

LEEDS TRANSPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWS SHEET 194

SEPTEMBER 2018



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

Meetings at **Leeds Civic Hall**, LS1 1UR, (Portland Crescent entrance), **1845 for 1900.**

**** N.B.** The October meeting will be held at the Leeds Postal Sports Association Club, Beecroft Street, Kirkstall, LS5 3AS, 1915 for 1930 start.

- Mon. 10 Sep. **Continental Tramway Films from the 1970's & 80's** Malcolm Hindes
Sat. 22 Sep. **Blackpool Gold Heritage visit**
Mon. 8 Oct** **125 Years of the Manx Electric Railway**** Tony Wilson
Mon. 12 Nov. **Tramways** Paul Abell
Mon. 12 Dec. **Iberian Tramways** Mel Reuben

OTHER LOCAL MEETINGS & COMING EVENTS

September

Tue. 11 (MRT) **Middleton Then and Now**
(Note changed date) Ian Smith

Tue. 18 (LRTA) **Tramways of Romania** Ian Dougill

October

Tue. 2 (MRT) **Slides from the Brian Crowther Collection** Malcolm Hindes

Thu. 4 (NGRS) **Isle of Man** Ray Wilkinson

Sun.14 (AVTG) **Yorkshire Dales Vintage Bus & Coach Day**, Skipton Bus Station, 1030-1700, free vintage bus rides. See Aire Valley Transport Group website for details

Tue. 16 (LRTA) **American Trams** Vic Simons

Sat. 27 (SLS) **Collectors' Fair** Pudsey Civic Hall

Sat-Sun. 27-8 **Leeds Model Railway Society Exhibition** GSAL, Alwoodley Gates
N.B. LTHS Sales Stand

November

Tue. 6 (MRT) **Deltic Powered** Nigel Paine

Tue. 20 (LRTA) **UK Trams** Ian Dougill

December

Tue. 4 (MRT) **Christmas Quiz** Team Dobson

Tue. 18 (LRTA) **Why Did UK Trams disappear?**
Paul Abell

Groups, Regular Meeting Places & Times

MRT Middleton Railway Trust, The Engine House, Moor Road, Hunslet, 1930. No charge, refreshments on sale in the interval.

LRTA Light Rail Transit Association. Committee Room No. 3, Civic Hall, 1900. collection £1.

NGRS Narrow Gauge Railway Society, Yorkshire Area, The Epicentre, Meanwood Valley Urban Farm, LS7 2QG, 7.15 for 7.30. Collection £2. Refreshments on sale beforehand 50p.

SLS Samuel Ledgard Society. Barry Rennison, 0113 236 3695, rennison@cc-email.co.uk
See announcement for venue.

OBITUARIES

As many members will be aware, LTHS founder member **Keith Terry MBE**, whose poor health we reported in the last issue, passed away on 19 July at St. James's Hospital. Over 100 friends and relatives attended his funeral at Lawnswood Crematorium and afterwards at Weetwood Hall on Thursday 9 August. Mel Reuben takes up the story.

"On behalf the Family and Executors, I would like to thank all those LTHS members who attended Keith's funeral service and wake in his adopted city of Leeds. Although born in Burnley on 22 April 1930, Alfred Keith Dyson Terry moved with his family to Leeds in 1941. There have been many obituary tributes in various organisations' newsletters, so I will not dwell too long on this subject.

Over the last few years Keith wasn't in the best of health and he missed travelling down the M1 to his favourite destination, Crich Tramway Village. Despite his failing health problems he always had a twinkle in his eyes when ever Crich was mentioned in conversation.

Sadly he stopped coming to LTHS meetings as he was worried about encountering some of the unsavoury characters when walking to our former meeting location in Richmond Hill.

In Keith's memory a Memorial Service will be held at Crich on Sunday 7th October. Starting at 2.30 p.m. from the Red Lion, two Leeds trams will leave on the last ever world-famous "Terry Tour" to Glory Mine and then to Wakebridge where his ashes will be scattered around his favourite Crich location, the service being conducted by Rev. Derek Lambella and Chaplain Roger Culverhouse; also a bench will be unveiled and dedicated to Keith's Memory.

The trams will then return to the Red Lion, where afternoon tea will be served in the Poulson Room. Those wishing to attend the service and afternoon tea please inform Mel Reuben or Jim Soper by late September so that numbers for catering can be passed on to the Crich catering department".

