Railway Herald

Issue 201 - 16th November 2009

The electronic journal for the railway enthusiast

Railway Herald

Issue 201
16th November 2009

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Publication
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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ISSN 1751-8091

Goodbye National Express ... Hello East Coast!

National Express East Coast officially handed over control of the Intercity passenger service on the East Coast Main Line to Directly Operated Railways, trading as East Coast, shortly before midnight on 13th November.

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Heading the 08.00 King's Cross to Edinburgh East Coast launch train, Class 43 No. 43277 pauses under the roof at York on 14th November. Ron Cover

Goodbye National Express ... ...Hello East Coast

National Express East Coast officially handed over control of the intercity passenger service on the East Coast Main Line to Directly Operated Railways shortly before midnight on 13th November.

The new nationalised operator, trading as East Coast Railways Limited, assumes responsibility for operating and improving the service between London King's Cross, Yorkshire, the North East and Scotland for a period of 18-24 months, during which time the Department for Transport will restart the franchising process to find a new private operator. Chairman of East Coast, Elaine Holt, said that there was no possibility of the operation remaining in public ownership as legislation dictates that it must be transferred back to a private operator.

One of the big downfalls for National Express, aside from the economic climate, was the premium payments that it was required to pay to the Government as the franchise operator. With more cautious passenger figures than had been expected, these significant payments over stretched the company. East Coast will be making premium payments back to the Government during the period it operates the service, although these are lower than those paid by National Express.

Around £12 million is to be invested into the operation during the ▶

▶ **The 08.00 East Coast service to Edinburgh departs from King's Cross on 14th November, the first day of the new operation. Both Class 43 HST powercars Nos. 43277 & 43206 and all the coaching stock on the train has been branded in this way.**

▼▶ **The 08.10 service to Leeds awaits departure from King's Cross on the same morning, with Mk4 DVT No. 82203 and all the coaching stock externally rebranded with an inverted logo - white text on a purple background.**

▼ **Transport Secretary, Lord Andrew Adonis, and Elaine Holt, Chair of East Coast, at London King's Cross on the launch day. All: Brian Morrison**

'nationalised' period which will concentrate on station improvements, specifically at Peterborough, York and Newcastle, including better cycle parking, improved toilets, and at Peterborough the introduction of automated ticket gates. Elaine Holt commented that the proposed plans for introducing ticket barriers at York had been dropped, which was a decision she hoped would find favour with the city's residents.

Other popular moves are the removal of the seat reservation fee from 1st January 2010, currently an additional cost of £2.50 per journey on top of the ticket, and a review of the on-board catering in an attempt to provide passengers with the service and variety that they require. Regulated fares will drop by 0.4% from 1st January and the on-board Wi-Fi system, which is intermittent at best, is to receive major improvements over the next six to seven months to upgrade its reliability. It has also been suggested that additional Saturday night/Sunday morning trains could be introduced.

A start has already been made on rebranding the HST and Mk4 fleets, with several sets being seen displaying the new branding on the first day of operation. Rather akin to the branding process that took place at the start of the National Express franchise, the livery can be deemed to be one of an interim variety, with the trains being branded rather than reliveried, a much more cost-effective exercise.

The December 2010 timetable change has also come under discussion with a number of topics raising their head. The proposed timetable has been issued in a draft format, but Elaine Holt commented that it still had someway to go. Negotiations are continuing regarding the proposal for an alternative operator to serve Glasgow, although the proposed two-hourly Lincoln trains are to be introduced.

The Mk3 stock originally earmarked for the service was 'ring-fenced', meaning that it could not be leased out to any other operator. However, aspirations are now looking towards the use of Class 180 'Adelante' units instead, of which five were leased by National Express, the lease having now been transferred to East Coast. The units require significant work throughout to raise the miles per casualty (mpc) figure to an acceptable standard and to a point where they can be classed as reliable. This work is being undertaken across the industry and East Coast is already working with fellow Class 180 operators First Hull Trains and Grand Central. When the service starts, three out of the five will be required for operations, providing the company with a degree of fall back. On the other hand, the Mk3 stock has not been transferred, the lease on those vehicles remaining with National Express.

◀▼ **The new style staff uniforms for East Coast, as presented by one happy looking member of the on-train team at King's Cross! Brian Morrison**

▼ **The new branding on the ex-NXEC liveried Mk3 coaches at York on the launch day. Ron Cover**

New ticket hall for FCC at King's Cross

The new ticket hall at King's Cross will open on 29th November according to First Capital Connect (FCC).

It will provide new access between FCC services at King's Cross and St Pancras International and the Northern, Piccadilly and Victoria lines. For passengers on FCC, Thameslink and East Coast route services, this will mean shorter and less congested routes to and from the Underground platforms, without lengthy walks through St Pancras International or King's Cross stations. Final works will be completed in 2010 and will provide step-free access to all London Underground lines served at the station. London Reconnections now has a map of the areas warren of tube platforms and tunnels, while a walk through of the new ticket hall is on the FCC website.

Eurostar promotes London to the Belgians

As part of a promotion celebrating Eurostar's 15th Birthday, power cars Nos. (37)3003 and (37)3004 have been decorated in connection with a Belgium publicity event entitled London Virgins.

As part of the birthday celebrations, 750 Belgians who have never visited London before were chosen through online surveys and competitions to travel on a special train from Brussels to London on 14th November. The train arrived in London at 10.30, and the passengers were met by specially decorated London Buses to take them on a tour of the city.

▼ **Complete with special vinyls for the promotion, No. (37)3004 stands on Temple Mills depot on 13th November undergoing its final preparation for the event.**
Eurostardriver

Virgin Trains to roll out Wi-Fi internet on Class 221s

Virgin Trains is to bring on-board Wi-Fi wireless Internet access for passengers on all its Class 221 'Super Voyagers' on the routes from both Birmingham to Scotland and London Euston to the Chester and North Wales lines.

The Wi-Fi Hotspot service will provide a wireless broadband connection at high speeds throughout the entire journey, including tunnels. First Class passengers will get complimentary access to the service, while Standard Class ticket holders will be able to purchase HotSpot passes online from the Wi-Fi enabled device.

