

North British Railway Study Group



NEWSLETTER

December 2011 - number 114

Chairman's Notes: December 2011

A G M: Saturday, 8th October.

I enjoyed meeting those members who attended this year's AGM, both old friends and new faces.

The minutes of the meeting are enclosed with this mailing, but the main points agreed were:

The Subscription rate remains unchanged for the coming year.

The Constitutional changes (as detailed in the last mailing) were approved, and a copy of the revised Constitution is enclosed.

Membership List.

This has recently been revised to include all of those members who have agreed to their details being published. A copy has been included to these members only.

With best wishes for 2012,

Ex-NB Stations Under Review

Network Rail's 'Initial Investment Plan for Scotland' has highlighted the low passenger numbers using Springfield station (near Cupar). Only 860 passengers used the station in 2010, making it one of the 22 least used stations in Scotland which are highlighted in the report. While denying that this was a 'hit list', Network Rail stated that the report 'gives information to the Scottish Government, who may feel there is a social need for some of these stations'. Barry Links, Golf Street and Balmossie Halts on the former Dundee & Arbroath Joint Railway are also on the list.

ModelRail 2012 -

Friday 24th - Sunday 26th February 2012

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, we have the opportunity to showcase the Group at the largest model railway show in Scotland, but we do have to make sure that the staffing of the Group stand does not fall to the regular number of volunteers. If you can spare 2 or 3 hours over the weekend, please consider adding your name to the list. If you have any questions, please let me know, and I'll do my best to answer them.

Jeff Hurst.

Forth Bridge Update



The painting contract for the Forth Bridge is due for completion in December 2011. The £1.3 million project started in 2002, using paint developed for the North Sea Oil Industry. Officially known as Transguard TG168, the painters just refer to it as Forth Bridge Red. The cost of applying it to the bridge is £370 per square metre.

Photo courtesy of Network Rail

Ticket Forum

Following the notice in Newsletter 113, I am pleased to confirm that several members have declared their interest in tickets, and we are in taking the Forum forward. If anyone else would like to join us, please let me know.

Jeff Hurst

Dates for your 2012 Diary

As we are moving to fewer mailings in 2012, a reminder of two significant dates in June 2012:

Group Outing:

Saturday 5th June 2012

(An application form will be included with Journal 115)

Perth Model Railway Show:

Sat. 26th - Sun. 27th June 2012

Group Web Site: www.nbrstudygroup.co.uk

Please send items for the next Newsletter to: Allan Rodgers, 84 Glassel Park Road, Longniddry, East Lothian, EH32 0TA (Email: allangrogers@gmail.com : Telephone: 01875-852844) no later than 28th February 2012

New Books

Several new publications have appeared recently, and details are given below - fuller reviews will appear in Journal 115:

Haymarket Locomotive Depot, Edinburgh by Harry Knox.

Lightmoor Press ISBN 9781899889 58 7 £24.99

This is the second book on Haymarket by Group member Harry Knox, and from an initial inspection, it is well worth adding to your Christmas wish list.

Bradshaw's Guide 1866 (reprint).

Middleton Press ISBN 978-1-908174-05-5 £24.95

You may have seen the 'Great British Railway Journeys' TV series by Michael Portillo, where he uses the Bradshaw's Guide to describe the various places visited throughout the UK. This reprint enables anyone to repeat the journeys for themselves, and includes a section on the NBR lines in the Borders, including the Border Counties branch.

Hexham to Hawick - the Border Counties Railway.

Middleton Press ISBN 978 1 908174 08 6 £15.99

The coverage of ex NBR lines in Scotland continues with this, the second volume in the series.

World's Fastest Steam Railway - London Kings Cross to Edinburgh Waverley.

Mortons Media Group ISBN 978-1-906167-71-4 £7.99

Exclusive to W H Smith, this is a glossy, well produced addition to the range of 'Bookazines' (a new addition to the English language, apparently) produced by this publisher in recent years.

Men of Steam - Railwaymen in Their Own Words.

Pen and Sword Books ISBN 978-1-84563-133-8 £19.99

Mystery Photograph Winter Preparations



One of our recent website enquiries asked if we could identify the location of this NBR staff photograph. I realise that there's not much to go on, but if anyone can help, please contact the Chairman.



ScotRail's winter preparations include heated polytunnels at Perth and Eastfield to avoid the disruption to last year's services, caused by the exceptional snowfall. Up to three tonnes of ice could gather under a trainset during a day's work, and underframe fittings were damaged when partially thawed pieces of ice fell on to the track and then bounced back up under the vehicles.

Above - a Class 170 is pictured in one of the tunnels.

SRPS Annual Quiz

The Group were well represented in this year's annual Quiz, run by the SRPS. The Glasgow team of Mike Smith and Jeff Hurst, led by Hamish Stevenson emerged the winners after overcoming the five other teams.

Photo courtesy of ScotRail.