

THE RAILWAY PRESERATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND

APRIL 1986 NEWS-SHEET

CLEW BAY NEWS

The four-day international Clew Bay railtour is now under starter's orders with every seat on the train sold weeks in advance. The fourth day, we should explain, is on the Tuesday (May 13) when participants who opt to stay over will be going on a coach tour to Shanes Castle Railway and the Ulster Folk & Transport Museum. Arrangements for such a trip have been made for our friends from West Berlin, and there are some seats left for others who wish to join them.

The tour train leaves Whitehead with No.4 in charge early on Saturday May 3 for the "pipe-opener" trip to Dublin and Mullingar - see enclosed circular for the updated timings. This event is growing in popularity, with many members and their friends enjoying a leisurely spin down the Great Northern main line.

Arrangements for the tour proper are being finalised with CIÉ, and all 300 seats on the special have been sold. For the first time, the tour will involve the use of a set of coaches from Mullingar as well as the main tour train from Whitehead, which will make leapfrogging, etc., a lot easier.

Now we're keeping our fingers crossed for some warm, sunny weather!

EGGS-TRA GOOD

The Easter Bunny train rides at Whitehead were an all-time record - so well done to all concerned. Over the three days we played host to more than 2,500 visitors - 1,359 adults and 1,223 children - and they all enjoyed themselves thoroughly. As well as producing some much-needed- income, the Society did itself proud in terms of public relations and all the visitors went home singing the praises of the Society. The blustery weather conditions of course made Whitehead an ideal attraction for families who wanted a good day out. Now let's see if we can draw the crowds to the Sunday train rides, which start on Sunday June 1 and run every Sunday from then until August 31. Tell your friends and pay us a visit!

TABLE FABLE

Progress on the Coleraine turntable is reported to be "slow but sure" with Enterprise Ulster busy pouring concrete to make the reinforced walls for the turntable pit. Meanwhile our ACE workers are hard at work at Whitehead on the renovation and modification of the turntable itself. Many thanks, again, to those who have made contributions to the Coleraine turntable appeal. More money is still needed, and all donations should go to the RPSI treasurer. Incidentally, at its March meeting the RPSI Council co-opted John back onto Council to serve as treasurer as it had proved impossible to find a successor. The search continues, but in the meantime John has agreed not to see the Society stuck.

SCHOOL'S OUT

A reminder that the Whitehead Schools' Days take place on Tuesday June 3 and Wednesday June 4 - and help is urgently needed. We expect to have up to 1,000 children (mainly of primary school age) descending on the site over the two-day period. Johnny Glendinning is the overall co-ordinator but

there are many tasks to be done - manning the shop, running the video, and shepherding the youngsters around. So if you're free, or can get one or two days off, please ring Mrs Reta Craig at the Whitehead Railway Project. We'd need your help from 9 am to 3.30 pm.

ON THE SHELF

Unfortunately we have been unable to reach agreement with the English travel agent who had expressed interest in marketing the Irish Steam Weekends venture this year. The RPSI Council has decided that time was too short for the Society to "go it alone" for this summer and as a result we are shelving the project for this year. However, we hope to re-organise the venture for 1987, possibly under the wing of one of the established tour operators.

MEMBERS, REMEMBER

The Whitehead members' day on April 6 proved to be very worthwhile. Despite short notice some 20 members gathered at Whitehead and were welcomed to the site, and given a conducted tour. As a result we believe we may have at least two new Whitehead workers.

We know that some members found themselves unable to be present because of the short notice and accordingly the RPSI Council has decided to repeat the venture - only this time bigger and better. The details are:

Saturday June 21, 1986

Whitehead members' day at 14.30

- * Unique chance to see behind the scenes.
- * Possibility of loco 85 in steam for test purposes.
- * Friendly welcome from all department heads.
- * Your chance to join Ireland's top mainline steam squad.

Don't forget, as a regular Whitehead worker you qualify for free travel on many RPSI special trains.

Contact Sullivan Boomer, RPSI chairman, to indicate your intention to be present.

PSR APPOINTMENTS

The following have been appointed to posts of special responsibility (PSRs) by the Council:

Brian Ham	Legal adviser
Derek Young	Insurance adviser
Paul McCann	Membership secretary
John Richardson	Bar steward
Alan Love	Flyer officer
Tony Ragg	Enterprise officer
Kieran Barber	Coach cleaning convenor & Whitehead events
Paddy O'Brien	Mullingar loco maintenance
Rory McNamee	Mullingar loco running
Mark Hodge	coach maintenance
Aldan McDonnell	Mullingar coach running
Neil Hamilton	Whitehead assistant coach running
Thomas Charters	Whitehead assistant coach maintenance

In addition, it was decided that the RPSI representatives on the Whitehead Railway Project management committee, should be John Friel and Alan Edgar.

GET WELL SOON

Get well wishes to Donna Kelly, one of our regular helpers in the Whitehead shop and diner, who was injured in a car accident earlier this month.

SUB-TLE REMINDER

If you haven't paid your 1985 subscription - do so now! We are currently updating our membership list and this circular will be your last if you haven't renewed. So if you'd forgotten, put matters right by sending a cheque for £7.00 (£3.50 U16/65+) to Paul McCann. Please cross your cheque and make it payable to "The RPSI". If you are paying in IR£ please make the necessary adjustment for currency fluctuation.

INSIDE INFO

Included with this news-sheet you should find a Portrush Flyer 1986 leaflet, a Carrickfergus Council coming events leaflet, and an ARPS yellow guide to preservation centres. Please spread the word about our events - why not start thinking of a party for the Flyer (remember, this may well be 85's maiden trip on the main line).

Our thanks to` Carrick Council for sponsoring the leaflet concerning RPSI activities which, as you will see, incorporates a membership application slip this time.

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