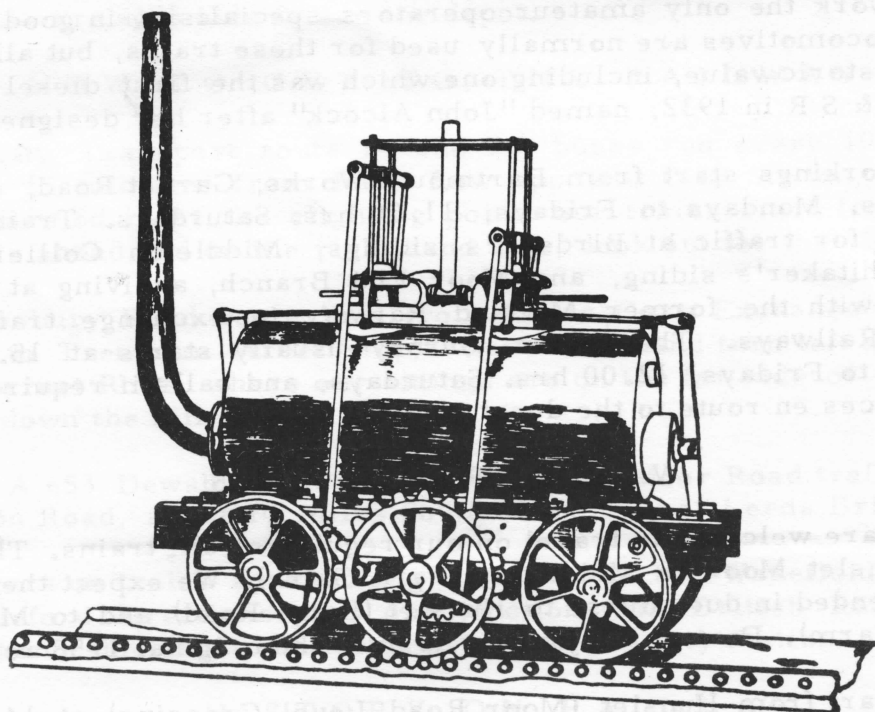


STILL IN STEAM



The Oldest Firm in the Business
1758 Middleton Railway, Leeds

Timetable & Information

GOODS TRAFFIC

Owing to the dependence on traffic demands, the running times may be altered, and trains cancelled or duplicated at short notice. Passengers cannot be carried on locomotives or goods trains, but are welcome to see at work the only amateur operators specialising in goods traffic. Diesel locomotives are normally used for these trains, but all of them are of historic value, including one which was the first diesel used by the L M & S R in 1932, named "John Alcock" after her designer.

Goods workings start from Dartmouth Works, Garnet Road, at about 14.00 hrs. Mondays to Fridays, 11.00 hrs. Saturdays. Trains call if required for traffic at Birdsell's sidings, Middleton Colliery Main Line, Whitaker's siding, and Moor End Branch, arriving at Hunslet junction with the former Midland Railway to exchange traffic with British Railways. The return journey usually starts at 15.00 hrs. Mondays to Fridays, 12.00 hrs. Saturdays, and calls if required at the same places en route to the depot.

VISITORS TRAINS

Visitors are welcome to travel on our regular steam trains. These run from Hunslet Moor to Middleton (Park Gates). We expect the service to be extended in due course to Hunslet (Balm Road) and to Middleton (Manor Farm). Part of the journey is over the original 1758 route.

Trains start from Hunslet (Moor Road Level Crossing) at 14.00 hrs. Saturdays and Sundays, and run at between 20 and 30 minute intervals to Middleton. Publications and souvenirs are on sale on the train. The service runs until all visitors have been carried, but not after dusk. On most of the Bank Holidays, and certain other occasions, a similar service is operated. Steam locomotives are normally used on Saturday and Sunday services, but cannot be guaranteed. Every effort will be made to maintain the above timetable, but any inconvenience to visitors is regretted if circumstances beyond our control cause any suspension of trains.

