

## OLD RUN NEWS

Newsletter of the Middleton Railway Trust  
Number 22, December, 1966

### Down at the line

Thanks to the absence of severe frost the gardening programme is progressing well. The latest section completed is from the Parkside incline turnout to Whitaker's turnout and all looks well for the clearing of the line by Spring when the cycle starts all over again! It is surprising the things that grow in the dust and dirt of Hunslet!

Both the Y7 and the B agnall are to have visual boiler inspections, now due - no difficulties are envisaged. The Y7 will not be steamed again until the first Saturday in March.

Phil Walton, Whickham Engineer, apologises to all for the slow speed of repair to the trolley but says that the wick of the Whickham will soon be lit!

A turnout in Dartmouth yard was completely re-chaired and re-timbered and brought to gauge on the weekend of 19th/20th November. This junction, technically under the maintenance of Claytons', had been in a dangerous condition for about eighteen months: and 'John Alcock' was very nearly derailed by loose rails four days before the repair. All members who helped in the repairs are to be congratulated for a sterling effort in unpleasant conditions.

The second (disused) weighbridge in Robinson & Birdsell's yard collapsed, and the heavy girders supporting the floating surface had rusted through completely. New supports and substitute rails were put in under 'Wally's' supervision, although the machine will not be used for weighing.

Every railway journal is filled with the news of the extermination of steam. How delighted we were last week to see a brand new boiler and firebox, about Class 5 or DL6/3 size, just being assembled right on our doorstep in Claytons' works. Does steam, like old soldiers, never die?

### A.G.M. 1967

The A.G.M. is to be held on Saturday, 25th February, 1967, at 2.30 p.m. in the Houldsworth School, University of Leeds, Clarendon Road, Leeds, 2. Items for the Agenda must be in the hands of the Secretary by Saturday, 18th February.

The Committee is hoping to arrange an interesting evening for members and friends. We hope to have a buffet and Mr. T. Robinson has again most kindly agreed to show us some of his excellent films. He says that he will show them for as long as we care to watch 'em! Details of venue, time and cost will be announced next month but DO make a note in your diary. We hope that many of you will be able to spend a pleasant evening with us.

### Compulsory Purchase.

The Yorkshire Post for Monday, 5th December contained the announcement of the Compulsory Purchase Order for property and land for the new South East Motorway into Leeds. Amongst two whole columns, several

references to the railway were found, in particular that part south of Claytons' sports field - i.e. the headshunt. Alternative lines are planned to replace this. A huge 'clover-leaf' connecting the Motorway to the surrounding area is to be centred on the line to Whitakers Staithes: resulting, of course, in the compulsory purchase of the disused line to the staithes. The motorway will be elevated and run over the line to Parkside and cutting the Great Northern line.

#### Christmas present for M.R.T.

Messrs. Cohen's of Stanningley, from whom we purchased the Bagnall, have most generously offered us a delightful little engine. Named 'Lord Mayor', it was built in 1893 by Hudswell Clarke of Leeds for C.J. Wills & Son. It was used during its career in the dismantling of the Liverpool Overhead Railway. In order to put the 'Lord Mayor' in working order, Ben Wade is busy removing the boiler tubes; to pay for the new tubes he is organising a fund and literature about this will be distributed later.

#### Wakefield Exhibition

Although in smaller premises than last year, the exhibition proved to be a great success. All the layouts, including our own, had been built by members of the Wakefield Railway Modellers Society. The fact that it was held on Saturday and Sunday instead of the usual Friday and Saturday made it much easier for us to transport and man the stand. The layout is most pleasing and proved to be a great attraction. 'Gasholder Terrace' has appeared and the next addition is to be the footbridge. Derek Plummer has most kindly and expertly made an illuminated stand for displaying our colour slides and, incidentally, it provides excellent central heating for members manning the stand.

#### A member with initiative

Noticed the envelope? One of our more distant members has purchased for us 10,000 foolscap envelopes and organised the block making and printing. The cost was absolutely minimal. The committee is extremely grateful for this valuable help in publicity and economy and wishes to express its indebtedness.

#### Worthwhile reading

Narrow gauge, Irish, Manx and English Railways - all these topics are featured in the Leeds University Union Railway Society Journal No. 11 just published. 35 pages, 1/4d post free from M.R.T. Secretary, 5, North Grange Mount, Leeds, 6.

This edition of the Newsletter has been written by the Secretary.

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MAY WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

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