

OLD RUN NEWS  
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Newsletter of the Middleton Railway Trust.

Number 33, March and April 1968.

Repairs and improvements

It is pleasant to record that our Permanent Way Maintenance team is now stronger and more active than ever before. Complete relaying of defective sections is carried out by a team of University Members working Wednesday, Friday and Saturday afternoons. The A and 6 turnout at the junction with B.R. at Balm Road has been finished and replaces a 'Middleton Special' of non-standard construction which has been giving us trouble for a long time. The last timber of the turnout was shaped by hand to be an exact fit over the concrete drain put across the line by the City Engineer some years ago. An unexpected freeze-up halfway through the relaying made things difficult but did not stop completion.

During weather that was really too icy for tracklaying, the team loaded up 2 wagons of scrap salvaged from the line from broken chairs to old bicycles and perambulators. Perhaps we should be paid a fee for saving the Leeds Public Cleansing Dept. a lot of work !

Traffic movement

This last week has seen a record train of 25 wagons from Robinson & Birdsell's to a Sheffield firm. These wagons were retired Laporte Acid Tanks surplus to requirements after closure of the Leeds works. Two came back the next day as local vandals had stolen the brass axle box bearings. The removal of these wagons has brought a sigh of relief to the Operating Dept. since during the last few months 46 of them had been brought onto the line for cutting up by Robinson's BUT Robinson's had not cut them up and they filled all our available sidings and made shunting well nigh impossible. The local inhabitants were complaining too- the fact that we had to fill Whitaker's siding meant that they couldn't take a short cut over the line but worse still they couldn't see if the 74 'bus was coming when they were still 100 yards from the stop !

The new Traffic Movement sub-committee are proceeding with improved train movement and report sheets and the organisation of a rota of train crews so that eventually we may have a train crew whenever required instead of having to call out the faithful few.

It is now a rule that there should not be more than 2 members running a locomotive and 2 members shunting, each of these may have one trainee with them, giving an absolute maximum of 6 people per train. Additional members should join one of the other working teams on work just as important as train movement.

Notwithstanding the hard work, determination and good behaviour of our members, we must remember that youthful exuberance can be out of place on a railway. We have the use of Dartmouth works yard as a special privilege that must not be abused. Our Junior members must realise that any alterations or work of an unusual nature can be done only after proper consultation between our Officers and Clayton's Staff. Juniors should either be engaged in work with one of the teams or leave the yard. Larking about is just not to be tolerated.

A very kind benefactor has purchased the pre-war Hunslet 22 h.p. 0-4-0 diesel now at Courage's Brewery, Alton, near Basingstoke, Hants. This engine has been bought with the express intention of using it on Permanent Way Trains. Members McAskie and Milner are collecting donations towards the expense of transporting it to Leeds. If you can spare half a crown send to 5 North Grange Mount, Leeds 6

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### The Lincolnshire Woldsman

Enclosed is literature and a booking form for our trip. Those members living within easy reach of the boarding points will find 2 booking forms, please hand the spare one to anyone you feel might be interested. Note that there is a 5/- free fare if booked before March 31st. Do try and support the trip and publicise it as much as possible. It will give MRT valuable publicity and possibly a little profit if it is well supported.

### Scenic Rail Excursion to Aberystwyth and Devils Bridge

We feel that this excursion organised by B.R. on Thursday, June 20th. is very good value. It leaves Bradford about 6.00 with facilities for joining at Leeds and Huddersfield and arrives at Aberystwyth at 13.00. A trip up the narrow gauge Vale of Rheidol Railway follows with a scenic coach trip back to Aberystwyth where there is time for sightseeing and shopping. The inclusive charge covering rail fare, Devils Bridge Tour, morning coffee and biscuits, lunch and supper on the train is 88s 0d from Leeds or Bradford, 84s 0d from Huddersfield.

Bookings and enquiries to Mr. R. Barraclough, Passenger Sales, British Railways, City Station, Leeds 1. Please mention M.R.T.

### Mini-Open Days

These start On Saturday April 6th. at 2.30 pm. and thereafter the first Saturday afternoon in each month until September. Steam power will be used to move the traffic on these days, with the possibility of a brake-van trip. Would any member who does not normally work down at the line help the faithful few to show round the visitors and help with sales? Just turn up about 2 to 2.15 and your help will be gratefully received.

We would also like some aspiring photographer to take photos on these Open Days which would be suitable for reproduction as publicity material for railway magazines etc.

### Look at Life-'Playing at Trains'

This is a most disappointing production- the first three minutes are shared between ourselves and the Great Western (Taplow), Clapham (Mallard), Keighley and North Valley Railway (Joem) (their mistake, not ours) The Middleton Section shows shunting in progress with 'Matthew Murray' and the Secretary climbing into the Y7. The remaining 6 minutes of the film are devoted to the Cathedrals Express Ipswich-Yorks Rail Tour with Flying Scotsman. Too much of the time is given to the comments of the passengers and there are several inaccuracies in the commentary. This is disappointing after the earlier Look at Life, which featured ourselves and T.M.S. In any case Playing at Trains is NOT what we do.

### Annual Buffet

This was held on March 9th. Mr Robinson of Doncaster showed us 'Snow', 'The Iron Mule', Elizabethan Express', 'Snowdrift' and two of his own films, one of the footplate of the Flying Scotsman and the other showing the trials and tribulations of bringing his own engine, an Avonside, from Matlock to Doncaster. 'Snow' is a marvelous film made up from rejects from other BTC films and given splendid and compelling background music. 'The Iron Mule' is a very funny account of early American Days on the Railroad. The locomotive looked suspiciously like the Rocket'.

