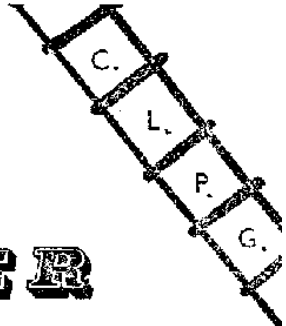


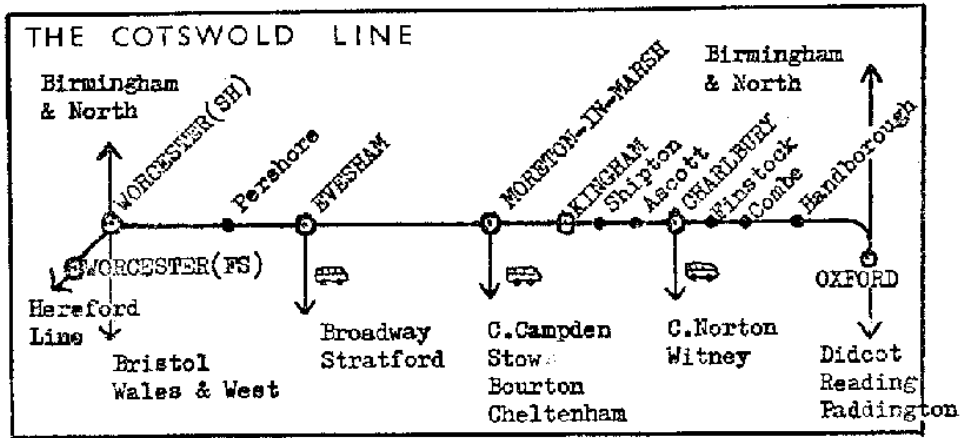
No 1

SPRING 78

THE COTSWOLD LINE
PROMOTION GROUP



NEWSLETTER



- TO THE COTSWOLD LINE PROMOTION GROUP has been formed:
- Encourage the fullest possible use of the Oxford/Worcester Line by both passengers & freight.
 - Safeguard & improve both rail & bus feeder services.

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER RECEIVED FROM PETER PARKER - Chairman of the Railways Board.

" I should like to wish your Promotion Group every possible success in what they are trying to do. Anything that can attract more people back onto rail is so worthwhile. We have a fine service & tradition to be proud of & there's an important rôle for rail to play in the years ahead. I'm delighted we are working together with you on this campaign. We certainly want to do all we can to help".

WELCOME TO ALL READERS of this first Newsletter of the newly-formed Cotswold Line Promotion Group and a 'thank you' to all those whose help - financial and otherwise - has enabled our campaign to be officially launched. As you will see foundations have already been laid and things are astir. It is however only a start and much remains to be done if the long-term future of our vital railway line is to be assured.

Finally, two serious and urgent pleas:

1. Newsletters such as ours should reflect the views of the membership. Please help this aim by sending articles, news items, letters and suggestions to the secretary or to any member of the committee.
2. As the minimum subscription is low a large membership is essential. if you are not yet a member please join us now by completing the tear-off application form in this newsletter. If you have already 'signed on' please ask a friend to follow your shining example.

Many thanks and here's to a long, and successful future!

STOP PRESS!

May 17th, See Events Diary.

Oliver Lovell.
Chairman

INAUGURAL MEETING

Any lingering doubts about the success of pre-meeting publicity were dispelled when over 100 people had crowded into the Moreton-in-Marsh Women's Institute hall by 10.30 a.m. on March 11. Colonel McLelland who, to our great good fortune, had readily agreed to take the chair, called the meeting to order and proceedings were under way without loss of time.

Mr Whitaker and Mr Mather, respectively BR area managers at Worcester and Oxford, had hoped to be present but were unfortunately prevented from attending by the call of duty: each however sent a deputy who took part in the general discussion.

Motions setting up the Cotswold Line Promotion Group and approving its draft constitution were passed unanimously.

officers and committee were duly elected (see below) and a minimum subscription of 50p for individuals and £1 for organizations agreed.

We then had interesting talks from, the chairman of the Railway Invigoration Society and of the Transport and the Environment Group followed by a lively general discussion which could have gone on for much longer had time allowed.

Before the close Mr Michael Downes proposed a vote of thanks to Colonel McLelland for his conduct of the meeting. The warmth with which this was received must have left Colonel McLelland in no doubt about our appreciation of his support. Sixty members were enrolled on the spot: this was encouraging, but of course we need many more if we are to achieve our aims.

