

MIDDLETON RAILWAY TRUST

M.R.A. REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING XXIV 1974

Although plagued by difficulties, the trips seem at last to be catching on with the membership. The Quanton trip, although only patronised by 17 members and fraught with difficulties in organisation was thoroughly enjoyed by all who were present. Most of the problems with the trips, and also with the slide shows, were caused by inexperience in organisation by our organiser. However, we live and learn, and things have already taken a turn for the better. A new organisation for dealing with trips has been set up within the Association committee: the secretary deals with the framework of the visit, whilst the newly appointed Visits Organiser finalises details and deals with all organisation from the Leeds end. There are 6 trips planned for 1974, the first being on Saturday 9th March to Crewe Works and the Foxfield Light Railway. It is hoped that Trust members will increase their support of these events.

The slide shows are poorly attended at present, and it cannot be due to lack of advertising now that there is a newsletter available on subscription (see below). There is now one slide show each month - on the last Friday of each month commencing at 19.30. They are held in the Leeds Polytechnic, which is easily reached from all areas of Leeds. Again, the M.R.A. organisers hope that Trust members will participate more fully in these events - it should be remembered that they are there for your benefit as well as M.R.A. members.

Due to an apparent lack of advertising, the first M.R.A. trips were not a success, so the M.R.A. Secretary is now producing a quarterly newsletter for 1974 as an experiment. As with everything else the M.R.A. has been doing up to now, this experiment will only succeed if it has YOUR support. The newsletters only cost 3p each (the cost of postage) so please give them your support.

I apologise if this Report of activities sounds like one big request for support, but as the aim of the M.R.A. is to develop a facilities section comparable with other societies, it must have the support that only you can give it.

On the actual railway operating side, little has been done up to now as regards M.R.A. working parties and other forms of organised work-ins: this is being attempted in 1974.

The M.R.A. Committee hope that 1974 will prove even better than 1973, and if we fail in our efforts, it will not be for lacking of trying on our part.

Ian B. Smith

Secretary, Middleton Railway Association

6th February, 1974.

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ARCHIVIST-HISTORIAN'S REPORT

Since appointment to the office soon after the 1973 A.G.M. I have endeavoured to build up and catalogue the photograph collection. An appeal for more material has met with a disappointingly small response. The need: photographs, slides, cuttings and documents, relics. You may wish to: donate or bequeath, record their existence, make a copy - or arrange for a copy to be made yourself. We rely on your co-operation.

Other activities have included:

Lectures to Societies in various parts of the West of England thanks to a growing number of members volunteering to do the work;

Short articles:

Supplying information to schoolchildren, students, publicists, etc.;

Checking references to Middleton where they are published, sometimes incorrectly.

The 1758 Middleton Railway has a particularly significant relationship to our 'little brother' the Stockton and Darlington Railway. We hope to play a prominent part in the celebrations in 1975.

John Bushell

February 1974