

Railway Herald

Issue 299 - 23rd January 2012



The weekly railway enthusiasts' magazine

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All editorial emails should be sent to the editor. To email a member of the team, send your message to firstname.surname@railwayherald.com

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Railway Herald is published weekly, 47 times a year.

Submissions

We welcome submissions from all readers, especially digital photographs. Pictures should be sent to the editor at editor@railwayherald.com

Good quality scans of colour slides and prints are also acceptable. There is currently no financial payment made for photographs published in *Railway Herald*. Where possible we always try to use news photographs taken within the production week of the publication date.

Website

Our website contains all back issues of the magazine and is available at www.railwayherald.com

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First of the new Stadler Trams arrives in Croydon

Transport for London has taken delivery of the first of five new Stadler light rail vehicles to supplement the existing fleet on the Croydon Tramlink system. The set arrived the previous evening and was unloaded on 19th January.

Read more on
Page 6

Forthcoming Changes

Further details of the forthcoming changes at *Railway Herald* are given on Page 3 of this issue, and all will be explained in the next issue.

However, from Issue 300, the publication date of *Railway Herald* moves to a **Wednesday**, to allow for better and quicker coverage of the weekend events, together with more up to date news content.

Issue 300 of Railway Herald will therefore be published on Wednesday 1st February 2012

Elsewhere in this issue

8 News in Pictures

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

13 Preservation News

Epping-Ongar Railway buys two GWR steam locomotives, and tickets go on sale for NRM's Railfest 2012 event.

New Malcolm Livery

DRS has outshopped Class 66/4 No. 66434 in a new version of the Malcolm Rail livery, this time featuring a blue and black colour scheme

[Click here to read the story on Page 3](#)

King's Cross Square

Camden Council has given Network Rail the green light to proceed with its plans to redevelop the frontage at King's Cross

[Click here to read the story on Page 4](#)

Next Class 70 arrives

After the arrival of No. 70017 last week, Class 70 No. 70018 entered Britain through Liverpool Docks on 20th January

[Click here to read the story on Page 5](#)

Frodsham Refurbishment

The local council has given permission to completely refurbish the former stationmaster's house at Frodsham, which dates back to 1850.

[Click here to read the story on Page 7](#)

Front Cover Caption:

In bitterly cold sunshine, DBS-liveried Class 60 No. 60054 takes the Bridgend line at Tondy on 15th January, having earlier run-round its train while working a diverted service from Margam to Round Oak. The line above the leading wagons carries the Arriva Trains Wales service to and from Maesteg, while behind the signal gantry is the overgrown site of Tondy steam shed (88H) that closed in February 1964. **Stuart Warr**

Design work starts on Stratford Parkway

Warwickshire County Council has announced the appointment of Mott MacDonald to produce the outline designs for the new £8.8 million Stratford Parkway station in Warwickshire.

The company was appointed after submitting the most competitive proposal for the works and by demonstrating strong experience in the design of new railway stations. The firm has previously designed both Warwick and Coleshill Parkway stations in the county. The outline design work is expected to be complete by early summer and remains in line with the Council's goal to open the new station by December 2013.

It is forecast that the project will attract 114,000 new rail journey's to the town by 2025. The extra revenue generated will help fund more trains and provide a regular evening service to both Stratford stations.

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New look for DRS Class 66 as customer livery returns

▲ Direct Rail Services has outshopped a member of its Class 66/4 fleet in a new Malcolm Rail livery, after the previous designed loco No. 66412 was returned to the leasing company and subsequently passed to GB Railfreight. Class 66/4 No. 66434 has been transformed in a revised Malcolm Rail blue and black livery, with red ribbon like stripes, and 'Committed to the environment' branding. Here, the loco passes Preston on its first southbound working, a Coatbridge to Daventry intermodal on 12th January. **Mike Birtles**

Medit Shipping Company renews contract with Freightliner Intermodal

Container shipping company MSC has renewed its five-year contract with Freightliner Ltd to increase container volumes to the North West.

The new contract is an expansion of the existing service, moving 30,000 containers per annum, the increase in volume designed to remove over 6,000 additional lorry journeys per

year from the UK road network. The announcement follows the transfer of MSC services at the Port of Felixstowe to the port's newly developed state of the art berths 8 and 9. Freightliner says it is intended that the containers will be hauled by Class 70s, which allow for longer trains, enabling increases in container volumes with reduced CO2 emissions.

£3 million investment in Eastleigh Works

Six years ago Eastleigh Works was deemed to be at the end of its life.

Closed by Alstom, and stripped of equipment, the site was taken over by Knights Rail Services (KRS) for storing off-lease rail vehicles.

Through storage of stock and heavy

February welcomes the start of a brand new era in railway publishing

For Railway Herald, February will not only bring the start of a new era, but also the conclusion of a two-year project to relaunch and expand the magazine.

In early 2010, the Editorial team started to look at how they could improve the publication. The aim was to keep the traditional focus on presenting the most up-to-date news possible in a weekly digital magazine, while at the same time looking at how the service, and specifically the product offered to the reader, could be improved.

After much work and numerous discussions, the new-look magazine will be unveiled on **Wednesday 1st February**, with the publication of Issue 300. The weekly edition will be bigger with a larger editorial team, which has been increased from three to seven, more pictures, better technology and a broader range of news and information. For the Editor, it also brings the pride of being the first edition of *Railway Herald* to be produced in association with Ian Allan Publishing, the two organisations having formed a Joint Venture to move the title forward, embrace the future, and in some respects, to go where no UK railway magazine has gone before!

All will be totally revealed next week, as will our new website ... so make sure you visit railwayherald.com from mid-day on Wednesday 1st February to find out more!

engineering, the latter undertaken by Arlington Fleet Services, the works continues to thrive.

At a cost of £3 million, Bruce Knights, KRS MD, has recently signed a new five-year lease on the site meaning that rail activity will continue to at least 2016, and over the next few months,

investment by Arlington will see two 30-ton cranes installed, replacing those that were stripped out six years ago, while new track is being laid by KRS at the Southampton end of the site, to provide access to the south bays of the workshops that have been isolated since 2006.



▲ As previously reported, GBRf has purchased five Di8 Bo-Bo diesel locomotives from CargoNet in Norway for use in shunting activities at SSI Lackenby. The locomotives all docked in December, and current plans are for two to be repainted into GBRf colours in the coming months. One of the original GEC 0-6-0 shunters is pictured with four of the new locomotives, complete with the Lackenby works in the background. **GBRailfreight**

New King's Cross Square given the green light by Camden Council

Plans to create a new public space in front of King's Cross station, which will form the final part of its redevelopment, have been given the go-ahead by Camden Council.

The design will reveal the Victorian Grade I listed station façade for the first time in 150 years. In place of the current 1970s concourse extension will be a 7,000 square metre open space that will be 50% bigger than Leicester Square. The new area will feature a Yorkstone and granite paving pattern with new outdoor seating. An area suitable for large-scale art installations has also been identified.

Ian Fry, Network Rail's Programme

Director at King's Cross said: "The station is at the heart of the regeneration of the King's Cross area and it is great news for passengers, businesses and the community that the plans have been approved to create a new, public open space as part of it. The new public square and unveiled Grade I listed Lewis Cubbitt station façade will be the ideal complement to the new concourse, which opens in the spring, and together will help transform King's Cross station into a world-class public transport hub.

The decision to grant planning permission for the new space in front of the station marks the end of a four-year

design programme, which involved more than 4,500 people being consulted on the plans. When completed, it is estimated that the square will be used by 140,000 people every day.

