

OLD RUN NEWS

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Newsletter of the 1758 Middleton Railway Trust, Leeds

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No. 54, July 1970

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Retirement Message from Dr R.F. Youell

It is rarely that I am taken completely off balance by surprise. This most certainly happened on May 2nd., when I had planned to hand over my office and then quietly to fade away. Nothing could have been more unexpected, and nothing could have been more appropriate, than an original style Claud Hamilton 1900 picture, which faces me from my wall as I write this note. It will take pride of place in a house full of Great Eastern Relics.

My only regret is that in ten and a half years I have not done more. Being pioneers in Preservation, we have made more mistakes than most, but none of us is perfect. I have blasphemed at Committees, battered with sledgehammers and played Hades right left and centre, in trying to make haste slowly.

It is my regret that for nine of my ten and a half years in the Chair I have been on the sick list as often as not, and my friend Dr Lawrence will agree with me that laying track singlehanded is not the best therapy for a long-suffering stomach.

I predict with confidence that you will receive as much hard work and leadership from my successor Joe Lee as you have from me, but with less fuss and bother.

Only having the Riot Act read to me by the Medical Profession as to what will happen if I don't ease up has induced me to put common sense before showmanship, and give up a job for the Trust that I shall remember always.

Like Richard Deeley I shall give up office and go back to research work. I have at least never asked any member to do a job I could not do myself. The only task I can do well is to plan and lay permanent way. I should therefore be glad if the Trust would remember me by nearly a mile of track which I have left behind, and nothing else. My sincere thanks to all members for such a kind farewell.

Happy Birthday to Us

We do hope that you have been careful in opening the envelope containing this newsletter, since it is a souvenir of the tenth Anniversary of amateur operation at Middleton. Ten years ago, people turned up their nose at the idea of a group of amateurs taking over a full-sized railway line (in shocking condition at that) and operating it in a safe and sensible manner. Their eyebrows were raised even higher when we announced that we intended to work goods traffic on a year-round daily basis. It is our proud boast that, still today, we alone among all the preservation societies which now exist are the only ones to run a service every day of the year if required. Every one of us who has contributed to our unique record during these ten years has his own set of anecdotes relating to the vast range of incidents, amusing or not so amusing, so there is no need for us to dwell on them here.

We congratulate all members on the achievements of our first ten years, and we hope that our anniversary will be the occasion of redoubled efforts to make the next decade even more successful than the first.

### Rules: Observance thereof.

Following a regrettable and inexcusable incident recently, the Middleton wagon has been declared to be damaged to such an extent that it will never be fit for traffic again, and must now be treated purely as a museum exhibit. This occurred because of careless driving by unauthorised members without supervision.

The Rules & Disciplinary Subcommittee is currently investigating this occurrence, but meanwhile stress that any member found driving a locomotive without either holding a current driving pass, or being supervised by a member holding such a pass, will be liable to severe disciplinary action.

The Third (revised) Edition of the Rules and Regulations, which replaces all previous issues (now out of print), is being printed and will be issued to all members as soon as possible. Meanwhile members working at the line are asked to consult Committee members and Officers if they are in any doubt as to whether the job which they are doing is affected by the new provisions, which have been introduced primarily in connection with the operation of regular trains for visitors.

### Middleton goes Pop

In response to much demand, particularly from loco. crew, Middleton is selling bottles of pop at the line on weekend afternoons. Crisps are also available. This will add to the revenue which the Trust obtains as an indirect result of running the weekend visitors' service, and members who help at the line will now be able to obtain refreshment during the afternoon. This catering service will be maintained on as many occasions as possible, but the shortage of willing hands, particularly on Saturdays, has prompted Tim White to ask for help with transporting the refreshments to and from the line.

The Commemorative Cover to mark the Tenth Anniversary of running our first train has been selling well. If there are any left on June 20th, these will be posted to Tim with peelable address labels so that they can be sold as first day covers. Members are advised to place an early order for these exceptionally fine souvenirs, as they appear almost certain to become collectors' items. They can be obtained at a price of 3/6d each from Tim.

A new publication added to stock is the British Locomotive Preservation & Light Railway Stocklist. This excellent publication contains a sizeable reference to Middleton. Copies are available at 7/6d each.

All the above publications are available at the line at weekends or from Tim White at 66 Weetwood Lane, LS16 5NH.