The Executive Director Commercial for Virgin Trains said: "We are always looking at ways to improve the travel experience for our passengers, so we're pleased to be able to answer their requests for access to the Internet on our trains. We hope this latest improvement to our services will make travelling between North Wales, Chester and London all the more enjoyable and productive. T-Mobile and Nomad Digital have a good record of delivering these types of projects and we are confident that our passengers will receive the fast, reliable Internet access they require". T-Mobile also assisted in the development of the new Wi-Fi service and therefore existing customers on their Mobile Broadband tariff have unlimited HotSpot access, which means they are able to access the new service at no extra cost.

Onboard, reliable Wi-Fi is fast becoming a basic requirement

Grand Central adopts new corporate identity 'the right way'

Grand Central has adopted a new corporate identity across all areas of its business.

Billed as 'Railway the Right Way', the new approach is said to be based upon a service that 'aims to bring the romance back to rail travel'. The new look was introduced to coincide with the company announcing a fourth daily service to London.

The Marketing Manager, Roger Wheatley, said: "Grand Central is committed to delivering a high quality travel experience to our passengers. Everything from extra leg room, comfortable seats, no reservation fees, simple transparent pricing, to more quirky touches like board games at each table and free tea and coffee. The new identity is reflected in the sleek, classy and highly professional identity the designers have given us. We are delighted with the outcome and look forward to extending this branding to our 'West Riding' service from London to Bradford, which will start in spring 2010.

GRAND CENTRAL
RAILWAY THE RIGHT WAY

Over 70 working layouts headline Warley 2009 event

The 2009 Warley Model Railway Exhibition is due to take place on 21st & 22nd November in Hall 5 of the National Exhibition Centre, near Birmingham. It is open from 10.00 each day, until 18.00 on Saturday and 17.00 on Sunday.

A total of 75 working layouts are expected to be in action, of which 21 will represent an overseas theme. It is also interesting to note that of the layouts depicting overseas railways, eight will be from overseas, with representatives from Ireland, Holland, Denmark, Belgium, France and Germany in attendance. Pete Waterman will be giving his 'Building Leamington Spa' presentation in the DVD Cinema, and the Welsh Highland Railway has sent its Garratt K1 locomotive for the centrepiece display to commemorate the further expansion of their railway. As always there is a huge selection of trade stands covering every aspect of railway modelling.

More information is available on the official website for the event, www.thewarleyshow.co.uk

Metro and Light Rail News

▲ The last traditional trams to run in Fleetwood operated on 8th November. The tramway is closed entirely until April 2010 for upgrade work, while the sections from Starr Gate to Pleasure Beach and Fisherman's Walk to Fleetwood Ferry are closed until 2012. Preserved 'Coronation' tram No. 304 stands alongside the North Euston Hotel in Fleetwood on the last day with a special working from Blackpool Pleasure Beach to Fleetwood Ferry terminus. **Alan Taylor**

▼ A number of ticket-only tours were arranged between the Pleasure Beach and Fleetwood over that weekend, using vintage traction. Here, 'Balloon' No. 700 is seen at Broadwater, Fleetwood, on its return to Blackpool. **John Green**

▲ Construction work underway on one of the original turnback platforms at Willesden Junction Low Level to provide better facilities. **Bill Turvill**

Upgrade improvements at Willesden Junction as part of £326 million project to upgrade London Overground

The work now being undertaken at Willesden Junction station is part of a £326 million project sponsored by Transport for London (TfL), Network Rail, the Olympic Delivery Authority and the Department for Transport to upgrade the London Overground network and improve its services.

TfL has plans to run longer trains on the Richmond to Stratford route, with four-car sets instead of the current three. In order to achieve this, both platforms at the east end of Willesden High Level will be extended by approximately 25 metres, and this will involve widening the steel bridge over the low level tracks.

A new passenger link will also be constructed between the high and low level stations, which will connect the east end of the lengthened high level platforms via a subway to the footbridge over the low level tracks. Finally, the bay platform at the low level station will be extended to allow its use by four-car trains. This will involve removal of the existing buildings at the northern end of the station and the construction of replacement buildings on a widened Platform 3.

Among other things, the work will involve relocating buildings and railway cables, extending the existing track at the low level station, alterations to the power/electrification of the rail lines on the route from Acton to Stratford, and altering existing and installing new signals to provide increased train service capacity.

Direct trains to Glasgow from King's Cross could be cut, with a new north-east to Glasgow service from 2010

Direct train services between London King's Cross and Glasgow could terminate at Edinburgh from December next year under proposed changes to the East Coast Main Line timetable currently being discussed by the Government in conjunction with the new nationalised East Coast project and affected rail operators.

Passenger Focus, the statutory watchdog, has said that it is seeking assurances that another operator will take over the direct services from Glasgow to the north of England, as key routes to destinations such as Doncaster, Newcastle and York would be seriously affected.

There is talk that Arriva Cross Country could extend the service it operates from York and Newcastle to Glasgow, or that TransPennine Express could introduce a new Leeds to Glasgow or extended its existing services from Newcastle through to Glasgow. Both options would require extensive negotiations being additional requirements to the TOCs existing franchise. There is also a suggestion that Virgin Trains could increase its London Euston to Glasgow Central West Coast services, particularly after the £9 billion upgrade to the route.

▶ **Freightliner's newest locomotive, Class 70 No. 70002 stands in Bristol Stoke Gifford Yard on 11th November, alongside the final member of the Class 66/6 fleet in Great Britain No. 66624, after No. 66625 was exported for operations with Freightliner PL in Poland.** **Edward Gleed**

UK News In Brief

■ Secretary of State for Transport, Lord Andrew Adonis, has found London Midland to be in breach of its franchise agreement after it cancelled some 1,000 services in September, following drivers not turning up for voluntary work on Sundays. Similar circumstances have now led to significant cancellations on First Capital Connect trains, which were worse as they involved weekday and peak hour trains.

■ Balfour Beatty and Costain are reported to be two of the front-runners to undertake the £650 million redevelopment of London Bridge station and the widening of Borough Market Junction, the project being part of the final phase of the £5.5 billion Thameslink work to begin in October 2012 and finish in December 2015. London Bridge was opened in 1836, making it the oldest station in London. The redevelopment is to increase the number of platforms and construct another viaduct between the station and the branch to Cannon Street.

