

Railway Herald

Issue 295 - 12th December 2011



The weekly railway enthusiasts' magazine

Railway Herald

Issue 295
12th December 2011

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Richard Tuplin



New look for Thameslink cross-London stations

With work progressing forward on the Thameslink upgrade project, the new-look booking office at West Hampstead and the new South Bank entrance to the heavily rebuilt Blackfriars station have opened to public use.

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The weekly round-up from a pictorial viewpoint of newsworthy and unusual workings across the country.

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Ivatt Diesel Recreation Society takes a major step forward after obtaining an English Electric 16SVT for use in its new-build Ivatt 10000 diesel locomotive.

NXEA completes upgrade

To mark the completion of its service upgrade and improved West Anglia timetable, NXEA has named two of its new Class 379 Electrostars.

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Secure future for SBJ box

Network Rail has publicly stated the future of Severn Bridge Junction signal box at Shrewsbury, the world's largest lever-worked box, is secure.

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New timber flow for Colas

Colas Rail has expanded its timber operations, with the introduction of a new weekly flow from Devon to Chirk.

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Situation Normal ...

... thats the news from Virgin Trains, which says it has no intention of operating an emergency timetable during severe weather - it will be normal services.

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Essentials

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Including comprehensive listings.

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Front Cover Caption:

Colas Rail Class 47/7s Nos. 47739 and 47727 (DIT) cross the River Trent at Rectory Junction, near Nottingham, with the Boston to Washwood Heath steel working. **John Illingworth**

Virgin Rail Group gears up for franchise renewal process



▲ Sir Richard Branson, Chairman of the Virgin Rail Group, congratulates the 30 millionth customer at London Euston on 7th December. **John Whitehouse**

The Virgin Rail Group, 51% of which is owned by Virgin, with the remaining 49% by Stagecoach, started its bid to secure the West Coast franchise for a further 15 years with a clear statement that if its bid is accepted there will be 'billions' pouring into HM Treasury coffers as a consequence.

This was the clear message from Sir Richard Branson, and Sir Brian Souter of Stagecoach, at a media briefing at London Euston on 7th December, 30 years after that the ill-fated Advanced Passenger Train became the first tilting train to carry passengers in Britain. The event was aimed at promoting Virgin's credentials to retain the franchise, as well as setting out its role in bids for

other franchises, which are due to be awarded in the medium-term.

Sir Richard was speaking on the day Virgin celebrated the carriage of its 30 millionth passenger this year, and he highlighted the strong growth of the business over the past 14 years, which included the introduction of the Pendolino sets replacing the ageing and progressively unreliable loco-hauled fleet. From bleak beginnings when its train performance often drew plenty of criticism, the past seven years has seen passenger numbers growing at a rate of approximately two million year-on-year, and with the introduction of extra capacity in 2012, that rate of growth should continue, especially with the Olympic Games in London likely to generate significant traffic.

Sir Brian Souter looked ahead to the next stage, commenting that the Virgin business was growing at a faster rate than any other train operator, and that such growth would make the franchise even more profitable.

In real terms, this means that with 14 million passengers a year, a subsidy was paid to Virgin to operate the service, but with passenger numbers now at the 30 million a year mark, and increasing, under the new franchise a healthy premium will be payable to the Government.

Both were naturally reticent in speaking specifically about the West Coast bid, pointing out that the terms of reference had still to be issued. However, Sir Richard did add that he hoped the decision would recognise innovation and that the Government would not just go for the bid that promised the best bottom line and highest premium.

The problems associated with the Intercity East Coast franchise were cited as a good example of the folly that comes from taking purely financial considerations into account when awarding a franchise. "We want it (the bid) to be a beauty parade based on quality," he said, adding: "People do not want cheap trains, cheap staff and cheap service".

Both men also expressed concern at the inroads being made into the British market by consortiums that include state-owned railway companies, whose relative strength may result in part by subsidies received from their respective governments, and whose performance does not compare with the quality of service associated with the Virgin brand, which has recently achieved a 90% passenger satisfaction rating, by far the best of the long distance train operators.

ORR unveils plans for better communication during disruption

The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) has set out its intention to underpin the rail industry's initiatives for providing appropriate, accurate and timely information for passengers.

New obligations in the licences of all train companies, station operators and Network Rail will ensure that the whole rail network is working together in compliance with an industry Code of Practice to deliver the best possible passenger information.

ORR Chief Executive, Richard Price, said: "Rail passengers in Britain today rightly expect to receive reliable information so that they can plan their journeys and make sensible decisions when services are disrupted. This is a fundamental requirement, not an optional 'add on', and we need to do all we can to make sure the railways deliver".

The Code of Practice sets out standards for the provision of consistent information at regular intervals, as well as investing in staff training and communications technology.

It requires information for passengers to be well structured, concise and jargon-free, and to contain information on the problem and its impact, and advise passengers accordingly to allow them to make informed travel choices. An initial message is to be

sent to station staff within 10 minutes of an incident being notified to a control office. If this incident results in major disruption then subsequent messages should be updated at least every 20 minutes.

Providing appropriate, accurate and timely information for passengers requires every train company, station operator and Network Rail to work consistently and co-operatively together. Mr Price continued, saying that the "new passenger information obligations we propose will allow the Regulator to take action against any organisation consistently failing to meet commitments under the industry's own code. Good performers have nothing to fear. This greater accountability will ensure that poor performers are not allowed to undermine the industry as a whole. It is time for passengers to have certainty that, at all times and across the whole network, all parts of the industry are working together to deliver the best information that can reasonably be provided".

ORR's proposed licence changes, which follow extensive public consultation, will require licence holders to comply with the ATOC Approved Code of Practice and improvement plans. The Regulator believes that this will ensure that the industry acts co-operatively to bring about improvements in passenger information.

National Express East Anglia marks upgrade completion

To mark the completion of its service upgrade and improved West Anglia timetable, National Express East Anglia (NXEA) named two of its new Class 379 Electrostars in ceremonies at either end of the West Anglia route on 9th December.

The first ceremony took place at Liverpool Street, when No. 379012 was named *The West Anglian* by Jules Pipe, Chair of London Councils and Mayor of Hackney, recognising the important contribution made by the West Anglia Routes Group, a consortium of local authorities and stakeholders who have worked with NXEA in the development of the timetable improvements. This event was followed by a ceremony at Ely, with the naming of No. 379011 *Ely Cathedral* by the Acting Dean of Ely Cathedral, Canon David Pritchard. The ceremony at Ely also featured a live performance at the station by the Cathedral's Choristers.

The new timetable for the West Anglia network commenced on 11th December, increasing seating capacity by



▲ Cllr Jules Pipe, Mayor of Hackney (middle), is presented with the third plate after the naming of Class 379 No. 379012 at London Liverpool Street. **Brian Morrison**

almost 20% through the addition of 5,500 more seats at peak travel times. The timetable is designed to provide the maximum customer

benefits of the £155 million investment in the fleet of 30 Class 379s, and an additional £30 million has been invested in lengthening

platforms to cater for future growth, and in new carriage washers as part of National Express East Anglia's 'Service Improvement Plan'.

▼ The choristers from Ely Cathedral join Andrew Chivers and Canon David Pritchard, Acting Dean, are pictured in front of the newly named No. 379011. **Brian Morrison**



▲ Destined to be a changed scene in three years time as a result of the Norton Bridge Realignment Scheme, Class 66/0 No. 66206 heads south on the 'Up Slow' line at Heamies, north of Norton Bridge, on 28th November, with the 11.31 Halewood-Southampton Eastern Docks automotive service. The nearside track, the 'Down Slow' line, will disappear to be replaced by a new line running to the west through Norton Bridge, and after diverging from the North Staffs Line as it flies over the WCML, the new line will join the existing 'Down Slow' alignment just before Heamies Farm Bridge that can be seen towards the rear of the train.

► Drilling for soil samples on the alignment of the new 'Down Slow' line to be constructed as part of the Norton Bridge Realignment Scheme, it is envisaged that the new line will run well to the west of the existing 'Down Slow' before joining the existing alignment close to the photographic location at Heamies Farm Bridge.

Both: Geoffrey Dingle



New mobile site for Rail Enquiries

National Rail Enquiries (NRE) has introduced a new mobile website, enabling travellers to quickly obtain timetables and the latest real-time information on how services are running.

