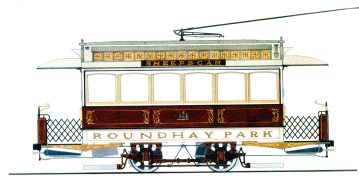


LEEDS TRANSPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWS SHEET 173

MAY/JUNE 2013



YOUR L.T.H.S. NEWS SHEET

M.H.

Apologies that this News Sheet is a month late! The weeks prior to our May meeting were a very busy period for all your regular contributors, and a few days before intended publication date it became apparent that there was precious little to include other than this writer's pathetic scribbles.

Apart from the tremendous workload on horse tram 107, several of your Committee went on a visit to tramways in Belarus (hopefully to be described at this month's LRTA meeting), during which our chairman Ian Dougill contracted a serious illness. Hopefully he will be well enough to return to us this month; we proffer our best wishes for a full recovery.

The August issue will also be late, but by intention. By then, the story of 107's recovery, restoration and return to passenger traffic should be complete and the car resident at Crich. Watch out for the final chapter.

All being well we should also be able to include the programme of social meetings for 2013-2014.

FORTHCOMING L.T.H.S. MEETINGS & EVENTS

The last meeting of the 2012-2013 season is upon us. Meetings start 8.00 p.m. prompt on the second Monday each month at the Richmond Hill Community Club, Railway Street, Leeds, LS9 8HB.

Mon. 10 Jun. - Come and find out!
Mon. 9 Sept. - meetings resume

OTHER LOCAL MEETINGS & COMING EVENTS

Here's a summary - places and contact details follow. Please give these local groups your support. Without a decent attendance they can hardly justify continuing. Remember - Use it or lose it!

Please contact the News Sheet coordinator with details of other local events which may interest members.

June

Tue. 11 (LRTA) **Tramways in Belarus**
Mike Waring

Mon. 17 (LTTG) **"Return Ticket" - IoM Transport**
premiere of new Travel Lens Photographic video

July

Tue. 2 (MRT) To be advised

Tue. 9 (LRTA/LTTG) **Heaton Park visit**
meet Kirkgate, Duck & Drake, 6.15

August

Tue. 6 (MRT) To be advised
date TBA (LTTG)

Visit to Ripon District Light Railway

Sat-Mon 24-26 (MRT) **Leeds Festival of Transport**
Tram rides on Leeds horse tram 107

September

Tue. 3 (MRT) **Why is there a big hole in the middle of Bradford?** Jamie Guest

Fri. 10 (LRTA) **Transport Films** Malcolm Hindes

Groups, Meeting Places & Times

MRT - Middleton Railway Trust, The Engine House, Moor Road, Hunslet, LS10 2JQ, 7.30 p.m.
Refreshments on sale at half-time break.

LRTA - Light Rail Transit Association, Leeds Area, Committee Room No.5, Civic Hall (Portland Street entrance), 7.00-9.00 p.m.

LTTG - Leeds Transport Touring Group, at Grove Inn, Back Row, Holbeck, 8.00 p.m. £1 charge including supper

HORSE CAR 107 UPDATE

Jamie Guest

Since the last News Sheet there has been much progress. We are now facing a looming deadline to get the tram finished for the launch at the end of August so we are working on several areas at once.

The painting is in progress with all last year's paintwork rubbed down and new undercoat being applied before the topcoat and lining. Transfers are being produced by David Smith from Crich. These will include the vinyls for the adverts on the main decency boards. Jim Soper has finished the end boards and signwritten those by hand with correct period adverts. Paul Brearley has made the A-side board and we have trial-installed it before removing it for painting. That will bear an advert for Oakland Glass of Dewsbury and Cyril Isaacs of Leeds who supplied our glass.

The handrails are ongoing and the rails on the stairs are proving tricky. The initial bending was done by Jack from Alton Engineering in Derbyshire; for the final adjustments I've had to learn to use an Oxy Propane torch which I am having to treat with great respect. However we are managing to get some of the rails fixed.