■ The Welsh Assembly Government has asked Network Rail to conduct feasibility studies on the two former passenger lines between Llangefni on Anglesey and Bangor, and between Aberdare and Hirwaun in the Cynon valley in South Wales. In both cases the disused tracks still remain in place. The original Llangefni station was part of the Anglesey central line running from Gaerwen to Amlwch, dating back to the 1860s. It was closed to passenger services in 1964 as part of the Beeching cuts, but continued as freight only line until the 1990s. Hirwaun also fell victim to the Beeching axe, but remained open carrying coal from Tower Colliery. Network Rail has already started work to gather evidence for its study, beginning with cutting away vegetation on track sections to examine the condition of rails and track bedding. Its report is expected to be published next year.

■ The Stobart Group wants the 3MG Mersey Multimodal Gateway at Widnes to be a distribution hub for the firm's new Spanish operation involving food imports, the centre having extensive chilled warehouse and distribution facilities. The first refrigerated Stobart train travelled the 1,000 miles from Valencia this month carrying fresh fruit and vegetables and arrived at the Ford Dagenham railhead, but Stobart sees expansion opportunities in Widnes, which is said to be the ideal hub for distribution into the heartland of Great Britain.

RH Statistical Information

Every month, *Railway Herald* receives numerous queries for information on how many copies of the magazine are downloaded and how popular is the website, so we have decided to publish the figures here, every week, subject to space.

Covering the period 9th-16th Nov

Our previous edition, Issue 200 was downloaded **39,412** times and a total of **8,614** copies of previous issues were also downloaded. The *RH* website has provided **288,936** web pages to users, an average of **28.6** pages every minute, seven days a week! *Railway Herald* now has a monthly average download of **127,091** - this is the number of copies downloaded in an average four week period.

Transport Scotland wants framework for freight by rail

Transport Scotland is producing a framework for the development of a rail freight policy that aims to encourage an increased shift to rail for freight.

The aim of the work is to determine the key challenges and opportunities that exist to further develop rail for freight transportation. The Scottish Government is committed to encouraging the transfer of freight from road to rail where this is a viable alternative. The consultation will consider the benefits and obstacles facing such a shift, and the actions that the Scottish Government, industry and other stakeholders can take to encourage a move for freight to more sustainable transport modes.

Like all businesses, the freight industry has been affected by the current economic downturn although rail is a more competitive option for heavier, non-time critical loads travelling over longer distances, such as coal. Local industry, markets, loads and geography are defining factors in whether a rail freight operation is commercially viable. Rail is less able than other modes to cope with large increases in demand in the short to medium term as the capacity for rail freight is constrained by infrastructural and operational factors, as well as the availability of paths, capability and geographical coverage of the network. While the road network will remain the predominant means of moving freight for the foreseeable future, there is scope for moving a higher proportion by rail and that is the aim. The railway must offer a high quality service, be affordable, accessible, reliable and competitive with road journey times in order to ensure that an increasing proportion of products are delivered by rail.

The Strategic Transport Projects Review makes recommendations for a range of transport schemes across Scotland. A number of these proposals will facilitate more efficient movement of freight by rail. The projects include Grangemouth road and rail upgrades, rail service enhancements between Aberdeen and the central belt and enhancements to rail freight on the WCML. The Scottish Government has funded access to 'Freight Best Practice Scotland' for all freight operators in Scotland. The programme, which was initiated by the Department for Transport, promotes operational efficiency within the freight industry, and in Scotland is managed by the Scottish Government's Transport Directorate.

£21 million revamp of Derby completed

The £21 million nearly two-year rebuild of Derby station was marked on 2nd November, when Network Rail and East Midlands Trains invited Nigel Clough, Manager of Derby County Football Club and the club's Chief Executive, Tom Glick, to unveil the illustrated plaque.

Network Rail started the project in early 2008 and worked with East Midlands Trains to ensure disruption to passengers was kept to a minimum.

The old heavy and dark platform canopies were completely demolished and replaced with light modern ones; new wider stairs were built and lifts installed to give step-free access to all platforms. New, light, comfortable waiting rooms have been added along with new toilets and staff areas.

The project has completely changed the rather gloomy 1950s platforms, which are now modern, light, airy and open.

▲ The 11.25 East Midlands service from St Pancras International to Derby arrives at the new-look Derby station on 2nd November, formed of Class 222 Meridian No. 222011.

▼ The 13.27 East Midlands service from Sheffield to St Pancras International arrives at new-look Derby station on the same day, formed of Class 222 Meridian No. 222006. **All: Brian Morrison**

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◀ Class 91 No. 91111 in National Express East Coast livery awaits departure from Wakefield Westgate on the rear of the 10.05 Leeds to Kings Cross service on on 11th November during the final few days for National Express East Coast operations.

◀▼ Freightliner-liveried Class 86/6 No. 86607 was an unusual visitor to York on 11th November, pictured stabled in Platform 1. Freightliner is currently undertaking regular route learning trips between Mossend and York.
Both: Paul Braybrook

▼ Bishton is the location for DB Schenker's Mainline-liveried Class 60 No. 60011, as it descends from the flyover across the Great Western mainline with a heavily loaded train of steel coil bound for Corby on 12th November. **Edward Gleed**

The weekly column looking at some of the more unusual and newsworthy movements on the UK network, including Class 60 Report

Saturday
7th November 2009

'Royal' Class 67 No. 67006 *Royal Sovereign* found itself on charter duties, working the outward leg of the 'Thames-Tornado' from Ealing Broadway to Gloucester, where Peppercorn Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* took over for the return to London Waterloo - the train behind the '67' was hauled back to Gloucester.

Also on charter operations was No. 67017 *Arrow*, which headed north from Doncaster to Edinburgh with the 'Northern Belle'. Having worked the Virgin loco-hauled set the previous day, Class 90 No. 90019 was provided for UK Railtours' charter from Finsbury Park to Newcastle the same morning. The '90' was removed at Tyne Yard, being replaced by Class 66s Nos. 66094 and 66153 for the final leg into Newcastle and a run along the short Forth Banks branch, part of the old Tyne Valley route which was closed in 1982, and now serves a civil engineers depot. Having operated from Eastleigh to Tilbury following its repaint, Class 66/8 No. 66841 spent the weekend stabled for crew training before entering service on its inaugural train for Colas Rail.