The new website has been designed to work with the latest generation of

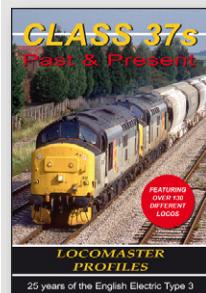
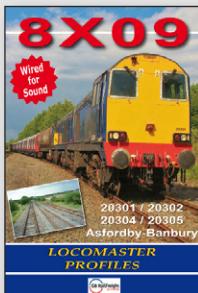
smartphones, and visitors to the site will be able to view live departure and arrival boards for all stations, plan journeys using real-time journey information, and access station information.

The mobile website is part of a long-term programme to improve the quality of information available.

2 new DVD releases from Locomaster Profiles



This **WIRED FOR SOUND** cab-ride was filmed on board GB Railfreight's 8X09 Asfordby to Neasden service, conveying brand new S Stock for London Underground's Metropolitan Line. Hauled by four Class 20's (two at either end) numerous operating restrictions result in the train having to travel from Leicestershire to London the long way round...via Melton Mowbray (reverse), Leicester, Syston, Knighton Junction (reverse), Coalville, Moira West, Branston Junction, Water Orton, Washwood Heath, Dorridge, Leamington Spa and Banbury. As night falls, the programme concludes with lineside shots of the train as it passes through various stations on the last leg of its journey to London. *Running time: 3 hours 15 minutes*



CLASS 37s : Past & Present

This DVD features 25 years of the English Electric Class 37, whose versatility has seen them cover just about every type of working. With footage dating back to the mid-1980's, this programme includes many of their long-standing passenger and freight duties from around the country, from Cornwall to the north of Scotland. Over 130 different locos are featured at work on the main lines and branch lines of Britain, from the BR era of the 1980's and 1990's through privatisation to the present day. Includes many celebrity locos, numerous liveries, all the sub-Class variations, an amazing variety of workings - and plenty of thrash! *Running time: 100 mins*

Both DVDs are available now priced at £19.95 each (post free) from the address below. Alternatively you can pay by credit or debit card by calling us on our **CREDIT CARD HOTLINE** on 01753 545888.

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▲ Class 20s Nos. 20142 and 20227 head east through Kiveton with the 09.31 Sheffield-Worksop RHTT service on 24th November. This diagram ceased during the first week of December. **Steven Craig**

East Midlands says it is well prepared for severe weather

East Midlands Trains (EMT) has announced that measures have been taken to tackle future severe weather conditions.

The company has instigated better communication and special timetables, together with a new Twitter feed, and more help points and screens at stations. A special anti-freeze that can withstand temperatures as low as minus 28 degrees Celsius will be used in train coolant systems.

The new dedicated Twitter feed is designed to alert passengers using the media channel as to how their service is running. EMT is also investing in improved passenger information screens,

as well as introducing help-points at nearly 30 stations, and in addition, special contingency timetables have been agreed in advance with Network Rail to help keep main routes open.

Also, new agreements have been made with neighbouring train operators to help passengers travel more easily on alternative routes, and an improved coupling system will be used on many trains to allow them to 'split and join' more reliably during extreme winter conditions. There are also better contingency plans to help with removing snow from stations and maintenance depots.

In addition, steps have been taken to

ensure that services are seen as a high priority for fuel deliveries. There will be improved management by Network Rail, including power upgrades on key point heaters, which together with recent investment in a new system of remote monitoring, will help to predict issues before they have an impact upon performance.

Martin Frobisher, Route Managing Director for Network Rail, added: "We have learned some useful lessons following the extreme weather last year. Our teams are well prepared and, working with East Midlands Trains, we are confident we can deliver the best possible service this winter".

New look cross-London stations come on stream as Thameslink project moves forward

Countdown to the completion of the massive redevelopment of London Blackfriars station began on 5th December, as the first passengers used the new entrance on the south bank of the River Thames.

This will now be followed by a new station entrance on the north bank on 12th December, with the first ever 12-car trains on the Thameslink route calling at the station on the same date. A new-look London Underground station will also open in February 2012, followed by a further two new National Rail platforms in May.

Blackfriars Underground station, currently being completely rebuilt to provide space for more passengers and better access between Tube and rail services, had been scheduled to open at the end of December this year, but owing to complexities encountered during the construction and fit out of the new

station, the re-opening will now take place on 26th February next.

The overall Blackfriars project remains on track to be delivered in summer 2012, and work has been scheduled so that passengers begin to benefit from new facilities this December while work continues behind the scenes. The Blackfriars project is unique, in as much as it involves a new Underground station, reconstructing a Victorian rail bridge and creating the first ever station to span the River Thames, all occurring simultaneously.

The upgrade is part of the Thameslink Programme, which will dovetail with improvements at Farringdon and other stations along the route, including the planned reconstruction of London Bridge, to provide a metro-style service through Central London, with trains running every 2½ minutes. Some 2,000 engineers work on site daily.

▼ Contractors tidy up at West Hampstead Thameslink station on 5th December, a week before the new booking office opened. **Bill Turvill**



▲ The new London Blackfriars station entrance on the South Bank of the River Thames that opened to the public on 5th December. Work continues overhead on the four cross-river platforms that will form the new Blackfriars, once completed in May 2012.

▼ The first two platforms to open to passengers are pictured on 8th December, with Class 377/5s Nos. 377518 and 377506 awaiting departure with a southbound service. Both: **Richard Tuplin**





Railway Herald

NEW BACK ISSUES CD-ROM AVAILABLE

covering Issues 201 to 290

In January 2010, Railway Herald produced a CD-ROM containing all back issues from Issue 1 to 200, along with all supplements and editions of our 'Worldwide' magazine produced to date.

A number of readers have been asking if we are producing an update with the latest editions, so here it is ... and in time for Christmas too!

The new disc starts from Issue 201 and contains all high-resolution versions of each issue up to No. 290 and will be available from 15th November, priced at £5 post free within the UK, and £6.50 outside the UK - the ideal gift for Christmas.

If you have yet to purchase the original disc, then both discs (spanning Issues 1 to 290) can be obtained for £8.50 post free within the UK or £10 outside the UK. To order your copy, simply click this advert to visit our website and order online, or call the Editorial Office on 01904 500175, between 09.30 and 17.00, Monday to Friday.

Visit us online 24 hours a day at www.railwayherald.com

Metro and Light Rail News

Better District Line timetable introduced for Wimbledon branch

From 12th December, additional trains were introduced on the Wimbledon branch of the London Underground District Line.

An extra five trains now run during the morning peak from Wimbledon into Central London, a 12% boost to passenger capacity. Wandsworth Council has been calling for improvements to District Line services as part of its Travel Choices campaign, and the new timetable will be welcomed by thousands of Londoners who board

the heavily congested trains at Wimbledon Park, Southfields and East Putney.

The improved service has been achieved through the withdrawal of the weekday shuttle service between Kensington Olympia and High Street Kensington, such trains now operating only at weekends. The new District Line timetable also sees evening frequencies rise to six trains per hour until 23.30 on the Wimbledon branch.

TfL says that the timetable has been designed to improve services

for the 200,000 passengers who travel on the Wimbledon branch of the District line each day. In particular, the removal of the poorly used weekday Olympia service will deal with bottlenecks in the Earl's Court area which currently hold up more than 20% of District line trains entering Earl's Court behind an Olympia train.

TfL added that the Olympia service will continue to operate during the weekend and a special weekday service will also operate during the busiest events at Olympia.

East Midlands improves communication on Derwent Valley Line

As part of a £10 million investment programme to improve station facilities on the Derwent Valley Line, East Midlands Trains has rolled out a new micro-PA system to all seven stations on the route, Matlock, Matlock Bath, Cromford, Whatstandwell, Ambergate, Belper and Duffield.

The system, which is operated by East Midlands Trains' Customer Information Control Centre in Derby, means

that passengers will receive real-time information on services on the route, with departures being automatically announced six and three minutes before time. New digital departure screens have also been installed on both platforms at Belper station, which is one of the busiest stations on the route, and another recent improvement is the introduction of an upgraded solar powered help-point at Matlock.

► **Class 87/0 No. 87002**
Royal Sovereign is pictured stabled at Carlisle, with Class 86/1 No. 86101 Sir William A Stanier (out of sight) also present on 3rd December. Both locomotives are being employed by Network Rail on ice-breaking duties on the WCML during the winter period. The two Network Rail Class 86/9s, normally based at York during the winter for use on ECML ice-breaking duties, are currently located at Derby.
Jordan Mossom



Future secure for world's largest lever-operated box

The future of Severn Bridge Junction signal box at Shrewsbury has been secured for at least the next 20 years and possibly longer.

