The Railway Herald

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The complimentary UK railway journal for the railway enthusiast

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New look for WAGN Class 365 unit

Class 37/5 into DRS colours

Norwich Community Rail Festival

plus Notable Workings and more!

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Issue 19
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Editor's comment

Well we are finally getting back to a weekly issue! Apologies to all readers for the missing weeks over the past couple of months.

Following on from the immense number of people who visited Crewe Works it is wonderful to report on the success of ACoRPs weekend Rail Festival, based around Norwich, last weekend. Roll on 2006 when the event moves to Darlington!

Please do feel free to pass the journal on to any friends or colleagues who you think would be interested. All of our back-issues are available from the website.

We always enjoy hearing from readers on their opinions about the journal as well as the magazine. The aim with Railway Herald still remains to publish the journal weekly, although there are occasions when pressure of other work doesn't allow this! Apologies for any disappointment that is caused on our 'non-appearance' weeks, but there is only one person on the editorial team - your editor!

Submissions

We welcome submissions from all readers, especially photographs from those enthusiasts with a digital camera! Pictures should be sent to the the editor at *editor@railwayherald.co.uk*

Good quality scans of colour slides and prints are also acceptable.

Please note that as the Herald is free and compiled on a voluntary basis, we are unable to offer any financial return.

Where possible we always try to use photographs taken within the production week (i.e the next issue will, where possible, only include images taken between the publication date of this issue and the following Friday.

Publication

The **Railway Herald** is due to be published every Friday and is available by e-mail subscription from subscriptions@railwayherald.co.uk E-mail address are never given out and should you chose to cease your subscription in the future, pleas e just contact us.

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All the latest news from around the UK network. Including a new look for WAGN Class 365 EMU, improvements for Huntly and Insch stations, a new fare structure from Midland Mainline, EWS launches a new brand name for contract leasing, maintenance and refurbishment work and Virgin Trains opens its new First Class lounge at London Euston.

Rolling Stock News 6

A new section of Railway Herald, dedicated to news and information on the UK Rolling Stock scene. News, this issue, on the new look for Class 37/5 No. 37510 and a preview of First Great Western's Volo Entertainment coach.

SPECIAL REPORT: Norwich ACoRP Railfest Weekend 7

A four page special report on the first Community Rail Festival held around Norwich and Norfolk over the weekend of 24th and 25th September.

ABOVE: With the recent swap round of Northern Rail DMUs between maintenance depots, Class 156 units still in First Group colours, minus branding, are now appearing in West Yorkshire. On 22nd September, Class 156 No. 156424 arrives at Leeds with a York bound service. RICHARD TUPLIN

FRONT COVER: On 30th September, Heartlands Rail operated a charter from the West Midlands to Penzance, using Cotswold Rail motive power. Here, Cotswold Silver liveried Class 47/3 No. 47316 leads Anglia Railways liveried Class 47/7 No. 47714 past Langstone Rock and on to the famous Devon Sea Wall near Dawlish with the 06.00 Codsall - Penzance charter. COLIN J. MARSDEN

BELOW: A taster of next week's issue! We go back to the mid-1980s for a special feature looking at the BR Blue era and the wide array of motive power that could be found in the UK at the time. ETH fitted Class 31/4 No. 31419 heads south through Doncaster, with a parcels train on 8th October 1984. PATRICK SEALE COLLECTION

New colours for WAGN 'Networker Express'

West Anglia & Great Northern is to relivery four of its Class 365 'Networker Express' EMUs. The first, No. 365531 was unveiled to invited guests at King's Lynn on 29th September.

The units new 'pictorial' livery commemorates the 200th anniversary of Lord Nelson's victory and death at the Battle of Trafalgar and carries images of Custom House, Sandringham House and Swaffham Windmill plus the insignia 'Nelson's County - Norfolk'.

The unit is the first of the WAGN Class 365 EMUs to lose its Network South East livery.

ABOVE: At Downham Market on 29 September, newly re-liveried Networker Express No. 365531 enters the down platform, before returning to King's Lynn on its special run for invited guests.
RIGHT: The excellently applied vinyls on No. 365531, showing landmarks across West Norfolk and Breckland, such as Sandringham House, seen here.
BOTH: BRIAN MORRISON

£175,000 facelift for first class lounge

Virgin Trains' busiest First Class lounge has reopened at London Euston following a £175,000 makeover.