Although on the face of it the creation of an open public square would appear a simple task, but there are a number of complex engineering challenges owing to its location. The square will sit directly above the London Underground ticket hall, which limits the features that can be incorporated into the design, and the site also sits above tunnels carrying the River Fleet, London's largest subterranean river, as well as other utilities and tube lines".

Network Rail secures funding of more than £1.5 million for Wakefield Kirkgate

Network Rail has successfully secured more than £1.5 million of new industry funding, bringing the upgrade of Wakefield Kirkgate station a significant step forward.

Plans to transform the listed station building have been professionally drawn up with support from Network Rail, Northern Rail, West Yorkshire PTE (Metro), Wakefield Council and Railway Heritage Trust, and it is this scheme that has been awarded just over £1 million from the Station Commercial Project Facility fund (SCPF). This significant funding has

been supplemented by £500,000 from Network Rail.

Phil Verster, Route Managing Director at Network Rail, said: "This is excellent news, for Wakefield. Kirkgate is a station in need of improvement and we have already completed improvements to CCTV, subway and entrance lobby with more work scheduled this year on the canopies and to remove the spine wall. However, the listed station buildings have been empty for many years and are in need of attention. Today's funding announcement is the result of many months hard work by the rail partners to find

a solution that benefits both passengers and the community. We will continue to work with all of the partners to support the scheme".

The £100 million Station Commercial Project Facility fund is an initiative developed by the Department for Transport in partnership with Network Rail, ATOC, and the Office for Rail Regulation. It is available for capital expenditure projects and is administered and programme managed by Network Rail.

East Coast successfully secured funds for a new station building at Wakefield's other main line station - Westgate - in November last year.

Colliery lines to cycle paths

Nottinghamshire County Council has announced plans to create several new walkways and cycle routes that were previously local railway lines.

The council is to purchase the trackbed of four lines that previously served Bilsthorpe, Cotgrave, Calverton and Clipstone mines at a cost of approximately £80,000,

and the conversion to their new use will cost around £1.7 million.

Cotgrave and Calverton Collieries closed in 1993/1994, the latter being reopened under private ownership, before finally closing in 1999. Clipstone also reopened after closure by British Coal, with the axe finally falling in 2003. Bilsthorpe Colliery was closed in 1997.

■ On the basis of the monthly punctuality figures published in 2011, it comes as no surprise that c2c has topped the charts for the whole of the year with 96.7% of trains on time. By achieving these results, c2c has equalled its industry-leading and record-breaking annual punctuality score that was first achieved in 2010.

■ Passengers in the North West are to have more say on how local rail services are run after the designation of the Mid-Cheshire line as a community rail service.

■ First Hull Trains has announced pre-tax profits to the end of March 2011 of £1.7 million, a significant improvement on the £1.9 million loss the previous year. Turnover also increased 3% to £21.7 million, although the company says it sees the general business trend as slowing, rather than growing.

■ A new East Midlands Distribution Centre is on the verge of opening, situated on the 60-acre site previously occupied by Castle Donnington Power Station. It provides over two-million square feet of warehousing spread across 13 units, the biggest having recently been handed over to Marks & Spencer, and is now being fitted out to become the company's 'eCommerce' centre for UK and Ireland operations, prior to opening this coming autumn. The

site also includes an 18.85-acre rail freight terminal, providing additional capacity for intermodal traffic within the East Midlands, the rail connection for which was installed in July last year.

■ Westhoughton station has been revamped. Passenger information boards showing the times of the trains and expected arrival times and delays have been installed, together with six CCTV cameras, help points and passenger access ramps and platforms. Station announcements also now give passengers information about train arrivals, and a ticket machine is located on the Manchester-bound platform. The work was funded by Greater Manchester Integrated Transport Authority, which has been carrying out improvements across the region since 2009.

■ Network Rail holding a public exhibition on the proposal to build a new station at Energlyn. Developed on behalf of the Welsh Government and backed by Caerphilly County Borough Council, the proposal aims to deliver a two-platform station to serve trains to and from Cardiff. The event will be held on 9th February, between 16.00 and 20.00 at Plasyfelin Primary School, Caerphilly, providing an opportunity for residents to share their feedback and thoughts.



▲ In howling wind and rain, the latest Class 70 to be delivered, No. 70018, arrives on British shores for the first time, having arrived on board the *Atlantic Cartier* at Royal Seaforth Docks, Liverpool, on 20th January. The ship had been delayed in transit, due to a crew member being taken ill. The Class 70 was due to be craned off its delivery girders on 23rd January, as a result of the high winds. The next two Class 70s, Nos. 70019 and 70020 are expected to arrive together in mid-February. **Philip Parker**

New four-platform station proposed for North East Chelmsford

Countryside Properties and its development partner L&Q, have revised their outline planning application for a new station in North East Chelmsford.

The company stating that the proposals represent a major addition to the sustainable transport

infrastructure of both the town and the county. The application complements proposals for a new neighbourhood at Beaulieu Park, with up to 3,600 new homes and a total of 620,000 sq.ft. of commercial space, incorporating a business park. The station is proposed to have four

platforms with passing loops that will bring efficiency and capacity benefits to traffic on the Great Eastern main line. The proposals incorporate a bus interchange and substantial cycle parking, and it is expected that 60% of passengers will travel to the station by non-car means. The new facility is expected

to reduce congestion at the existing Chelmsford station, which is the busiest commuter station in the Anglia region outside London, and the reduced numbers of car trips will therefore assist in also reducing congestion in the town centre and on radial routes.

Metro and Light Rail News



▲ The first of the new Stadler Variobahn trams is pictured at Therapia Lane on 9th January after unloading. **TfL**

First new Stadler tram arrives in Croydon

The first of six new trams for Croydon arrived on 8th January, following a three-day journey from Germany.

At 32-metres long, the Stadler Variobahn trams are 2.5-metres longer than the existing vehicles. They are air-conditioned and are 100% low floor to provide improved accessibility.

The contract for the new vehicles is worth £16.3 million in total, including spare parts and special equipment. The first of the new trams should be in service by late February, with the remainder following by early Summer.

▼ The second Bombardier Flexity 2 tram in the Blackpool fleet, No. 002 passes Cavendish Road, Blackpool, while on test on 17th January. **Mark Bearton**



▲ Making its first revenue-earning run, and piloting classmate No. 70007 forward from Crewe, Class 70 No. 70017 arrives at Ipswich on the 22.50 Ditton to Felixstowe Intermodal service on 20th January. **John Day**

New Airdrie-Bathgate line patronage on target to meet initial forecasts

The £300 million Airdrie to Bathgate rail link that was reopened in December 2010 has been a significant success for the first 12 months of operation.

As well as increasing passenger numbers at existing stations, the new route also increases the range of options available for travel between Edinburgh and Glasgow and allows passengers to travel direct from Helensburgh and Milngavie in the west to Bathgate and Edinburgh in the east.

In addition, the new stations at Armadale (89,388 passengers),

Blackridge (40,008) and Caldercruix (68,853) are all on target to meet their initial annual forecasts, and the increased frequency and greater seating capacity have also helped boost usage at existing stations on the route with Bathgate (+4%), Uphall (+21%) and Livingston North (+12%) all showing increases in travel to and from Edinburgh.

The new direct journey opportunities have also delivered an average 14% increase in usage from intermediate stations on the route between Helensburgh and Edinburgh Waverley.