Following the closure of a box in Sydney, Australia, Severn Bridge Junction is now

the largest lever-operated box in the world. The news was given at a meeting of the Shrewsbury Railway Trust in December, when the Network Rail Infrastructure Manager for Wales and the Borders, Lee Green, told members that the 1903-built signal box

would remain in operation until at least 2030, possibly even 2050, and eventually could become a museum.

The box currently has 180 levers and operates 24 hours a day with two signalmen handling some 300 train movements a day.

▼ The motive power has changed since this view was taken on 14th September 1981, but Severn Bridge Junction signal box at Shrewsbury looks exactly the same today. In short-lived grey livery with a blue stripe, a Metro-Cammell Class 101 set formed of DMBS No M51201 & DTC No M56347 approaches Shrewsbury from the sidings to form the 12.40 departure for Crewe, seen from the Castle. Brian Morrison



No more pay-on-the-train for Gatwick Express

Gatwick Express has introduced new state-of-the-art ticket gates as part of its 'Smarter way to travel' campaign.

From 12th December, the rail-air link between London Victoria and Gatwick Airport will be testing the new gates that have been installed at both Victoria and Gatwick Airport stations. They are staffed by dedicated Gatwick Express Customer Service Hosts, and will also be enabled to accept smartcard technologies in the future.

The new gate line to the Gatwick Express platforms at both stations means there will no longer be an option to buy a ticket

once onboard the train. More and more passengers have been buying their tickets online at gatwickexpress.com, and pre-purchase is now the favoured sales option. As well as online, tickets can be bought from both the machines and ticket offices at both Victoria and Gatwick stations, and the newly created Gatwick Express Customer Service Hosts will also be on hand to sell them using mobile ticket systems.

In addition to the new gates and staffing, the rail service provider is installing eight new ticket machines at both Victoria and Gatwick Airport stations, which will be fully operational by 31st December.

New Windhoff Electrification Train for GWML

A High Output Plant System costing around £35 million, also known as a factory train, has been ordered by Network Rail, and is set to revolutionise how lines are electrified.

The 23-vehicle train will provide a complete electrification service as

it moves along sections of track, completing everything from foundations and stanchions to installing and testing the overhead line equipment.

The system has been under development for the past three years and will make its railway debut on the Great Western main line electrification project

in autumn 2013, on which more than £750 million is to be invested on the route.

Windhoff Bahn-und Anlagentechnik GmbH, a supplier of specialist rail maintenance and improvement equipment, will custom build the train to a design that meets the required performance specifications.

International freight service from Spain restarts

The Stobart Group has restarted its low-carbon rail freight service between Valencia, in Spain, and Barking, Essex.

The seasonal rail service is operated by Europorte Channel and will carry 30 chilled containers of fruit and vegetables from Spain to supermarkets and retailers in this country.

The first train arrived at Barking on 25th November, and was monitored throughout the journey by satellite tracking software, which closely observes progress and ensures that the temperature of each 45 foot-long, refrigerated container remains suitably

chilled. The journey takes just over 50 hours with the service passing through Spain, France and the Channel Tunnel.

In an innovative move, Europorte Channel and Network Rail have used the international rail lines at the Folkestone end of the Channel Tunnel, removing the need for an extra stop in Dollands Moor yard on the northbound leg of the journey – reducing both cost and journey time. The new service has been part-funded by a European Union Marco Polo grant, promoting freight modal shift from road to rail and initially it will run weekly, building up to five services per week at peak times.

Performance deteriorates over summer peak

The latest Network Rail information published by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) shows that the performance of many train services continued to deteriorate in Quarter 2, particularly on long distance workings.

The monitor, which provides an overview of performance each quarter, highlights that punctuality for long distance train services for the period 24th July to 15th October is 88.7%, well short of the 90.9% required for 2011-12. In real terms, this means that 13,783 trains out of 125,975 planned

services were over 10 minutes late arriving at their destination, and that the Network has become less resilient to disruptions.

As a result of the continued deterioration in performance, ORR is currently considering whether Network Rail is in breach of its licence, and will be making a decision on potential enforcement action shortly. The report also highlights the good work that Network Rail and the rail industry have been doing to prepare for potential adverse winter weather conditions, as well as for planned engineering works on the National Network over Christmas and New Year.

▼ Essex County Council has published its intention to remove Bridleway status from Motts Lane Level Crossing, just to the east of Witham station, to allow a £1.5 million Network Rail project to commence that will replace the manually-operated crossing with a pedestrian footbridge. On 25th November, Class 90 No. 90043 brings a Felixstowe to Crewe Intermodal service up the bank from Kelvedon in a view that will be obliterated when the crossing is replaced. **Steven Knight**



New Freight Flow for South West England

▲ Colas Rail Class 66/8 No. 66847 heads along the seawall towards Teignmouth with a Gloucester to Heathfield working, conveying empty timber wagons on 5th December. **Paul Maycock**

A three-year contract between Colas Rail Freight and Kronospan, the country's largest manufacturer of chipboard products, commenced on 7th December, running the first of weekly trains from Teignbridge, near Newton Abbott, to Chirk in North Wales.

Colas has worked to quickly set up the Teignbridge operation, which has been undertaken in close co-operation with Network Rail and Devon County Council's highways department. The branch had

▼ The first loaded Heathfield (Teigngrace) to Chirk timber working, behind No. 66847, passes alongside the River Teign as it heads north. **Glenn Bowden**



Virgin says it will not run an emergency timetable during any severe weather

Virgin Trains winter preparations are underway for the coming months, building on the trials and tribulations experienced during last winter.

The main objective for the company is to operate the timetabled services, but with the emphasis of running the trains and providing capacity, as against endeavouring to maintain punctuality. To do this Virgin has looked at issues that affected its fleet last year and have either made key modifications or instigated a specific maintenance regime to maximise stock availability.

Chris Gibb, Virgin Trains Chief Operating Officer, told members of the railway media that modifications to the braking system on the Class 390s have taken place, so that rheostatic braking is used when the temperature falls below 5 degrees centigrade. This has the effect of warming the brake resistors, preventing the build up of ice. In addition, snow deflectors have been installed on the roof of end vehicles to eliminate or reduce earth faults on roof-mounted brake resistors as this has an impact on traction performance. On the company's fleet of Class 221 Super Voyagers, the warning horns have been relocated behind the valences to prevent failure by the ingress of snow and ice, and attention to the seals protecting key equipment that are vulnerable to harsh weather has also taken place.

The challenges met by both Alstom and Bombardier when servicing the fleet last winter have been addressed, with a raft of

measures introduced, ranging from the application of ice-proof grease applied to pantograph equipment, through to the provision of low pressure warm water sprays to de-ice bogies and underframe components on depot, a task that took several hours to complete last year. Special attention will be applied to Controlled Emission Toilets, including the trialling of protective covers on valves to try to stop them freezing in the closed position.

The contingency plans also involve helping staff on the ground, and keeping good communications, especially in times of disruption. Equally vital is ensuring that staff can get to their posts, and this year the plan is to employ additional workers to ensure that key areas are kept clear of snow, and in Scotland there is a 4x4 vehicle provided to reach staff who would otherwise be unable to get into work due to the weather.

The key statement from Chris Gibb is that this year Virgin plans to operate its normal advertised timetable throughout the winter period, despite the weather, concluding that there will be no emergency timetable in operation.

Looking further ahead, 2012 major upgrades will be taking place to the Class 390 Pendolinos, with the extension of over half of the fleet from nine to 11-coach trains, and H3 overhauls commencing. In association with Alstom and Angel Trains, Virgin will start work on bringing an 106 extra vehicles into service, of which 62 will be used to upgrade 31 Pendolinos from the existing fleet to 11 vehicles, while

four brand new sets will account for the remaining 44 vehicles. Two of these are already in the UK, with No. 390054 in service as a nine-car unit to provide extra capacity, while No. 390055 has recently been delivered and is under test as an 11-vehicle set. It is expected to enter service shortly, again as a nine-car train. The remaining two new Class 390s are to be delivered later next year.