The new look lounge is been extensive refurbished and now features three distinct sections for customers.

A relaxation area with flatscreen TV and soft chairs, a working area with tables and chairs set out in bistro style together with high benches, internet points, photocopier and fax and a 'quiet room' with two internet points where the use of mobile phones will not be permitted.

This latter 'quiet room' can be booked for private meetings if required.

All flooring and furniture has been renewed, there is a new reception desk and luggage area. The shower and toilet facilities have also been upgraded.

The first class lounges can be used by any passenger holding a first class ticket, dated for that day and provide complimentary drinks and light snacks, telephone/fax machines, wireless broadband internet access and, in addition, at Euston there is a licensed bar.

Midland Mainline continues its top trend

Midland Mainline have been confirmed as the best performing long distance train operator for the ninth month running, according to the National Rail Trends, published this week by the Office of Rail Regulation.

The latest figures show that nine out of ten Midland Mainline's trains are arriving at their destination on time. The net result being a year-on-year increase in performance of 8%.

Full-length Class 222 'Meridian'

The company are now operating three of the 7-car Class 222 'Meridian' DMUs on its services, the remainder of the seven strong fleet being stored at Derby Litchurch Lane and Crofton.

Improvements for Huntly and Insch stations

Passengers using First ScotRail's Huntly and Insch railway stations are now benefiting from improved security and passenger information.

The stations have been fitted with CCTV cameras, customer help points and 'live' train information screens thanks to a £190,000 investment by NESTRANS, the regional transport partnership for North East Scotland, in association with First ScotRail.

Fourteen cameras now cover Insch station, and a further 11 at Huntly. The pictures are transmitted 24 hours a day to First ScotRail's CCTV Customer Service Centre in Dunfermline.

New Customer Help Points have been installed on each station platform. This means that passengers with any queries or concerns can simply press the button to speak to someone from First ScotRail's Customer Service Centre.

In addition, passengers can consult platform screens to see when the next train is due. There are five screens at Huntly station and three at Insch.

Station lighting has also been improved at both locations.

Police investigate suspected arson fires

On 25th September, four lineside signalling cabinets were set alight badly damaging signalling cables between Birmingham and Warwick Parkway.

Arson is suspected as the cause of the fires and the British Transport Police are currently holding an investigation. Network Rail have offered a £50,000 reward for information leading to a successful prosecution.

The vandalism has seriously disrupted services over the past week north of Warwick Parkway, with only a limited service operating into Birmingham Snow Hill since 27th September.

Services are expected to return to normal early next week.

New name for the Colchester-Clacton line!

The Colchester to Clacton & Walton line is been given a new name following the unveiling of a plaque at Clacton station.

Following a competition to find a suitable name for the line, the entry of a local Clacton resident, Mrs. J. Retter was chosen from hundreds of entries.

The new name for the line which serves the villages of Great Bentley, Thorpe Le Soken and Wivenhoe to name just a few, is 'The Sunshine Coast Line'.

Temporary closures for West Country routes

Network Rail have announced the closure of two key routes for engineering work.

The GW main line west of Exeter will be closed from 00.01-23.59 on 13th, 20th, 27th November and 4th and 11th December.

In addition, the Newton Abbot-Paignton branch will once again will be closed from 17th-21th October to allow track relaying to take place.

ABOVE: **Cotswold Silver liveried Class 47 Nos. 47 316 and 47 813 pass Sherburn-in-Elmet with the 1Z57 Carlisle-Wolverhampton 'Heartland' railtour on 17/09/05. Included in the consist is Cotswolds first silver liveried Mark 3.** WARREN ARMSTRONG

Strike action on .... and off!

In response to the possibility of strike action by unions at SNCF in France running from 20.00 on Monday 3 October to 08.00 on Wednesday 5 October, Eurostar has announced that it expects to run a normal or near-normal service throughout this period.

FGW Strike Off

Following further talks with ASLEF, First Great Western has confirmed that the industrial action planned for Monday 3 October, Tuesday 11 October, and Wednesday 19 October has been suspended.

The company will now be operating a normal timetable on those days.

