

Locomotive Workshop News

No.2

November 1997

IT'S BUILT!

The money has continued to roll in since the last report - again, very many thanks to all concerned. Those who sent in donations only recently have put the finishing touches to the Society's most successful

campaign ever.

As a result, we have met our original target of £20,000 - a fantastic response from all our members and friends.

It is very satisfying to know that our Workshop will have been built with such an input of our own effort and our own money. This is not something that will fade with time, but will stand as long as the RPSI operates main line steam in Ireland - as long as anyone operates main line steam in Ireland.

THE SHED'S UP?

Our builder, McGaffin contracts, has done an excellent, and speedy job. The building has been erected and roofed since the last Workshop Newsletter. The overhead crane has been installed, and very impressive it looks too. Next, the track will be laid into the shed. This is expected to take several months as it will be undertaken by our regular volunteer track gang under Dermot Mackie's expert guidance.

COVENANTS

Like so much else, getting time to process the paperwork is a challenge! Of course, this is a very welcome price to pay for an excellent level of support from you, the members. To assist, I would just ask everyone who indicated that they would covenant their donation, to return the form as soon as they get it (after signing, of course!). I expect to have these forms out in the post before Christmas.

1837 MAPS

The maps referred to in the last news-letter have been sent for auction in England, after exhaustive enquiries in Ireland about finding a suitable home for them. They will be sold to the highest bidder, thus benefitting the Workshop Fund as much as possible. If any member is interested in offering a bid for these maps, please contact the Treasurer as soon as possible - independent expert opinion has valued them at between

£1,500 and £3,000.

THE WAY AHEAD....

The Appeal has gone very well - no doubt about that. But we must come down to earth some time, and it is important to emphasise a few facts lurking in the background.

When we first planned to build it, the estimated cost of what we thought was a fairly basic project was well over £130,000 - well outside our reach at the time. We scaled it down once, twice, and a few more minor adjustments, until we made it fit a budget for what by then was a very basic plan indeed. So basic that no electricity, no mains water, no inside insulation, and not even a proper floor was included.

We needed to do this in case the Appeal would be unsuccessful or poorly supported - it is only sensible to underestimate income and overestimate cost in a business like ours. As it became clear that the Appeal was going to be successful and reach the target of £20,000, we were able to restore some of the cuts made at planning stage.

At present, some of the donations have been in the form of outright gifts, a little in loans to the Society, and further funds are coming in as a result of standing orders set up by some members. The income from Covenant rebates has yet to be received from the Inland Revenue too. Once the promised standing order payments and the Covenant revenue have all been collected, we

will have some surplus funds.

However, the Workshop will need a great deal of finishing work. Flooring must be completed, and electrical work is far from complete. Any surplus funds will be directed to this type of finishing work as it continues to come in. For this reason, we would urge anyone still considering making a donation to keep it coming!

COME AND SEE!

Come to Whitehead and have a look at the progress so far - the first time you walk around the back of the existing sheds and see it looming there you will, I promise, be very impressed. Dermot Mackie's track gang can always use extra help, and we will be turning our attention to installing track into it soon.

Now that the main building is up, time should allow the Society's Scribe to send out commemorative certificates to all who "bought a brick"!

DONATED RAILWAYANA

A number of items have been donated for resale to help find raising. We have several original Great Northern Railway signal arms in excellent condition, and in original ex-railway (i.e. unrestored) condition. These have been kept under cover since being reclaimed in the 1950s from locations along the Derry Road. The going rate is £40

each.

We have also acquired just 5 Midland Railway (NCC) 3rd class tickets from Ballymoney to Glasgow - these date from about 1905-1910, and are in very good condition. An extremely rare type of ticket, on sale for £10 each. There are a small number of other rare tickets, including BCDR 1st class returns from Bangor to Dublin, dating from around the 1920s, and a pre-1903 First Class "Golf Club" ticket, Belfast & Northern Counties Railway, Ballymoney - Portrush and back - very rare indeed! Prices range from £2 - £15 each.

What about a Belfast and Northern Counties Railway timetable dating from the turn of the century ... or a GNR Tourist programme? An ideal Christmas gift for the enthusiast!

We also have the cast iron letters "PORTADOWN" off the old signal cabin which controlled entrance to the "Derry Road", and some Signalmen's Journal books from both Portadown and Warrenpoint cabins.

One star item for sale is what is believed to be the complete set of signal lever description plates (cast iron with old plastic-type front) from this same cabin. There are about 60 of them, and they would make a very interesting display mounted on a board - if you have a long enough garage wall! Offers over £150 for the lot.

PHONE 01846 678702 AFTER 8 PM ANY EVENING for further details.

The Appeal is still open...

Cheques, drafts, money orders, postal orders and travellers' cheques are welcome, in all currencies, or payment by VISA, ACCESS or MASTERCARD.

Or, have you any old railway artefacts, especially pre 1960 timetables and tickets, lamps, nameplates, numberplates, staffs, or cast iron carriage / wagon / "trespassers prosecuted" signs?

We can arrange to collect these from anywhere.

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***RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF IRELAND***

***Preserving our Railway Heritage since 1964***

***THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR  
VALUED SUPPORT!***