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## OLD RUN NEWS

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### Newsletter of the Middleton Railway Trust

Number 3

May 1965

Quite a hectic month by any standards: two exhibitions, two derailments, a number of dismissals and a visitor who came for a week to give us a hand. But more of these later; first of all brief notes of progress on the line.

Permanent way work has advanced considerably in the past few weeks and the track relaying below the Moor Road Crossing now extends for almost three 60 ft. lengths, the track having been raised and virtually completely replaced by new sleepers and rails. Work is proceeding on the extension of this trackwork to the Evans' level crossing further down towards B.R: when completed, there will remain very little of the original very poor trackwork taken over by the Society in 1960.

On the locomotive side, John Alcock's internal workings have been returned to the site and re-mounted & re-assembled in the last fortnight. The bodywork has already been partly prepared for repainting and the decision is that J.A. should be finished in a Maltese blue livery. By the time this Newsletter appears the work should be well under way. Upon completion of the overhaul the Operating Supt reports that driving is to be restricted to only one or two drivers until such time that the loco has been thoroughly run in. In the meantime Sentinel 54 is continuing to work the twice-weekly traffic.

#### Deraillments

During the last two days of April, two rather bad derailments occurred in the Dartmouth yard of Messrs. Claytons. The first on the points at the entrance to the yard and the second at one of the points in the yard. Both resulted from very poor trackwork which was long overdue for replacing. In view of the strategic importance of the two points in question it was vital that repairs and patching-up should be carried out immediately. We were indeed fortunate at the time to have the services of Mr. J. Brownlie (of Glasgow) who had come to work on the railway for the week. With members of the regular contingent of workers the trackwork was patched up admirably well - so well, in fact, that the repaired points were in better condition than they had been for some time! Traffic ran as usual that weekend, thanks to the grand work by all concerned.

#### Busman's holiday

We were very pleased to have Mr. John Brownlie, an engineer from Glasgow, with us for the week ending 1st May. During the week he worked many hours on the railway doing some really fine work on the permanent way side and on repairs to the brake van. Many thanks, John.

### Middleton in Italy

Matthew Murray's "Salamanca" is featured on a 1 lire stamp issued in 1964 by the minute Republic of San Marino, situated in Northern Italy. The stamp is, appropriately, the first of a series depicting railway locomotives - it bears the inscription 'Murray - Blenkinsop 1812'.

The illustration used is of a model of the locomotive and is the same as that appearing on the first page of the new MRT prospectus. The actual model is now the property of Leeds City Museum and has been used several times on the Trust's stand at exhibitions.

A set of six of the lower values in the series is available from Woolworths (price 1/-) and other reputable stamp dealers.

### New Neighbour

In October Mr. Mitchell, the building contractor and timber merchant who owns the triangle of land between the Middleton Fly B.R. and Beza Road (the new road which runs alongside the line for some distance, between Moor Road and B.R) started construction work on his new buildings for bulk timber handling. Really strong foundations have gone in and he proposes to tidy up the whole boundary so that the frontage looks worthy of the world's oldest railway.

Discussions are going on as to the best place for a siding to serve the new depot. Mr. Mitchell has depots at Hull and Grimsby which would be able to send traffic through by rail.

Work has already started on building a stone wall 7ft from the railway along Mr. Mitchell's boundary. On the opposite side of the line where it joins B.R., Goodall Clayton's, who own the land adjoining the line on that side, have started work on clearing a large mound of rubbish away from the bottom loop line. Goodall Clayton's, who used the old Henry Berry works up to the serious fire there some time ago had encroached on Middleton Fly property by about 12 ft, leaving stone blocks and rubble dangerously close to the line and a concrete slab wall that was less than the 7 ft limit and leaning dangerously towards the line.

### Marquess trips

The 'Thames-Worth Express' advertised in the last newsletter has unfortunately been postponed until the autumn, because of technical difficulties in the Operating Depts. of B.R. There are now no further Marquess trips until the autumn - further details of the excursions will be given in later Newsletters.

The Consett trip, officially the 'North Eastern No. 2' railtour, on Saturday, 10th April, was a very successful event. A full write up is to appear in the Old Run Journal.

### Light Railway Guide

The 1965 edition of the popular Light Railway Guide and Timetable has just been published. In addition to listing the attractions and histories of most of the preservation societies, the Guide provides a most useful service in printing the timetables of all the railways it covers (except Middleton). Copies of the Guide, price 3s. (including postage) may be obtained from Trans-Rail Publications, 245, Colyers Lane, Slade Green, Kent. Please mention this Newsletter when ordering copies.

### Harrogate Exhibition

The Ravensglass and Eskdale R.P.S. held a model railway exhibition in the Sun Pavilion, Valley Gardens, Harrogate on Easter Saturday and Monday. Railway preservation societies and model railway societies had been invited to have stands: the MRT stand was assembled and a useful amount of literature was sold. The exhibition was a great success, some 7½ thousand people attending in weather conditions which were extremely inclement. Naturally the main attractions were the working layouts - we are looking forward to the day when we can have one too. Mervyn Leah has made a model of John Alcock and Dr. Lawrence is in the process of making a model of the Sentinel. Any help in this direction (i.e. construction of a model layout/stock) would be gratefully received. Contact John Carr, 38, Hardy Road, Lymm, Cheshire.

### Ilkley Exhibition

The historic Manor House Museum, Ilkley, is the attractive setting of an exhibition commemorating the centenary of the coming of the railway to Wharfedale. The exhibition has been organised by the museum and the M.R.T. jointly and is open until 30th May.

The three sections of the exhibition deal with Wharfedale, Yorkshire and general railway history. There are a few excellent models, including two of the famous Bingley collection. A model of 'John Alcock' (see above) is on view with other Middletonia! Much of the historic material was assembled by Dr. Youell, who spent several days at York Records Office digging out some information which had never been made public before.

At the opening on 5th May, the MRT was represented by Dr. Youell, Messrs Ashurst, Bushell and Carr. A modern art exhibition was opened at the same time and by pure coincidence included a delightful sculpture entitled "Fred '65".

Middleton members who can spare a few hours (Particularly at weekends) to answer the public's questions will be allowed in free. Hours are 10.30 - 12.30 and 2-5 p.m. Open on Sunday, closed Monday.

### Miscellanea

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, 18th May at 7.30 p.m. at 5, North Grange Mount, Leeds, 6

Dr. Lawrence and Dr. Youell have both been honoured by being elected as Fellows of the Permanent Way Institution.

Following certain irregularities on the line, and the fact that current membership subscriptions had not been paid, members R. Peel, G. Dyer and H. Bolton have had all Middleton passes withdrawn and are consequently no longer members of the Society.

The Society is endeavouring to obtain photographs of the railway taken prior to closure in 1958. Anyone who can help in this connection is asked to contact John Carr (address in 'Harrogate Exhibition' paragraph).

### The Newsletter

To ease the burden on already overworked committee members, Editorship of the newsletter changes from month to month. The first three editions have been edited by John Carr, Susan Youell and Mike Crew respectively. Contributions for each issue should, however, be sent either to the Secretary, Mrs. S.M. Youell (address elsewhere) or to the Editor of the Old Run Journal, Mr. B. J. Ashurst, 18, Inglewood Drive, Otley, Yorks.