

MIDDLETON RAILWAY  
NEWSLETTER

If you have any requests for help, notices, late additions or corrections to news, or items of too little consequence to take up expensive space in 'The Old Run', please send them to Miss S. Young, 90 Longroyd View, Leeds LS11 5ET, not more than 3 weeks after the current 'Old Run' deadline date (see previous issue for this).

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TO ALL M.R.A. (AND SPRIGHTLY M.R.T.) MEMBERS

Did you know that last week, in just FIVE days, we shifted as much freight as in THIRTY-ONE yes 31 days of January and more than February.

To do this, we need staff. Drivers are not too plentiful, but we can manage, but we do need people to shunt.

If you are (preferably) over 14 years of age, younger people will be considered, physically fit, i.e. you can walk and talk, then call at the Shunters' Recruiting Centre, Clayton's Yard, Garnet Road, Leeds 11.

Full training will be given to successful applicants, and on completion of training and passing the Shunters' Test, they will be presented with a full-size copy of a Shunters' Certificate. If you already hold a certificate, but have forgotten how to use it, Refresher Courses are available.

If the traffic is to keep moving and increasing, then we must give a service: to give service we must have shunters. Anyone interested please contact me at The Wheel-tappers & Shunters Working Men's Club, Garnet Road, Leeds 11, any weekday evening except Friday, or Saturday and Sunday daytime. If I am not available, ask for further details - most members around will be able to help.

Signed

I.M.A. Shunter

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## I.M.A. Shunter

BEHAVIOUR 2 younger members were responsible some time ago for the partial destruction of the coal-pile staging by a fire which got out of hand. Without the prompt action of Clayton's yardmen and the fire brigade, this could have proved extremely serious - as it was, many hours of precious working time had to be diverted to rebuilding the staging. It should be remembered that we are guests in Dartmouth Yard, and that the Yard is a place to work in sensibly and without causing damage to property and annoyance either to Clayton's or to fellow members who are working. The Railway is not a place for fooling around on, and it is dangerous to treat it as such. The same applies to the train and platform during visitors' service hours, and anyone fooling around or causing annoyance to the visitors will not be allowed on the train.

SLIDE SHOWS The last 2 M.R.A. slide shows, by Derek Plummer and David Hebden, both had an audience of 2 people. The other two hundred and forty-odd members missed seeing Derek's collection of superb slides of steam in Europe and David's collection of ancient and modern slides of our own Railway (including 'Windle' in one piece!).

Surely more than 2 people can manage to be at Leeds Polytechnic Room B10 (there is an enquiry desk attendant to tell you how to find B10) at 19.30 on Saturday 20th April, to hear Mr. Y7 385 Hampson talking about "Danish State Railways" (not "Banish State Railways" if you have Ian's M.R.A. newsletter!). The talks usually end between 21.00 and 21.30, but will end altogether if YOU do not give your support.

TUNSTALL ROAD HALT Thanks to the efforts of a small band of M.R.A. members, much of the reclaimed track materials have now been removed from the area of the Halt, giving it a much tidier appearance. (The same small band of M.R.A. members is also to be congratulated on their regular efforts at Permanent Way work every weekend.)

Thanks to the efforts of Geoff Appleyard and the Gumley Gang (the joinery team, for the uninitiated) a large wooden MIDDLETON RAILWAY sign has been made and fixed to the roof of the Shop, making the place much easier for our visitors to find.

Thanks are also due to Joe Lee's Air Training Corps cadets who have commenced the marathon task of tidying up the now abandoned Beatwaste tip - the worst blot on our landscape.

SHUNTERS Congratulations Graham, Charlie and Johnny, on receiving your Shunters' Certificates. Anyone else wishing to receive one of these handsome documents should refer to the first item of the newsletter!

STOCKBOOK A new Stockbook is now available - so hot off the press that the bill has not yet been received and we don't know the exact price (it will probably be about 12p). It is an improvement on the last one, with better photographs - different shots from those used before - and more details about each loco. Enquiries to Tom Apperley, 29 Poplar Rise, Leeds LS13 4SQ.