### Membership Matters

Total membership on 13th June was 273 ! New enrolments so far this year have totalled 62. Unfortunately 34 members have failed to renew in the last six-monthly period. We welcome the following to membership:

- Mrs M.L.Kempston (659FC)
- I.W. Coulson (660), Dudley, Northumberland
- Cross Green School (661C)
- Middleton Methodist Guild (662C)
- G. Streets (663), Hessle
- D. Coyne (664), Leeds 9
- Mrs A. Harrington (665), Nottingham

### The Middleton Railway Guide

A new publication appeared for sale on 20th June. It is the "Guide", and has been written by John Bushell especially for our visitors who want to know a little bit more about the line, but who do not want to purchase a more specific History or Stockbook. The Guide contains a description of a journey along the line from Hunslet Moor to Middleton Park Gates, details of two walks of interest in the vicinity of the line, a locomotive list, general information, timetable, and an excellent map drawn by John Sugden. With nine information-packed pages and the map, the Guide is value for money at 1/-, and is selling well.

### Fund-raising

Please note that we are still selling stamps for cash. Any used stamps can be sold - with the earnings going to the Trust - so don't throw away those old envelopes without first tearing off the stamps - and send them to Roger Bareham at 1 Hillcrest, Harrogate Road, Bramhope, Leeds 16.

We learn that one enterprising member wishes to collect old newspapers which if collected in quantity can be exchanged for cash. We hope that Leeds members will co-operate in the scheme by saving up their newspapers and giving them to their nearest committee member.

### Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting will be held on 10th October at 19.00 hours to discuss future development of the railway. Further details will be included with the September Newsletter.

### Visitors Service

Members over eighteen years of age who wish to become Guards are advised that Guard training will take place during August and September. Those interested should contact Gordon Crapper, Traffic Manager at 5 Templegate View, Leeds 15. Guard passes will be issued to all qualified persons in the near future.

Volunteers are also needed for selling brake van passes at weekends: willing members please contact Tim White at 66 Weetwood Lane, Leeds 16.

Free travel on the visitors train service, subject of course to priority for visitors, is available on production of a membership card. Anyone not able to produce a card in future will, without exception, have to pay for his ride.

### Philatelics Anonymous

While sales of tenth anniversary philatelic covers have topped £130 there have been few purchases by members. Could the philatelists amongst us need a prod, or are they waiting until the price goes down? In fact, the price has increased! If there are any members who wish to purchase one (or several) of these fine covers which are now selling to the public at 4/- (post free) they are advised to contact the Sales Manager at 66 Weetwood Lane, Leeds, LS16 5NH who has been persuaded (with several bribes) to let members purchase these at 2/6d during August only (or while stocks last, whichever the sooner).



## Locomotive Matters

Henry de Lacy, its broken bearing replaced, is back in service to relieve the Sentinel, which has borne the load of the visitors service for some time.

Jim Lodge welcomes help with repair, cleaning and painting of the locos. and rolling stock. To make sure that well-meaning effort is not misdirected, please consult himself or one of the following specialists before plunging in:

Wagons and brakevan:	Malcolm Phillips, Bill Holliday
Sentinel:	Andrew McKenna
Bagnall:	John Foster
Diesels:	Peter Nettleton

## Membership news

The Membership Secretary reports that in the first six months of 1970 there were 65 new enrolments, but 27 non-renewals. The total membership as at 30th June, 1970 was 283; an increase on last year's number by 38. Members enrolled during July were:

674	R. O. Morton,	Belfast
675	P. Hession,	Leeds 14
6730	W. Clayton,	Leeds 6
672	Dr. t. Lynch,	Prescot, Lancs.

A firm welcome to these, but on a sadder note, members whose subscriptions were due on 30/6/70 are reminded that all privileges cease after this newsletter. Subscription renewals should be sent to John Bushell, 12 Trelawn Crescent, Leeds 6 as soon as possible.

## JOBS for the boys

The Committee is trying to improve our organisation to make best use of the time and effort of members who turn up willing to work on some useful project. Meanwhile, there is one job which should last some little while which anybody can do, at any time, alone or in a group, without training or supervision.

WEED THE TRACK !!! The results at Whittakers' Junction have been dramatic in approving the appearance of the railway, and by tackling a length at a time you can get the real "before and after" effect to make it all seem worthwhile. (However, we would hesitate to recommend that members use this as an excuse to avoid gardening!)

At this time, the section to concentrate on is the top part of the colliery line from Parkside Bridge to Middleton Park Gates.

One warning: sodium chlorate will be sprayed from the tank-wagon in a run to be made shortly. This will hopefully kill the weeds; it will not remove them, which is still a job to be done. But it is a poison, so don't eat anything growing near the track.

P.S. from sales: Tim White says he has a limited number of railway-type hats for members with "standard-sized heads". These are 4/- each (7/6 with Middleton badge, supplied to order)