Alfred Fountain
Secretary

Officers

Chairman: Oliver Lovell Corner Cottage Church St
Moreton-in-Marsh 50968

Secretary: Alfred Fountain 2 St Davids Walk Moreton-
in-Marsh 50083

Treasurer: Mrs Jo Stanley 43 Stockwells Moreton-in-Marsh
50252

Committee members and areas covered

Mr Graham Stokes 9 Orchard Place Harvington Evesham 870504.
(Worcester, Pershore, Evesham)

Mr Wally Povey 8 Station Rd Ebrington Chipping Campden.
Evesham 840533 (Evesham to Moreton-in-Marsh)

Mr Richard Henshaw 2 Hollybank Longorough Stow 30614 (Moreton-
in-Marsh)

Mr Christopher Ambury Over Norton Park Over Norton Chipping
Norton 3975 (Kingham, Shipton, Ascott and Charlbury)

Dr Keith Harrap 131a Main Rd Long Hanborough Oxon Freeland
882428. (Finstock, Combe, Handborough)

Rev Tom Comber 32 Alexandra Rd Oxford 44632. (Oxford)

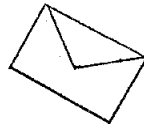
Members wishing to raise matters affecting a particular area are invited to get in touch with the appropriate committee member.

PROPOSALS

The Cotswold Line has been at risk in the past and an important reason for forming the Group now is to guard against closure or downgrading in the future. The aim therefore is to promote more passenger and freight traffic and to achieve this by working with British Rail, the Trade Unions, tourist bodies and local authorities. Topics currently under discussion include:

1. Increased publicity by means of leaflets, posters and information boards.
2. More rail/coach tours, summer excursion trains and bargain fares to specified destinations.
3. Improvements in bus feeder services.
4. Improved services to unstaffed stations (e.g., Pershore and Handborough).
5. The re-introduction of a late-night service to Worcester.
6. The long-term implications for the Cotswold Line of the proposed Worcester Parkway Station and of a High Speed Train service on the Oxford/Birmingham line.

MAIL VAN



Sir

Handborough irritation - a stopping problem

I live only five minutes walk from Handborough Station. Three trains stop there each day, two in the morning (06.50 and 08.28) for Oxford and one returning in the evening at 17.38.

For me, the train is the method I choose for travelling to work in Oxford each day. The ten minute journey is good value at a day return fare of 57p. The problem comes on those occasions when I have to go to London. The morning journey up is easy enough with connections at Oxford for Paddington from the two a.m. trains. It is the return journey which causes difficulty. Only rarely can I leave London by 16.20 - the latest possible departure time which connects with the only local service from Oxford. This usually means, therefore, that I cannot use the train from Handborough in

the morning either and I have to resign myself to a rush-hour drive to Oxford Station and back. It seems a personal niggle, I know, but it is a source of real irritation when I think that both the 17.00 and the 18.00 trains from Paddington pass through Handborough anyway but of course neither of them stop!

Handborough Station has ample free parking space so motorists could use the station for services to Paddington if only a couple of through trains would stop there each day. Both Witney and Woodstock would be well served in this way.

Keith Harrap

HEREFORD TO LONDON ROUTES

The news that the 1978/79 passenger schedules are to remain largely unaltered on the London/Worcester/Hereford route is at first sight a welcome confirmation of the improvements initiated in May 1977. But it is disturbing that, as revealed in a Modern Railway survey of the Newport/Shrewsbury/Crewe route (March 1978), one-third of all passenger journeys between Hereford and London have now transferred from the Cotswold Line to the connecting service with the Newport/London High Speed Train. From May 1978 improved connections will provide a fastest ever transit time of 2 hours 35 minutes from Hereford to Paddington via Newport (departing Hereford 07.20): obviously competitive with the through morning service via Worcester.

The 1977/78 timetable shows the overall position to be as follows:

	Average transit times (minutes)	
	to London	From London
Through trains via Worcester (3 each way)	189	189
HST/Newport connections (4 up, 6 down)	185	186

Graham Stokes

Footnote

Though the Day Return rate to London of £9.30 applies to both routes, there are no restrictions via Worcester & one can catch the 07.12 'through' breakfast train. Via Newport, however, one cannot leave before 08.03 unless the full return fare of over £14. is paid.

EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY.

MON. MAY 1st. B.R. 'Awayday' Excursion to CHESTER & LLANDUDNO from Evesham & Pershore.
Cost £3.40 Adults (£2.25 Children).
Please enquire at stations for timings & book direct.

MON. MAY 15th Cycle Trip, - Moreton-in-Marsh to Kingham (Train back). Refreshments at the Langston Arms. A 10 mile ride along country lanes. Dept. Station Yard 17.30. Return 19.24 train. Bikes travel FREE! Cost 46p. (23p Children) + refreshments.

