

## OLD RUN NEWS

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Newsletter of the Middleton Railway Trust

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Number 51 April 1970

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### M.P. visits Middleton

Mr. Merlyn Rees, M.P. for South Leeds and Minister of State at the Home Office with special responsibility for immigrant affairs, visited the line on Saturday, March 21st. Mr Rees was shown round on behalf of the Trust by vice-chairman Joe Lee, and travelled up to Broom Pit with Tim Leech on the footplate of Carroll. At the Colliery, Mr. McAllister, divisional engineer of the National Coal Board, and Dr. Youell, chairman of M.R.T., were waiting and Mr. McAllister formally handed over the keys to the buildings to Mr. Rees who accepted them on behalf of the Trust. Following the simple ceremony, which was somewhat marred by steady rain and an absence of spectators, the party toured the buildings. Mr. Rees was most impressed with the achievements of the Trust so far, especially in view of the small membership and spartan conditions, and has promised to lend us any support he can.

By a coincidence, on March 7th, Mr. Gavin MacPherson, who will be standing as Conservative candidate against Mr. Rees at the forthcoming General Election, visited the line with a party from Leeds Junior Chamber of Commerce. Mr. MacPherson, too, was very much in favour of our efforts to establish a living Railway Museum in South Leeds, so that we are fortunate in having the support of the local representatives of both the major political parties.

### Change of Secretary

David Jones is leaving Leeds to take up a new job at Taunton, and has consequently resigned as Secretary. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking David for all the valuable work he has put in on behalf of the Trust at a time of rapid changes, and to wish him a very pleasant life inland where track was once habitually laid 2' 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ " broad to gauge! We hope he will take up missionary duties on behalf of the more enlightened North!

David's successor as Secretary is former Sales Manager, John Edwards, his appointment having been confirmed by the Committee meeting on March 17th. John's address is 11 Drummond Court, Leeds, LS16 5QE; telephone (home) Leeds 59940; (office) Leeds 648131.

Tim White, 66 Weetwood Lane, Leeds, LS16 5NH, (telephone Leeds 55948) has been appointed Sales Manager in place of John Edwards.

### Membership Matters

We are very pleased to welcome the following new members:

615J John Howard, Leeds 7 (we apologise for the error in the February 0 R.N.)	629T Dr. D.A. Furniss, Leeds 14
620C R. Lampe, Leeds 7	631 J.D. Ralph, Doncaster
621 R.H. Ives, Barwick in Elmet	632 Cpl. A.D. Moore, B.F.P.O. Munster
622 E.W. Jones, Barwick in Elmet	633C Sheffield Univ. Transport Soc.
623 P. Williamson, Leeds 11	634H Mr. Myers, Leeds 17
624 David Horner, Horsforth	635J N. Tomkins, Colchester
625J Derek Ruddock, Leeds 10	6360 J.H. Sewell, Ramsgate
626H Mr. G. Buckle, Leeds 10	637 M. Cullen, Leeds 11
627H Mrs. G. Buckle, Leeds 10	

638 J.H. Steele, Stoke-on-Trent.

We are particularly pleased to welcome Mr.&Mrs. Buckle to membership. Mr. Buckle retired as a regular Middleton Railway Driver in 1960, and has been most helpful in providing information for the new History, "Mr. Brandling's Railway" to be published this summer. We are indebted to Mr. Buckle and the many former Colliery employees for their help in providing new information for this publication.

Mr. Sewell will be stationmaster at Port Erin, Isle of Man Railway, from May 15th onwards.

The total enrolled membership at 20th March 1970 stood at 219, including 29 members who have joined since 1st January. We regret to say, however, that 55 members have so far omitted to renew their subscriptions this year. These members are reminded that subscription rates remain unchanged (Full membership £1/1/-; Junior/O.A.P. 10/-; Family Corporate-two members 30/-, then 5/- per additional member at the same address). Subscriptions and enquiries should be sent to John Bushell, 12 Trelawn Crescent, Leeds, LS6 3JW. THIS WILL BE THE LAST PUBLICATION SENT TO MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT RENEVED THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1970, AND THESE MEMBERS ARE REMINDED THAT CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL FACILITIES, INSURANCE COVER AND YARD PASSES ARE AVAILABLE ONLY TO THOSE HOLDING CURRENT MEMBERSHIP CARDS.