The bell system is being designed and produced and is partially fitted. This is being copied from the system on rack 2 at Crich. We are also copying the lamps on Chesterfield 8, and Roger Mills of Hetherington Lamps is busy making them.

Many other details are also being fitted such as the interior casement windows that open to allow access to the door gear and the various catches and handles. The door locks that we removed from the old doors have been refurbished by Pickersgill-Kaye of Leeds who also refurbished the Kaye's Patent Fare Box that Jim owns. All these items will be used at the launch event.

Due to problems with break-ins at Middleton we can't allow visitors to the workshop without prior arrangements so unfortunately the only opportunity to see the tram in Leeds is going to be at the Transport Festival on the 24th, 25th and 26th of August. It will be operating with horses along the track in the car park on the Sunday and Monday, tickets to ride 107 will be £2 per head to cover the cost of horse hire. Once the gala is over 107 will be setting off to Crich.

HEATON PARK TRIP, July

Once again, LTHS members are invited to share in the LRTA/LTTG joint annual visit to Manchester's Heaton Park heritage tramway on Tuesday 9 July. Meet in Kirkgate, Leeds (opposite the Duck and Drake pub) at 6.15 p.m. for a 6.30 departure. This trip should cost no more than £12, to include transport, tram riding and refreshments (provided by LRTA). Tram driving should be possible for a small additional donation to Manchester TMS funds.

Subject to driver availability, transport will be in John Stainburn's preserved Leyland Leopard bus. Failing this car-sharing will operate.

CROYDON TRIP, October

Jamie Guest

The annual trip this year will be to the Tramlink system at Croydon. This will be one Saturday in October. The plan is to travel down by train on a party ticket (to keep the cost down) and then take a Thameslink train to East Croydon and ride the system from there. I haven't been able to fix the date yet

SUBSCRIPTIONS Tony Cowell, Hon. Treasurer

The £8.00 membership subscription becomes due again from all members on 1 September 2013. If you require a receipt by return, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope, otherwise a receipt will be sent out via the News Sheet.

The postal address is: A. Cowell, 3 Windmill Rise, Aberford, LEEDS, LS25 3EW. Alternatively, acknowledgement can be sent electronically via e-mail. Members should note that details of membership are held on a data base. Anyone, should they so desire, can be removed from the list. Their status as a member will, of course, remain unaffected.

BOOK REVIEW

Leeds Trams and Buses by Michael Berry
(Amberley Publishing, Stroud, £14.99)

Once upon a time there was a dearth of books about Leeds transport. Indeed, recent books on Leeds itself were few and far between (John Waddington-Feather's paperback *Leeds: The heart of Yorkshire* [1967] still has a proud place on my bookshelf). There was the odd reprint from *Modern Tramway* and photo booklets by local enthusiasts such as Bob Parr, but nothing of any material appeal.

Jim Soper broke the mould with Volume One of *Leeds Transport* and the coffee-table book publishers must have spotted a potential market for nice pictures old of Leeds and its transport. Sadly many of these books have text and captions which hardly live up to the quality of the photographs, seemingly cobbled together by guesswork from studying the photo but with little knowledge of our city, its geography or its history and entertaining us with a rich carillon of clangers.

Despite Jim's encyclopaedic familiarity with his subject,

he still researches thoroughly and then submits his work to the scrutiny of his fellow enthusiasts. Would that others followed his example. Even the erudite luminary Dr. Richard Buckley (Hon. Editor of *Tramway Review*) managed to make a risible mess of his lovely volume *Leeds Trams 1871-1959*.

The latest addition to this gallery of nice-to-have (but don't believe it) books comes from Michael Berry (anybody heard of him?), published in distant leafy Gloucestershire, a fact that might account for its many mistakes. Our member Robin Oldfield was so amazed by this volume that he actually provided me with a personal copy in case I didn't believe him! Many thanks, Robin. Now, over to you:

"Having felt the need to point out the errors in the recent book by Richard Buckley on Leeds trams, it is with some apprehension that I put pen to paper in respect of the new book by Michael Berry on Leeds Trams and Buses. Basically it is a collection of photographs, though with very few accreditations, and as I know very little about Leeds buses I will confine my comments to the sections dealing with the trams.