Chris Gibb added that Pendolino No. 390055 is important, as it is designated as the 'spare' unit to cover existing members of the fleet that will be undergoing a major overhaul programme, designated 'H3', which will commence in April 2012. This will involve the replacement of worn out components as well as being used to insert the extra two vehicles into each of the designated sets. Alstom, which will be undertaking the work at its Longsight Depot, estimate that each set will be out of traffic for between 3 to 5 days, while the 'H3' programme itself needs to be completed by 9th December 2012, which is the start date of the new West Coast franchise.

Over the past 18 months Alstom has been conducting an exhaustive exercise to evaluate problems that may well result by marrying new vehicles with existing stock, explained Alstom's Tim Bentley, especially relating to the compatibility of the new and old systems. This exercise is driven by the need to maintain fleet reliability throughout the 'H3' programme and meet Virgin's day-to-day requirements for unit availability.

The new vehicles are currently under construction at Alstom's Savagliano Works in Italy, and deliveries will be ongoing throughout 2012, initially with a working

stock being amassed ahead of the commencement of 'H3' in order to guarantee an uninterrupted programme. Work is also underway in parallel with the provision of extra vehicles, to undertake platform extensions at a number of locations to accommodate the longer trains. Selective door opening will be used as an alternative measure where necessary, but it is anticipated that only four stations will be affected by such procedures, which are certain platforms at Rugby, Coventry and Wilmslow, plus all platforms at Haymarket.

The need to strengthen the fleet is driven by demand, with Virgin having just carried its 30 millionth passenger this year, up from 14 million passengers just seven years ago. As well as catering for existing and anticipated future demand, the company expects

▼ The latest 11-coach Class 390 to be delivered from Italy, No. 390055, stands in London Euston on test on 7th December, presenting a further livery variation with the addition of Alstom and Angel Trains logos. **John Whitehouse**



significant increased patronage in for the London Olympic Games, because as well as the traffic flows for the events in the Capital, some competitions are taking place at other locations served by Virgin, such as the football at Coventry. The plan is to have at least 14 of the enhanced 11-vehicle sets in traffic in time for the extra demand throughout both the Olympics and the Paralympics.

The message was that a busy and challenging year lies ahead for Virgin, with the ultimate commitment that on 9th December 2012, the winner of the new franchise, which should be announced in early September 2012, will have at its disposal a complete fleet of 54 Pendolinos, which have all been through the 'H3' overhaul programme, and are ready to roll for the new incumbent for the next 15 years.



Santa Specials come to Irish Rail network

◀ GS&WR 0-6-0 No. 186, built by Sharp, Stewart & Company at the Atlas Works in Manchester in 1879, charges across Dargan Bridge on the approach to Yorkgate, with the 11.22 Belfast Central to Whitehead RPSI Santa Special on 4th December.

▼◀ GM 071 Class No. 083 leads the 10.30 Dublin Pearse to Maynooth RPSI Santa Special through Clonsilla. The station here retains a manually worked level crossing with signal cabin, and while the signalling is controlled by the CTC Center in Dublin, the cabin still manually controls the crossing gates. **Both: Chris Playfair**

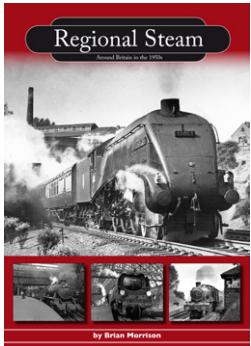
New Ultrasonic Vehicle from Sperry Rail

▼ Irish Rail has taken further steps to improve its rail infrastructure in recent weeks, with the addition of an ultrasonic test vehicle. The vehicle itself is a standard intermodal bogie flat, which has been modified by the fitment of various probes and equipment to the bogies that feeds back information to a specially adapted 40ft container. The container holds the various testing equipment, together with a generator, and is remotely controlled from two laptop computers, situated with the operator in the back cab of the locomotive. The modified wagon will be used across the Irish Rail network, assisting in identifying cracks and defects in the rail, by using ultrasonics. On 24th November, GM 071 Class No. 073 is pictured with the new wagon, en route from Limerick Wagon Works to Dublin Connolly, passing Portaloise. The following day the wagon entered service working from Dublin to Carrick-on-Shannon, and subsequently to Rosslare Europort. **Neil Dinnen**



Special Offers for Christmas

If you enjoy our occasional
'Turning the Clock Back' series
then you will love this title!



Regional Steam

Around Britain in the 1950s

Regional Steam
by Brian Morrison

Normal RRP £14.95
Offer Price £8.50

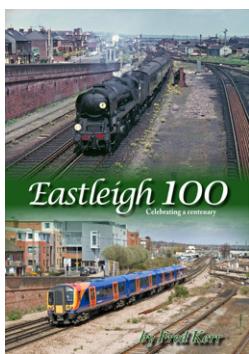
Brian Morrison looks at steam action across Great Britain in the 1950s, with a chapter on each region, and a wide selection of loco types featured, this book provides a fascinating insight into operations in the 1950s.



Eastleigh 100
by Fred Kerr

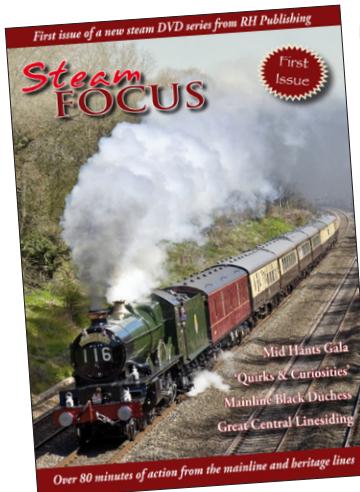
Normal RRP £8.95
Offer Price £4.95

A look at the life and times of Eastleigh, both as a railway location, and the works, with an overview of the projects carried out at the works, as well as colour images of steam in the '60s.



Offers are valid until 31/12/11, or while stocks last. To order visit www.rhpublishing.co.uk or call 01904 500175 (09.30-17.00 weekdays)
or send a cheque or postal order, payable to 'Railway Herald' to RH Publishing, PO Box 252, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire. DN17 2WY.

Overseas postage is charged at £4.50 GBP per order



STEAM FOCUS

Our Steam Focus DVD concentrates on the UK scene and features both heritage railway and main line steam action.

This programme looks at a broad range of news and events from the past six to nine months, with action of locomotives from all four pre-nationalisation companies, plus British Railways Standards. Locations featured include the East Lancashire, Ffestiniog, Great Central, Llangollen, Mid-Hants and North Yorkshire Moors Railways, plus mainline charter workings featuring 5043 Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, 35028 Clan Line, 6233 Duchess of Sutherland, 44871, 46115 Scots Guardsman, 48151, 60009 Union of South Africa, 60163 Tornado, 70013 Oliver Cromwell and much much more.

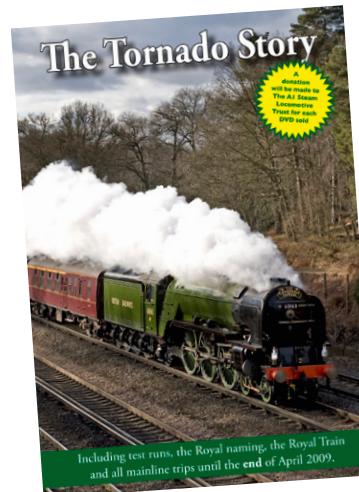
There is also the ability to turn the narration off, leaving the viewer to enjoy the pure sounds of steam in action.

Running time is 70 minutes

Normal RRP £13.95
Offer Price £6.99

All DVDs and Books are dispatched post free within the UK

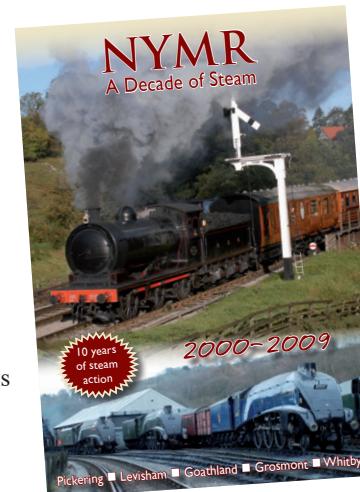
ALL DVD programmes reduced to £6.99 - one time only!



The Tornado Story

Normal RRP £11.95
Offer Price £6.99

Follow Britain's newest standard gauge steam loco over its first year on the main line, with views and details on its construction as well as heritage railway gala events. Also includes the locomotives 'Royal' naming at York and archive footage of A1s in action in the 1960s.