Frodsham stationmaster's house to be refurbished

The all clear has been given by Cheshire West & Chester Council to completely refurbish the former stationmaster's house at Frodsham, which dates back to 1850 and is Grade II listed.

Network Rail Building Surveyor, Chris Dawson, explained: "The listing describes the building as having such things as 'Flemish bond brown brick' and 'rusticated rock-faced quoins' among a number of other features. It concludes by calling it 'a substantial, little altered and relatively little damaged mid-19th century main station building'. Consequently, all the work that we carry out has to be sympathetic to the original design".

In effect, the building will be brand new inside because all the structural timbers affected by rot will be replaced, as will the concrete and wooden ground and first floors, and the stairs linking them. The Welsh

slate roof will be removed to renew the underlay and insulation before it is put back, and the chimney stacks will be re-pointed using a traditional lime mortar. External doors and windows will also be renewed on a like-for-like basis to match the Victorian originals using materials agreed with the local conservation officer. Finally, all the external masonry will be cleaned and repaired with isolated patch re-pointing, again using lime mortar".

Work on the £400,000 project is expected to be finished by the end of May and will not have any effect on the running of services from the station. While the work is being carried out, Network Rail will market the building with the aim of finding a tenant. Possible future uses could include office accommodation, a restaurant and/or bar, art studios/workshops or some form of community use.

▼ Railfreight red stripe-liveried Class 20/0 No. 20227 and BR blue-liveried No. 20142 lead barrier wagons and a new 'S' class tube set on the approach to Moira West signal box on the Burton-on-Trent to Coalville line on 17th January, while en route from Derby Litchurch Lane to Old Dalby. Class 20/9s Nos. 20901 and 20905 were on the rear of the train. **Stuart Hillis**



The Irish Angle

▲ The 06.15 Heuston - Portlaoise and 07.43 Portlaoise - Heuston services on 12th January were unusually operated by a Mk4 set, instead of the booked pair of three-car ICR sets. It is understood that this was due to vandalism to a 22000 set. GM 201 Class No. 226 is pictured at Portarlinton on the rear of the 07.43 Portlaoise - Heuston with Mk4 DVT No. 4001 leading. **Neil Dinnen**

Emergency services take part in annual safety exercise

Eurotunnel has held its 22nd annual bi-national safety exercise, BINAT 22, where firefighters, paramedics and police emergency services from both Britain and France are mobilised.

A full-scale, real-time exercise, BINAT is run at least once each year to test the planning and preparedness of the British and French emergency services in the event of an accident underground in the Channel Tunnel. Eurotunnel estimates that each BINAT exercise costs approximately €200,000.

The situation this year simulated a fire on board a truck being carried on one of the Shuttle trains, and involved a controlled stop, the evacuation of the truck drivers in just a few moments, and the operation of a SAFE station. Last autumn, the Tunnel was equipped with four underground fire fighting stations,

known as SAFE stations. These are capable of detecting and pin-pointing a hot-spot on a freight shuttle and, once the train is brought to a standstill, of dispersing a targeted water mist that limits fire propagation by preventing oxygen access and helps to extinguish it. This automated system in turn facilitates the access of firefighters. The SAFE stations are 870 metres long and are situated 28km and 42km from the UK portal in both running Tunnels.

The BINAT 22 exercise required the mobilisation of 150 personnel from the different emergency services in both countries, 30 volunteers, 15 judges and observers, a Eurotunnel Freight Shuttle and 19 Service Tunnel Transportation System vehicles.

The event took place between 00.30 and 04.30 on Sunday 15th January.



▲ One of the latest reallocations of multiple units has been the transfer of the five Class 322 EMUs from First ScotRail to Northern Rail, based at Neville Hill. On 15th January, rebranded No. 322481 stands at Doncaster awaiting departure on a local 'all-stations' service to Wakefield and Leeds. **David Wragg**



▼ Class 60 No. 60065 *Spirit of Jaguar* stands at the head of a spoil train, while Arriva blue-liveried Class 67 No. 67002 has charge of a rake of ballast hoppers at Oakham on 15th January, as the duo await the call into the possession. **Craig Adamson**

▲ Making a rare appearance on the Margam to Corby circuit, DBS Class 60 No. 60071 *Ribblehead Viaduct* heads south through Bredicot, Worcestershire, with a Corby to Margam empty steel coil working on 13th January. **Stephen Tucker**



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Class 37 Turns : Loads of DRS 37s in action on a variety of trains, diverted flasks, departmental trips and on-hire to DBS. Plus, 'heritage' traction and some '97/3s' as well!

The 70s : New arrivals 70007 to 70011 at work, plus a look where '70s' are breaking new ground - working freightliners to Cardiff Wentloog and Southampton Maritime FLT; coal trains to Ironbridge power station.

Freight Flows / Loco Gallery : lots of exciting action including

Deltic 'R.S.G' - Makes the national news headlines working GBRf Alumina trips between North Blyth and Lynemouth, plus an outing on 6E45 over the West Highland Line!

Weardale Coal - Colas Rail break into the coal market working coal trains over the private Weardale Railway from Wolsingham to Scunthorpe steelworks and Ratcliffe p.s.

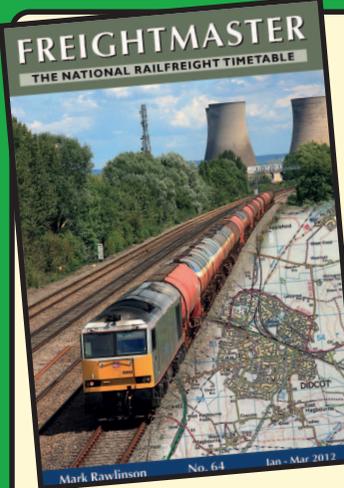
Rock Armour - Freight returns to the West Somerset Railway with DBS and Mendip Rail Class 59s bringing boulders to Minehead to strengthen sea defences.

Yorkshire RHTTs - Six 'heritage' Class 20s working the York-based RHTT 'Sandite' trains.

Plus lots more great action, steam too, and some absolutely stunning photographic delights!

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BRCW Class 27s	Network South East	'Speedlink'	Woodhead Line



FREIGHTMASTER

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No.64

January to March 2012

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Recent Improvements

In case you haven't seen a recent copy of Freightmaster recently, you may well be unaware of some of the improvements we have made to the timetable locations, which include an exciting new concept - **DOUBLE TIMETABLES**. These provide timings at **two locations** but contained in a **single timetable**, to let you see, at a glance, what freight passes through a specific area. Here they are

Cheltenham and Gloucester
Fairwood Jct. and Westbury Station
Ipswich and Manningtree Viaduct
Church Fenton and Colton Jct.
Eaglescliffe and Thornaby (Teesside West)
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UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

Saturday 28th January 2012

Railway Touring Co.	44871 & 45407	Manchester Victoria-Preston-Shap-Carlisle-S&C-Blackburn-Manchester Victoria
UK Railtours	2xDBS 66	London Paddington-Southall Yard-Brentford Goods-West Drayton-Colnbrook(rev)-West Drayton-Acton Wells-Willesden-Milton Keynes Central-Railcare Wolverton Works-Haversham Sidings-Milton Keynes Central-Bletchley Flyover-Swanbourne-Fenny Stratford(rev)-Bletchley-London Euston *REPEAT TOUR*

Saturday 4th February 2012

Railway Touring Co.	70013 or 45305	(London Euston-Northampton-Preston)-S&C-Carlisle-Shap-(Preston-Euston)
Spitfire Railtours	2xDRS 37	Birmingham International-Crewe-Carlisle-Crianlarich-Fort William

