



Association

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8-E Association No 4 - March 1982

As most members will know, the Open Day was a tremendous success, with an estimated 3,500 attendance. Everything went off fairly smoothly, the only hiccup being the cancellation of the brake-van rides, which was due to an internal B.R. mix-up. A cheque for £400 was presented at the end of the day to the B.R. Welfare Fund, and this was received with thanks. Indeed, our thanks must go to all the 8-E members who helped on the day, and with the sales stand and the raffle (particular credit must go to Mr. Williams who managed to sell £48 worth of tickets - incredible !), to the ladies who catered so ably, and not the least for the splendid co-operation and assistance from Mr. Ted Merryweather and the staff at Northwich shed. The societies who put sales stands on the site were canvassed, and all were delighted.

A great advertisement for the 8-E Association !

Prize winners in the Grand Draw held on the Open Day were -

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| 1 st. | Miss H. Dickenson, Davenham, Northwich |
| 2 nd. | Mr. M. N. Roche, Sandbach |
| 3 rd. | Mrs. G. Boardman, Clubmoor, Liverpool |
| 4 th. | Mr. S. Wayman, Warrington |
| 5 th. | Mr. P. Pitt, Widnes |

Publicity and the 8-E Association.

Many members will no doubt be aware of the excellent photo-feature in the recent issue (No 42) of the Ian Allan quarterly 'Trains Illustrated'. Past and present scenes on Northwich Shed are shown in the article, and members are urged to buy a copy to show friends and relatives, thereby helping to spread

the word further. Look out over the next few months for additional material in the Railway Press, the first of which should be "Steam Railways" and "N.W. Rail Enthusiast". Local engineman/reporter Eddie Bellass was present at the Open Day on 7th. March and has articles in preparation for both magazines. Most other publications (Rly. Magazine, Rly. World, Rail News, etc.) have all been circulated with details of the Open Day events, and it is hoped that they will also see fit to publish the details in due course

Trip to the Severn Valley Railway - Sunday 25-4-82

Our forthcoming visit to Bridgnorth, promises to be an interesting day out, with a variety of locos available for traffic. The fare on the coach will be EXCLUSIVE of S.V.R. tickets so that individuals can make their own minds up as to how far and how often they travel on the line. A selection of fares will be available, ranging from Eardington 3rd class return at 90p, to Bewdley 3rd class return at £3.30, with an 'all line rover' (travel up and down all day !!) at £5.30. First class fares are not a lot dearer (Bewdley £4.00, rover £6.30, etc.), and children/senior citizens/S.V.R. members are all around half price.

An intensive service will operate in both directions from 10.35 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. with trains at 45 minute intervals. At the southern end, all trains will extend to Foley Park on the specially opened Kidderminster section. It is hoped to issue details of timetables and loco diagrams on the coach en-route. In the meantime, anyone requiring further fare, motive power, membership or other details should contact Alan Ashurst

S.V.R. Motive Power Report (as at 18-2-82)

Servicable locos - 3205, 4930, 5164, 5764, (4)5000, 43106, 46521, D1013
Of these, 4930 & 5000 are at Hereford (temp.) for Welsh
Marches Express duties.

Overhaul/repairs required - W.D. 600, 2857, 6960, 7812, 7819, 4566, 45110,
46443, 47383, 8233 (48773), 80079, D1062

Restoration required/under way -

- i. Bridgnorth- 4150, 9303, 42968, 3442 (61994),
75069, 78019
- ii. Bewdley - 813, 1501, 4141, 7714, 7802
- iii. Eardington- 3612 (scrap - for spares only)

The continuing adventures of a shedplate

Or - Didn't we have a lovely time the day we went to Bangor (and Rhyl, Llandudno Junction and Holyhead !!)

Our 8-E shedplate's travels began again on 27-2-82, when the Warrington section decided to have their weekly meeting "on the move" due to the unavailability of our room at the Royal Oak. We had arranged to meet outside Bank Quay Station in time to catch the Manchester Victoria - Bangor train, due to depart at 18.17, travel to Rhyl, find a pub in which to spend an hour, and return on the Bangor - Manchester Victoria train departing Rhyl at 20.15 and arriving back in Warrington at about 21.40.