Sunday
8th November 2009

Virgin Trains Class 57/3 No. 57305 *John Tracy* was used to move Class 314 No. 314203 from Glasgow Shields Road Depot to the Works.

Class 60s Nos. 60013 *Robert Boyle* (stored since 28th October) and 60073 *Cairn Gorm* (stored since 31st October) returned to traffic, working 0Z50 from Toton TMD to Peak Forest, before taking up duties on aggregate workings. The overnight sleeper service from London Euston to Edinburgh (with portions for Fort William, Inverness and Aberdeen) was diverted between Crewe and Preston with Class 57/3 No. 57303 *Alan Tracy* doing the honours - the train locomotive was Class 90 No. 90039, which regained control at Preston, departing shortly after 00.30 on 9th November.

Monday
9th November 2009

Hanson Traction Class 47/0 No. 47270 *Swift* headed back north to Scotland from Washwood Health this morning, running as the 06.00 Washwood Heath to Edinburgh Craigentinny 'light engine' move.

This morning's Immingham to Sheffield Tinsley steel working was worked by Class 66 No. 66079 *James Nightall G.C.*, with Army-liveried Class 60 No. 60040 *The Territorial Army Centenary* dead in tow, the '60' heading for Toton. DRS Class 47/4 No. 47501 *Craftsman* was used to work two wagons from Shirebook to Carlisle in the morning, having run 'light engine' from Norwich Crown Point to Shirebrook. Problems ensued for National Express East Coast, as the operator started its last Monday service prior to transfer to a nationalised operation. Class 91 No. 91132, which should have worked the cancelled 06.05 Leeds to King's Cross service was noted at Newark, blunt-end first and heading south along the ECML, with its Mk4 rake in tow heading for Bounds Green. The first of the Colas Class 66/8 fleet, No. 66841, entered traffic with the company this morning, working from Tilbury to West Burton Power Station with CEMEX Intermodal tanks. The loco returned the train south later in the afternoon.

DB Schenker's sole-remaining Class 37/4 No. 37401 headed north from Warrington the same morning, with a pair of Class 66s in tow, bound for Mossend. It returned back south with the Mossend to Wembley intermodal service, departing Mossend around 20 minutes late, but was 88 minutes late by Beattock summit. It was due to be replaced at Warrington Arpley. Further south, also on the West Coast Main LIne, testing

Operational DB Schenker Class 60s

Loco	Working Area	Loco	Working Area
60009	Peak Forest	60073	Peak Forest
60010	Peak Forest	60074	South Wales
60013	Peak Forest	60077	Immingham
60040	Immingham	60084	Bescot
60041	Immingham	60085	South Wales
60051	Peak Forest	60091	Immingham
60063	Immingham	60096	Warrington

Correct as of 11th November.

▼ **Glinting in the early morning sun, Colas Rail Class 66/8 No. 66841 heads north through Newark on 9th November, with the 04.00 Tilbury to West Burton Power Station rake of CEMEX intermodal tanks. This was the first revenue-earning working for No. 66841 since joining the Colas Rail fleet. Ron Cover**

▲ Class 66/0 No. 66174 heads a lightly loaded 07.05 Mossend to Clitheroe cement empties through Smardale, on the Settle & Carlisle, on the splendid sunny morning on 9th November. **John Wade**

▼ Class 66/5 No. 66585 heads through Newport just after midnight on 11th November, hauling Class 70 PowerHaul Nos. 70001 and 70002 from Newport Docks to Bristol Stoke Gifford Yard. **Chris Meaker**

9th November continued...
of the newly delivered Class 377/5s continued, with Nos. 377522 and 377514 operating around Tring as part of a testing programme from Selhurst Depot. Ex-DRS Class 66/4s Nos. 66401 and 66402, now operated by First GBRf, worked from Peterborough to Tonbridge in the afternoon, sandwiching Class 73/2 No. 73207, which is more usually employed as the yard pilot at Whitemoor, and destined for St Leonards. Class 73/2 No.73208 *Kirsten* has temporarily taken its place at Whitemoor. Class 67 No. 67017 was used to move the next Class 507 EMU from Birkenhead to Doncaster Wabtec for refurbishment. Grand Central's Class 43 powercar No. 43068 made a rare appearance at Edinburgh Waverley during the day, working from Heaton to Craigentinny. Overnight Class 37/0 No. 37087 *Keighley & Worth Valley Railway* worked from Crewe to Doncaster.

Tuesday
10th November 2009

After its trip north of the border, Class 37/4 No. 37401 found more local use this morning, working the Warrington to Dowlow trip.

Class 70 Report

Loco	Working Area
70001	Birmingham Lawley Street (Crew Training)
70002	Bristol Stoke Gifford (Crew Training)

Workings Information
On 10th November, after final checks were made, Class 70s Nos. 70001 and 70002 were moved as the 23.45 Newport Docks to Bristol Stoke Gifford working by Class 66/5 No. 66585, where No. 70002 was detached. The '66/5' then continued onto Birmingham Lawley Street with No. 70001.

▶ **Passing north through Ladywood, Worcestershire, Hanson Traction Class 31 No. 31190 on hire to Colas Rail, heads the 13.15 Long Marston - Barrow Hill with six Mk2 coaches from storage on 9th November. Stephen Tucker**

10th November continued...
The second of Colas Rail's Class 66/8s No. 66842 departed from Eastleigh, working to Ashford, 'light engine'. Having returned north yesterday, Class 47/0 No. 47270 was back on its route-learning trips today, this time between Edinburgh and Inverness. First GBRf Class 66/7 No. 66729 worked north from Tonbridge to Derby with barrier vehicles, prior to returning with Class 378 No. 378012, bound for Willesden TMD.

Wednesday
11th November 2009

The early hours of the morning found the unique Army-liveried Class 60 back at the helm on iron ore operations between Immingham and Scunthorpe.

