

THE RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1989

MOUNTING INTEREST ...

Enclosed in this circular you will find your Advance Booking Form for the event of the year - the RPSI's Mount Brandon Railtour to Tralee in May. Please don't delay sending in your deposit as seats will be at a premium. It will be first come, first served, so make sure you don't miss out. Remember you will get no further information - it's only sent out to those who have made an advance booking. This will be your chance to enjoy Nos. 4 and 85 on the Cork main line, and if last year's performance is any guide we're in for the time of our lives!

SUPER SANTA ...

The Santa Train Bides enjoyed another successful season at Whitehead despite some rather inclement weather. A couple of cold and wet days held numbers down at the start, but the last two Sundays both topped the 500 figure for attendances. In all, nearly 1,900 people visited the event, which is slightly down on last year's total, but there were two rival attractions this year so we're not too upset. Our thanks go to all those who helped make the event go with a swing, especially Santa!

DOWN UNDER ...

Bring the giants of steam from Australia into your very own living room! RPSI member Gregory Goold from Melbourne, Australia, has kindly sent the Society two video tapes of Aus Steam 88, and excellent quality they are too. The tapes show some of the steam activity of the October period including the spectacular running of standard and five foot three gauge steam on parallel tracks. Not to be missed. The films are available for hire from Robin Morton, Hon. Secretary. Cost is £15 a time, including a deposit of £10 which will be returned when the videos are safely back. The £5 hire charge will be donated to the RPSI Carriage Shed Appeal Fund. Our thanks to Greg for this initiative.

TOP FLIGHT ...

Last year's highly successful Shannon Railtour has been featured as the main article in the Autumn 1988 issue of Cara, the in-flight magazine of Aer Lingus. There's a colour photo on the front page of Two-Day Tour regular Dante Stephenson from Atlanta and a very readable account of last Year's May tour. The magazine is illustrated with lots of colour photos of the tour, some of them featuring some very well-known RPSI personalities. Aer Lingus has kindly made available a limited number of the magazines to the RPSI and this is your opportunity to secure a copy.

They are available at £2.50 per copy (including postage and packing) from Michael McMahon, RPSI Publicity Officer. All proceeds are in aid of the RPSI Carriage Shed Appeal Fund. Order yours today and make sure you have a copy of this collector's item.

BELFAST AREA ...

Two top rate meetings have been organised to round off this winter's season at St. Jude's Church Hall on the Ravenhill Road, Belfast. Please note, once again, that we have moved from Sunnyside Street to Ravenhill Road (at St. Jude's Crescent) and we now meet on the second Wednesday of the month. The remaining programme is:

Wednesday 8 February - York Road to Hong Kong by rail. NIR Intercity General Manager Mr Denis Grimshaw relives his recent trip by rail via Moscow, Siberia and China. Illustrated by slides.

Wednesday 8 March - RPSI Steam 1988 in pictures. Member Joe Cassells recalls the RPSI's 1988 season, one of the busiest ever. Illustrated by slides.

The meetings start at 7.30 pm and interval refreshments are in aid of Dr. Barnardo's and Arthritis Ireland.

DIESEL FITTER ...

Yes, that's what we're looking for, but you don't need to be a professional. No.23, our Planet diesel shunter, has blown a head gasket and needs to be repaired - URGENTLY! So, have you ever done a DIY job on your car, because that makes you fully qualified for the repair. But don't worry, there will be competent people around to help if needed. If you feel you should help at Whitehead, but haven't done so yet, now's your chance to take some of the pressure off the regular team. Contact Peter Scott today or come to Whitehead next weekend.

BEWITCHING RELATIVE? ...

No, it's not the definition of a covenant, but now it's time to renew your subscription, please do take up the option of paying this way. The BIG advantage is that we get an extra £2, and from the Inland Revenue! We all love to get something from the taxman, so here's your chance!

SITUATION VACANT ...

Enclosed in this circular you will find notice of the AGM which will be held again this year at the Belfast Boat Club at 8 pm on Friday 3 March. Please come along for what will be a very important meeting. Please also consider putting your name forward for one of the Council posts, all of which fall vacant at each AGM. Some Council members have intimated that they do not wish to stand this time around so we have the opportunity for some new blood. If you want to see the Society prosper please think about standing for Council and don't just leave it to someone else.

COMING SOON ...

The latest Five Foot Three is with the printers and will be produced in time to be with the membership before the AGM. Sorry for the delay, but it's just a symptom of how busy the Council members are during the year; that's why we need more active members in every department!

APRIL IN DUBLIN ...

Just a reminder that the RPSI is running a slide show in Dublin at 8 pm on Thursday 6 April. Charles Friel will be presenting a slide show at IRRS Headquarters, Heuston Station.

A BIG DRAW ...

Our thanks to all members who supported the RPSI Grand Autumn Draw. As usual the proceeds provided a most useful boost to the Society's funds. The winning tickets were drawn at the Belfast Area Meeting in November and they were:

1st Prize (£100) - D.J. Harty, London.
2nd Prize (£25) - Mrs Graham, Belfast.
3rd Prize (£10) - Herbie McChesney, Lisnaskea.
4th Prize (£5) - C. Moffett, Bessbrook.
5th Prize (£5) - J. Gaston, Jordanstown.

ANY ANSWERS? ...

Did you manage to complete the RPSI Christmas Quiz? If you are scratching your head don't worry. To allow you a last chance we have extended the closing date for entries to Saturday 25 February. Don't worry if you can't complete every question - you could still be a winner.

Entry forms (along with £5 entry fee) to Sam Carse, RPSI Dublin Agent.

GOING FOR GOLD ...

Later this year the Society celebrates its Silver Jubilee and starts towards its fiftieth birthday. We hope there will be some special celebrations, but one thing we know is coming is a book. Members Joe Cassells and Leslie McAllister are co-operating in producing a volume which recounts not only 25 years of the Society but also celebrates 22 years of the "Two-Day Tour" (which as everyone knows takes at least three days!). Watch this space for details of how to get your copy.

LATE NEWS EXTRA ...

Early indications are that bookings for the Mount Brandon Railtour are going to be heavy. Remember that this is your only notification, so post off your reservation for a place today.