Indeed, I learned much from the introduction about the trams that I did not know. For example, that Dick Kerr supplied fully enclosed trams including 399....trams mainly used the pantograph system....the build order at the end of the 1920s was for 185 plus 75 cars....the Lance Corporals had Middleton-type bogies for sharp turns...five trams were converted as snow brooms. I could go on.

But enough of the sarcasm. The photo captions, though, are not much better. 255 is clearly in the post war red livery. The caption under 272 is a repeat of the previous caption for 258. Temple Newsam is twice referred to as Temple Newsham. Cross Flatts and Cross Gates are referred to as Crossflats and Crossgates (OK I'm getting pedantic now). 195 is not on a Cross Gates 17 service – it's the blind which is half on Harehills Lane and half on Cross Gates. 186 and 200 were on service duty on the final day, not in the final procession. Finally, stores car 8a was not 'car R2 of the ancillary fleet'.

On the plus side there are many photos I have not seen before, and for me these are worth every penny of the £14.99 cover price. I also have tremendous admiration for people like Mr Berry who work hard to preserve our transport heritage. But if a thing's worth doing, it's worth doing properly, and in my view there is too much poor research and sloppy writing here.

Oh, by the way, after the demise of Leeds trams (back cover) there were two tramways left in England, not one.

Yours in trepidation

Robin (Victor Meldrew) Oldfield"

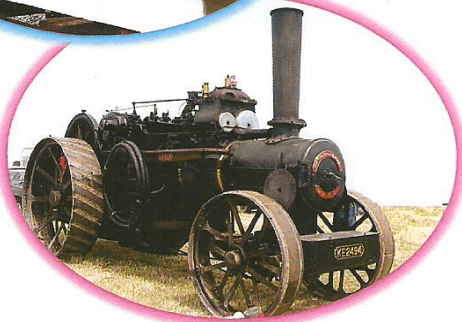
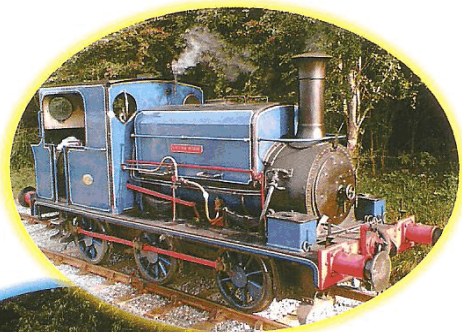
Contributions of news or articles for News Sheets are always welcome and may be submitted to the News Sheet co-ordinator, Malcolm Hindes, at 34 Moor Park Villas, Headingley, Leeds, LS6 4BZ, e-mail malcolm.hindes@btinternet.com

All statements and comments are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent Society policy.

Published by the Leeds Transport Historical Society (Registered Charity No. 501642)
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Jim Soper; Mike Waring; Malcolm Hindes;
Jamie Guest (Secretary), 17 Church Street, Gildersome, Morley, Leeds, LS27 7AE



Festival of Transport



24th - 26th Aug 2013

**The Middleton Railway
of Leeds presents**

A Festival of Transport

**Steam and Diesel locos will
operate an intensive timetable
on the main line**

**The historic Leeds Horse Tram
No. 107 makes its public debut
after restoration (not Sat 24th)**

**Other attractions include
traction engines, military
vehicles, cars and models**

**Driver for a Fiver - get your
hands on a locomotive for just
£5!**

**Free bus link to the
city centre and Armley Mills,
where there will be various
transport attractions including
'Jack' in steam**

**Food stalls, an all day bar and
lots of things to see and do for
all the family**

**For more information and the latest news:-
www.middletonrailway.org.uk**

Middleton Railway Trust Ltd, Moor Rd, Leeds LS10 2JQ