

VISITORS' SERVICE.

The regular visitors' service has commenced, and a service for visitors wishing to travel on the line will be offered until October of this year.

MIDDLETON AND THE MOTORWAY.

With effect from 1st. April the line will be severed at the section opposite Samuel Denison's works. The work will last about three months, but bad weather or unforeseen difficulties will naturally lengthen the period.

A curtailed visitors' service is being offered from Hunslet Moor to the Headshunt. This will help members and visitors to see exactly where the railway will fit in with the Motorway development. The Motorway will be seen by visitors as it approaches from the South-East, as will the tunnel and the pedestrian subway leading to Parkside football ground. The fare on this section of curtailed service will be 5p. for adults and 2½p. for children.

DARTMOUTH DAWDLER AND STEAM '71.

On Friday 5th. March John Bushell and a group of boys from Batley Boys High School visited the line to assist with the preparations for the Dartmouth Dawdler. To their surprise they discovered the Permanent Way Gang working in a snow storm on a turnout that wouldn't turn out. The Gangers finished the new junction at 11 p.m. and I must express my sincere thanks to them.

Motorway contractors were moving slag to the East of the main line and depositing it on the approximate route of the diversion line.

On the day (Saturday March 6th.), Sentinel and Henry de Lacey worked both trains, which consisted of 5 Highbar open wagons. Approximately 220 visitors travelled on the two trains, which ran on all the line except the Moor End branch.

2 Corporation 'buses hired for the purpose made a tour of the points of interest. Both 'buses were well filled. They visited all the important sites connected with the railway, including Ebor House. This was the home of the Fenton family, known to us for their connection with the firm of Fenton Murray and Wood. Our thanks to Mr. Barber, the present resident, for permitting 200 people to tramp through his garden to view the house.

The evening meeting went well, in spite of the delay in the arrival of Professor O'Flaherty, who gave an entertaining and thought-provoking talk. Terry Robinson delighted us all with his cine show of steam ancient and modern, British and foreign.

We are appreciative of the help of Ken Mellor of the Turntable bookshop who acted as Booking agent in our attempts to circumvent the effects of the postal strike. We are also most grateful to all those who assisted in the organisation and running of this venture which was much appreciated by all who took part.

LEAFLETS.

The first of the new season's publications intended for general distribution and exhibition in schools, shop windows etc. is now available. A few copies are enclosed. Extra from Diane Quigley, 127 Silk Mill Drive, Leeds 16.

A more detailed leaflet and car stickers will be available shortly.

POSTERS.

A competent individual is required to arrange the exchange of posters with other Societies and arrange a display board down at the line. The person chosen will have an artistic flair and an idea of display. Enquiries to John Bushell, 12 Trelawn Crescent, Leeds 6.

EASTER EXHIBITION.

The M R T will probably have a stand at the Northern Model Railway Exhibition at Harrogate over the Easter weekend. Details and offers of help to Derek Plummer, 44 Broadgate Lane, Horsforth.

POSTS. Ian Smith is no longer sales manager, so sales information should no longer be addressed to him. We thank him for his help in this capacity during the last year.

Guards, conductors and sales officers are requested for work on the passenger service down the line. Enquiries or offers of help to Robin Brogden, 31 Otley Old Road, Leeds 16.

SALES.

Demand for the new Middleton printed Terylene members' ties has exceeded the Sales Manager's wildest dreams. However, new supplies should be available shortly at 90p. each by post, from Tim White 66 Westwood Lane Leeds LS16 5NH. These ties arouse much interest from the "uneducated general public": you may attract new membership by wearing one!

Because of increasing postal charges, to ensure that members who have subscriptions through the Trust to the ARPS magazine "Railway Forum" receive their copies as soon as each issue is published, postage will now have to be charged to the cost of each issue (itself increased to 15p.). Thus subscriptions through the Trust will be 50p. for the three 1971 issues. We would like to point out, however, that this is still cheaper than by obtaining copies direct from the publishers.

The enamel badges mentioned in the last but one Newsletter arrived in December, and the response from everyone has been most enthusiastic. The badges are circular, with the "Salamanka" emblem detailed in gilt on a cherry enamelled background, bordered in black, with the words "1758 Middleton Railway Leeds" picked out in gilt. The price is 20p. on sale at the line from March or by post at 22¹/₂p. from Tim White at the above address, and to avoid a 55% purchase tax can only be sold to members. Enough of these attractive badges are in stock to provide most of our membership with one, so we hope you will respond by contacting members of the sales force or publicity sub-committee.

Copies of the recordings made of the speakers at "Steam '70" in May last year can be obtained from Tim White (subject to copyright). Any enquiries should be accompanied with an SAE. No charge (except for the tape if not supplied) will be made.

FREE TRAVEL.

Members can travel free on the line WHEN SPACE PERMITS on the visitors' service. Preference MUST be given to fare-paying passengers. N.B. Members M U S T produce their membership cards to obtain free travel.

LOCO PROGRESS.

A crack in Henry de Lacey's firebox which requires further investigation has been discovered. This will probably put Henry out of service for a period.

Work has been carried out on Windle and the Bagnall.

THEFTS.

Between the afternoon of Saturday 13th March and the morning of Sunday 14th., there was a theft of a crate of drinks from the brake van. Would anyone with information regarding this incident please contact any Committee member as soon as possible.

LEVEL CROSSINGS.

The attention of all members who are concerned with moving traffic is drawn to the ruling - ours and the Ministry of Transport's - that all level crossings - Beza Road, Acme's while in use, Moor Road, Burton Road, and King's MUST be protected by flag men. TWO men are desirable, and are A B S O L U T E L Y E S S E N T I A L IF A VISITORS' TRAIN IS BEING OPERATED.

RAILWAY DIRECTORY AND YEAR BOOK.

The M R T has been entered in the 1972 edition of the Railway Directory and Yearbook, due for release on September 3rd of this year. This will provide useful and accurate publicity for the M R T next year.

SOME MEMBER'S GOT A NECK - but nothing to put round it! One red and black striped scarf was found after the Steam '71 show at the Y M C A. Will owner of neck please contact lost property dept Tel Leeds 54441.

LECTURE IN DURHAM ON 1310. Mr. Alan Bowman has been invited to speak on 1310 by Durham Colleges Railway Society. Contact our North Eastern area members for details.

RENEALS OF MEMBERSHIP. Members whose subscription renewal was due in January but has not been received will have no further M R T publications after this until their subscription arrives. At this crucial stage we need every member, so please don't delay - send your £1.25 (£0.65 junior and OAP) to 18 Ingleswood Drive, Otley LS21 3LD.