NYMR A Decade of Steam

Normal RRP £15.95
Offer Price £6.99

This programme charts the steam action on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway between 2000 and 2009, covering the variety of locomotives that have worked the line in that time. Over 35 locomotives are seen in action across the line in this 100-minute DVD programme.

LIMITED STOCK

► A new loco for GBRf is pictured at the Celsa Works in Cardiff on 10th December. The locomotive is a demonstrator vehicle, numbered as DH50-1, originally built in 1971, and previously used at the Westbury Cement Works. The locomotive has the ability to be remote controlled, and is used by the the freight operator on internal movements at Cardiff.

Gareth James

▼ While wandering around the non-public area of Plymouth station, one would not expect to find a Class 47 appearing from a makeshift tunnel mouth! This is the Health & Safety Training Centre at Plymouth, with the No. 2 end cab from Class 47/4 No. 47592 in situ as part of the displays. The remainder of the locomotive was scrapped in March 2003. **SS FGW**

▼ In recent months two Class 09 shunters, Nos. 09002 and 09009, have been refurbished by LH Group Services and turned out in green livery with red buffer beams and modified headlights. They are employed on the one mile-long branch from Trafford Park to Barton Docks Freight Terminal. Here, No. 09009 draws out of Barton Dock on 7th December, with an intermodal service to Trafford Park, from where a Class 66/7 will take over for the remainder of the working to Felixstowe.

Hugh Ballantyne



UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

Monday 12th December 2011

Steam Dreams 60163 Chertsey-Dorking Deepdene-Redhill-Purley-Kensington Olympia-Ely & return

Wednesday 14th December 2011

Steam Dreams 60163 London Victoria-Staines-Woking-Guildford-Eastleigh-Salisbury-Sherbourne & rtn
Vintage Trains 4965 Tyseley WR-Hinckley-Leicester and return **Cancelled**

Thursday 15th December 2011

Cruise Saver Travel DRS Class 47 Edinburgh-Newcastle-Leeds-Solihull-Oxford-Basingstoke-Southampton Docks
Railway Touring Co. 4492 Norwich-March-Peterborough-York and return
Vintage Trains 4965 Tyseley WR-Hinckley-Leicester and return **Cancelled**

Friday 16th December 2011

UK Railtours tbc London Paddington-Westbury-Ludgershall-Basingstoke-Mortimer-Paddington

Saturday 17th December 2011

Hastings Diesels Ltd	Hastings DEMU	Hastings-Battle-Wadhurst-Tonbridge-Kensington Olympia-Shepherds Bush & rtn
HF Railtours	2xWCRC 47	Carlisle-Maryport-Workington-Barrow in Furness-Preston-Helsby-Chester & rtn
Pathfinder Tours	DBS 66, 60, 08	Westbury-Cheltenham Spa-Birmingham Intl.-Bescot-Warrington BQ-Edge Hill Down Wapping Siding-Dallam RMT-Walton Jct Old Sidings-Latchford-Ditton Sdgs-Runcorn-Gresty Green Sidings-Basford Hall-Stafford-Birmingham New St & return
Railway Touring Co.	4492	London King's Cross-York-(Newcastle)-York-London Cancelled
Railway Touring Co	4492	London King's Cross-Potters Bar-Stevenage-Peterborough-York & return
Statesman Rail	2xWCRC 47	Leicester-Langley Mill-Chesterfield-Sheffield-Doncaster-Edinburgh Waverley & rtn
Steam Dreams	60163	Ashford-Tonbridge-Bromley South-Staines-Reading-Bath Spa-Bristol TM & return
UK Railtours	tbc	London King's Cross-Doncaster-Goole-Anlaby Road Jct-Beverley & return
Vintage Trains	5043	Tyseley Warwick Road-Tamworth-Derby-Chesterfield-York & return
Virgin Trains	VT 390	London Euston-Watford Junction-Manchester Piccadilly & return
VSOE	35028	London Victoria-Staines-Virginia Water-Guildford-Redhill-East Croydon-Victoria

Monday 19th December 2011

Steam Dreams 60163 Basingstoke-Woking-Staines-West Hampstead-Norwich & return

Wednesday 21st December 2011

Railway Touring Co. 70013 London Victoria-Bromley South-Maidstone East-Hastings-Battle-Swanley-Victoria
VSOE 35028 London Victoria-Clapham Jct-Staines-Woking-Guildford-East Croydon-Victoria

Thursday 22nd December 2011

Steam Dreams 34067 London Victoria-Redhill-Tonbridge-Canterbury-Dover-Folkestone-Ashford-London

Wednesday 28th December 2011

Railway Touring Co. 44871 & 5690 Manchester Victoria-Carlisle and return **Postponed**

Thursday 29th December 2011

PTG Tours Ltd 60163 (Nottingham-Leicester-)Willesden Area-Rochester and return **Cancelled**

Friday 30th December 2011

UK Railtours 6024 London Paddington-Bicester-Banbury-Stratford upon Avon-Tyseley-Paddington

Saturday 14th January 2012

Pathfinder Tours DBS Class 66 Bristol Parkway-Barnt Green-Coventry-Banbury-Didcot Power Station-Appleford Sidings-Bristol Parkway-Newport-Aberthaw PS-Barry-Bristol Parkway & return

Not all pick up/set down points are shown. Check with the operator before travelling any distance.

BLACK Charters expected to operate as booked.

GREEN Tours postponed to a future date by the operator

(Locations) in brackets on a steam tour listing indicates a diesel or electric-hauled section.

RED Tours cancelled by the operator

BLUE Provisional excursion

Railtour Spotlight

The pre-Christmas festive charters reach their zenith over the coming week, before everybody gets down to the serious business of preparing for, and enjoying the homely comforts of the season.

Steam-hauled charters feature strongly, with no less than six booked to operate in the period under review. Again Steam Dreams and the Railway Touring Company share the spoils, with two each: the former is first out of the block on 14th December with No. 60163 *Tornado* heading their working from London Victoria to Sherborne, which is followed on the 17th, again with the A1, from Ashford through to Bath Spa and Bristol Temple Meads.

Meanwhile, RTC has two York-bound excursions, commencing with their 'York Yuletide Express' from Norwich, via Ely and Peterborough on 15th December, followed by 'The Christmas White Rose' from London Kings Cross on 17th December. Both workings are booked for No. 4492 *Dominion of New Zealand*. As mentioned a couple of weeks ago, there will be another 'Christmas White Rose' to York on the 17th, which will be easily recognised as it is booked to be hauled by Swindon's finest, that is No. 5043 *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe*. This is, of course, the Vintage Trains charter from Tyseley Warwick Road. On the same day there will also be the VSOE British Pullman operating on the Surrey Hills circuit with a Christmas Luncheon train headed by No. 35028 *Clan Line*, which may still be masquerading as No. 35017 *Belgian Marine*).

Beverley, on the Yorkshire Wolds Coastal route, will be visited by UK Railtours on 17th December, from London Kings Cross via Doncaster, Goole and the Anlaby Curve at Hull, for a carol service in the Minster. Although this attractive coastal route is now once again available to excursion traffic, such workings remain quite rare and it is good to see UKR again 'going off the beaten track' to

by John Whitehouse

new, or rarely visited, locations. Additionally, the company has included a visit to the Ludgershall branch as part of its 'Salisbury Plains Christmas Diner' on 16th December, which works out of London Paddington, via Westbury to Salisbury, prior to the reversal at Andover to gain access to the branch that in recent years has been best known for its MoD traffic. The train then returns to Paddington via Basingstoke, Mortimer and Reading.

Another regular festive working involves the chartering of Hastings Diesel's DEMU for a working to the London International Horse Show at Olympia, or a shopping bonanza at the Westfields Centre. The train originates at Hastings, picking up at the usual points before a fast run from Tonbridge to Kensington Olympia and Shepherds Bush. Meanwhile, Statesman will be working north to Edinburgh Waverley from Leicester while HF Railtours dip their toes in the diesel-charter market with a working to Chester (for the shopping) from Carlisle and selected Cumbrian Coast stations.