Sunday 5th February 2012

Spitfire Railtours	2xDRS 37	Fort William-Crianlarich-Carlisle-Crewe-Stafford-Birmingham NS-Birmingham Intl.
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Saturday 11th February 2012

Railway Touring Co.	70013 or 45305	(London Euston-Northampton-Preston)-S&C-Carlisle-Shap-(Preston-Euston)
UK Railtours	Mendip 59	London Paddington-Slough-Reading-Westbury-Whatley Quarry-Frome-Cranmore (East Somerset Railway)-Merehead Quarry-Frome-Westbury-Reading-Paddington

Sunday 12th February 2012

Steam Dreams	6024	London - Bath Spa (connection to Wells). Route details to be confirmed
Vintage Trains	4965	Tyseley WR-Leicester-Loughborough-Burton upon Trent-Tamworth HL-Tyseley WR

Friday 17th February 2012

VSOE	35028	London Victoria-Clapham Jct-Virginia Water-Woking-Redhill-East Croydon-Victoria
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Saturday 18th February 2012

Railway Touring Co.	70013 or 45305	(London Euston-Northampton-Preston)-S&C-Carlisle-Shap-(Preston-Euston)
UK Railtours	tbc	London Euston-Watford Junction-Rugby-Chester-Llandudno Junction-Bangor & rtn

Saturday 25th February 2012

Pathfinder Tours	2xDBS 66	Tame Bridge Parkway-Derby-Church Fenton-Low Fell/Greenfield/Pelaw Jct-Jarrow branch-Durham-Ferryside-Seal Sands (NR limit)-Billingham Jct-Eaglescliffe-Northallerton East/Longlands Jct-Thirsk-York-Colton Jn-Derby-Tame Bridge Parkway
Railway Touring Co.	70013 or 45305	(London Euston-Northampton-Preston)-S&C-Carlisle-Shap-(Preston-Euston)
Steam Dreams	6024 & 60163	London Paddington-Hereford-Birmingham SH-London Paddington Cancelled
UK Railtours	tbc	London Euston-Rugby-Crewe-S&C-Carlisle Currock Jct-Maryport-Workington-Ravenglass-Grange over Sands-Preston-Rugby-London Euston

Thursday 1st March 2012

Steam Dreams	6024	London Paddington-Reading-Cardiff & return
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Saturday 3rd March 2012

Pathfinder Tours	6024	(Birmingham International-Stourbridge Jct-Droitwich Spa-)Bristol TM-Swindon-Reading-London Paddington & return
Railway Touring Co.	70013	London King's Cross-Retford-Worksop-Brancliffe East Jct-Maltby Colliery-Kirk Sandal-Scunthorpe-Barnetby-Cleethorpes-New Holland-Barnetby-Lincoln-Newark Northgate-Peterborough(-London King's Cross)
Statesman Rail	2xWCRC 47	Hereford-Ludlow-Shrewsbury-Crewe-Lancaster-Beattock-Crianlarich-Fort William
UK Railtours	70000	(London King's Cross)-York-Leeds-S&C-Carlisle(Hexham-York-London KX)
VSOE	35028	London Victoria-Clapham Jct-Virginia Water-Woking-Redhill-East Croydon-Victoria

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

BLACK Charters expected to operate as booked.

RED Tours cancelled by the operator

GREEN Tours postponed to a future date by the operator

BLUE Provisional excursion

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

Railtour Spotlight

There are just two charters operating this week, and one of those is the 'relief' to a tour seven days earlier!

The re-run of last weekends UK Railtours 'Concrete Cow' from London Paddington to London Euston, follows the same itinerary, that is visits to Brentford Goods, Colnbrook, the Railcare Works at Wolverton and a trip over the Bletchley flyover. UK Railtours advise that Standard Class seating remains available on this charter.

Tour of the week, and not necessarily because it is the only 'new' tour operating, is the Railway Touring Company's 'Winter Cumbrian Mountain Express'.

End of the road approaches for NIRs Castle class

On Sunday 18th February the Modern Railway Society of Ireland (MRSI) will be commemorating the anticipated end of Class 450 DMUs in Northern Ireland.

The '450s', otherwise known as the Castle class, have been a fixture on the Larne line since their introduction in 1989. The DMUs were constructed in Derby using the then standard BT Mk 3 Sprinter 20-metre body and mounted on underframes recovered from redundant Mk1 coaches together with their bogies. The engines, DC generators and control equipment used were those recovered from the withdrawn 70 class units. Although named after castles in Northern Ireland, the general title of Castle class has never really caught on.

As the units were essentially intended for suburban use, their interiors were basic, but this did not prevent the sets seeing network usage as well as 'Derry' trains, but the introduction of the CAF 3000 units has recently resulted in the '450s' being confined to Larne and Portrush trains, and the subsequent introduction of the CAF 4000 stock will mean the end of the road for the Derby-built units. Presently there are just three sets remaining in traffic,

by John Whitehouse

This is the first of five consecutive trains operating over the forthcoming successive weeks, but is the only one to start at Manchester Victoria. It was originally booked to operate on 28th December last, which is the main reason the itinerary is different from the following trains. Other than the chance of seeing the Settle & Carlisle at its best, and possibly under a blanket of snow, the highlight is to enjoy the trip behind Ian Riley's pair of 'Black 5s' Nos. 44871 and 45407. The route is northbound over Shap, and then returning by way of the 'Long Drag', which should herald the sight of steam at its finest!

the MRSI having taken the opportunity to operate a rail tour featuring lines that will never see the units in action again. One of the highlights of the tour is planned to be the first visit of a member of the class, in passenger service, to Dundalk for 10 years, as well as taking in the 'mothballed' Antrim to Lisburn, via Crumlin line, and the return to routes that have not seen a '450' since the introduction of the CAF sets.

The intended route is a departure from Belfast Central at around 08.55 for Dundalk, Belfast, Bangor, Belfast Central, Antrim, and Lisburn and back to Belfast Central. For more details and booking arrangements, see the [MRSI website](#).

▼ **Class 450 No 8768 is seen on 20th July 2011, working the 11.57 Coleraine to Londonderry service. Chris Playfair**



Compass expands steam workings in 2012

After dipping their toes into the steam market last year with the successful 'Mersey Moorlander' trains, there is even more to come from Compass Tours during the coming year.

'The Mersey Moorlanders' will again operate, working the same formula as last year, with steam coming on at Preston and working north via the S&C to Carlisle, and then returning south by way of Shap. The trains, which will operate each Monday between 23rd July and 20th August, will originate at Crewe, and pick up via Runcorn and Liverpool South Parkway to Liverpool Lime Street, before continuing after a reversal to call at Prescot, St. Helen's Central, Wigan North Western and Euxton. Traction will be provided from the West Coast pool, which may be augmented by locomotives based at Crewe for the high season.

However, new for 2012 will be three trains running under 'The Roses Express' banner, which will start their day in the North West and head for York, via the Calder Valley route. These new trains will operate on three successive Wednesday's in April, commencing on 4th April with a rare steam working from Southport, which will also pick up at Burscough Bridge and Parbold en route for Wigan Wallgate, and then Manchester Victoria.

Next, on 11th April the 'The Roses Express' will set out from Barrow-in-Furness, picking up at Ulverston, Grange-over-Sands, Arnside, Carnforth, Lancaster, Preston, Blackburn, Accrington and Burnley Manchester

Road, before reaching the Calder Valley via Copy Pit.