The Bridgewater flasks train arrived at its destination this morning hauled by Class 37/5 No. 37510 and Class 37/0 No. 37194. Class 60 No. 60009 moved into store, working 0F54 from Peak Forest during the day. Although stored, Class 60s Nos. 60011, 60045 and 60054 were all in traffic, with No. 60045 at Bescot and the other two locos working in South Wales. In an unusual move, Wrexham & Shropshire's 11.27 service to London Marylebone was 'topped and tailed' by Class 67s Nos. 67012 *A Shropshire Lad* and 67013 *Dyfrbont Pontcysyllte*, while also making a rare appearance outside of the Barrow Hill / Wolverhampton / Shrewsbury / Cambrian Line areas, Class 97/3 No. 97301 worked 'light engine' to Ilford during the afternoon. The timber train from Carlisle to Chirk was once again in the hands of Class 57/0 No. 57002, the locomotive becoming a regular on the working! In the evening, Class 66/8 No. 66843 headed north up the East Coast Main Line with Class 73/2 No.73208 in tow, bound for Peterborough. The 'ED' was tripped from Peterborough to March Whitemoor the following day, sandwiched between Class 66/7 No. 66723 and '66/8' No. 66843.

Thursday
12th November 2009

Colas Rail's Class 66/8 No. 66841 made its first appearance on the Dollands Moor - Dagenham Dock 'Blue Train' this morning, returning 'light engine', while classmate No. 66842 worked the Dollands Moor to Hams Hall intermodal, more usually in the hands of one of the Hanson Traction Class 56s.

Having undergone repairs, Class 37/4 No. 37425 returned to the operational WKBN pool this morning at Warrington, while classmate No. 37401 once again put in an appearance on the Dowlow trip. The Burton-on-Trent to Dollands Moor steel working had Colas Rail Class 47/7 No. 47739 single-handedly at the helm this morning. Class 97/3 No. 97301 returned to Derby from Ilford during the afternoon, working via Ipswich. First GBRf's Class 66/7 No. 66729 was back at Derby this evening in preparation for moving Class 377/5 No. 377523 to Selhurst.

UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

The following table details the latest information available on railtours for the forthcoming weeks from the date of publication. Information is understood to be correct at the time of going to press.

21st November

Morpeth Round Table	2xDRS 47	Morpeth-Cramlington-Newcastle-Darlington- ECML-London KX & rtn
Past Time Rail	tbc	Manchester Victoria-Hebden Bridge-Manchester Victoria **Cancelled**
Spitfire Railtours	2xWCRC 37	Preston-Bolton-Manchester Victoria-Huddersfield-Leeds-York- Newcastle-Berwick upon Tweed-Edinburgh Waverley (break/rev) & return
Spitfire Railtours	2xWCRC 37	Edinburgh Waverley-Haymarket-Shotts-Mossend-Coatbridge Central-Springburn-Bishopbriggs-Falkirk High-Linlithgow-Haymarket-Edinburgh
UK Railtours	35028	London Waterloo-Staines-Reading-Trowbridge-Bath Spa-Bristol TM-Bath Spa-Trowbridge-Westbury-Salisbury-Woking-London Waterloo

26th November

Railway Touring Company	34067	Poole-Christchurch-Southampton-Salisbury-Bath Spa-Bristol TM & rtn
Steam Dreams	60163	London KX-York (break/rev) & return

27th November

Steam Dreams	60163	London KX- York (break/rev) & return

28th November

Compass Tours	DBS 66 & 92	Crewe-Manchester Piccadilly-Bolton-Bamber Bridge-Blackburn-Whalley-Clitheroe-S&C-Carlisle-Carlisle-Beattock-Edinburgh Waverley & return
Past Time Rail	5029	Eastleigh-Birmingham Intl-Ludlow-Shrewsbury & rtn **Cancelled**
Pathfinder Tours	DBS 67	Eastleigh-Romsey-Salisbury-Warminster-Trowbridge-Chippenham-Swindon-Oxford-Banbury-York-Darlington-Durham & return
Rail-Blue Charters	tbc	Shrewsbury-Newcastle upon Tyne & return
Railway Touring Company	60007	Newcastle upon Tyne-Durham-Darlington-York-London KX (& return)
Railway Touring Company	34067	Swanage-Bournemouth-Basingstoke-Reading-London Paddington & rtn
Spitfire Railtours	2xDRS 37	Birmingham International-Birmingham New St-Telford Central-Wellington-Shrewsbury-Wem-Whitchurch-Nantwich-Crewe- Wilmslow-Stockport-Guide Bridge-Huddersfield-Wakefield Kirkgate-York and return via Meadowhall-Sheffield-Edale-Stockport-Wilmslow
Spitfire Railtours	2xDRS 37	York-Durham-Newcastle-Sunderland-Hartlepool-Eaglescliffe-Thirsk-York
Statesman Rail	5690	(Burnley Rose Grove-Blackburn-Preston-Carnforth)- Wennington-Settle Jct-Hellifield-Skipton-Leeds-York & return
Steam Dreams	60019	London- Cheltenham-Worcester Shrub Hill (break/rev) & return
Torbay Express Ltd	6024	(Eastleigh-Birmingham International)-Hereford (& return) **Cancelled**
UK Railtours	2x DBS 67	Watford Junction-Finsbury Park-Potters Bar-Stevenage- York & return
Vintage Trains	4965	Tyseley WR-Walsall-Stafford-Crewe-Chester-Wrexham-Gobowen-Shrewsbury-Wolverhampton & return

29th November

Past Time Rail	45407&76079	Manchester Victoria- Peak Forest-Buxton & return **Cancelled**

1st December

Steam Dreams	60019	London-Bath Spa (break/rev) & return

3rd December

Steam Dreams	60019	London-Lincoln (break/rev) & 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
WCRC West Coast Railway Company
RED Tours cancelled by the operator
BLUE Provisional excursion
(Locations) in brackets on a steam tour listing indicates a diesel or electric-hauled section.

The Week Ahead

by John Whitehouse

Perhaps one of the quietest weekends of the year is approaching for charter operations, with only three trains booked to run.

