

THE RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1988

STEAM SANTA ...

Santa is busy packing up his sleigh and he's about to make tracks for Whitehead - arriving there on the afternoon of Sunday 27 November. Yes, the RPSI will again be running its popular Santa Steam Train Rides at Whitehead on the following dates:

| | |
|----------|-----------------------------------|
| Sundays | November 27 December 4, 11, 18 |
| Saturday | December 10 13.30 - 16.30 |

Turn up early to avoid the queues - and bring the family with you! As usual Santa will be on hand to dish out presents to all the children, and then the whole family can have a short steam train ride up and down the siding. Then the mums and dads (and grandparents) can have a glass of warming punch in the dining car.

And if you would like to help the Society team organising the event, contact Ernie Gilmore or ring Whitehead Railway Project, tell them when you can be available to help, and leave your name, address and phone number. Then, as the saying is, we'll get back to you.

INTERCITY STEAM ...

The Steam Enterprise had its most successful season ever with well loaded trains, super atmosphere, and excellent locomotive performances. No.4 handled the 17 and 24 September trains and proved that life really does begin at 40 (or 41!). There was a treat store for passengers on the Larne Lough Tour on 2 October with Nos. 4 and 171 double-heading the train from Belfast Central to Belfast York Road and on out to Whitehead - including a memorable runpast at Greenisland. Thanks to all members for their support during the 1988 mainline operating season.

DAY TRIPPERS ...

Some 52 members from the Republic took advantage of an RPSI organised day trip to

Whitehead on Saturday 22 October. Led by David Humphries, the group came north on the Enterprise and then travelled by RailLink bus and NIR train to Whitehead, where they were given a warm welcome. Members in the Republic were circularised about the event, and thanks to all who supported the trip.

CARRIAGE SHED ...

Plans are rolling ahead for the carriage shed at Whitehead with applications having been lodged for planning approval and building control approval. Site Officer Johnny Glendinning is hopeful of work starting in summer 1989 - so please read the enclosed literature carefully and see what you can do to help.

HEADING SOUTH ...

In view of the increased level of activity and involvement in the Republic the RPSI Council decided to hold its November meeting in Dublin. The switch from the normal venue of Central Station, Belfast, is believed to be the first time the RPSI Council has ever met in Dublin and it is a gesture of appreciation to those Dublin Council members who regularly travel to Belfast to take part in the meetings.

NEW FACES ...

Welcome to Gary Brennan who has been co-opted onto the RPSI Council to serve as Coach Running Officer, a post which had lain vacant since the AGM. That leaves only one vacancy - that of Commercial Officer. Any offers? And welcome also to member Joe McKeown, who has been appointed PSR for Republic of Ireland train security and marshals.

ANY QUESTIONS ...

Make sure you have a go at the enclosed Christmas Quiz - it's just a bit of fun but it's all in a good cause. Don't despair if you can't answer all the questions - send in your completed form as far as you can ... you never know, it might be a winner. Our thanks to Laurence Liddle for the time taken to devise all the questions.

FARE THE WELL ...

Some changes have taken place recently at the Whitehead Railway Project Mr Frank Gallagher, who was senior supervisor when the scheme opened in 1983, is now project manager in charge of Whitehead and a number of other schemes run by the Northern Ireland Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders.

Mrs Reta Craig, who has been in charge of office trainees and administration at Whitehead, has moved to take charge of development of NIACRO community projects. The senior supervisor at whitehead is now Mr Brian Forsythe, while new recruit Mrs Linda Turkington will be the RPSI administrator. Many thanks to all concerned for their continued valuable assistance.

CHRISTMAS GOODS ...

The following items are available by post from Henry Beaumont. Prices are in sterling and include postage and packing.

Perspex keyring featuring No.85 and GNR(I) coat of arms - £1.30

Clearing House map of Irish railways in 1927:

- Folded with cover - £2.90
- Rolled for framing - £2.40

Colour posters, rolled 24" x 18"

- No.85 at Whitehead - £1.40
- No.4 on Portrush Flyer - £1.40
- Montage of 5 views of RPSI trains - £1.40

MEMORIES ...

Word reaches us that some historic slides of Irish railway scenes of the 1950s and 1960s are now available from two of the leading English distributors.

KB Photographic of 6 Warrington Court, Cloone, Chesterfield, S43 4AS, have up to 40 choice slides.

And Colour-Rail of 5 Teacher's Close, Chesham, Bucks, HP5 2HD, have some 15 fine shots in their latest list.

Drop them a line, asking for their latest lists if you're interested.

GET IN THE PICTURE ...

Enclosed in this circular are details of the winter season of meetings in Belfast which are on the second Wednesday of each month. Please note we are in a new venue - St. Jude's Church Hall on the Ravenhill Road -

and already it has proved to be a very suitable location. So please give these meetings your support - and feel free to bring friends along too. Interval refreshments in aid of Barnardo's and Arthritis Care of Northern Ireland.

* You are invited to take part in the December meeting by bringing along your own slides or cine on any railway topic. Phone Charles Friel by 10 December to book your 15 minute slot - first come, first served.

NB - If you are displaying your poster to the public (in your local shop for example) don't forget to change the Whitehead phone number in the bottom line. It should, of course, be Whitehead 78567. And that's the number to ring if you require extra copies of the enclosed posers.

STEAM AID ...

RPSI members are invited to attend Steam Aid, an evening for all who enjoy railways which is taking place at St. Dorothea's Church Hall, Gilnahirk, Belfast, at 19.30 on Saturday 12 November. The organiser, RPSI member Rev John McKegney, says there will be model layouts, a film show by Fred Cooper and tales of the steam era from Tom McDevitte. Admission free, but contributions for Christian Aid welcome - and old railway magazines welcome for the Bring and Buy stall.

FERMANAGH FEAST ...

The railways may have closed in Fermanagh in 1957 but they are still fondly remembered. Charles Friel and Fred Cooper have been invited to put on a show of vintage Irish cine of steam trains in Fermanagh and surrounding counties and it is taking place in the Ardhowen Theatre in Enniskillen at 20.00 on Saturday 19 November. Last time Charles and Fred were at the Ardhowen it was a full house, so get there early to make sure you have a good seat! All welcome, book in advance or pay at the door.

DUBLIN MEETING ...

The RPSI is running a slide show in Dublin at 20.00 on Thursday 6 April next year - so mark the date in your new 1989 diary. Charles Friel will be presenting a show of slides which takes us from Dun Laoghaire to Portadown, Londonderry and Belfast ... in 1963. Features every class of steam loco still to be seen in that year.

SUPPORT THE CARRIAGE SHED APPEAL