New airline style fares from MML

From 25th September, Midland Mainline, introduced a new 'airline-style' advance purchase fare structure.

The changes have been designed to make the overall booking process simpler and more flexible. All advance purchase ticket types will be replaced with a new range of single way journey fares, all of which will have the same conditions, meaning that all advance purchase leisure tickets will be available up until 18.00 the day before travel.

The changes will allow passengers to mix and match their outward and return journeys to get the best value fares available. When booking a ticket passengers will be offered the best available fare for both the outward and return sections of your journey.

The price of a ticket will rise and fall daily depending on demand but a single journey to London will start from £6, the cheapest return ticket was previously £20!

BELOW: **The penultimate stock move of refurbished GNER Mark 4 vehicles from Bombardier's Horbury Works to Doncaster West Yard occurred on 29th September. Freightliner Heavy Haul Class 47 No. 47150 providing the motive power. Here, the train arrives on the two-way goods lines at Doncaster in the early evening.** RICHARD TUPLIN

ABOVE: **EWS Class 90 locomotives are back on the Anglia main line following the lack of reliability from 'one' Railway's own fleet. Normally two EWS Class 90 locomotives are employed on the route each day. Here RfD-liveried Class 90 No 90036 passes Forncett, north of Diss, on 24th September, powering the 10.00 service from Norwich to Liverpool Street.** TOM DENTON

EWS launches Axiom Rail

English, Welsh & Scottish Railway has unveiled a new trading brand for the supply of rolling stock services through maintenance, refurbishment, leasing and suspensions systems.

Axiom Rail will provide customers with an alternative for rolling stock support. Following EWS's acquisition of the assets of Probotec earlier this year, together with an increasing portfolio of customised maintenance activity, European leasing products and services, a need was identified to unify all the key elements of its existing services under one brand.

The immediate objective of Axiom Rail is to consolidate its existing services, then expand rapidly into new markets and, above all, to provide its customers with efficiency and flexibility. Whilst continuing to be part of the EWS group of companies, the new brand and trading name of Axiom Rail has a distinct identity for its customers and over 150 staff. Axiom Rail will provide services for its customers under four sectors; Maintenance and service support to customers who operate rolling stock for passenger and freight operations.

Refurbishment, where Axiom Rail will provide renovation, overhaul, modification, repair, and livery services for rolling stock and major components.

Axiom Rail offers a range of locomotives (specified as Class 37s, 47s, 56s and 58s) for leasing. All locomotives have a proven history in operating under the most demanding of requirements, and can be provided in the customer's livery. The final sector will be Suspension Systems, with the company able to supply a range of innovative, adaptable rail freight bogies and suspension systems that operate throughout the UK and Nordic regions.

New service from Thamesport

Intermodal haulier Containerlift have commissioned a new rail service from Thamesport, delivering deepsea containers direct from the quayside to the Capital.

The new daily service, scheduled to start in mid-October, will depart Thamesport at 04.20 and arriving at Willesden at 06.25.

Trains will be worked by EWS, who will also provide handling and storage facilities at Willesden.

Skid-pan training for Scottish drivers

First ScotRail is preparing its drivers for this year's leaf fall season by putting them through a form of skid-pan training.

Rotting leaves can leave an oily and slippery deposit on the tracks when they are crushed under the wheels of a train. The resulting film is the railway's equivalent of black ice on the roads and means that train drivers have to adopt a different driving technique.

First Scotrail are running a special one day course to give drivers the opportunity to experience driving trains on tracks with reduced grip in a controlled environment. All new First ScotRail drivers also complete this course as part of their training.

It would not be possible to provide this training on the main line, so First ScotRail, in partnership with Virgin Trains, hire the private Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway in Central Scotland. Virgin has developed the training package and provides the instructors, whilst First ScotRail provides the train.

The drivers initially drive over a section of line that has been treated with washing up liquid (which gives a similar effect to that found during the leaf fall season) using normal driving techniques.

Under these conditions the train will normally fail to stop at the signal. Then the drivers take the train over the same stretch of line for a second time, but change their driving techniques to allow for the poor track conditions.