Finally, Hooton is the starting point on 18th April, the train calling at Chester, Delamere, Northwich, Knutsford, Altricham, Stockport and Denton, and will use Brewery Junction to reach the Calder Valley via Rochdale.

Compass will head for the Highlands with a working on Wednesday 9th May, which is planned to use one or both of West Coast's Fort William pool, which will be moving north ahead of the commencement of the 'Jacobite' season on the following Monday. 'The Strathspey Highlander' will offer a return steam working over the Highland main line between Perth and Inverness, which will start the day at Gourrock, and pick up around Glasgow at Greenock Central, Port Glasgow, Paisley Gilmour Street, Bishopbriggs, Stirling and, of course Perth.

Hitherto, Compass has been known for diesel-hauled workings, and in so doing has been innovative in creating new itineraries, which others have since followed. Combining the S&C with the Cumbrian Coast for a day of land cruise was the operator's initial idea, and in 'The Roses Expresses' Compass may well be doing the same for the steam market. The pick-up points of these trains is also consistent with the philosophy of using local stations, which with local advertising is probably a major factor in the successes of the past in filling the trains.

Compass also has an intensive programme of diesel-hauled workings, which will be reviewed in a later issue.

'Royal Scot' and 'A4' announced for SRPS steam workings

West Coast's 'Royal Scot' No. 46115 Scots Guardsman and John Cameron's No. 60009 Union of South Africa are the headline performers in the Scottish Railway Preservation Society's (SRPS) early season programme.

Two 'Forth Circle' tours each year are now traditional, with one running in April and the other in August. The April train this year will operate on Saturday 28th April, and feature the 'Scot' on the customary two circuits.

The key part of the route is the same for both the morning and afternoon workings, which

is heading north along the Fife Coast, via Kirkcaldy, before turning inland at Thornton Junction to reach Stirling, via Cowdenbeath, Dunfermline Town, Kincardine and Alloa. Each train then proceeds via Larbert and Polmont to set down at the morning start point at Linlithgow, before proceeding to Dalmeny, where the afternoon train commences.

The Highland main line will be the challenge for No. 60009, which is currently undergoing an overhaul at the LNWR Works at Crewe, when, on Saturday 30th June it is booked to work a Glenrothes with Thornton to Inverness charter throughout, with

the exception of the section each way between Dundee and Perth, which will be diesel-hauled due to the lack of turning facilities at Dundee. Pick up points are Cupar and Leuchars for St Andrews, as well as Dundee and Perth.

Additionally, the SRPS has diesel-hauled workings, with West Coast Class 47 or 57 traction to Fort William and Mallaig from Linlithgow on Saturday 12th May, a Plockton and Kyle of Lochalsh charter from North Berwick on Saturday 26th May, and a long day out from Glenrothes with Thornton to Chester and Llandudno on Saturday 16th June.

Frosty start to 'Abercot Generator'

► On a cold and frosty morning, Class 66 No. 66002 speeds through Ashchurch station with the 07.22 Bristol Parkway-Appleford Sidings, Pathfinder Tours' 'The Abercot Generator' charter on 14th January. **John Stretton**



Yorkshire Wolds, North Norfolk and Harringworth Viaduct in RTC 'Day Trips' programme

Last week the intensive programme of repeat itinerary workings planned by the Railway Touring Company during the July and August high season was described. This is matched by an equally intensive schedule of one-off workings leading up to the high season, and this week, we take a closer look at the highlights of these.

On 14th April, RTC become only the second tour operator to take steam over the Yorkshire Wolds line since it was upgraded to take heavier trains last year. The 'East Riding' starts the day at London King's Cross and uses the East Coast Main Line to Doncaster before turning east for Goole and the 'Wolds' line through Beverley and Bridlington for an afternoon in Scarborough. To complete a varied day out, the 'East Riding' returns via Malton and York ahead of the run south along the ECML back to King's Cross. 'Britannia' No 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* is scheduled throughout.

Over the weekend of 22nd-24th June, the North Norfolk Railway will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of the filming of the famous British feature film *The Titfield Thunderbolt*, with Holt adopting the identity of Titfield for the weekend. RTC will be joining the celebrations on 23rd June with a charter from King's Cross, aptly entitled 'The Titfield Thunderbolt', which will pick up via Stevenage, Hitchin and Cambridge, ahead of reaching Norwich by way of Ely and Thetford with *Battle of Britain* No. 34067 *Tangmere* at the helm. At Norwich, *Tangmere* will be joined by 'Black 5' No. 44767 *George Stephenson*, which is due to be re-registered for main line operations this year. The RTC special will then proceed via Wroxham hauled by No. 44767 to Cromer, where the train will reverse and continue with *Tangmere* again in charge via the re-established level crossing at Sheringham and onto North Norfolk metals through to Titfield (otherwise known as Holt). A reversal will also be required at Cromer on the return, so the train will be again in the hands of the 'Black 5' via Sheringham, with *Tangmere* then working

back to Norwich, and after being turned on the Crown Point triangle, heading the train back to London. As with previous charters operating to Sheringham, the train will be split at Norwich, with passengers travelling one way on the train and the other by road coach.

One of the disappointments of last year was the postponement of the first planned through charter over the re-established connection at Matlock, which now enables through running to the Peak Railway's northern terminal at Rowsley. The good news is that this pioneering train is now booked to operate on 27th May and feature No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* throughout from King's Cross, working northwards via Peterborough, Melton Mowbray, Loughborough and Derby to Ambergate Junction and the remnant of the old Midland main line to Manchester through to Matlock and onto Rowsley. As a bonus on the return, instead of taking the Peterborough route at Manton Junction, near Oakham, the train will instead head over the huge Harringworth Viaduct and return to London St Pancras International via the Midland Main Line.

A 'Royal Scot' from London Victoria to York, via the Midland main line is the attraction of RTC's 'Yorkshireman to Railfest York' on Tuesday 5th June. Which 'Scot' it will be remains to be seen! After winding its way around West London, the tour picks up at St Albans through to Kettering, before taking the line via Corby, and Harringworth to the final pick-up point at Melton Mowbray. It is then north over the Erewash Valley to Chesterfield and via Barrow Hill to York, and Railfest 2012. The return is diesel-hauled throughout.

Another significant one-way steam working is booked for 9th June, featuring No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* from London Euston to Manchester Piccadilly. The feature of this tour is that it is booked to provide a rare locomotive-hauled working on the line from Colwich Junction, via Stone to Stoke-on-Trent, and then onwards via Macclesfield to Piccadilly. The return will be diesel or electric-hauled,

which if the latter, possibly implies another run for Les Ross's Class 86/2 No. 86259.

The South West is due to see regular visits from RTC, with two workings into Cornwall, the first being the balancing working to get the two locomotives that worked the Penzance leg of RTC's 'Great Britain V' back north. 'The Royal Duchy' runs diesel-hauled from London Paddington, via the Berks & Hants line to Penzance, where Bulleid Pacifics Nos. 34046 *Braunton* and 34067 *Tangmere* will be waiting to head the train back as far as Westbury. Diesel traction returns the train to Paddington. Two weeks later, and Par is the destination for the 'Cornishman', from Bristol Temple Meads, which is booked for either 'Castle' No. 5029 *Nunney Castle* or 'King' No. 6023 *King Edward I*.

