

OLD RUN NEWSLETTER: SEPTEMBER ISSUE

NEWSLETTER

We regret that this newsletter is late in arriving, and in the best "railway tradition" apologise for the delay! However, in view of the importance of recent events, it was decided to hold the September edition back so that members would receive full information as soon as it became available.

The publications team hoped to have the Summer Old Run Quarterly out to members with this newsletter, but production difficulties have occurred, preventing this.

The October newsletter will be sent out in the middle of that month, giving a full report on the Special General Meeting to be held on the 10th.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Charles Oldroyd has succeeded Messrs. Edwards and Carr as Editor of the Old Run Newsletter. Inclusions for following months should be sent to him at 19, St. Michael's Terrace, Leeds 6 to arrive NOT LATER than 25th. of the preceeding month.

A reminder that Mr. John R. Cowling is the Trust's official First Aid Officer, and that he should be informed of any accidents on or near the Railway affecting use of the First Aid Kit kept in the Brake Van. His address is 54, Carr Manor View, Leeds 17, but in his own words he is "usually mucking around in the yard somewhere".

Mr. Ian Smith has assumed responsibility as Assistant Sales Manager, being mainly concerned with sales at the line. Although this is not a recognised Committee post, it is an important and responsible job. We wish Ian every success in this, the first of a series of new positions being created in readiness for next season.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Weekend-Skilled help required for painting, mechanical engineering, joinery, welding, and brazing.

Weekend-Unskilled help required for weeding, keying, fishplating, ballast moving, and many more useful jobs.

Young man wanted for responsible duties with promotion possibilities. Must live at the north end of the Railway, near the line, or within easy reach of it. Must have phone, and be willing to give two hours (or more) on a weekend. Starting next season. Salary: nil. Apply in strictest confidence to Tim White, Sales Manager, 66 Weetwood Lane, Leeds L6.

NEW ADDRESS

Patrick McAskie, Publicity Officer, has removed to 32, Kirkstall Avenue, Leeds 5.

NEW MEMBERS

We give a hearty welcome to the following new members who have joined the Trust during the last month.

677 G.C. Attfield, Slough.

6780 F.A. Godding, Newbury.

679J W.R. Cooper, Leeds 16.

688 W.L. Cooper, Leeds 16.

680 R.W.D. Dennis, Rendal.

681FC T.W.J. Apperly, Leeds 13.

682FC S.K. Apperly, Leeds 13.

686FC Margaret Apperly, Leeds 13

687FC Susan Apperly, Leeds 13.

683 E. Collin, Leeds 6.

684 P.R. Stott, Teesside.

685J S.P. Dufton, Leeds 10.

PUBLICITY

During August the Middleton Railway was featured in a small display in the main entrance hall of Leeds Central Library. The exhibition lasted a fortnight and was entitled "History of Railways in Leeds", 1758 to 1970. It was noted that several weekend visitors to the line first learnt of the Railway through the exhibition.

SEPTEMBER COMMITTEE MEETING

Items decided upon at this meeting concerned:

- 1) Appointment of a First Aid Officer (referred to elsewhere).
- 2) Joy Riders. The following rules have been passed regarding movement of locomotives.
  - (a) Members should not operate locomotives without the prior instruction of the following officers, even if they possess driving passes:  
Goods or Passenger working - Traffic Manager, C.D. Crapper, or his Deputy.
  - (b) Yard movements - Chief Mechanical Engineer, J.A. Lodge, or P. Nettleton.
  - (c) Permanent Way Trains - Civil Engineer, C.C. Metcalfe, or his deputy.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING: formal notice

A Special General Meeting of the Middleton Railway Trust will be held on Saturday 10th. October 1970 at 7p.m. at the Y.M.C.A., Albion Place, Leeds 1. The business to be dealt with is:

- 1) To discuss the future development of the Railway.
- 2) To consider the proposal of the Committee:  
" That the Old Run quarterly be abandoned, and that henceforward an annual yearbook be produced at the end of April.

By order of the Committee,  
John D. Edwards, Secretary.  
6th. September 1970.

FAVOURITE FIVE

The S.F.M. will be followed by a 'Favourite Five' - A slide evening open to all. Bring your favourite five slides of steam, railway, or transport interest and show them on our equipment. Light refreshments are available.

DON'T FORGET - YOUR FAVOURITE FIVE!

FREE RIDES

Some members continue to expect free conveyance on our visitors train service when they have forgotten their membership cards. The Guard can't know everyone - so please bring your card. Continued abuse could result in us offering only the more limited facilities granted by most other Societies.

3 MONTHS FREE!

From October the First new subscribers will receive membership to 31-12-71 - 3 months free bonus AND at the old rates ( 21/- full and 10/- for juniors/students/O.A.P.).

NOW IS THE TIME TO PERSUADE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN!

RAILWAY FORUM

In view of the excellent nature of the much-improved "Railway Forum" (Summer issue) demand has almost outstripped supply. Members are reminded that Forums can be obtained by subscription, post free, through the Trust. The remaining 1970 (Autumn) issue will be 2/6d, but the three issues in 1971 will be 3/- each.