### More Films

There is to be a railway film show at Cottage Road Cinema, Headingley, Leeds 6 on Sunday April 21st. at 2 p.m. (Doors Open 1.30 pm.) Circle 6/6, Stalls 5/-. The programme will include 'Titfield Thunderbolt', 'Playing at Trains'. 'Elizabethan

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Welcome

to the following new members:-

Mr.G.F.March of Hawkhurst, Kent and Miss.D.Briggs of Leeds 6 (both descendents of Matthew Murray )

Mr.C.R.Chippendale, York

Mr.P.J.Potts, Leeds 6

Mr.A.J.Cowling, Ilford, Essex

Mr.N.Short, Bradford 2

Mr.C.W.Milner, Leeds 11

Miss M.Lindley, Cheadle, Cheshire.

Mr.W.Bradley, Ilkley

Mr.M.Hallows, Bradford

Mr.C.Wilson, Leeds 15

Mr.D.Newing, Deal, Kent

Mr.R.Graviotto, Seattle, U.S.A

Miss J. Hellewell, London

Mr.R.J.Bennett, Leeds 8

Mr.A.Stewart, Harrogate

Mr.W.Greenhalgh, Stockport

Mr.D.G.Middleton, Stevenage

Mr.J.Dunn, Leeds 12

Mr.G.Smith, Garforth, Leeds

Mr.D.Jubb, Leeds 10

Mr.A.Goth, Bradford

February 3rd. Matthew Murray Naming

as reported by one who was present.

09.00 Steam Bagnall

09.00 Steam Sentinel

09.30 Relight fires

09.35 Replace fusible plugs and fill boilers

09.55 Inform fire brigade

11.13 Bring back 'Smiler' and give him Windle to steam

11.14 Beat hasty retreat

11.15 Wait for it

11.16 Loud explosion

11.18 Pick up pieces

12.00 Dinner not forgetting little water and big fires in locos.

2.15 We're off, not under  $37\frac{1}{2}$  mph on the curve, not under 70 on the flat

2.16 Stopped for breathalyser test

2.17 After drinking cherryade fail test

2.29 Derail Bagnall

2.30 Steam Crane to lift it back on

4.00 Bring down crane

5.00 Crane back to yard, Bagnall now all 4 wheels off.

6.00 To the 'offie' for a good boozy cup with Midgley's home made better bitter.

Is my leg being pulled ?

Map enclosed

This is specially for our members who can't get to the line and wonder what the dickens we are talking about at times, I expect. At a later date we hope to send you a map with the proposed motorway on it and showing just how it affects the line.

Reprieve

We have had several complaints that members did not receive last month's newsletter, In view of this we are sending this month's newsletter etc. to all last year's members whether or not you have renewed your subscription BUT- this is definitely and absolutely the last you will hear from me unless you send your 1968 subscription to Mr.J.Bushell, 12 Trelawn Crescent, Leeds 6. - and I don't want to lose touch with you, I have got so used to the order of names and addresses on the addressograph. Don't make me have your plate nolted down !

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Express', Snowdrift at Bleath Gill' and 'Playing at Trains'. Tickets can be obtained from The Turntable, 6 Wade Street, Leeds 2, if possible send S.A.E.

#### New Sales Items

Extra 'lines' now introduced are :-

Forum Stock List of all preserved locos. (excluding narrow gauge and industrial) with locations and plenty of photos. Produced by the A.R.P.S. price 6/-

Key Fobs containing photos of our own locos 2/-

Chaldron Kits, 00 gauge, make a most authentic looking chaldron as used on the Middleton Railway in the 18th and 19th. Century for carrying coal. Two types of couplings-state which required - 5/11d

Leeds University Railway Society Journal just produced, 26 pages of interesting railway articles - 1/- (No.14, Special Matthew Murray exhibition edition)

Prints of 19th. Century Engines Printed blue and red on white glossy card, approx 16" x 10" . 10 different locomotives, list on request. Very good value at 3/-

Prints of the Metropolitan Railway and Connections Printed black and red on glossy white card, approx 17" X 9" price 2/-

Both these items most suitable for framing.

Duncan's Engraving of Shoreditch Terminus Eastern Counties Railway, 1847. A black and white reproduction of this exclusive engraving. Unobtainable elsewhere. Approx 13" x 8" Price 5/- . Looks superb. in a black frame.

We still have badges 6d., pencils 6d., biros 6d. and 1/-, slides 2/-, photographs 6d., Middleton History (3rd. Edition) 1/-, Third Century at Middleton 9d., Steam Loco. in 1812 6d. Marquess drawing on LNER green card 2/-.

When ordering please add on suitable amount for postage !

#### Your New Committee

At the A.G.M. on February 24th the following were elected :-

Chairman Dr.R.F.Youell 5 North Grange Mount, Leeds 6, Yorks.

Vice Chairman Not appointed

Treasurer Mr.N.A.Brampton 81, Bradford Road, Wakefield

Secretary } Mr.D.R.Jones 77, Headingley Mount, Leeds 6

Publicity } Mrs.S.M.Youell 5, North Grange Mount, Leeds 6.

Membership Mr.J.Bushell 12, Trelawn Crescent, Leeds 6.

Mechanical Mr. J.Lodge

Engineer

Civil Engineer Mr.P.M<sup>C</sup>.Askie

Traffic Movement

Mr.J.Lee

Minutes Mr.M.D.Crew

Committee Mr. J.Foster, Mr. D.Hebden, Mr.P.Nettleton, Mr.R.Syms.

Members