TUES. JUNE 13th An informal 'Get-Together' at the Over Norton home of Mr. & Mrs. Ambury. (Chris is a committee member & Chairman of the Charlbury & Kingham Rail Passengers Assn.).
Bill of fare Cheese & Wine & the showing of fascinating slides of some of the unusual spots abroad which Chris has recently visited.
Cost 75p. Phone C/Norton 3975 by June 9th. for route details.

SAT. JUNE 11th B.R. 'Awayday' Excursion to LONDON from Pershore, Evesham & Moreton.
Cost £3.40 Adults (£2.25 Children).
Please enquire at stations for timings & book direct.

SUN. JULY 30th. B.R. 'Awayday' Excursion to CANTERBURY, MARGATE & RAMSGATE from Pershore, Evesham & Moreton-in-Marsh.
Cost £3.40 Adults (£2.25 Children). Departure times not yet known.

We hope to arrange a C.L.P.G. block booking with B.R. so as to travel as a party. s.a.e. please to the Secretary with Cash/P.Order/Cheque by July 15th.

Note Only those excursions serving intermediate stations on the Cotswold Line are listed. Please contact Oxford or Worcester Travel Centres for other trips & Bargain Fares.

*** * STOP PRESS:- WED. MAY 17th - Nationwide - B.B.C. 1. T.V.** Peter Parker answers questions from viewers on railway matters.



LINESIDE NEWS

FLY THE COTSWOLD LINE to Heathrow Airport & save yourself a lot of time & money. B.R. operates a highly successful half-hourly coach service from Reading station to Terminals 1, 2 & 3. The fare from Reading is only £2.20.

If you take your car to Heathrow, remember the high cost of parking & those wretched double yellow lines! So catch your local 'Inter-City train to the Continent.

STATIONS -WORCESTER to MORETON. The "Two for One" tickets & the Saturday Saver are due to be withdrawn soon. Please watch for notices in case they are extended.

PERSHORE A traffic survey on the morning & evening commuter trains (March 13th/17th) noted 170 passenger journeys. Not bad, but the future of the station remains at risk.

MORETON-IN-MARSH A 'Mini Travel Centre' has been set up in the Post Office. This gives information on all rail & bus services in the area & is proving very popular.

STATIONS KINGHAM to HANDBOROUGH 'Saturday Saver' tickets to London for only £2.25. (Children £1.13.) Depart a.m. & return by any train.

* A request from the Moreton Station staff for bedding plants. - Can you help?

Stations to re-open?

Hereford & Worcestershire County Council is anxious to re-open two stations on the west bank of the River Severn to encourage daily travellers to the city of Worcester to use the railway and thus ease severe rush-hour congestion over the river bridge.



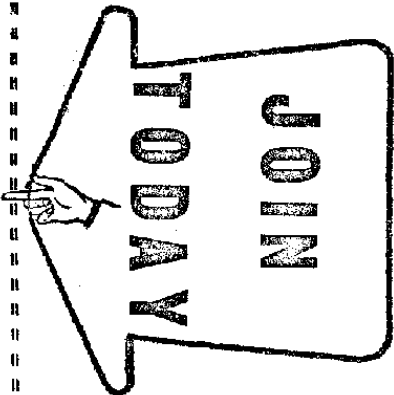
WANTED! MEMBERS - MEMBERS - MEMBERS!

HELP US TO BECOME STRONG AND EFFECTIVE.
ACT **NOW** BY COMPLETING THE FORM OVERLEAF (Minimum Subscription 50 Pence),
IT'S YOUR LINE YOUR ACTIVE SUPPORT IS VITAL TO SUCCESS.

Contributions to NEWSLETTER
No. 2. by JUNE 8th, please.

A GROUP OPTING THIS SUMMER?

Ideas & offers of help will
be gratefully received.



===== X
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP (Please complete & send with your subscription (Valn.50p.)
to the Treasurer, Mrs. J. Stanley, 43 Sookwells, Moreton-in-Marsh, Glos. or hand
to any Committee Member.)

I wish to become a member of the COTSWOLD LINE PROMOTION GROUP & enclose
as my membership subscription to April 30th. 1979.

NAME Mr/Mrs/Miss.

ADDRESS & Tel No.

FARE DEALS

There are five different Fare Deal Tickets.
Ask at your station for the "How to Choose
your Rail Ticket" leaflet & pick the ticket
that best suits your requirements.

REMEMBER

That the Student Railcard has been extended to
cover the 14 to 17 year olds.

That the Senior Citizen Railcard permits half
price travel (£7.00 all journeys, £3.50 Awaydays only).

That the Kellogg's Free child ticket offer expires
on June 25th.

That Bicycles travel FREE on all but High Speed Trains.

FOR TRAIN & TRAVEL ENQUIRIES CONTACT YOUR
AREA TRAVEL CENTRE.

WORCESTER 27211. - OXFORD 41744

===== X
CUT HERE =====

Signature:
Please tick box if a receipt is required.