LEEDS: BIRTHPLACE OF THE RAILWAY

This is the title of an exhibition to be held at Armley Branch Library from 26th October to 14th November. The exhibition is jointly organised by Leeds Public Libraries and the Middleton Railway Trust, and will probably be in four sections:

- 1) Leeds: Birthplace of the Railway.
- 2) Locomotives built in Leeds.
- 3) Leeds railways.
- 4) Railway hobbies.

The exhibition will consist of books, photos, and railway relics of local interest telling the story of the railways in Leeds. Further details will be published later.

LINESIDE IMPROVEMENT

Much progress has been made with cutting back the foliage alongside the line. For this we must thank the enthusiastic Apperly family who have been coming down to the line frequently over the past month, ably assisted by other members. One came all the way from Hull to put in a few hours work in disappointing weather. There is now some clearance to be carried out between the sleepers, and the Civil Engineer wants to commence special track maintenance and weeding parties. So all local members please note: bring your picks, forks, and shovels along, mainly on Saturdays, and lend a hand or two with this important job.

SALES

Middleton was represented during the Bank Holiday at the Harrogate Northern Model Railway Exhibition and the Harewood Traction Engine Rally, both of which were successful affairs. The Trust received a total of £30 from sales, besides distributing much Middleton publicity propaganda. Thanks to all who helped with the stands, and to all those who volunteered, but were unable to assist because "vacancies" had been filled.

Tim White also reports that an article in the 30th July issue of "Stamp Weekly" has brought in many requests from philatelists for more information on the Railway, and several orders. The total sales value of philatelic items sold since June now tops £140, and many thanks are due to everyone who helped with this project.

PRESS RELEASE

A copy of a press release is being sent to all members to assist them in their replies to the questions of non-members.

LETTER TO DONORS

A letter is being distributed to all donors to the Appeal Fund who are NON-MEMBERS. However, it is not practical to send these letters to those who took part in the Sponsored Walks, because of the large numbers involved. Could all members therefore, who know non-members who participated in the walks, pass on the news to them. This will save the Trust much time and capital which can be devoted elsewhere.

FESTIVAL OF RAILWAY FILMS

This will be held on Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th October at the Bradford Playhouse, Chapel Street, Bradford 1. The films shown will be "Steam in the Thirties", and "Steam in the Sixties", respectively. The second programme will also include a film of the "Flying Scotsman" on tour in America, and will be introduced by Mr. Terry Robinson, the tour manager. Admission to these shows is 6/- each.

MODELLING

Tim White would like to hear of any member, interested in railway modelling and with transport, who would consider storing and transporting a NEW exhibition layout. Plans and/or ideas for a new layout can be sent to him at 66, Weetwood Lane or to Charles Oldroyd, 19 St. Michael's Terrace Leeds 6, and people interested in building a new layout may contact either person.

Ian Smith requests that members interested in railway modelling should contact him to learn of a project he has in hand.

PAPER SALE

The money collected from the first sale of paper donated to the Trust following the Appeal in last month's newsletter has proved the scheme to be well worth while. Could members send their unwanted paper (newspapers, comics, magazines, etc.) to 5, North Grange Mount, Leeds 6, or give it to any committee member, who will see that it goes into the appeal.

September 1970

## NEW DIRECTIONS FOR THE MIDDLETON RAILWAY

During 1968 the Middleton Railway launched its Appeal Fund, with the object of raising £4000 to purchase a mile of track and gain access to the Broom Pit Colliery site. This would, it was hoped, provide us with a route suitable for the operation of visitors' trains, covered accommodation for several locomotives, and a base for a museum. An intensive relaying programme in June of that year enabled us to begin our visitors' train service between Hunslet Moor and Middleton Park Gates, the latter point being adjacent to Middleton Park and approx. 200 yards short of the Colliery yard.

However, work on the Colliery buildings became increasingly hampered by vandalism; they needed considerable repair and conversion work when we started, and have since been wrecked to such an extent that it appeared futile to continue. Short of heavy expenditure on restoring and furnishing part of the buildings and employing a full-time watchman, there was no way of protecting the site, despite supervision by local members and willing assistance from Leeds City Police.

Considerable redevelopment is taking place in the area, and it is clear that further discussions and negotiations with the appropriate bodies will be necessary to secure a suitable and less vulnerable site, and complete our project for covered accommodation and a museum. This still remains as our chief objective; meanwhile, we have completed our first stage by purchasing the track up to Middleton Park Gates, with the prospect of continuing and improving the service of visitors' trains using that section of line. Demolition of the Colliery buildings, which have been made unsafe by regular attacks from thieves and vandals, is being carried out by the Coal Board, which has throughout been most helpful.

The Committee of the Middleton Railway Trust has resolved:

- a. To negotiate for an alternative depot site.
- b. To continue fund-raising efforts.
- c. To call a Special General Meeting on 10th October to discuss the future plans for the Railway.

P.J. McAskie, Publicity Officer

32 Kirkstall Avenue,  
LEEDS 5