November is always a difficult month following the glut of the summer and autumn trains, added to which the short days discourage travel, and perhaps of more importance is that everyone is in anticipation of the Christmas festivities. Look ahead seven days and there are 10 charters booked to run. Such is life in the charter market!

UK Railtours has one of its presently rare steam operations, and equally as rare, they are the one operator who can 'borrow' Merchant Navy No. 35028 *Clan Line* from VSOE British Pullman duties to run a more normal railtour. The 'Merchant Venturer' is Bristol-bound from London Waterloo, running via Staines, Reading, Newbury, Trowbridge and Bath Spa to Temple Meads. For added spice and steam mileage accumulation, the return works back to Waterloo via Westbury, Salisbury, Basingstoke, Woking and Surbiton. Look out for more steam from UK Railtours in 2010.

Edinburgh Waverley is the destination for the other public charter running on 21st November. Spitfire's 'Lowland Growler' heads out of Preston, and picks up at Wigan North West, Bolton, Manchester Victoria, Stalybridge, Huddersfield, Leeds and York, on the way to the Scottish Capital. DRS Class 37s were originally due to head the tour, but due to other commitments with Network Rail, the charter is now booked for West Coast 37s. Additionally, if an afternoon Christmas shopping in Edinburgh does not appeal, stay on board and for an extra £5 main-tour participants can enjoy a circular trip with the West Coast 37s, which is booked via Haymarket, Shotts, Mossend, Coatbridge Central, Springburn, Bishopbriggs, Falkirk High, Linlithgow and back to Haymarket and Waverley. The fare for the add-on tour only is £20 for an advance booking or £25 pay on the day.

Finally, Morpeth Round Table has its annual trip to London Kings Cross the same day, picking up also at Cramlington and Newcastle Central. In order to maximise time in London, the return terminates at Newcastle Central.

▼ **Class 67 No. 67006** *Royal Sovereign* **catches the low autumn sun passing Newton Meadows, near Bath, with an Ealing Broadway to London Victoria tour, routed via Gloucester, where Peppercorn Pacific No. 60163** *Tornado* **took over. Glen Batten**

European visits to Germany and Poland for *Tornado* are possible, but premature

The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust's Operations Director, Graeme Bunker, has described the possibility of No. 60163 *Tornado* visiting Germany as part of Deutsche Bundersbahn's 175th anniversary celebrations as 'premature'.

He added that no formal request had been received, but any invitation would be given due consideration. While acknowledging that such a visit would be a good opportunity to promote the locomotive, it would have to be subject to stringent commercial considerations. He added that: 'It would be a positive move to see such an event happen, but any proposal must sit comfortably with *Tornado's* commitments in the UK and be of benefit to the locomotive in the long term".

In fact *Tornado* is to visit the Great Central Railway from 17th March to 5th April. If such a visit abroad took place, as well as possibly being based at Cologne where the DB Railway Museum is located, it could also be an opportunity to take the engine to Meiningen where its boiler was manufactured. There has also been speculation that *Tornado* may also visit Poland and be involved in the 'Wolsztyn Footplate Experience', which actually provides the opportunity to drive mainline steam locomotives at line speeds. Graeme Bunker's response was again that there are no current plans for such a visit, but he would never rule out any such proposal, subject to it being both financially and commercially viable.

There has already been the precedent of a British locomotive operating in Europe, with the recent extended visit of Bill Parker's Class 4575 Prairie No. 5521, which was used extensively on main line workings in several countries. Interesting times ahead, perhaps?

▼ **Old and new Southern Region power together. Proudly carrying a poppy on the smokebox, SR Battle of Britain Pacific No. 34067 *Tangmere* starts away from Vauxhall on Remembrance Day after a two minute stop to commemorate those who fell and died in battle. Ian Docwra**

Vintage Trains' casts its support for 'Help the Heroes' appeal with Class 86 charter

Vintage Trains and broadcaster Les Ross will be operating a special excursion on 16th January 2010, with the express aim of supporting members of our armed forces who have been wounded while on active service in the current theatres of operations.

This is a cause very close to all our hearts, and profits generated from the train will be donated to the 'Help the Heroes' appeal, the charity that is focused on helping our injured service personnel. As to the train itself, it will provide a retro-feel while travelling to London Euston. It will be hauled by Les Ross's Class 86 No. 86259, which also carries his name, and will originate at Crewe and pick up at Stafford, Wolverhampton, Birmingham New Street, Birmingham International and Coventry and serve a timely reminder of the comfort levels of pre-Pendolino hauled stock. It is hoped that a number of West Midlands' personalities will be aboard the train, and there will also be a charity raffle in support of Solihull-based 'Troop Aid', which provides essential personal items to injured soldiers who arrive at medical centres, either in the harsh realities of war or a UK military hospital with only the clothes they are wearing.

We wish the train every success and support the aim of the organisers to raise a significant sum for the 'Help the Heroes' charity - and an Electric-blue '86' on the London & Birmingham to Euston again is a very pleasant bonus, too! For more details contact Vintage Trains on 0121 708 4960.

Vintage Trains' next outing is again different, and recalls memories of PMR Tours 'Night Owls', which were evening trains on the Derby-Sheffield circuit. On Friday 22nd January a 'Winter Warmer' is to run, which is due to feature GWR 4-6-0 No. 4965 *Rood Ashton Hall* from Tyseley Warwick Road and onwards around the Leicester circuit. It is due to pick up at Coleshill Parkway, and then travel via Nuneaton to Leicester where a short break is planned, before returning via Loughborough, Burton-on-Trent and Tamworth. With a requested departure time of 19.00, it makes the train an ideal 'starter' for the weekend as it will be possible to join it straight from work, enjoy the unique atmosphere of travelling behind steam on a winter's evening and still have the weekend free!

Vintage Trains' 2010 programme is still being compiled, and significantly the charter side at Tyseley is now in the hands of Neil Stevens, who has a long pedigree in the sector going back to the Charter Trains Unit at EWS. Neil told RH that future plans will hopefully include a double-header to Didcot in February and No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* to London in March-and the return could be very interesting!

Expect Tyseley also to be involved in 'GWR 175', which will be a major feature in 2010.