Also in the last *News Sheet* we reported the passing of **Margaret Donald**, wife of our late and long-serving Honorary Secretary, Bernard. Margaret died on 28 May at the age of 86.

Jim Soper writes:

"Like Bernard, Margaret was a cheerful and kind person and Bernard's trips to Scotland in the late 'sixties to see her after working on "double cab" (i.e. LCT Rail Derrick 2) are well remembered by LTHS members.

We send our condolences to their children Christine, Thelma and Ian and families in their sad loss".

ON THE MOVE AGAIN?

M.H.

Following the abrupt closure of the former Yorkshire Rider Club in February, we were extremely fortunate to obtain use of a Committee Room at Leeds Civic Hall for our monthly LTHS meetings.

However this has proved to be far from ideal. Mondays are very busy there, with extended Council meetings, Union and other meetings often causing the car park to be full or our room to be unavailable until the last minute. In addition, the need to start the meeting earlier in order to meet the 9.00 p.m. deadline has been a deterrent to members who have to travel through the city centre rush hour traffic.

Your Committee has looked at a number of possible alternatives, including changing the night or booking accommodation where we might have to ask for an increased donation to cover room charges. Our Secretary has prepared a questionnaire (appended to this *News Sheet*) so you can express your opinions.

As a one-off experiment, the October meeting will be held at the Leeds Postal Sports Association Club at Kirkstall, reverting to the previous times of 7.15 p.m. for 7.30 start so as to finish by 10.00. You will also find a map attached showing the location of the club, which is accessed from Beecroft Street, alongside the former Kirkstall Liberal Club. Post code is LS5 3AS.

There is ample free parking both outside the club itself and in the adjoining Harvard Mills car park. There are bus stops nearby served by no less than six routes and Headingley Railway Station is a 5-minute walk away. Access from the Kirkstall Lane bus stops is up the steps to the Harvard Mills car park then turn right and down the steps in the corner to the club. If this venue proves suitable we may transfer subsequent meetings there. Your response to the questionnaire direct to John or at the October meeting will help us provide the best meeting venue.

SUBSCRIPTIONS RENEWAL

Tony Cowell

The yearly £10.00 membership subscription became due from all members on the 1st September.

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, electronic acknowledgement can be sent via an Email.

It is now possible for us to claim Gift Aid, collectively on all small donations of £20.00 or less. This increases the value of your membership at no cost to yourself (provided, of course, you are a taxpayer!).

I would like to thank the members who have already renewed without any reminder.

DATA PROTECTION FORM REMINDER

John Holmes

Can I remind half of our members that we have not yet received their "Data Protection Form" back?

Under the new law, we are not supposed to contact you, or even send you the *News Sheet* unless we have your consent.

As September is the start of our new season the form can be returned with your annual subscription. I will have spare forms available at the September meeting.

BLACKPOOL VISIT, 22 September

John Holmes

Our trip this autumn is on Saturday 22 September to the "133rd Anniversary Gold Event Weekend" at Blackpool. There will be numerous heritage trams operating, also:

- Starr Gate and Rigby Road Depots open to people who pre-book tickets (see below).
- Heritage tram service between Starr Gate and Fleetwood.
- Heritage bus service along the inland disused tram routes.
- Visit the extension route to Blackpool North Station.
- Official Souvenir Shop.
- Blackpool Illuminations in the evening

Travel to Blackpool

We planned to get Northern trains from Leeds to Blackpool. However a rail strike has been called for this date so we recommend car sharing, which can be discussed at the September meeting. Also National Express bus route 351 may be found suitable, departing Leeds 0800.

Should the strike be called off, we will aim for the 0851 from Leeds City Station (0900 from New Pudsey - anyone wanting park & ride is recommended to use New Pudsey, which has plenty car parking space on a Saturday). Arrive at Preston 1038, change for a Blackpool South train at 1054, arriving at Pleasure Beach at 1130. The journey home is flexible but the last train from Blackpool is at 2117 arriving New Pudsey 2324, Leeds 2337.

Costs

Heritage Day Ticket (Valid on Heritage Trams, Modern Trams, Service Buses & Heritage Buses and Illuminations Tour) £11.00.

Concession Ticket (English Senior Citizen / Disabled - valid only on Heritage Trams & Buses) £8.50. (Not recommended unless you only want to ride on the heritage vehicles).

