

OLD RUN NEWS

Newsletter of the Middleton Railway Trust

Number 53 June 70

Colliery Progress

A vandal-proof steel door has been obtained to replace the former wooden door leading to the upper floor. Once this has been installed, we can start preparing the accomodation for resident caretakers. Much, however, remains to be done, including the restoring of water and electric supplies, repair of the bathroom and toilet facilities, and replacement of every pane of glass.

To guard against further vandalism, we have organised a rota of evening duties; the purpose is to patrol the buildings between 6 p.m. and dusk, and at the same time to perform useful light tasks about the buildings. So far, the patrols have ejected a number of vandals and quite a lot of tidying-up has been done. Many more members are needed to help with these patrols; we aim to have at least two members each night of the week, and those of us who have joined in have found it a satisfying way of spending a summer evening. Bob Atkinson (22 Lingwell Crescent, Leeds 10) is in charge of the rota; please give him every support.

Motive Power Department

While the Sentinel continues in traffic, several steam locos. are being worked on simultaneously. Matthew Murray and Windle are both being brought to a serviceable condition, and recent visitors to the yard will have admired the new coat of paint on Henry de Lacy's smokebox. Steam Power Trust members have also been active on the Y7.

Members who are not already busy on loco. work, but who would like to help, are invited to join Bill Holliday on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. to complete paintwork on the Alton loco. in the first place.

Civil Engineering

Chris Metcalfe^{advise} that the bottom loop has been completed and is ready for traffic. The next main project is to remove the buffer stops and half the length of the headshunt, to be relaid north of Burton Road. This will form the northern terminus of the line after Burton Road is closed for the motorway.

At the southern end of the line, sleepers have been placed near to Middleton Park Gates in readiness for the construction of a halt.

Chris is still very short of helpers in his permanent way squad, and those wishing to learn more of the delicate art of p. way are invited to join him any Saturday morning at 10 a.m. at the container in Clayton's yard.

We are grateful for the help of a squad from Belle Isle school, who recently scoured the line from Moor Road down to BR for scrap; we hear they filled half a wagon with assorted debris which we can sell for scrap.

A note from the Chairman

Joe Lee reports that the number of members currently active on the line is higher than at any other period that he can remember, and congratulates members on putting in so much hard work. As mentioned above, more is still needed. If you would like to help, but are not sure where you could fit in,
cont.

please contact any of the officers shown below.

Committee and Officers 1970/71

Chairman	J.K. Lee, 27 Kellett Crescent, Leeds 12	Tel. 630229
Secretary	J.D. Edwards, 11 Drummond Court, Leeds 16	Tel. 59940
Treasurer	J.D. Carr, 2 Hollin Drive, Leeds 16	Tel. 57438
Deputy Chairman	J. Bushell, 12 Trelawn Crescent, Leeds 6	Tel. 54282
Membership Secretary	B.W. Ashurst, 18 Inglewood Drive, Otley	Tel. 4486
Publicity Officer	P.J. McAskie, 254 Cardigan Road, Leeds 6	
Traffic Manager	Dr G.D. Crapper, 5 Templegate View, Leeds 15	Tel. 645884
Civil Engineer	C. Metcalfe, 5 Kingston Terrace, Leeds 2	
Chief Mechanical Engineer	J.A. Lodge, 8 Hayleigh Mount, Leeds 13	
Sales Manager	T.S. White, 66 Weetwood Lane, Leeds 16	Tel. 55948

Marketplace

Programmes for Steam 70 are now on sale, price 4/- to members. Details of this event, to be held at the Y.M.C.A., Albion Place, Leeds 1 on Saturday 20th June at 2 p.m., are shown on the final page of this newsletter. As the capacity of the Y.M.C.A. is strictly limited, members are advised to book their seats now.

