). We also opened our doors to visitors over the Jubilee weekend, and we did get a number of visitors, but due to the Guides changing the venue of their event not as many as we might have done.

The test track that `lives` in the kitchen area has been adapted so that we can still put it into the main room when the club is not meeting, There is now also a wooden cover so that alternatively it can be used in the kitchen area as a table.

Happily we can report that, despite the recent imposition of bank charges and the universal increases in utility bills, our finances are still in a healthy state. We have also recently amicably negotiated a new lease with the Parish Council. An additional power circuit has been installed, as it was found during the winter that a combination of heaters and a kettle was too much for one circuit. The Parish Council replaced two of the emergency lighting units at the same time.

Due to the very poor mobile coverage we are wondering whether a landline should be installed for use in emergencies.

William Lang

Chairman