



Annual General Meeting 25 October 2022

Chairman's Report

This reporting period did not start well with loss of our Chairman John Pape. He remains still very much in our minds and we will always value the contribution he made to MERMS. There is a permanent presence alongside the GWR, in the form of an oak bench overseeing all that happens on the miniature railway and also in the Sawmill over the door.

I feel privileged to have taken over from John as we continue to pursue the legacy that he left us.

After the constraints of the COVID era, 2022 has been a pleasing year for both the GWR and Sawmill. The GWR has given great enjoyment to many young and not so young members of the public. It has also had a dedicated following from many of our members often referred to as "Steamies". We have also welcomed a few new members and are particularly encouraged by the interest shown by some of these new young acolytes.

We are still not in a position to man the Sawmill on regular basis to open it to the public. However, the coin operation of several of our layouts offers something to offer our public observers. During the year PECO provided us with the OO9 layout and track for our O gauge layout. This is progressing well.

We still would like to see our membership growing but like so many similar organisations, we are having difficulty in achieving this.

You will see from our other reports that we have an enthusiastic and strongly motivated team in MERMS.

The 2022 season has been a satisfying period and we look forward to 2023.