The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust's A1 Class Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* **climbs through Wokingham on 7th November, with the 'Thames -Tornado' charter bound for London Victoria. Ken Brunt**

Ups & Downs by John Whitehouse

■ Rail Blue's efforts to support the cost of repairing the damaged engine of 'Deltic' No. 55022 *Royal Scots Grey* by running a railtour on 12th December have been dashed. Special dispensation had been received to operate the loco on one engine during the tour, but unfortunately due to the poor level of advance bookings the tour has been cancelled.

Steam Dreams .... coming soon to a television near you!

In a bold move, Steam Dreams has become the first railtour company to use the medium of television advertising to promote its trains.

Their extensive Christmas programme is the basis of the advert, and the industry is no doubt waiting to see the effect it has on bookings. As all of Steam Dreams trains run from London termini it does make it cost effective to be able to concentrate marketing initiative in a clearly defined area, and the advert itself is well choreographed to emphasise the lure and atmosphere of steam-hauled trains.

The key issue for Steam Dreams will be whether the break-even point for the services due to the cost of using television advertising will be offset by significantly increased income. Graeme Bunker will have done his sums and will know how many extra passengers are necessary, firstly to cover his increased overheads and secondly to establish the effectiveness of this interesting initiative.

Go to www.steamdreams.co.uk to view the advertisement, which is now being shown on ITV.

▲ **Class 31 No. 31190 (displaying its pre-TOPS No. D5613) crawls through Wrenbury after a signal check with The 'Hoot & Boot' charter from Eastleigh to Crewe and Donnington on 14th November. The train returned via Shrewsbury and Hooton. Nigel Capelle**

Fancy bidding for a footplate ride along the ECML onboard *Tornado*?

A totally unique opportunity will arise this week to secure a footplate ride on No. 60163 *Tornado* along the length of the East Coast Main Line from King's Cross to York, which has been donated by the A1 Steam Locomotive Trust and with the support and agreement of train operating company DB Schenker.

It will arise courtesy of BBC's annual 'Children in Need' appeal, which will be taking place during the coming week. Riding the footplate of *Tornado* will be one of the 'experiences money cannot buy' that are due to be auctioned each morning on Sir Terry Wogan's 'Wake up to Wogan' breakfast show, usually between 08.00 and 09.00 from Monday to Thursday. The 'prize' is for four people, one of whom will ride on the footplate while the other three will be 'on the cushions' going north, and all four will enjoy premier dining on the return. The opportunity should take place during one of the loco's scheduled monthly King's Cross - York 'Cathedrals Expresses' next year. The two necessary ingredients to secure this fantastic package is an ability to be awake in time to listen to the programme and very deep pockets! Good luck!

Diesel Theme Day brings traction variety for East Lancashire Railway

The East Lancs Railway ran another of its popular diesel days on 7th November, this time based on a theme of Type 2 and Type 3 locomotives.

◀▼ In addition to the passenger service, a demonstration freight train was in operation, and while this was being run primarily to train guards, it also provided some novel photographic opportunities to those at the lineside. Class 37/9 No. 37901 *Mirrlees Pioneer* was used throughout the day, and approaches Ramsbottom with the 12.20 Rawtenstall to Heywood freight.

◀▼ 'Wesmek' No. D7076 leads the 11.30 service to Heywood into Irwell Vale.

▼ Having made one solo round trip along the line, Class 37/4 No. 37418 *Pectinidae* was paired up with Class 37/0 No. 37109 for the remainder of the day. Here, the BR blue machine leads the ex-EWS loco away from Ramsbottom with the 13.10 Rawtenstall to Heywood service. **All: Jonathan Stevenson**

Keighley looks to a prosperous season next year, with some significant changes

For the first time since the Keighley and Worth Valley line was reopened by volunteers in 1968, there will be a two-train service operating next year every Sunday, in what will be the 40th anniversary of The Railway Children film being shot on location on the line.

'Visit Yorkshire', the organisation promoting tourism in the region, has worked with the Railway to suggest that it should do more to encourage visitors to explore the surrounding countryside and make it easier for them to reach the top of Haworth village, home of the Brontë Sisters, where the Parsonage is a major literary venue. A new service of open-top and vintage buses, combined with a free meal at a medieval pub in Haworth, introduced by the Railway during its summer 2009 season, has proved very popular and is to be expanded during 2010. Details of the extra services and new timetable will be published this month in the winter issue of the line's magazine Push and Pull.

In it, Traffic Manager Sam MacDougall says: "Significant improvements to our timetable and what we offer the public are on their way for 2010. The Summer Gala reverts to the autumn, there are more Cream Teas, Sunday Lunch, Wine and Dine, Guided Tours, Vintage Train Days and Days Out services. We plan to reintroduce Footplate Experience Days, where a day's instruction and driving on a steam locomotive, under supervision, can be bought. And talks continue on the reintroduction of a daily commuter service, though that is some way off, it must be emphasised. Most significant in the new timetable is the decision to introduce a two-train service every Sunday throughout the year, in which some services at off-peak times will be worked by heritage diesel trains. They're actually very popular with passengers and especially children, because of the unrivalled view of the countryside and the line ahead, which they offer but the great majority of our services will continue to be operated by steam trains".

The Railway will again hold its Diesel Gala in June, and will operate vintage trains with wooden-bodied rolling stock on many summer Sundays. It also expects its annual mobile Christmas Carol Services and the Santa Specials this year to be as popular as ever. Many of the most popular dates for the 2009 Santa Specials are already fully booked and all places on the 2009 Christmas Carol train have been sold. Through tickets to the line offering reduced price travel can now be purchased at every railway station on the National Network, and Northern, the train operator serving Keighley, has a specially decorated Class 158 DMU running on its services, advertising the attractions of Keighley, Brontë Country and the Railway.