The planned re-signalling work on the Yeovil Junction to Exeter Central route via Honiton, which will again permit through steam workings, has opened up the opportunity to run two 'Atlantic Coast Expresses', booked

for Sundays 13th May and 10th June. Each will work over the classic London & South West route from London Waterloo, via Basingstoke and Salisbury to Exeter, and is then scheduled to return over ex-Great Western metals to Westbury, rejoining the outward route at Salisbury. No locomotive is currently allocated to these trains, and the itinerary appears to fail to take into account the lack of turning facility at Westbury. RTC's current specification implies steam throughout, so we await with interest to see what happens!

Other workings in a busy programme include the annual visits to the Central Wales line on Monday 7th May from Leicester, with steam-haulage from Crewe, via Shrewsbury and Llandrindod Wells, to Newport, and later on Saturday 12th May from London Paddington, with steam coming on at Newport and working through to Shrewsbury. Ian Riley's 4-6-0s Nos. 44871 & 45407 will be doing the honours on each trip.

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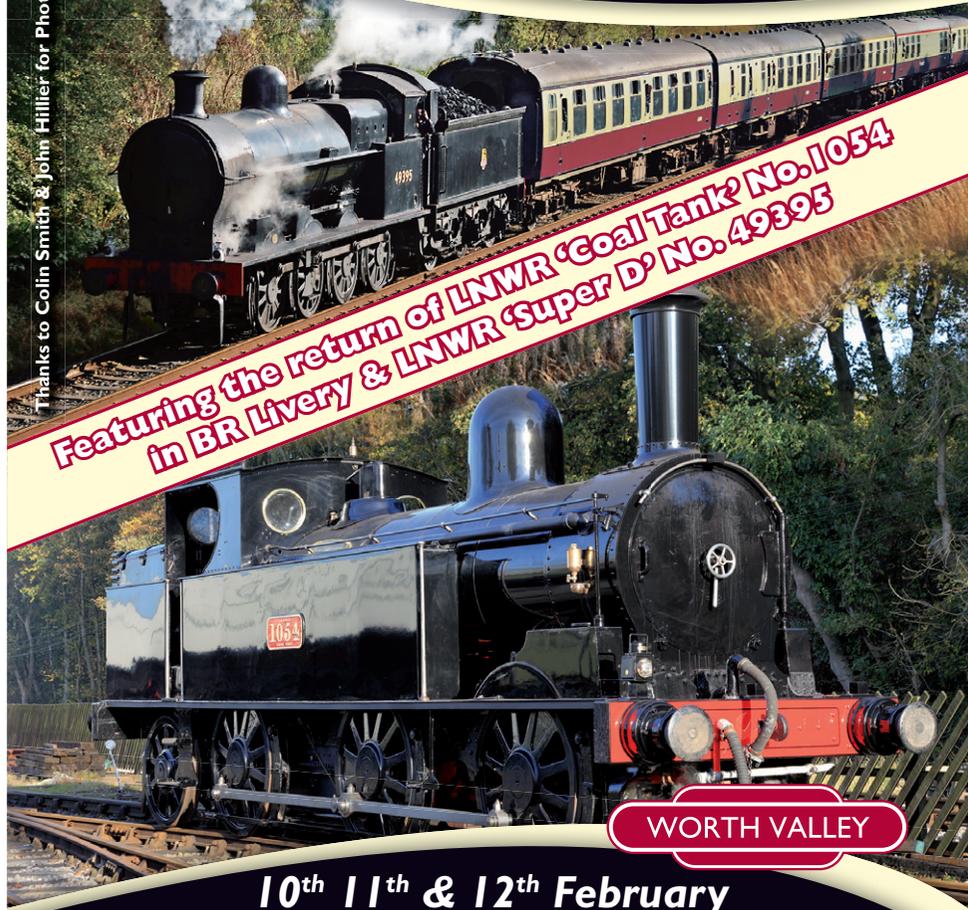
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Epping-Ongar purchases GWR steam locomotives

The Epping-Ongar Railway will soon be welcoming its first two resident main line steam engines as it prepares to operate steam-hauled passenger trains later this year.

The locomotives are 'Hall' class 4-6-0 No. 4953 *Pitchford*

Hall and 5100 class Large Prairie No. 4141, which is currently completing an extensive overhaul at the Llangollen Railway and should be with the six-mile Essex line in the coming weeks.

In the future the line will look forward to hosting the Holden Class F5 2-4-2T 'new

build' locomotive when it is completed, the order for the frame plates was placed with Tata Steel of Cradley, West Midlands in December. The steel plates will be specially rolled to one-inch thick as specified on the original drawings and laser cut to the required profile.

▼ Peckett 0-4-0ST *Sir Cecil A. Cochrane* passes Terrace Junction with a service on the Tanfield Railway on 15th January.
Simon Roberts



Tickets go on sale for National Railway Museum's 'Railfest 2012' nine-day celebration

Tickets are now on sale from the National Railway Museum for what is being described as Britain's biggest rail celebration – Railfest 2012.

The event will take place during the nine days between 2nd and 10th June, and will have a large line-up of locomotives from the Museum's collection and visiting locomotives from across Great Britain, together with

a wide variety of railway-related activities, attractions, sights, sounds and smells. The festival will bring together over 30 locomotives that have made their mark on railway history for being the fastest, largest, strongest, first, last and oldest. Among the confirmed attendees is LNER 'A4' Pacific No. 4468 *Mallard*, the newest main line steam locomotive in operation, A1 Pacific No. 60163

Tornado, and the most powerful industrial steam locomotive built for use in the country, the 1954-built Peckett 0-6-0ST *Mardy Monster*. The first locomotive to officially reach 100mph, LNER 'A3' Pacific *Flying Scotsman*, is also set to attend the event following completion of its restoration.

Tickets can be bought by visiting nrm.org.uk/railfest2012 or by calling 0870 870 4840,

and a full price list can be found online. The event will be held in an outdoor area at the Museum with entry to the rest of the premises remaining free to visitors.

Evening Photo Events will be held on 4th and 5th June with numbers limited. The locomotives will be in light steam, while steps and other access equipment will be removed to provide better shots.

▼ **BR Standard 7P Pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* powers along the Great Central Railway, between Loughborough and Quorn, on 17th January, with a photographer's fitted freight working. **David Gibson****





'Topped and tailed' with Class 73/2s Nos. 73207 and 73206 at the front and No. 73208 at the rear, the trio approach Ashford International on 19th January, while returning to Tonbridge West Yard on a snow train test working to Ramsgate.

Andrew Wood



The London Underground owned 4TC set, recently used as passenger stock for the various outings with Metropolitan Railway electric *Sarah Siddons*, has been transferred to Eastleigh Works for overhaul. With motive power supplied by GBRf Class 66/7 No. 66711, the train passes West Brompton on 18th January. **Kim Rennie**



On 16th January, the daily Carlisle to Basford Hall engineers train approaches Ribbleshead station with Class 66/0s Nos. 66113, 66060 and 66034 at the helm on a clear winters day.
Mick Langton

Class 66/0 No. 66089 departs from the little used Briton Ferry Yard with the 07.28 Westbury to Margam on 14th January. The train consists mainly of Network Rail's tilting track wagons, which permit pre-assembled and tested pointwork that would otherwise be out of gauge, to be delivered to the worksite, in this case at Margam Moors.