Also on June 20th, the special commemorative cover and postmark recording the tenth anniversary of reopening, will be issued. The commemorative covers will be on sale both on the brakevan and at Steam 70; covers sold on the brakevan will be able to bear the Middleton "Salamanca" stamp, and be posted on the train, for an extra charge of 6d. The price of the basic cover, including postage, will be 3/-.

There are various sales items now available, and Tim White intends to include a sales list and order form with future issues of "Old Run" magazine. Several members are doing their best to flog Middleton pens etc. to the outside world, and perhaps others could follow their lead. It has been arranged that members placing orders for £1 or more will get a discount.

All sales items, including Steam 70 admission programmes and the philatelic cover, are available from Tim at 66 Weetwood Lane, Leeds LS16 5NH.

Important

If any member working on the line is approached by any adult male making odd or improper suggestions, he should inform a senior member, and if the matter is serious should call the police at once.

Traffic

Activity continues at a reasonably high level. To cope with freight during the University long vacation, we plan to bring 1697 ("John Alcock") back into service for evening trips during the week. Traffic Manager Gordon Crapper would very much like to hear from any member wishing to be trained as crew.

cont.

Newsletter

Dear Reader,

Ever had the itch to find out what goes on at Middleton? As we write this at 11.30 on Sunday evening, it occurs to us that there must be among Middleton members at least one budding journalist who didn't quite make Fleet Street. Are you that yet-to-be discovered William Hickey, Cassandra, Hugh Cudlipp, or even E.W. Swanton?

You can achieve your wildest dreams by becoming a member of the Old Run Newsletter production team. For a free, no-risk, fun-packed interview contact the Personnel Manager of Middleton International Publications, Inc., otherwise known as John Edwards.

The Editors

Donations

We wish to thank the 25 members who contributed to the appeal for the presentation to Dr Youell. So far, the money received has produced a surplus of several pounds over the cost of our gift to "Fred". It is still not too late to make a contribution to this appeal, and further contributions will effectively be swelling the Colliery Appeal fund, as Fred has said that the best appreciation of his work will come with completion of the colliery project. Donations should be sent to the Secretary.

We recently pointed out to the compilers of the Guinness Book of Records that both 1758 and 1812 were "firsts" that should definitely appear in their section on railways. This produced a ready acknowledgement of our claims and a promise to put the record straight; an enquiry as to whether, as obvious experts, we could confirm or deny some alleged high speeds on the seven-foot gauge in the last century; and most recently a handsome donation to the Colliery appeal in return for services rendered in supplying information! We were particularly delighted with the telegraphic address of Guinness Superlatives Ltd., which modestly reads: "Mostest, London".

Thought for the Month

"Once again I felt that there is no more creative or healthy activity for the young" (and the old, surely? Eds.) "than the preservation, reawakening and running of a railway worked by steam locomotives."

-From a letter to the "Times".

Next Newsletter

This will be distributed on June 20th, in a special envelope, and this will be franked with the 10th Anniversary handstamp. News for this issue should be sent to the Secretary to reach him by June 16th.

DON'T FORGET "STEAM 70"! See over for details.

STEAM 70

Chairman: J.K. Lee

Programme:

1. W.B. Stocks, author of "Pennine Journey":
 - "The Fascination of Railways".
2. Conversazione: "Memories of Steam":
 - W. Clayton, L. & Y.R. Hull, from 1905
 - G. Hilditch, G.C.R. Gorton
 - L. & W. Coles, experts on road steam
 - with chairman: J. Bushell, M.R.T.
3. Interval of 20 minutes.
4. Dr R.F. Youell, founder of the Middleton Railway Trust:
 - "Ten Years at Middleton".
5. Railway film, by Mr & Mrs J. Colnoch, featuring scenes on:
 - Whitby & Pickering
 - Middleton
 - Keighley & Worth Valley
 - Majorcan
 - etc.
6. General Bazaar - with sales stands of the Middleton and other railway preservation societies. All Middleton publications available.

Also: your chance to invest in a Middleton Tenth Anniversary postal cover; an attractive souvenir, which should appreciate in value.