New colours for latest DRS Class 37

ABOVE: ex-Harry Needle Railroad Company, now owned and operated by Direct Rail Services, Class 37/5 No. 37510 has recently undergone a repaint at Barrow Hill and now carries the colours of its current owner. The locomotive is pictured basking in the sunshine at Barrow Hill on 25th September. JAMES ROSE

Class 90 named at Norwich

As part of the Trafalgar Bicentenary celebrations and in celebration of the birthday of Norfolk's most celebrated son, 'one' named Class 90 No. 90005 Vice-Admiral Lord Nelson on 29th September.

The official naming, which was performed by the Bishop of Norwich, the Rt. Revd. Graham James, took place during a short ceremony at Norwich.

A special presentation of a replica 'Vice-Admiral Lord Nelson' nameplate was made to Bruno Peek OBE MVO, the Chairman of the Trafalgar Weekend celebrations. Mr. Peek received the nameplate on behalf of the Nation.

FGW shows off its entertainment coach

The Volo In-Train Entertainment System coach was shown off to the railway press for the first time at Paddington on 15th September.

The vehicle has been converted by Edinburgh based Volo Holdings Limited to provide on-board entertainment for passengers.

The coach, No. 42076, is a Trailer Standard that can be used by all standard class passengers on the train.

Apart from the seating areas grouped around a table, the other 36 seats have a long-haul airline style television screen on the back of the seat to view, a range of programmes.

These include comedies, children's entertainment, films and games, and can also provide journey details and travel destination information. News and sport is also available and the latest events are picked up from transmitters at various large stations en-route. Having purchased a reasonably priced flat fee viewing card to activate the screen for the whole journey, passengers have control of their own viewing options by touch-screen technology.

To avoid a wide array of sound tracks from different programmes being heard within the coach, the individual uses earphones to listen to the sound. These can be bought on board, or the passenger can use his or her own headsets.

The coach is being trialed for six months and if successful it will then be expanded to other train operators.

For the pilot scheme period, the viewing card will be free and there will be no screen advertising.

BELOW: On board the new look Volo Entertainment coach, No. 42076. Details of which services the coach is on are available on the First Great Western website every day. BRIAN MORRISON

81 Class 60s now back in traffic

As each week passes, more of EWS's Type 5, Class 60 fleet are being returned to traffic.

At the end of September, no less than 81 were in the WCAN and WCBN pools, the latter pool being those locomotives which have an extended range fuel tank fitted.

WCAN Pool
60001 60008 60011 60013 60014 60018 60019 60024 60029 60031 60032 60036 60040 60043 60047 60048 60049 60053 60057 60060 60061 60062 60063 60065 60066 60067 60069 60072 60073 60074 60075 60076 60078 60079 60082 60083 60084 60085 60086 60087 60088 60093 60094 60099 60100 60500

WCBN Pool
60002 60003 60004 60005 60007 60009 60010 60012 60017 60020 60021 60022 60023 60025 60026 60027 60028 60030 60033 60037 60038 60041 60046 60052 60055 60056 60058 60059 60064 60071 60080 60089 60090 60091 60097

ABOVE: The 10.33 Great Yarmouth-Norwich shuttle on 25th September, powers through Cantley with Class 20s Nos 20096 and 20905 at the helm. To avoid having to run-round, the trains were operated in top 'n' tail formation, with Cotswold Rail operated, Anglia Railways liveried Class 47/7 No. 47714 on the rear. The Type 1s were without doubt one of the star attractions of the weekend for the enthusiasts. BRIAN MORRISON

Norfolk Railfest

The Association of Community Rail Partnerships, in conjunction with 'one' Railways, Network Rail and numerous partners held a rail festival around Norwich over the weekend of 24th & 25th September.

It was an event that was billed as the first Community Rail Festival and it certainly lived up to its name!

The weekend of 24th & 25th September saw a wide array of events taking place across the Norwich area as loco-hauled trains ran on the branches a mini-open day was held at Norwich station and communities along the route, joined in the fun.

It is estimated that up to 10,000 visitors flocked into the county to participate in the UK's first ever national Community Rail Festival. The event was organised by the Association of Community Rail Partnerships in partnership with train operator 'One', Network Rail, Norfolk County Council, together with several of partners from the railway industry.

A number of events took place, including a gala at Norwich station with brass bands, morris dancing, 'platform theatre' and stalls from community groups and the railway industry, plus locomotive display at Norwich station featuring, amongst others, Class 52 No. D1023 Western Champion, Class 86 No. 86235 Crown Point.