Phil Trotter



Making a rare excursion onto the East Somerset branch line, Class 47/7 No. 47727 *Rebecca* and 47749 *Demelza* 'top and tail' a ballast working from Westbury towards the site of Wanstrow station on 14th January. Formed of five Autoballaster wagons, the consist was to drop fresh ballast slightly further to the west on the branch. **John Stretton (with permission)**



16th January 2012

NYMR (York)

New Earswick Sports and Social Club, New Earswick, YO32 4AG. 'Life on the Line' by Gordon Reed. Starts 19.30. Contact Bryan Blundell on 01904 764648 for further details.

RCTS (Chester)

The Town Crier, City Road/Station Road, opp. station entrance, Chester. 'Terminus Part 3' by Barry Shore. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Coventry)

Maudslay Hotel, 190 Allesley Old Road, Coventry. 'Branch AGM' followed by 'Members' Picture Presentation'. Start 19.30.

RCTS (Oxford)

West Oxford Democrats Club, 1 North Street, Osney. 'The Gezira Light Railway of Sudan; by Alan Wild. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Shenfield)

Shenfield Parish Hall, 80 Hutton Road, Shenfield. 'Afghanistan Railways' by David Brice. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Stafford Rly Society

St. Leonards Social Club, Stafford. 'Steam on the Metropolitan' by John Tarrant. Starts 19.30. All welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01785 840622 for further details.

17th January 2012

RCTS (Cambridge)

Abbey Meadows Community Wing, Primary School, Galfrid Road, Cambridge. 'Diesels and Steam in East Anglia in the 1950's and 1960's' by Rodger Green. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Cheltenham)

The Victory Club, Burlington House, Lypiatt Road, Cheltenham. 'Viva la Revolution' by Stewart Blencowe. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary at paulandpauline@gearey.fslife.co.uk for further details.

RCTS (Hull)

Upstairs, The Highway Public House, Willerby Road, Hull. 'Slides from the 1960's' by Alan Ferguson. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary at richardh@djbroady.co.uk for details.

Stephenson Locomotive Society

Fox Covert Inn, High Leven, Nr Yarm, Teesside TS15 9JW. 'Ride the Silverton' by Ted Parker. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01642 313451 for further details.

18th January 2012

RCTS (Eastleigh)

Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'Plasser Track Machines' by Mark Simmons. Starts 19.45. Contact Ted Vaughan on 02380 849533 for further details.

Severn Valley Railway (South East)

The Bishops Finger, 9-10 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9JR. 'Slide Show' by Dave Soggee. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Mick Willis on 0208 923 1839 for further details.

19th January 2012

Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society

The Roundhouse, Barrow Hill. 'Fifty Years of Railway Photography, Part 4' by Les Nixon. Meeting commences at 19.30. Admission Members £1.50, Non-members £2. Contact 01246 472450 or e-mail beardspaul@aol.com for details.

Irish Railway Record Society (London)

The Exmouth Arms, 1 Starcross Street, London NW12HR. '1950's Steam Around Belfast' by Colin Weatherup plus AGM. Starts 19.00. Donation: Members £2.50, Non-Members £3.50. Contact the Secretary at irrs-london@hotmail.com for further details.

Locomotive Club of Gt Britain (Nth West)

The Pied Bull, 54 High Street, Newton-le-Willows. WA12 9SH '35 Years as a Railway Civil Engineer' by Tony Icke. Starts 19.30. £2 donation. Contact Neville Bond on 01925 226473 for further details.

RCTS (Darlington)

The Scout Building, Widdowfield Street, Darlington. 'Hush, Hush' by Bill Brown. Starts 19.00.

RCTS (Ipswich)

Co-op Education Centre, Fore Street, Ipswich. 'Out and About - My Recent Travels' by Hugh Gould. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (ShIPLEY)

Saltaire Methodist Church, Saltaire Road, Shipley. 'Now and Then - Memories from an ex BR Fireman (Digital)' by Ken Horan. Starts 19.30.

Stephenson Loco Society

St John's United Reformed Church Hall, Mowbray Road, New Barnet, EN5 1RH. 'The Great Central Railway 2011' by Geoff Burton. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 0208 368 6200 for further details.

20th January 2012

Gosport Rly Society

The Methodist Church, Stoke Road, Gosport. 'The Privatized Railway' by Ian Copplestone. Meeting commences at 20.00.

Great Western Society (Taunton)

Village Hall, Stoke St Mary, Nr Taunton TA3 5DE. 'Steam, Steam & a Little Exhaust' by Peter Triggs. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01823 334188 for further details.

Stephenson Loco Society

The Mining Institute Lecture Theatre, Neville Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. 'Scrapped or Survived - Pre-Grouping Locos after 1923 -' by David Stewart-David. Starts 19.00. Contact the Secretary on 01434 688946 for further details.

21st January 2012

Stephenson Loco Society

The Friends' Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS. 'Area AGM' followed by 'Down the American Road? - Industrial Research on the LMS 1923-1947' by Professor Colin Divall. Starts 14.00. Contact the Secretary on 0161 928 2461 for further details.

23rd January 2012

Plymouth Rly Circle

St Edward's Church Hall, Home Park Avenue, Peverell, Plymouth PL3 4PG. 'The Classic Traction Review of 2011' by Steven Andrews. Starts 19.30. Visitors welcome. Admission Members £1, Visitors £2.

RCTS (Maidenhead)

Cox Green Community Centre, Highfield Lane, Cox Green. 'Rail Atlas of Great Britain and Ireland' by Stuart Baker. Starts 14.15.

RCTS (Sheffield)

St Mathews Church Room, Carver St, Sheffield. 'Branch AGM'. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Weston Favell)

Weston Favell Parish Hall, Booth Lane South, Weston Favell. 'London Underground - Trains and Stations' by Bill Hardy. Starts 14.00.

24th January 2012

RCTS (Woking)

The United Reform Church, White Rose Lane, Woking. 'Swindon Works - The Golden Years - 1880 to 1924' by Rev. Canon Brian Arman. Starts 19.00

RCTS (Nottingham)

3 North Sherwood Street, Nottingham. 'My Varsity Run - (Lincoln to Rugby)' by Martin Bromley. Starts 19.30.

▼ **Class 20/9s Nos. 20905 and 20901 power past Acton Main Line, with a barrier move from West Ruislip LUL Depot to Derby on 16th January, after working an 'S' Stock delivery train from Old Dalby. Class 20/0s Nos. 20142 and 20227 were on the rear. John Livett**



RCTS (Preston)

Claremont Hotel, Blackpool Road, Preston. '45 Year Wander with a Camera' by David Walker. Starts 19.30.

Stevenage Locomotive Society

The Community Arts Centre, Roaring Meg Retail Park, London Road, Stevenage SG1 1XN. 'Digital Modern Freight' by Bob Sweet. Starts 19.45. Visitors welcome. £2 admission. Contact 07803 046076 for details.

27th January 2012

Great Western Society (North West)

St Hilda's Clubroom, Slater Street, Latchford, Warrington WA4 1DN. 'From the Slums to the Sidings' by D.Armstrong. Starts 19.30.

GW Society (Oxford)

Pauling Human Sciences Centre, 58 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6QS. 'The GW Trust Photographic Collection' by Laurence Waters. Starts 19.30.

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.

Shropshire Rly Society
The Gateway, Chester Road, Shrewsbury. 'Old, New, Borrowed & Blue' by Geoff Cryer. Starts 19.30

28th January 2012
GW Society (Sth West)
Parish Centre, Church End Road, Kingskerswell, Torbay TQ12 5LD. 'Eastern European Steam in the 2000s' by Les Folkard. Starts 18.30. Contact 01803 336329 for details.