By about ten past six we were speculating as to the whereabouts of Pat Mullee, whose idea the whole trip was, when 'St. Paddy' (Pat's rather battered Volkswagen camper) rolled up. He and Andy Johnson jumped out, tickets were hastily obtained and we made our way to the platform, puzzling over the reason for the normally amicable Mr. Mullee's ill temper. While we were waiting for the train, to much amusement, he explained.....

Andy, who knew of our plans, decided to join us, and made his way to Pat's house from Crewe, where he is at Driver Training School. Pat arrived in late from work to be informed that, "That Andy from Northwich" had eaten his tea! Poor Pat had to make do with bacon butties on the train, watched by six pairs of greedy eyes (well five - Andy was full !!).

Said train was hauled by 47480 'Robin Hood', the driver of which was approached, and the 8-E shedplate was on it's travels again.

There was a late departure from Warrington, and the run wasn't spectacular, arrival in Rhyl being almost thirty minutes down. The shedplate was retrieved, and a swift dash made to the pub by all apart from big Alan Bennett, who went to find a 'chippy' lest he should fade away to a mere barrel (sorry Alan)! We returned to the station as a familiar warbling whistle told us our train was going to be class 40 hauled. Our evening was made complete when green-liveried 40106 came into view, and carried the 8-E shedplate to Chester. During a lengthy stop there the driver removed it, and Pat had to rescue it from his cab.

Andy left the train at Chester, and we continued to Warrington in the company of the Class 40 Preservation Society, some of whom were coming to our Open Day with their sales stand. On arrival at Bank Quay, we adjourned to the Patten Arms Hotel to discuss our evenings jaunt over a few more beers. There it was decided to do the whole thing again - only travelling to Holyhead - the following day. Timetables were scrutinised. Andy was phoned and told of our plans, and the stage was set for the 8-E shedplate's second outing in two days.

Don't miss next month's newsletter and the next instalment !

Joyce Southworth.

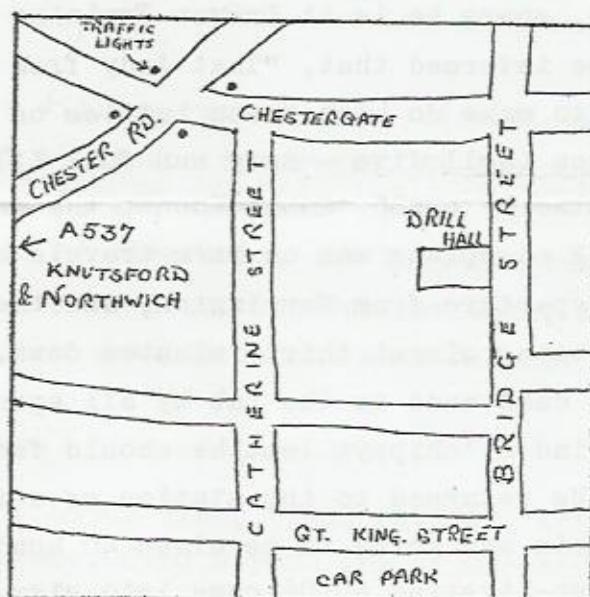
Thank's Joyce - a bit difficult to follow that - interesting to note the Warrington Haute Cuisine, bacon butties, chips and lots of beer !

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For those members whose interest in railways also extends to the model variety, the Macclesfield Model Railway Group are holding their annual exhibition in the Drill Hall, Bridge Street, Macclesfield on Friday, Saturday and Sunday April 23rd, 24th and 25th.

The times of the exhibition are as follows : Friday, 2 pm - 9 pm, Saturday, 10 am - 9 pm, and Sunday, 10 am - 6 pm. There will be at least a dozen layouts, including the club's own 'N', 'OO' and 'TT' gauge layouts, together with static exhibits and trade stands. There will also be refreshments available in the hall.

Admission is 50p for adults, 25p for children and OAP's, and £1 for a family ticket.



Also on a modelling theme, would any members interested in modelling in 3mm scale (TT gauge) please contact Michael Lenz on Northwich 44959.

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To conclude with - would members wishing to go onto the shed please ensure that they carry their membership cards with them. There have been incidents of late where other groups have attempted to take advantage of our fortunate and favourable relationship with the Northwich staff and have created difficulties.

Finally, the next meeting will be at the P.R.S.A. on the 25th May.