

RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND

FEBRUARY NEWS SHEET 1976

BELFAST MEETINGS Don't forget those last Thursdays, folks. Somehow Or other we managed to give You the wrong dates the last time around but many of you had already arranged to keep the last Thursdays free but for those who read their circulars closely and think the meetings are moveable feasts, here are the proper dates.

February 26th Norman Foster's slide show of steam all over Ireland in the Fifties and Sixties.

March 25th 16mm steam films presented by Andrew Crockart, mostly Irish and covering many Society events.

April 29th Mr Roy Beattie, chief executive of Northern Ireland Railways, will give us an illustrated talk on NIR's progress and plans for the future.

Just a reminder - the meetings are held in St Jude's Hall, Sunnyside Street, Belfast starting at 8.15 pm. There's plenty of car parking near the hall and the Hall's youth group provide tea and biscuits at the interval.

The new series of Belfast indoor meetings got off to an impressive start when over 70 members and friends packed into St Jude's Hall for the January meeting. Cecil Bell's excellent time films of Irish steam dating from 1959 provided a rare glimpse of the way things were. An excellent night's crack - don't miss the next one.

BRING AND BUY This year's "jumble sale" will be held on Saturday March 20th, starting about 3 pm. As usual all types of railway souvenirs and antiques will be on sale and the sale will include an auction of the more valuable items (sometime about 4pm). Michael Henderson, our Commercial Officer would like to hear from anyone with timetables, name plates, number plates, tickets, photographs, signals, staffs or books or indeed anything that might interest other members and bring in a few shillings for the Society. Have a look round and see what you can contribute. Or you may prefer to add to your own material, in which case we're sure we'll have something for you. The new sales caravan will probably be making its first appearance on that day too.

SOIREE About sixty members and their guests sat down to a superb meal in the Coast Road Hotel, Carrickfergus back on December 19th. The meal was followed by a light-hearted slide show of the past year's activities prepared by Charlie Friel and the highlights included some shots of well-known Society figures in off moments. Guest of honour was Hugh Waring, a good friend of the Society, who retired at the end of 1975 as Managing Director of NIR. Our Patron, Lord O'Neill, presented Mr Waring with a copy of Michael Baker's latest book on Irish Railways. Mr Waring commended the Society for its achievements over the first eleven years and said there was no reason why the Society's tours should not continue for years to come. Many of us were particularly pleased to welcome a very healthy representation of NIR footplatemen including several of the crews who manned our engines during the year.

PURCHASING OFFICER Last year's Site Officer, Paul Newell, probably thought he was in for a spell on the trainer's bench but has instead been appointed as Purchasing Officer, a post of Special Responsibility. He will co-operate with Committee members in their 'shopping trips' and take some of the load off them by

handling many of our specialist purchases which require personal attention during the working day at a time not many Committee members are free.

RIGHT TRACKS Sorry about that terrible headline but things at Whitehead really are on the r.... t.... The new point transferred to Whitehead from Greenisland is now in operation following a record-breaking piece of hard work by the small track gang. There is plenty still to be done, of course, now that the tour season is beginning to loom over the horizon, so please make an extra effort to take a trip to Whitehead some weekend soon.

TOUR DATES Denis Grimshaw is setting out most of the relevant information in a separate circular, but we list below the dates once again.

APRIL 24th - 186 on Wexford trip.

MAY 22nd - 171 Whitehead to Bangor and back.

JUNE 12th and 13th - 171 or 4 and 186 to Cork, Cobh and Youghal.

JULY 17th)

JULY 31st) - PORTRUSH FLYER seaaon.

AUGUST 14th)

AUGUST 28th)

SEPTEMBER 25th - 4 Bangor to Derry.

Just about time to go on one and save for the next.

FIRST AND LAST We were going to mention the Belfast meetings again but there's no need now that you've said you are coming.