Last, but by no means least, we have Pathfinder's 'Festive Jingle Jangle! Full marks for the train title, and the itinerary isn't bad, either. A DBS Class 66 will head the train from Westbury through to Birmingham International, where the train reverses and proceeds with electric haulage in the shape of an DBS Class 92 via Bescot through to Crewe. At Crewe a DBS Class 60 will take over through to a reversal at Edge Hill Wapping Sidings, and then back to Old Walton Junction Sidings. At this point the train will be drawn back to Latchford, with the movement scheduled to be undertaken by a Class 08 Shunter, before the Class 60 again takes over for the return to Crewe via Fiddlers Ferry Junction, Ditton Sidings (reverse), Runcorn and Weaver Junction. The train then returns directly to Westbury from Crewe, with a DBS Class 66 scheduled throughout.



▲ On 7th December, DRS Class 47/7 No. 47790 *Galloway Princess* brings up the rear of a Northern Belle Dining excursion, returning to Cardiff Central. The train has just departed from Fishguard Harbour (some 300 yards behind the photographer) and Class 47/4 No. 47832 *Solway Princess* at the front, is about to pass the site of the soon to be reopened Goodwick station. **Stuart Warr**

► 'Merchant Navy' Pacific No. 35028 *Clan Line*, disguised as long-lost classmate No. 35017 *Belgian Marine*, storms up the last few yards to the summit near Betchworth, with the VSOE Surrey Hills luncheon circular tour of 3rd December. **Ian Docwra**





Standing in for LNER A4 No. 4492 *Dominion of New Zealand* as a last minute substitution, the NRM's BR 'Britannia' Pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* approaches Spalding bound for Lincoln, with a London King's Cross to Lincoln charter on 3rd December. **David Pond**



With a tour that until the last minute was a mystery to the operator as well as the passengers, Hastings DEMU No. 1001 arrives at Tonbridge with the Hastings to Rochester leg of the 'The Old Curiosity Mystery Tour' on 3rd December. **Wayne Radford**



Your chance to continue making history

The last of the renowned Peppercorn class A1 was scrapped in 1966. But in 2003 a brand new class A1, 60163 Tornado was brought to life by a dedicated team of volunteers. And now we urgently need your help to keep *Tornado* on the main line.

The Peppercorn class A1's were the last of the great express passenger locomotives designed by the London & North Eastern Railway. British Railways built 49 of them at its Doncaster and Darlington works in 1948/9. They were

the last word in speed, style and glamour – but none escaped the scrapmans' torch.

The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust – a registered charity – built a new A1 to the original design at its workshops in Darlington. The project was launched in 1990 and when the £3 million locomotive was completed she was officially named *Tornado* by TRH The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. Fitted with additional water capacity and the latest railway safety electronics the locomotive is

fully equipped for today's main line railway.

The Trust is still seeking to raise funds to repay the outstanding £500,000 borrowing to complete her construction and to provide a support coach for her main line operations. The crowds continue to turn out to see *Tornado*. However, for this to continue we still need your help – and you can come on board for the price of a pint of beer a week! Visit our website at www.a1steam.com to see how!



Christmas Gift Ideas for the Tornado Enthusiast

	Cost	Qty	Total
Tornado Pen silver with logo (black ink)	£1.00	...	£.....
Tornado Photo Fridge Magnet	£1.00	...	£.....
Badge, Oval Tornado in Brunswick Green	£2.00	...	£.....
Tornado Bookmarks, Green with gold lettering.	£2.00	...	£.....
Pocket Notebook, Tornado in Gold relief	£2.50	...	£.....
Tornado Key Ring by REV Gomm	£5.00	...	£.....
Tornado Key Ring with logo	£2.50	...	£.....
Tornado Tea Towel	£5.00	...	£.....
Tornado Mug	£6.00	...	£.....
Tornado Baseball Cap Navy	£8.00	...	£.....
Tornado Beanie Hat <i>Pink, Navy, Black and Bottle Green (Please circle colour required)</i>	£8.00	...	£.....
Tornado Sweat Shirt:With embroidered logo <i>Bottle Green or Navy in M L XL XXL sizes (Please circle colour and size)</i>	£22.00	...	£.....
Tornado Fleece:With embroidered logo <i>Bottle Green or Navy in M L XL XXL sizes (Please circle colour and size)</i>	£26.00	...	£.....
Tornado Polo Shirt:With embroidered logo <i>Bottle Green or Navy in M L XL XXL sizes (Please circle colour and size)</i>	£20.00	...	£.....
"Absolutely Chuffed 2" DVD Published by GoodGuys Media.	£19.99	...	£.....
Tornado Jigsaw	£17.00	...	£.....
Hornby Rail Road Tornado 'Special Edition' Apple Green. <i>Limited edition of 1200</i>	£90.00	...	£.....
Hornby Tornado Rail Road,Apple Green	£75.00	...	£.....
Hornby Tornado Train Pack, Brunswick Green with 3 coaches.	£150.00	...	£.....
Tornado Coal Model by Unity Gifts			
'OO' Gauge	£30.00	...	£.....
'N' Gauge	£10.00	...	£.....
Haynes Tornado Manual Book.	£19.99	...	£.....
Tornado 2012 Calendar	£10.00	...	£.....
Tornado Christmas Cards			
Packs of 4 different designs A6 size..	£4.00	...	£.....
Packs of 4 different designs A5 size..	£6.00	...	£.....

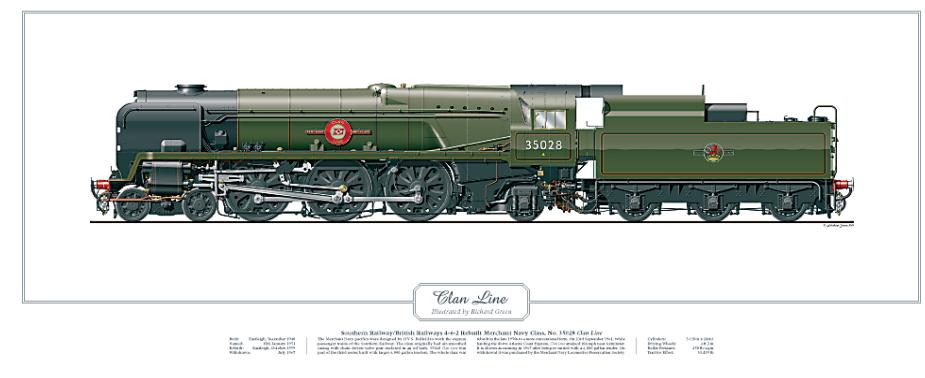
A number of the above items can also be ordered online using the official website at

www.a1steam.com

(Click this advert to visit the website)

Post & Packing is £5. Cheques should be payable to Tornado Merchandising Ltd sent to: Darlington Locomotive Works, Hopetown Lane, Darlington, County Durham. DL3 6RQ

Finely Detailed Locomotive Illustrations by Richard Green



Rebuilt SR/BR Merchant Navy Class, No. 35028 Clan Line

The print portrays the locomotive as running in 1965 – attached to a 6,000 gallon tender
 • Size: 420mm x 305mm • Scale: 8mm/ft • 350 Signed and Numbered • Price: £29.50 •

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Project to build a new diesel secures 16SVT engine

The Ivatt Diesel Recreation Society (IDRS) has reached a major milestone by securing an English Electric 16SVT Diesel engine for use in its recreation of the LMS express diesel locomotive No. 10000, which was built in the 1940s before being taken over in the formation of British Rail.

It was the first prototype main line diesel locomotive,

and set the shape of diesel traction for decades to come. It was scrapped in the late 1960s, before the railway preservation movement had turned its attention to diesels.

The Society is a 'not for profit' organisation, and is building a replica of No. 10000, using existing parts as well as new-build components, the English Electric diesel engine secured being the heart of this project. The engine is a contemporary unit to the original loco, and

is in very good condition, having been used as a power unit for a standby generator. It has 16 cylinders and produces 1,600 HP. It weighs nearly 20 tons. To raise funds for the engine, and its transport and storage, the IDRS is starting a fundraising campaign that features the ability to sponsor 'A Litre for 10000'.

The EE 16SVT diesel engine had a 247 litres capacity, and each of the 247 litres will be available for sponsorship for the price of £100 each.

