

## OLD RUN NEWS

Newsletter of the 1758 Middleton Railway Trust, Leeds. No. 55, August 1970.

### Winter Service

A detailed analysis of the profits from running the visitors service has been presented to the Committee which has decided that it is regrettably necessary to halt the service during the winter. Brake van trips will be made until November, after which trains will be run for visiting parties and to demand. All members are invited to make special efforts to visit and help at the line between now and November: there are plenty of jobs to do!

### "Steam '70"

Under this title the society celebrated the tenth anniversary of running our first train. A programme of talks and films began with Bill Stocks speaking on "The Fascination of Railways" which, he pointed out, extends far beyond steam engines alone. He described his project to compile a Guide to the Railways of England, classifying lines according to their various merits. Middleton rated a full five stars for historic interest, but was virtually unclassified under scenery. Mr. Stocks was followed by Messrs. Coles, who spoke with tremendous gusto on their long and remarkable association with steam road transport. They were followed by Geoff Hilditch speaking on his association with the Great Central, and Bill Clayton speaking of his experiences of the old L. & Y. R. An entertaining film on railway preservation was presented by Mr. and Mrs. Colnoch which culminated in a ride on the Middleton Railway. This included an alarming shot up the line towards the sun, with light glinting unmercifully on every single kink, drop and wobble!

The meeting ended with an account by Dr. Youell of the ten years of Middleton preservation, as ever by entertaining references to the eccentricities of the Great Eastern Railway. Thanks to all participants is due. Publicity for the meeting included a window display in Headingley, for which we are indebted to Mr. Eckersly who offered his shop window for the special exhibition.

N. B. from our Publicity Officer, Patrick McAskie; if you know of a friendly person with a suitable window, we have a large stock of illustrations, models and leaflets to make up an attractive Middleton display, so please get in touch with me c/o 2 Hollin Drive, Leeds, LS16 5NE. Because most of our visitors are Leeds inhabitants, displays of this type are extremely useful for spreading our name.

### Motorway Progress

We understand that the motorway construction will not affect Middleton before October. Unfortunately, a publicity release to the Railway Magazine was misquoted, and we hope that members did not believe the line had closed - even temporarily!

### Memo

Members are reminded that membership cards must be taken to the line always.

### Note from the Chairman

I have been approached by the Manager of Messrs. Clayton & Son who is concerned generally regarding the doubtful behaviour of members of M.R.T. There have been occasions when members have not shown respect for persons or property when in the yard used by the Trust.

In future, permission MUST BE SOUGHT from a responsible member of Messrs. Clayton's before any use of their property is made.

If the behaviour problem does not improve, then use of the yard will be prohibited forthwith.

This leads to my second point, which is made with a view to improving the general efficiency of the Trust. I had occasion to visit the yard on the evening of Saturday, 27th June. There were at least a dozen members in attendance who had only achieved the lighting of a fire in the frame of a steam crane owned by Clayton's. In future members visiting the railway are requested to do so with the intention of doing some specific task, not using the site as a centre for childish acts.

Members who are not gainfully employed, are, as far as I am concerned, not valuable; and should not renew their membership. In future members not making objective contributions to the well being of the Trust will be asked to resign membership.

This is not a personal attitude towards any particular member. Indeed it is a proposal to increase our working membership so as to give a progressive image to the general public, and most of all, to the City who hold our future existence in their hands.

### Rules

We enclose the third edition, produced to be easy to pocket and easy to read. It is the duty of every member helping with operation and engineering on the railway to know the rules and see that they are obeyed.

Not only is it his duty, but it is directly in his own interest; our third party insurance carries the condition that the rules are obeyed. Therefore, in the event of an accident involving a breach of the rules, the insurers could repudiate liability. The injured party might well then sue the persons who had broken the rules, or allowed them to be broken.

This edition does not claim the last word in clarity. Any member who wants a rule explained or clarified, or who has a suggestion for changing the rules, should contact any of the present members of the Rules and Disciplinary Sub-Committee:

Joe Lee	Chairman
Jim Lodge	Chief Mech. Engineer
Chris Metcalfe	Civil Engineer
Gordon Crapper	Traffic Manager

### Laughter in the Ruins

Even the vandalism and thieving at the Colliery have their lighter touches. We learn from Ian Smith that the police have dropped their case against four thieves he caught in the act, for want of a corroborative witness. If it was a question of his word against theirs, could it be that the the police have underestimated the power of his eloquence?