On other days, requests for visiting parties should be sent to the Middleton Railway Visits Organisers, Union Building, The University, Leeds 2, giving as much advance notice as possible.

At Middleton Park, visitors will see work in progress which will turn the Middleton Broom buildings into our new depot and museum.

OPEN DAYS

On the first Saturday in each Summer month, our Dartmouth Works Depot is normally on show to the public. On certain occasions Steam Galas are arranged with traction engines and other attractions. Visiting parties are also able to see the depot.

HOW TO GET TO THE RAILWAY

Leeds City Transport route 74 and 76 'buses run every 10 minutes (Sundays 15 minutes) from Park Row opposite City Station, to Beza Street (fare 6d.). At the alighting point, our trains start from about 100 yards ahead and on the right hand side, look out for the signs.

Any Dewsbury Road route 'bus from Leeds Corn Exchange will take visitors to Trentham Street stop, where alight and turn left and downhill to Garnet Road, where our sidings are on the far side of the road, halfway down the hill.

By road A 653 Dewsbury Road, turning off at Moor Road traffic lights or Burton Road, about 1½ miles South of the City at Leeds Bridge.

Passengers on trains approaching Leeds from the Wakefield Kirkgate or Castleford directions pass our junction with British Railways on the left hand side about two miles before Leeds City Station.

HISTORY ON RAILS

Part of our route is along the original route from Leeds Bridge to Middleton served by trains for well over 200 years, and by steam trains for well over 150 years.

We were the first railway authorised by Act of Parliament. We were the first to change over completely to steam locomotives. These were built by Matthew Murray, running on rack rails designed by John Blenkinsop, and were in full charge from 1812, well before the Stephenson era. We were also the first 4'8½" gauge railway successfully to be reopened by a voluntary society, even preceding the well-known "Bluebell" Railway, our first train running in June 1960. These facts are often forgotten because we were never part of a public main-line company, and never ran passenger trains. The line was in such poor condition when reopened that carrying of passengers was out of the question until extensive repairs had been carried out.

The scenery is industrial, but surrounded by Parkland. With the end of coal mining, the uglier industrial relics are being converted into landscaped open spaces by Leeds City Corporation. Middleton Railway is protected against demolition or interference by the National Trust in view of its outstandingly historic value.

Matthew Murray, builder of our first locomotives, is buried at St. Matthews Church (1 mile by 46 'bus from our line). Visitors should see the cast iron obelisk restored by our members.

Railway History as displayed on our line includes relics of the 19th. Century back to stone sleepers off the 1812 track. Most of the locomotives are of the smaller types used on goods trains.

JOINING THE TRUST

The Railway has been in the care of a Trust since its reopening. The Trust is voluntary, charitable and non - profitmaking, and is not a commercial body. All work is done in consultation with the National Trust. The Middleton Railway Trust was founded in December 1959. Membership is open to anyone interested. Subscription is a guinea a year. Old Age Pensioners, children and full time students pay only 10/- a year and there are reduced rates for families and groups. Members can take an active part in both the practical and administrative sides of our work. Ladies are welcome to join as members.

All members receive a monthly newsletter of current events, and a quarterly illustrated Journal, THE OLD RUN, containing the more permanent and historical features. Members enjoy fare concessions on the visitors trains, and every effort is made to keep members who live far away from Leeds fully up to date. Lectures, film shows and other events are held in the University of Leeds regularly.

You may join the Trust and obtain publications at the weekend visitors trains, on Open Days, or by writing to the Membership Secretary at 12 Trelawn Crescent, Leeds 6, or the Sales Manager at 11 Drummond Court, Leeds 16. If you join the Middleton Railway Trust, you will be doing a most worthy task by keeping the World's Oldest Railway going, and expanding as part of our National Heritage.

Published by the Middleton Railway Trust Leeds 6.