30th January 2012
RCTS (Sheffield)
Sheffield Scouts HQ, Trippet Lane, Sheffield. 'South Wales Rlys over the Past 30 Years' by Geoff Morris. Starts 14.00.

31st January 2012
RCTS (Welwyn Garden City)
The Methodist Church, Junction of Ludwick Way and Colegreen Lane, Welwyn Garden City. 'Diesels and Steam in East Anglia in the 50's & 60's' by Rodger Green. Starts 14.00.

1st February 2012
Burton Railway Society
Marston's Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton upon Trent DE14 3BG. 'PSOV Review of 2011' by PSOV. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission. Contact 01283 221537 for further details

Stephenson Loco Society
Hayes Village Hall, Hayes St, Hayes, Bromley. 'Two Inches Over and Two Inches Under - Mountain Railways' by Ray Schofield. Starts 19.30. Contact 0208 289 9935 for details.

Warwickshire Railway Society
Lamp Tavern P.H., Barford Street, Highgate, Birmingham B5 6AH. 'Steam in Scotland from 1959 Onward to Present Day' by Roger Johnston. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Don Taggart on 01746 710676 for details.

2nd February 2012
RCTS (Milton Keynes)
The Crown, Market Square, Stony Stratford. 'Strictly Freight Only Part 3' by Brian Ringer. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Edinburgh)
Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL. 'Railway Tales' by John Evans. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Dr Peter Howell on 0131 334 5232 for further details.

Stephenson Loco Society
St John's Ambulance Centre, Sandes Avenue, Kendal LA9 4LL. 'Members' Evening'. Meeting commences at 19.15. Contact the Secretary on 01539 720706 for details.

3rd February 2012
Cambridge Rly Circle
Arbury Community Centre, Campkin Road, Cambridge CB4 2LD. '1,000 Eggs on a Bicycle' by Colin Boocock. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway (Birmingham)
St Laurence Pastoral Centre, Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham B31 2LX. 'Nostalgia of Steam on 16mm Cine' by Chris Pratt. Starts 19.30. Contact David French on 07791 770595 for further details.

RCTS (Bristol)
St Peters Church Hall, Church Road, Filton. 'Steam through Gloucestershire' by Ian Thomas. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Carnforth)
County Hotel, Lancaster Road, Carnforth. 'Challenges of Timetable Planning' by David Langton. Starts 19.30.

Stephenson Loco Society
The Settlement Centre, Union Street, Middlesbrough TS1 5NQ. 'NYMR 175 and Onwards' by Phillip Benham. Starts 19.00. Contact the Secretary on 01642 313451 for further details.

Stephenson Loco Society
The Mining Institute Lecture Theatre, Neville Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle. 'Tyneside Electrics Part 3' by Bill Donald. Starts 19.00. Contact 01434 688946 for further details.

6th February 2012
North Yorkshire Moors Railway (Northallerton)
Northallerton Town Cricket Club, Farndale Avenue, Northallerton. 'Railway Heraldry' by Steve Frost. Starts 19.30. £1.50 Admission. Contact 01642 767233 for details

Plymouth Rly Circle
St Edward's Church Hall, Home Park Avenue, Peverell, Plymouth PL3 4PG. 'The Great Way Round' by Terry Nichols. Starts 19.30. Visitors welcome. £2 Admission.

RCTS (Ashford)
The Elwick Club, Church Road, Ashford. 'Welsh Highland Railway' by Andy Savage. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary at southeast@rcts.org.uk for further details.

RCTS (Birmingham)
Christ Church Community Hall, Burney, Ward End. 'American Wanderings' by Gordon Davies. Starts 14.00.

RCTS (Northampton)
St. Crispin Social Club, Berrywood Road, Duston. '170 Years of the Royal Train' by Chris Hillyard. Starts 19.30.

7th February 2012
Monmouthshire Railway Society
Room A10 UWCN City Campus, Ask Way, Newport NP20 2BP. 'The Dean Forest Railway' by Peter Adams. Starts 19.15. £3 Admission.

RCTS (Watford)
St. Thomas's United Reformed Church, Langley Road, Watford. 'Picture Postcard Railway Rambles' by Stephen Gay. Starts 19.30.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire) /LRTA
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'Railways of the East Midlands' by Steve Bigley. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission. Contact John Goodrich on 02380 670028 for details.

Weston super Mare Railway Society
Function Room, Weston super Mare Conservative Club, Alexandra Parade, Weston super Mare, BS23 1QX. 'Limbering up in Paris and One Day in Paris' by Ian Chancellor and 'Main Line Steam in Germany and England' by Peter Doudney. Starts 20.00. Visitors welcome. £1 admission. Contact 01934 628289 for further details.

8th February 2012
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote Street Club, New Road, Basingstoke RG21 7NG. 'Signal Boxes, People & Trains on the Berks & Hants Line' by David Canning. Starts 20.00. Visitors welcome. Contact 01256 819401 for details.

Continental Railway Circle (London and the Home Counties)
St. Paul's Church Centre, Rossmore Road, Marylebone, London NW1 6NJ. 'Steam in India' by Geoff Warren. Starts 19.15. £2 Admission. Contact Adrian Palmer on 01932 850624 or at akpalmer@talktalk.net for further details.

Oxfordshire Rly Society
Seacourt Day Centre, Seacourt Road, Oxford OX2 9LD. 'AGM & Members' Short Talks. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Cardiff)
Old Church Rooms, Radyr. 'Out and About in the Last 24 Months' by Hugh Gould. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Hitchin)
Hitchin Christian Centre, Bedford Road, Hitchin. 'Stop Look and Listen' by David Cole. Starts 19.30.

Stephenson Loco Society
Y.M.C.A., Bridge Street, Guildford, GU1 4SB. 'Members' Evening'. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01372 379216.

9th February 2012
Bath Railway Society
Bath Green Park Station Meeting Room, Bath. 'GWR Miscellany (and a Few Accidents)' by Rev. Canon Brian Arman. Starts 19.30. Visitors Welcome. £2 Admission. Contact Kevin Plummer (Evenings) on 01225 312564 for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (St Albans)
United Reform Church, Watford Road, Chiswell Green, St Albans. 'Thomas Brassey: Supreme Railway Builder' by Dr David Brooke. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01442 251540 (after 18.00) for further details.

RCTS (Newcastle)
The Brunswick Methodist Hall, Newcastle. 'Out and About in the Past Year' by Hugh Gould. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary at jimbrick@fmail.net for details.

10th February 2012
Altrincham Electric Rly Preservation Society
Altrincham Methodist Church Hall, Barrington Road, Altrincham, WA14 1HF. 'Great Western Railway Lines in South & Mid-Wales' by Tony Icke. Starts 19.30. Contact Andrew Macfarlane on 0161 928 9394 for further details.

GCR Leicester Area Group
St Bartholomews Church Hall, Church Lane, Quorn. 'The Last Days of B.R.Steam' by Derek Huntriss. Starts 19.30. Contact John Calton on 07714 546163 for further details.

Great Western Society (Swindon)
Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, off Windsor Road, Lawn, Swindon, SN3 1JE. AGM & 'Quiz' by Joe Turner. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact 01793 495976 for further details.

Shropshire Rly Society
The Gateway, Chester Rd, Shrewsbury. '2011 Show' by Karl Jauncey and Dave Richards. Meeting commences at 19.30

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

A timeless scene as BR Standard 'Britannia' Pacific No. 70013 Oliver Cromwell waits at the head of a mail train in Loughborough station on the evening of 18th January.
Stuart Chapman

Magazine Information

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