We record with regret the death of Alf Clarke of Johannesburg, South Africa, who joined the Trust after a visit to Leeds last year. He was a ready source of information about South African steam, and had been apprenticed to Hudswell Clarkes during the 1920s and 1930s during the time that they built their first diesel locomotives. When he passed away, he was preparing an article for the Old Run. Our sincere condolences go to his family.

#### Appeal Progress

At present the appeal stands at under £1500, with the official deadline for the handing over of the £4000 needed to save the Colliery line set at March 31. So far, we have not received the final demand, but the need for the remaining £2500 is doubly urgent. Any member who is able to offer a loan, no matter how small, is asked to contact John Edwards, 11 Drummond Court, Leeds, LS16 5QE as soon as possible. We have been receiving a steady flow of money for the appeal fund, but unfortunately the amounts needed remain high, and all members are asked to redouble their fund raising efforts over the coming months.

A reprint of the appeal leaflet is being prepared. This will be distributed "door-to-door" in a number of areas, and members willing to help with this distribution are asked to contact John Edwards at the above address.

#### Covenants

The number of members who have made out Deeds of Covenant in respect of their subscriptions is still disappointingly small. This method of fund raising is effective and costs nothing to organise. If you pay tax at the standard rate, all that is required is to sign a declaration that you intend to continue paying your subscription to M.R.T. for a period of seven years, (if, for any reason, you stop paying your subscription before seven years have elapsed the Trust will not hold you to this declaration), and to send the

Completed form to the Membership Secretary. The form is then stamped by the Inland Revenue authorities, and the Trust can reclaim tax on your subscription. This can increase the value of a guinea subscription to over 35/-. If you pay tax at standard rate and have not already made out a Deed of Covenant form, please obtain one from Mr. John Bushell, Membership Secretary, 12 Trelawn Crescent, Leeds, LS6 3JW. If 100 members do this now it's over £70 extra for the appeal!

### Publicity Matters

We have been receiving a fair amount of local publicity recently, although we have still not been able to get as much coverage for the brakevan service as we would like. Members near Leeds are reminded that some "travel by steam train" posters are still available; these may be obtained from John Carr, 2 Hollin Drive, Leeds, LS16 5NF. All members can help publicise this service by simply telling friends, relatives and acquaintances that they can still travel on a steam train within the Leeds City Boundary. Here again, useful funds can be brought in fairly simply.

Publicity Sub Committee is discussing the possibility of building up a new Middleton model railway layout, initially for Exhibition use, and later for display at the Colliery. Any member wishing to help with this, or with any helpful advice to offer, is asked to contact John Carr, Publicity Officer, at the address given above, if possible before April 13th.

### A Busy Line!

Freight (sorry 'goods') traffic has picked up well in the early months of this year to reach over 1000 tons by the end of March. These are the best traffic figures for several years. Passenger business has been fairly brisk also, culminating in the conveyance of nearly 1000 passengers paying nearly £50 on Easter Saturday, Sunday and Monday. On the latter occasions, locomotives parked by Moor Road crossing, and, on the Sunday and Monday, fairground organs playing, served to attract the crowds and keep them interested whilst they waited for the train.

### Annual General Meeting

As announced in the last Newsletter, this year's A.G.M. will be held at the University of Leeds on Saturday, May 2nd. Full details will be distributed to all members by Saturday April 25th. Any member wishing to have business raised on the agenda at the A.G.M. is asked to ensure that details are in the Secretary's hands by Monday April 13th. (address: 11 Drummond Court, Leeds, LS16 5QE.).

A major item of business at the A.G.M. will be the question of the Trust's incorporation as a limited liability company. David Jones, Noel Brampton, and John Edwards have been looking into the legal complications of this step with the Trust's Solicitor. Subject to the approval of the Committee at their meeting on April 16th, draft articles of incorporation should be available at the A.G.M.

### Newsletter Distribution

Members are asked to consider whether they might like to help the appeal by receiving their M.R.T. publications from a local members delivery service

rather than through the G.P.O. This could bring in £20 per year to the appeal fund if all Leeds area members were to participate. If you are willing to receive your communications in this way, or to act as a distributor for your own area please fill in the appropriate part of the form enclosed and return it.

#### Newsletter Press Dates

The Newsletter will be published on April 23rd next month to ensure that items for the A.G.M. are distributed in time. Normally, the Newsletter is published on the first working day of each month. Copy for inclusion in the Newsletter should be in the hands of the Secretary at least five days before publication date (i.e. 25th of most months).