We also hear that the thieves have not missed the brass knobs on our former Chairman's former bedstead.

### The Middleton Railway Guide

A new publication appeared for sale on 20th June. It is the "Guide", and has been written by John Bushell especially for our visitors who want to know a little bit more about the line, but who do not want to purchase a more specific History or Stockbook. The Guide contains a description of a journey along the line from Hunslet Moor to Middleton Park Gates, details of two walks of interest in the vicinity of the line, a locomotive list, general information, timetable, and an excellent map drawn by John Sugden. With nine information-packed pages and the map, the Guide is value for money at 1/-, and is selling well.

### Fund-raising

Please note that we are still selling stamps for cash. Any used stamps can be sold - with the earnings going to the Trust - so don't throw away those old envelopes without first tearing off the stamps - and send them to Roger Bareham at 1 Hillcrest, Harrogate Road, Bramhope, Leeds 16.

We learn that one enterprising member wishes to collect old newspapers which if collected in quantity can be exchanged for cash. We hope that Leeds members will co-operate in the scheme by saving up their newspapers and giving them to their nearest committee member.

### Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting will be held on 10th October at 19.00 hours to discuss future development of the railway. Further details will be included with the September Newsletter.

### Visitors Service

Members over eighteen years of age who wish to become Guards are advised that Guard training will take place during August and September. Those interested should contact Gordon Cropper, Traffic Manager at 5 Templegate View, Leeds 15. Guard passes will be issued to all qualified persons in the near future.

Volunteers are also needed for selling brake van passes at weekends: willing members please contact Tim White at 66 Weetwood Lane, Leeds 16.

Free travel on the visitors train service, subject of course to priority for visitors, is available on production of a membership card. Anyone not able to produce a card in future will, without exception, have to pay for his ride.

### Philatelics Anonymous

While sales of tenth anniversary philatelic covers have topped £130 there have been few purchases by members. Could the philatelists amongst us need a prod, or are they waiting until the price goes down? In fact, the price has increased! If there are any members who wish to purchase one (or several) of these fine covers which are now selling to the public at 4/- (post free) they are advised to contact the Sales Manager at 66 Weetwood Lane, Leeds, LS16 5NH who has been persuaded (with several bribes) to let members purchase these at 2/6d during August only (or while stocks last, whichever the sooner).

### Locomotive Matters

Henry de Lacy, its broken bearing replaced, is back in service to relieve the Sentinel, which has borne the load of the visitors service for some time.

Jim Lodge welcomes help with repair, cleaning and painting of the locos. and rolling stock. To make sure that well-meaning effort is not misdirected, please consult himself or one of the following specialists before plunging in:

Wagons and brakevan:	Malcolm Phillips, Bill Holliday
Sentinel:	Andrew McKenna
Bagnall:	John Foster
Diesels:	Peter Nettleton

### Membership news

The Membership Secretary reports that in the first six months of 1970 there were 65 new enrolments, but 27 non-renewals. The total membership as at 30th June, 1970 was 283; an increase on last year's number by 38. Members enrolled during July were:

674	R. O. Morton,	Belfast
675	P. Hession,	Leeds 14
6730	W. Clayton,	Leeds 6
672	Dr. t. Lynch,	Prescot, Lancs.

A firm welcome to these, but on a sadder note, members whose subscriptions were due on 30/6/70 are reminded that all privileges cease after this newsletter. Subscription renewals should be sent to John Bushell, 12 Trelawn Crescent, Leeds 6 as soon as possible.

### JOBS for the boys

The Committee is trying to improve our organisation to make best use of the time and effort of members who turn up willing to work on some useful project. Meanwhile, there is one job which should last some little while which anybody can do, at any time, alone or in a group, without training or supervision.

**WEED THE TRACK !!!** The results at Whittakers' Junction have been dramatic in approving the appearance of the railway, and by tackling a length at a time you can get the real "before and after" effect to make it all seem worthwhile. (However, we would hesitate to recommend that members use this as an excuse to avoid gardening!)

At this time, the section to concentrate on is the top part of the colliery line from Parkside Bridge to Middleton Park Gates.

One warning: sodium chlorate will be sprayed from the tank-wagon in a run to be made shortly. This will hopefully kill the weeds; it will not remove them, which is still a job to be done. But it is a poison, so don't eat anything growing near the track.

P.S. from sales: Tim White says he has a limited number of railway-type hats for members with "standard-sized heads". These are 4/- each (7/6 with Middleton badge, supplied to order)