A special charter operated from London Liverpool Street - Norwich on 24th September, hauled by LNWR Black liveried Class 87 No. 87019 Association of Community Rail Partnerships, in addition to the locomotive hauled specials two of the local branch lines.

On 24th September, Class 33/1 No. 33103 Swordfish and Class 47/4 No. 47832 Driver Tom Clarke performed the honours with top 'n' tailed services from Norwich to Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft, whilst on the 25th, the shuttle service was in the hands of Harry Needle Railroad Company Class 20 Nos. 20096 and 20905, with the unique Anglia Railway's Class 47 No. 47714 at the opposite end of the train.

In addition, there was a best-dressed station competition along community rail routes to Sheringham, Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft – with Sheringham winning first prize, and Acle 'highly commended'

Local pubs on the community rail lines also joined in the fun, by hosting barbecues.

The whole weekend was a hugely popular event thanks to the co-operate of the industry and the vast numbers of people who attended.

LEFT: On both days of the festival, 'one' liveried Class 47/4 No. 47818 was on display to allow cab access to the public. Being located at Great Yarmouth on 24th and Lowestoft on 25th. Norwich City fans wait their train to Norwich at Acle on 24th September, with Class 47/4 No. 47818 waiting in the platform loop to proceed to Great Yarmouth for display. Class 156s Nos 156422 & 156407 form the 12.17 Great Yarmouth-Norwich. BRIAN MORRISON

MIDDLE LEFT: Fragonset-liveried Class 33/1 No 33103 Swordfish approaches Great Yarmouth on 24th September, powering the 15.16 Norwich-Great Yarmouth special shuttle. On the rear of the train was newly painted FMRail Class 47/4 No. 47832 Driver Tom Clarke OBE, which returned the train back to Norwich. Unfortunately the first shuttle on the 24th encountered problems when the ETH on the Class 31/4 No. 31452 was failed. FM Rail 'Peak' No. 45112 was to be substituted until it was realised that the locomotive was not passed for the route and the run was cancelled. Class 47/4 No 47832 then took over for the remainder of the day. BRIAN MORRISON

BELOW: The two stars of the show were undoubtably the two Railfreight Grey Class 20 locomotives from Harry Needle Railroad Company. With Class 20 No. 20096 nearest the camera and No. 20905, distinguishable by its extra fuel tanks, the pair stand at Norwich Crown Point on 24th September, awaiting their duties the following day. PATRICK SEALE

Festival 2006

Although no date has yet been set for next year's Community Rail Festival, we can advise readers that the venue will be **Darlington** in the North East and ACoRP are looking to make the event, initially named 'Darlington 2006', the most exciting event in the railway calendar!

ABOVE: Part of Norwich & Norfolk Railfest was an exhibition of motive power in Norwich yard over the weekend. On show were a wide range of exhibits, including EWS Class 67 No.67020, Class 31/4 No. 31452, Class 45/1 No. 45112 and Class 55 No. 55019 Royal Highland Fusilier.
BRIAN MORRISON

RIGHT: Carrying the distinctive new FMRail colour scheme and logo, Class 47/4 No 47832 Driver Tom Clarke OBE passes Reedham Junction on 24th September, powering the 14.23 shuttle service from Lowestoft to Norwich. Class 33/1 No 33103 is on the rear out of sight.
BRIAN MORRISON

Norfolk Railfest

ABOVE: Substituting for No 31452 that had ETH problems, Class 47/7 No 47714 hammers through Buckenham on 25th September, with the first charter shuttle of the day, the 09.36 from Norwich to Great Yarmouth. Class 20s Nos 20905 & 20096 are on the rear. BRIAN MORRISON

LEFT: Several of the exhibits on display in the goods yard at Norwich had arrived almost direct from the Crewe Works Open Weekend. One of those present was the Deltic Preservation Society's Class 55 No. 55019 Royal Highland Fusilier. MARC FULLER

BELOW: Representing the electric traction fleet at Norwich, although not a locomotive that has ever been familiar with Norwich or indeed Norfolk during its career was the unique GNER liveried Class 89 No. 89001. MARC FULLER