Depot Tour Ticket (Valid for the guided depot tours and including a Heritage Day Ticket) £20.00. This has to be pre-booked with Blackpool Transport Services on 01253 209521 (have debit/credit card handy)

The Off-Peak Day Return Train Fare from Leeds to Blackpool via Burnley is £23.50 (with a Railcard about £15.50). New Pudsey fare is £20.40 (with Railcard about £13.45). There are cheaper fares if you book Advance Tickets, but these are valid for one specified train only in each direction which will not give any flexibility for the journey home.

Any questions, do not hesitate to ring John Holmes on (0113) 258 0767.

SALES STANDS - LEEDS MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION and S.L.S. COLLECTORS' FAIR

As mentioned already, we have a Sales Stand booked at the Leeds Model Railway Society's Annual Exhibition, 27-8 October at the Grammar School for Leeds, Alwoodley Gates. The Saturday coincides with the Samuel Ledgard Society's Collectors' Fair at Pudsey Civic Hall and we would like to be able attend both. Our Sales Manager, Stephen Longthorpe, would welcome help with setting up and manning both stalls (Alwoodley Friday evening, Pudsey Saturday morning).

The Pudsey fair is open 10.00-16.00 Saturday, setting up from 08 00.

The Model Railway Exhibition will be open from 10.00 until 17.30 Saturday, 10.00-16.30 Sunday, and as usual staff admission will be by a limited number of passes. Meals and light refreshments will be available in the school refectory at very reasonable prices.

If you can help, please contact Stephen - telephone (0113) 305 0576 or 07493 745 027. Please **do not** just turn up unannounced as you will have to pay to get in!

THE JUNE QUIZ - Answers **John Holmes**

All the clues were for systems or destinations that have or had trams. The red letter in each place gave the anagram of another place.

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| PADIHAM | RAWTENSTALL |
| KEIGHLEY | SHIPLEY |
| BARROWFORD | MEADOWHALL |
| LLANDUDNO | CROYDON |
| GATESHEAD | HUDDERSFIELD |
| FLEETWOOD | GUISELEY |
| WOLVERHAMPTON | |

The Place - **OSWALDTWISTLE**

NOW FOR THE AUTUMN QUIZ

All are towns or suburbs which have had trams.

1. Large brewing town in the Midlands
□□□□□□-□□□□-□□□□□
2. Herbert Asquith (PM) was born here □□□□□□
3. The most easterly railway station in England
□□□□□□
4. Cricket Test matches played here
□□□□□□□□
5. You may be sent here, if you are in bad books
□□□□□□□□
6. Large lamb chops named after here
□□□□□□□□
7. A shade of green □□□□□□□□
8. A flying boat named after this city
□□□□□□□□□□
9. Where they hanged a monkey
□□□□□□□□□□
10. A currant cake is named after here □□□□□□
11. It was said to have treacle mines □□□□□□
12. The "Tigers" are from here
□□□□□□□□□□
13. Town with a crooked spire
□□□□□□□□□□□□
14. Britannia is moored here □□□□□□
15. Had a railway station called Bank Top
□□□□□□□□□□
16. The fruit cake is named after here □□□□□□
17. Cooking apple may be named after here
□□□□□□□□
18. Fisherman's Friend made here
□□□□□□□□□□
19. This inland town has a pier □□□□□□
20. Fred Dibnah was from here □□□□□□

Answers in the next issue.

PUZZLE PICTURES

No fresh puzzle pictures this issue, but June's teasers brought a mixed reception. Quite a few people successfully identified the first, showing a Ledgard bus in a location which has changed quite a bit since. It was certainly no problem to Chris Youhill ("Chris Blue-Bus") who writes:



"I feel a bit of a cheat, being an ex Ledgard man, but I do know all about this picture. The RT is inbound on the Leeds - Hawksworth Road - Horsforth route and has left the terminus at Broadgate Lane/Stanhope Drive, travelled up Broadgate Lane and then turned right along Long Row and in the picture has just turned into Station Road. The original "Old Ball" is visible not many yards from where the new one has been built. The road in the background, with shop and cars, is St. Margaret's Road".

The first of Robin Oldfield's recent tram relic photos - a stump of rail - stumped everybody (sorry). It is a poignant reminder of the many Leeds trams which, like itself, succumbed to the infamous "gas axe" nearby, being the remnant of a fence post on Lowfields Road, adjacent to the site of the former permanent way yard which became the last resting place for so many fine vehicles.



