

# THE RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND

## NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1989

### FIRM FOUNDATIONS ...

Plans are forging ahead for work to start in August on the planned £90,000 carriage storage shed at the RPSI headquarters in Whitehead. As members will now, the International Fund for Ireland has made a 50% grant available to the Society for the project, and at its May meeting the RPSI Council agreed that the scheme should go out to tender. It is proposed that work should be phased over three years to lessen the financial burden on the Society, in the event of funds being slower in coming in than we would expect, but ideally the project will be completed in two years. By 1992 at the latest we should have a basic storage shed which will keep 16 of our historic coaches safe and dry, protected from the elements, and where eventually we will be able to carry out minor running repairs and valeting on the train.

Thanks partly to donations from members, the Society currently has some £15,000 set aside in its capital projects fund, all of which will now go to the carriage shed project. But while this will get us off to a firm start, we now require a major effort by each and every one of you, the members, to see the project successfully concluded. So please have a think now about means of raising funds for this very worthy cause.

Remember that every little helps.

### SETTING AN EXAMPLE ...

And thanks to two RPSI members for their very positive help for the Carriage Shed Appeal Fund. David Stirling, who won a free ticket for the Mount Brandon Railtour, immediately returned the cheque to the Society as a contribution to the fund. And Peter Bruce-Jones, who won raffle on the tour for a staff from the Mayo line, held an impromptu auction for his prize, raising the sum of £50 which he donated to the Appeal. So thanks to David and Peter - take a leaf out of their book and keep the money rolling in ... and remember that thanks to

the International fund every £1 you raise is worth £2 to the Society, as they are matching us pound for pound!

### CROWNING SUCCESS ...

The RPSI's two day tour visit to the Kingdom of Kerry on the weekend of 13/14 May was a crowning success, and congratulations and thanks are due to all concerned. More than 300 passengers were on board for the historic trip down the Great Southern main line by No.85 "Merlin" - the first time a Great Northern Compound had ever been on Great Southern Railways metals.

It was also No.4's first visit to Killarney and Tralee and both locomotives put up excellent performances. Our passengers all enjoyed the weekend (in spite of one or two inevitable hitches) and many of them have written to express their thanks, Operations Officer Ernie Gilmore reports.

The Monday trip on Northern Ireland Railways was also a notable success with more than 150 of our visitors staying to join in the fun with a memorable false start in the sunshine at Bangor and a superb runpast at Ballinderry. All in all, a fitting way to mark the 21st anniversary of the RPSI's first two day tour to Athlone in 1968. And next year? ... well, the Southeast is a lovely part of the country ... but we'll let you know as soon as we've recovered enough to face the planning all over again!

### SUMMER STEAM 89 ...

Previously we called it "Millennium Plus One" because we hadn't finalised the marketing plan, but this year the Dublin based operations are being marketed under the heading "Summer Steam 89". And No.85 was the star of the show for the first of the 1989 season of steam outings from Dublin, when she hauled "The Cooley" to Dundalk on 3 June. The train was well