### VISITORS' SERVICE

The numbers of passengers carried each afternoon increased by almost 50% last year, and is expected to be even greater this year. If you want a clean job at the Railway, candidates for posts as ticket clippers and stewards on the train and on the platform are always welcome, and particularly so on Sundays, when our greatest numbers of people travel. The jobs are clean, easy, and require no technical expertise: just stopping people from sitting on the wagon-side, from turning on the brake when the guard is outside, from standing too near the platform edge when the train is coming, and just chatting them up to make them feel welcome - a customer who feels welcome usually comes back. Sales assistants are also always in demand: again, no technical expertise is required - just the ability to smile at the customers and do simple addition and subtraction of money.

Apply at the Shop or on the train for the job you are willing to do.

Members who live in or around Leeds area will find enclosed 2 copies of our small poster, and it would be very helpful if you could find a home for them in local shops, chippies, factories, pubs, doctors' or dentists' waiting rooms etc. Further supplies are available from Clive Hirst, 36 Walkers Lane, Leeds 12.

### 25p A WEEK SCHEME

This has now raised £175 for the Depot Appeal Fund. Many thanks to the 14 regular contributors, and to Pete Nettleton for organising the scheme.

### POINTS FROM 'THE OLD RUN'

GRICERS: Thank you, Mr. Apperley Snr. for your explanation of the true gricer. Members who went on the Crewe/Foxfield excursion were fortunate enough to observe a party of true gricers in their natural habitat - Crewe Engine Works, when our party was late arriving and had to go round with them. Their single-mindedness was astonishing to see as they hurried up and down the rows of dismembered diesels, avidly copying down the numbers chanted out by our guide - there was even a married couple each with their own notebook (togetherness did not extend that far!). The curious thing was that they rarely seemed interested in the metalwork surrounding the number, and gathered some numbers at the end of the row from the guide without actually seeing more than a fraction of the loco; not for them the Middleton members' covetous glee at the sight of ranks of solid brass horns! Outside, cameras occasionally emerged from Inter-City bags, but it was mainly the numbers that appeared to fascinate them. There's nowt so queer as fowk.

FUNDS ETC.: Thank you also, 45731. You put forward some very good ideas, and I eagerly await your arrival to help paint the brakevan. I leave the dinner venue and menu to you - it will certainly make a very pleasant change of activity for the members who run the Railway at the moment, many of whom spend most weekends and some evenings during the week working to keep things moving. "Why not WORK for it?" Some of us are WORKING OUR FINGERS TO THE BONE to earn more money for the Railway, and we'll be very pleased if you'll come along and give us a hand.

#### AN EVENING AT THE ENGINE

Why not mix business with pleasure down at the Line.

On Tuesday 21st May

Wednesday 5th June

Thursday 20th June

starting at 18.30hrs. - exhilarating participation in the maintenance of the Railway for about 2 hours, after which even more exhilarating participation at the local ale house (The Engine).

Everyone welcome, even if they only want a drink. Your friends are also welcome. Dartboard, fruit machine, juke-box and colour television facilities available.

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#### FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS

Saturday 20th April: afternoon - special visit of families of Kirkstall Forge workers, to celebrate the first day back in service of 'Henry de Lacy II' after his long period of illness. 'Henry', as you ~~should know~~ should know, was acquired from Kirkstall Forge. Why not combine a gricing trip with helping to cope with what we hope will be a crowd?

evening - "Danish State Railways" illustrated talk by Mr. F.W.

Hampson in Room B10, Leeds Polytechnic, Calverley Street, commencing 19.30.

Tuesday 21st May: "Work-in and Sup-in" (see above for details)

Saturday 1st June: trip to Carnforth and the Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway. The trip, costing £3 ~~for~~ adults £1.50p under-18's, will include B.R. fare, admission to Carnforth, and ride at Lakeside and Haverthwaite. For full details send a stamped addressed envelope to David Bushell, 11 Holmesley Lane, Woodlesford, LS26 8RL. The trip to Crewe and Foxfield was well-attended ~~and~~ and very enjoyable, despite the bleak weather, so let's see this trip is well-attended too.

Wednesday 5th June: "Work-in and Sup-in"

Thursday 20th June: "Work-in and Sup-in"