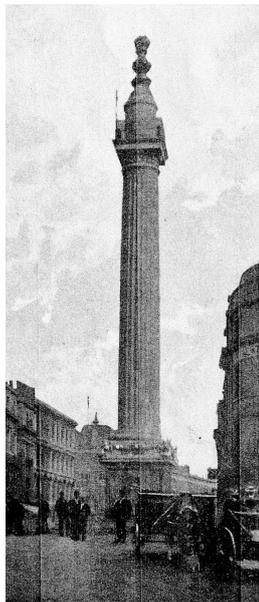
Several members identified (guessed?) The location of Robin's second photograph (see next page). It is a remnant of the Templenewsam route, situated alongside Temple Newsam Road by the south west corner of the sports arena. Reports of any more residual tram rails are always welcome.



CHARLIE'S COLUMN

Charlie Watson

The Way of all flesh



The recent news that some of the West Midlands Metro T69 cars have been despatched to Booth's scrapyards in Rotherham is - for me - quite sad.

Although they were not an outstanding example of how to build a modern tramcar, they worked hard for over 20 years and gave Midlanders a good service. Their saloon steps and staggered seating took some getting used to and they weren't very wheelchair friendly, but they had comfortable seats and gave a good ride. In later years they reminded me of Snafell cars as they always seemed to pull themselves apart on a curve!

Now the end is in sight, and this poses a problem - is one going to be preserved?

We stand a real risk of losing our first generation "new trams" unless something is done. Because of their construction, they are longer than the "old trams" so they need a lot more space. This rules out Crich, but the Black Country Museum at Dudley has space, or what about West Midlands Metro itself?

Time will tell, but I won't be going near Booth's for some time

Not only are familiar vehicles disappearing but also garages. The recent decision of East Yorkshire to close Hornsea garage has not been popular with the folk of Hornsea or with enthusiasts.

Many years ago, "when I were a lad", I remember going past the garage and seeing workmen removing the gold "EAST YORKSHIRE" lettering from the building. The

next day the building was displaying its being "part of the National Bus Company" with "East Yorkshire" in chunky lettering, NBC arrowhead logo and the aforementioned slogan in small letters under the fleet name.

Upon then the indigo buses gradually became red, then maroon and finally (mostly) cream. Following privatisation the arrowhead and slogan vanished but the chunky lettering remained.



Now this is all in the past as Hornsea garage closed on May 5th. I couldn't be there as work prevented this, but on May 3rd I was in Hornsea at 6 a.m. to film the morning run-out of the buses and I felt sad I would never see this again. The unthinkable was happening before my eyes and I could do nothing to prevent it. All I could do was record the final allocation. Cliff Road will never be the same again.

As usual, I've been on my hols to that little lump of rock that sits in the Irish Sea. Last year I only noted one bus in EYMS-style livery - No. 160 (Ramsey Depot) but this year 160 (Douglas Depot) was now in the metallic grey livery.

I mentioned this to an Inspector who told me that the official name of the livery is not "metallic grey" or "silver" but "platinum". I told him I didn't care, it still looked nasty and cheap. Worse was to come, because for years I've been advocating that either Snafell 2 or 4 should display the green livery of the 1960's. Finally SMR 4 has appeared in the said colour but it looks nothing like original. It is basically in MER livery but green in place of red with white edging on the green panels and it looks too bad to be described (even worse, MER 21 which was green last year is in red and brown now).

SMR 2 has been repainted in red but obviously no-one on the SMR can provide scumble as the grained panels have scumble effect plastic on them! It looks like something from a well-known children's TV programme.

Sorry if I have vented my spleen too much in this column. The next one will be more fun for you to read - and for me to write!

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Committee & Trustees: Ian M. Dougill (Chairman); Malcolm Hindes (Vice-Chairman); Tony Cowell (Treasurer);

John B. Holmes (Secretary); Jim Soper; Mike Waring; Melvyn Reuben

Registered Office: 16 Sussex Avenue, Horsforth, Leeds, LS18 5NP

web site <http://lths.co.uk/>, webmaster Simon Reuben

Hon. Editor: Malcolm Hindes, email malcolm.hindes@btinternet.com - contributions for future issues welcome

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