▼ On many of the heritage railways, Santa Specials lead the way. The Severn Valley Railway is no exception, and on 10th December, visiting BR Standard 4MT 2-6-4T No. 80072, normally based on the Llangollen Railway, climbs Eardington Bank with a 'Santa' service for Bridgnorth. **John Whitehouse**



The new Platforms 7 and 8, together with the new footbridge, open to traffic on 12th December, after over two years in construction. In the opposite platform at Cambridge on 9th December, is Class 170/1 Turbostar No. 170114, forming the 13.08 CrossCountry service from Birmingham New Street to Stansted Airport. **Brian Morrison**



DB Schenker Class 67 No. 67018 Keith Heller prepares to depart from Marylebone with the 16.50 Chiltern Railways service to Birmingham Moor Street on 5th December. On this occasion, the set was in reverse formation, with the locomotive at the country end.

Barry Adams



Carrying the base National Express East Anglia livery, although without any decals, Class 321/3 No. 321355 heads south through Peterborough on a Doncaster to Ilford ECS on 1st December. **Jonathan Benton**



The bright livery of DB Schenker Class 66/0 No. 66152 provides some colour to a drab looking scene at Ealing Broadway, as it heads east through the station with an aggregates train on 1st December. **Ian Docwra**



12th December 2011

Driffield & East Yorkshire Rly Society
The Sidings, Middle Street South, Driffield YO25 6PX. 'Show of 3 DVD programmes'. Starts 19.30. £2 Donation . All welcome. Contact 01377 254068 for further details.

Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, Harewood Crescent, North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 8JG. '1960's Steam Around North Wales & The East Midlands' by Michael Clemens. Starts 20.00. £3 Admission. Contact 01522 705365 for further details.

Severn Valley Railway (Wolverhampton)
Old Wulfrunians Club, 253A Castlecroft Road, Castlecroft, Wolverhampton WV3 8NA. 'The South Staffordshire Railway' by Bob Yate. Starts 19.30. £2.50 Admission. Contact Alan Davies on 01902 758882.

Southern Electric Group (Sussex)
Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre, Southwick. 'Members' Night. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission. Contact Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094.

Stephenson Loco Society
Lauriston Hotel, 15 South Crescent Road, Ardrossan KA22 8EA. 'Glasgow & South Western Railway Stations in North Ayrshire' by Hamish Stevenson. Starts 19.30. Contact 01294 822303 for further details.

13th December 2011
Abergavenny and District Steam Society
Upper Room, The Hen & Chickens, Flannel St, Abergavenny. 'The History Oakwood Press'. Starts 20.00. Contact Ken Mumford on 01793 335862.

GW Society (Bristol)
BAWA, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol BS34 7RG. 'GWR 175 Updated... plus 'GWS 50' by Bristol Group Committee. Starts 19.45. Contact 01454 324230 for details.

Meon Valley Loco Society
St Peter's Church Hall, Free Street, Bishops Waltham. 'Members' Slides'. Starts 20.00. £2 admission. Contact John Barrowdale on 02392 640951.

Permanent Way Institution (Lancaster, Barrow & Carlisle)

Carnforth Royal Station Hotel, Carnforth. 'Christmas Social'. Starts 18.00. Contact Philip Bull on 07964 103202 for further details.

RCTS (Woking)

The United Reformed Church, White Rose Lane, Woking. 'Level Crossings' by John Tilly. Starts 19.00. Contact Alan Norris on 01252 315967 for details.

Scottish Rly Preservation Society (Motherwell)

Vestry Hall, Trinity Church, Avon Street, Motherwell. 'Steam in Britain Over the Last 40 Years (2)' by Alistair Maclean. Starts 19.30. Contact Fred Landery on 01698 457777 for details.

Stephenson Loco Society

Fox Covert Inn, High Leven, Nr Yarm, Teesside TS15 9JW. 'History of the Rosedale Railway' by Wayne Barnacal. Starts 19.30. Contact 01642 313451 for further details.

14th December 2011

Oxfordshire Railway Society

Seacourt Day Centre, Seacourt Road, Oxford OX2 9LD. 'Bumper Annual Film Show' by Alan Willmott. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Stephenson Loco Society

Y.M.C.A., Bridge Street, Guildford GU1 4SB. 'Railways of the Antipodes - The Sixties and the Noughties' by Mike Brookes and 'The Dartmoor Railway' by John Manners. Starts 19.30.

Contact 01372 379216 for details.

Swiss Railways Society (London)

The Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London N1 9AT. (near Kings Cross station). 'Christmas Quiz' by Paul Russonberger. Starts 19.00. £3 Admission. Contact Ron Dawes on 0208 660 3532 for details.

15th December 2011

Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society

Roundhouse Lecture Theatre, Barrow Hill Depot. 'Annual Christmas Social'. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission. Contact beardspaul@aol.com for details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Nth West)

The Pied Bull, 54 High Street, Newton-le-Willows, WA12 9SH. 'Vulcan Foundry' by Keith Naylor. Starts 19.30. £2 Entry. Contact Nevill Bond on 01925 226473.

16th December 2011

Gosport Rly Society

Methodist Church, Stoke Road, Gosport. 'Christmas Railway Film Show' by Alan Wallbank. Starts 20.00.

GW Society (Taunton)

Village Hall, Stoke St Mary, Nr Taunton. 'Didcot: A Great Awakening' by Richard Antilff. Starts 19.30. Contact 01823 334188 for further details.

Stafford Rly Society

St. Leonards Social Club, Stafford. 'Members' Evening'. Starts 19.30. All welcome. Contact 01785 840622.

17th December 2011

GW Society (Sth West)

Parish Centre, Church End Road, Kingskerswell, Torbay. 'Christmas Meeting'. Starts 18.30. Contact 01803 336329 for further details.

19th December 2011

Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill)

The Angel Hotel, 26 College Road, Spinkhill, Sheffield S21 3YB. 'The Bamford & Howden Reservoir Rly' by Ted Hancock. Starts 19.30. Contact 01909 473927 for further details.

NYMR (York)

New Earswick Sports and Social Club, New Earswick, YO32 4AG. 'Enjoyable Pictures Around Britain' by Robin Patrick. Starts 19.30. Contact 01904 764648 for details.

Plymouth Rly Circle

St Edward's Church Hall, Home Park Avenue, Peverell, Plymouth PL3 4PG. 'Bernard Mills Annual Review of the Year'. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission.

20th December 2011

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Bedford)

The St John's Church Hall, St John's Street, Bedford, MK42 0DL. 'Christmas Special & Photo Competition'. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission. Contact B.Cross on 01525 750149 for further details.

2nd January 2012

North Yorkshire Moors Railway (Northallerton)

Northallerton Town Cricket Club, Farndale Avenue, Northallerton. 'AGM & DVD Extravaganza' by Ted Parker. Starts 19.30. £1.50 Admission. Contact Ian McInnes on 01642 767233 for further details

RCTS (Ashford)

The Elwick Club, Church Road, Ashford. 'Archive Video' by Tony Endersby. Starts 19.30. Contact southeast@rcts.org.uk for details.

3rd January 2012

RCTS (Watford)

St.Thomas's United Reformed Church, Langley Road, Watford. 'And You Thought They Were Clean' by Chris Youett. Meeting commences at 19.30.

4th January 2012

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire) /LRTA

Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'Russian Trams and Tramways' by Mike Russell. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission. Contact 02380 670028 for details.

Weston super Mare Railway Society

Function Room, Weston super Mare Conservative Club, Alexandra Parade, Weston super Mare, BS23 1QX. 'British Railways in Black and White' by Mike Goodfellow. Starts 20.00. Visitors welcome. £1 Admission. Contact 01934 628289 for details.

5th January 2012

Burton Railway Society

Marston's Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton upon Trent DE14 3BG. 'Archive Film Show - Steam in the 50s & 60s' by Michael Clemens. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission. Contact Mark Ratcliffe on 01283 221537. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Stephenson Locomotive Society

Hayes Village Hall, Hayes Street, Hayes, Bromley. 'Swanning Around - The London Rail Scene 1987-1993' by Jeremy Harrison. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 0208 289 9935 for further details.

Warwickshire Railway Society

Lamp Tavern PH, Barford Street, Highgate, Birmingham B5 6AH. 'Rambling around the Regions - Pre 1968 - UK Steam' by Richard Ike. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Don Taggart on 01746 710676 for further details.

Should your society information be listed on this page?

If so, then please email the details to the editor, remembering to include the date, starting time and location, together with details of the event, speaker and entrance charges if applicable. It is not necessary, but helpful to people, if you can also include a contact name and phone number/email address that can be published.

Railway Herald reserves the right to edit details entered in this section, which may also be displayed on our online events diary. The information is believed to be correct at the time of publication.

Web Links

Links to the various society websites can be found by [clicking here](#). Is yours missing? Send the details to the editor.



RCTS (Preston)

Clairemont Hotel, Blackpool Road, Preston. 'British Railways from the late 1970s to 2006 with Steam and Diesel' by Graham Roose. Starts 19.30.

Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Edinburgh)

Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL. 'Scotland's Railways in the 1970s' by Ken Falconer. Starts 19.30. Contact Dr Peter Howell on 0131 334 5232 for further details.

Stephenson Loco Society

St John's Ambulance Centre, Sandes Avenue, Kendall LA9 4LL. 'Sir William Tite & The Lancaster & Carlisle Railway' by Gordon Biddle. Meeting commences at 19.15. Contact the Secretary on 01539 720706 for further details.

6th January 2012

Cambridge Rly Circle

Arbury Community Centre, Campkin Road, Cambridge CB4 2LD. 'An East Anglian Miscellany' by Richard Adderson (TBC). Meeting commences at 19.30.

Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway (Birmingham)

St Laurence Pastoral Centre, Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham B31 2LX. 'Members' Miscellany'. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact David French on 07791 770595 for further details.

RCTS (Bristol)

St Peters Church Hall, Church Road, Filton. 'Post War Years on the St Pancras District' by Arthur Turner. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Carnforth)

County Hotel, Lancaster Road, Carnforth. 'The Lancaster and Carlisle Railway' by Peter Robinson. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Stephenson Locomotive Society

The Mining Institute Lecture Theatre, Neville Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. 'Travels in the 'Perilous' Realms - Preserved Railways in the South of England' by George Falkner. Meeting commences at 19.00. Contact the Secretary on 01434 688946 for further details.

Stephenson Loco Society

The Settlement Centre, Union Street, Middlesbrough TS1 5NQ. 'Miniature Railways - 1860 to the Present' by Derek Humphreys. Meeting commences at 19.00. Contact the Secretary on 01642 313451 for further details.

9th January 2012

Plymouth Railway Circle

St Edward's Church Hall, Home Park Avenue, Peverell, Plymouth PL3 4PG. 'A Tapestry of Britain's Railways' by Richard Green. Meeting commences at 19.30. Visitors welcome. £1 Admission.

RCTS (East Croydon)

Small Hall, East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon. 'The 4-COR's - Southern Electric Express Trains' by Peter Staveley. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Ipswich)

Bridge Ward Social Club, 68 Austin Street, Ipswich. 'A Year in my Life 1977 - a B&W (digital presentation' by Dave Pearce. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Northampton)

St Crispin Social Club, Berrywood Road, Duston. 'Archive Railway Cine Films from the 1920's and 1930's' by Mike Leech. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Sheffield)

St Mathews Church Rooms, Carver Street, Sheffield. 'Around Britain from the 1920's to the 1960's' by John Morten. Starts 19.30.

Severn Valley Railway (Wolverhampton)

Old Wulfrunians Club, 253A Castlecroft Road, Castlecroft, Wolverhampton WV3 8NA. 'AGM'. Starts 19.30. Admission £2.50. Contact Alan Davies on 01902 758882 for further details.

Southern Electric Group (Sussex)

Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre, Southwick. 'John's Highland Fling' by John Burling. Starts 19.30. £3 donation. Contact the Secretary on 01273 504791 for further details.

Stephenson Loco Society

Lauriston Hotel, 15 South Crescent Road, Ardrossan KA22 8EA. 'Swiss Railway Scenes in the 1960s' by Allan M.Fullerton. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01294 822303 for further details.

York Railway Circle

The Library, Archbishop Holgate's School, Hull Road, York YO10 5ZA. 'Steam Road Locomotives' by John Meredith. Starts 19.30. £2 donation. Contact Robin Patrick on 01904 412232 or at locopatrick@aol.com.

10th January 2012

Abergavenny and District Steam Society

Upper Room, The Hen and Chickens, Flannel Street, Abergavenny. 'A Treasurer's Trove' by Robin Smith. Starts 20.00. Contact the Secretary, Ken Mumford on 01793 335862.

GW Society (Bristol)

BAWA, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol BS34 7RG. 'Great Western Miscellany - Accidents & More' by Brian Arman, Robin Jordan. Starts 19.45. Contact the Secretary on 01454 324230 for further details.

Meon Valley Locomotive Society

St Peter's Church Hall, Free Street, Bishops Waltham. 'Railways of the East Midlands' by Steve Bigley. Starts 20.00. Admission £2. Contact John Barrodale on 02392 640951 for further details.

RCTS (Nottingham)

Nottingham Mechanics, 3 North Sherwood Street, Nottingham. 'Developments around Nottingham' by Chris Carter. Starts 19.30.

Scottish Rly Preservation Society (Motherwell)

Vestry Hall, Trinity Church, Avon Street, Motherwell. 'Some Disasters - a few triumphs' by Jim Summers. Starts 19.30. Contact Fred Landery on 01698 457777 or at fred.landery@srps.org.uk for further details

11th January 2012

Basingstoke & District Railway Society

Wote Street Club, Ne Road, Basingstoke RG21 7NG. 'One Step in Front of the Doctor' by Blake Paterson. Starts 20.00. Visitors welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01256 819401 for further details.

Oxfordshire Railway Society

Seacourt Day Centre, Seacourt Road, Oxford OX2 9LD. 'Railfreight' by Tony Berkeley. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Cardiff)

Old Church Rooms, Radyr. 'Branch AGM' followed by 'Around the Branch Lines of Wales and the Marches' by Nigel Wassell. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Hitchin)

Hitchin Christian Centre, Bedford Road, Hitchin. 'Branch AGM & Quiz'. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Stephenson Loco Society

Y.M.C.A., Bridge Street Guildford. GU1 4SB. 'Steam in Rhodesia' by Ian Wright. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01372 379216 for further details.

12th January 2012

Bath Railway Society

Bath Geen Park Station Meeting Room, Bath. 'Doubling of the Cotswold Line' by Tim Maddocks. Meeting commences at 19.30. All welcome. Contact Kevin Plummer (Evenings) on 01225 312564 for further details.

Continental Rly Circle (London & Home Counties)

St. Paul's Church Centre, Rossmore Road, Marylebone, London NW1 6NJ. 'Railways of Portugal' by Tony Bowles. Meeting commences at 19.15. Admission £2. Contact Adrian Palmer on 01932 850624 for details.

Ffestiniog Railway (Bristol)

BAWA, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol BS34 7RG. 'Narrow Gauge in North America' by Richard Stedman-Jones. Starts 19.45. Contact Tim Maynard on 01275 341889 for details.

Monmouthshire Railway Society

Room A10 UWCN City Campus, Usk Way, Newport NP20 2BP. 'The Tiffield Thunderbolt & Camerton Branch' by Simon Castens. Starts 19.15. £3 Admission.

RCTS (Newcastle)

The Brunswick Methodist Hall, Newcastle. 'Minor Railways of Northumberland Part 2' by Roger Jerny. Starts 19.30. Contact jimbrick@fsmail.net for details.

13th January 2012

Altrincham Electric Rly Preservation Society

Altrincham Methodist Church Hall, Barrington Road, Altrincham, WA14 1HF. 'Steam Across Java in 1980' by John Sloane. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Andrew Macfarlane on 0161 928 9394 for further details.

GCR Leicester Area Grp

St Bartholomews Church Hall, Church Lane, Quorn. 'The North Wales Coast Line - Part 3, on to Holyhead' by David Scudamore. Starts 19.30. Contact John Calton on 07714 546163 for further details.

GW Society (Swindon)

Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, off Windsor Road, Lawn, Swindon SN3 1JE. 'Echoes of the GWR' plus 'B&R DVD Presentation' by Trevor Young & Peter Tough. Starts 19.30. Contact 01793 495976 for details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (St Albans)

United Reform Church, Watford Road, Chiswell Green, St Albans. 'Goodbye Kodachrome - Hello Digital' by David Eatwell. Starts 19.30. Contact 01442 251540 (after 18.00) for details.

Back Issues

All back issues are available on our website, 24 hours a day - visit www.railwayherald.com and click on 'Magazine'.

Rear Cover Caption

Class 66/7 No. 66740 passes Taplow on 6th December, with MLA wagons working from Appleford to East Grinstead for reloading with rubbish from Imberhorne Cutting on the Bluebell Railway. This was the last week of the current phase. Tony Callaghan

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