◀▲ **One of those photographs that only occurs because the photographer is in the right place at the time right time! Class 33/0 No. 33002 stands at Buckfastleigh on 7th November, during the South Devon's 'Gronk Aid 6' gala. Nathan Williamson**

◀ **Adorned with a large red poppy and carrying temporary** *Remembrance Lest We Forget* **nameplates, WD 2-8-0 No. 90733 climbs away from Haworth with a service for Oxenhope on the same day. Richard Whiteley**

A photo charter was organised by Matt Allan and Warwick Falconer on the East Lancashire Railway with local assistance from Nigel Valentine on 11th November, using visiting 'K4' 2-6-0 61994 *The Great Marquess* on a goods working. The train passes Little Burrs during one of the many runpasts operated during the day. **Fred Kerr**

Hudswell Clarke 0-6-0ST *Renishaw Ironworks No.6* **coasts through Causey Woods on the Tanfield Railway with a demonstration coal train on 8th November.** **Nick Wise**

Riviera Trains Class 47/4 No. 47805, currently on hire to Colas Rail, powers through Lower Basildon with the Burton-on-Trent to Dollands Moor steel working on 5th November. **Ken Brunt**

9th November 2009

Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln. AGM and Photo Competition. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact the Secretary on 01522 705365 for further details

Permanent Way Institution (London Branch)
7th Floor District Room, 55 Broadway (LUL HQ), London. 'Prbably the Best Job in the World' by Phil Ransom. Doors open 17.30 for 18.00. Contact Shazma Mahmood-Shakoor on 07921 943820 or by e-mail at shazma.shakoor@gmail.com for details.

RCTS (Ipswich Branch)
Bridge Ward Social Club, 68 Austin Street, Ipswich. 'Mikes Wanderings 1959-63 and War Department Diesels' by Mike Walshaw. Meeting starts 19.30. Contact the Branch Secretary at ipswich@rcts.org.uk.

RCTS (Northampton Branch)
St Crispins Social Club, Berrywood Road, Duston. 'Quiz versus Bedford LCGB for 'The Ashes' Trophy'. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Sheffield Branch)
St Mathews Church Rooms, Carver Street, Sheffield.
'Last Years of BR Steam' by Roger Jones. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Severn Valley Railway (Wolverhampton Branch)
Old Wulfrunians Club, 253A Castlecroft Road, Castlecroft, Wolverhampton, WV3 8NA. 'Railways of Colonel Stephens, including Leed & Manifold' by Tony Ward. Doors open at 19.00 for 19.30 start.

Southern Electric Group (Sussex Branch)
The Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre. 'Living Southern' by Andrew Marshall. Meeting commences at 19.30. £2 Donation. Contact the Branch Secretary, Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094 or by e-mail at b.cakebread@ntlworld.com for further details.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
New Trinity Parish Hall, Saltcoats, Ayreshire. 'North American Motive Power etc' by Graham McLachlan. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01294 822303 for further details.

Wrexham Railway Society
St Mary's Catholic Club, Regent Street, Wrexham. 'Sixties Steam Off Shed' by Barry Shore. Meeting commences at 19.45. Admission £2.

York Railway Circle
The Library, Archbishop Holgate's School, Hull Road, York.
'Recent Wanderings' by Steve Batty. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Robin Patrick by e-mail at locopatrick@aol,com for details.

10th November 2009

Abergavenny and District Steam Society
Upper Room, The Hen & Chickens, Flannel Street, Abergavenny
'Severn Tunnel Junction Revisited' by Bryn Thomas. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact Ken Mumford at ken.mumford@ntlworld.com.

Permanent Way Institution (Croydon & Brighton Branch)
Matt MacDonald House, Sydenham Road, Croydon, CR0 2EE.
'Capacity Improvements at Axminster' by Jason Grocott. Doors open at 17.30 for 17.45 start. Contact Martin Cresswell on 07815 968245 or e-mail at martincresswell@amey.co.uk for further details.

RCTS (Merseyside, Chester and North Wales Branch)
Observation at Stafford 08.30 to 19.30. Contact Geoff Morris on 01244 376808 or e-mail at geoffreymorris@tiscali.com for further details.

RCTS (Nottingham Branch)
Nottingham Mechanics, 3 North Sherwood Street, Nottingham.
'LMS Steam around the time of Nationalisation' by Arthur Turner. Meecint commences at 19.30.

Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Lanarkshire Branch)
Vestry Hall, Holy Trinity Church, Avon Street, Motherwell. SRPS Grand Challenge Quiz. Contact the Secretary, Fred Landery on 01698 457777 for further details.

Tewkesbury Railway Society
YMCA, Church Street, Tewkesbury. Slide show ' A Little Bit More from the Archive' by Dave Smith. Meeting commences at 20.00.

11th November 2009

Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'The Harrow and Wealdstone Crash' by Peter Tatlow. Meeting commences at 20.00. Visitors welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01256 326096 for info.

Oxfordshire Railway Society
Seacourt Day Centre, Seacourt Road, Botley, Oxford OX2 9LN. 'Abingdon' by Ivan Cadge. Meeting commences at 19.30. Visitors welcome £3.

RCTS (Hitchin Branch)
Hitchin Christian Centre, Bedford Road, Hitchin. 'Midland Main Line - St Pancras to Leicester' by Bob Goodman. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Radyr Branch)
Old Church Rooms, Park Road, Radyr. 'Past to Present' by Peter Skelton. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Branch Secretary at noelinda@noel65.fsnet.co.uk for info.

Stephenson Loco Society
YMCA, Bridge Street, Guildford. 'Railways of Southern South America Today, part 2' by Peter Worsley. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01372 379216 for further details.

Swiss Railways Society (London Branch)
The Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London N1 9AT (near Kings Cross Station).
'A Different Way to Switzerland' by Alan Snowden. Starts 19.00. £2 donation. Contact Ron Dawes on 020 8660 3532 for further details.

12th November 2009

Continental Railway Circle (London & The Home Counties Branch)
St.Paul's Church Centre, Rossmore Road, Marylebone, London NW1 6NJ 'Steam on the Union Pacific' by Tom Watson. Starts19.15. Contact Adrian Palmer on 01932 850624 for details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (St Albans Branch)
United Reform Church, Watford Road, Chiswell Green St Albans. 'East London and North London Lines (Overground is Born)' by Philip Clarke and Huw Edwards. Starts 19.30.

Monmouthshire Railway Society
Room A28, UWCN, Allt-Yr-Yn Ave, Newport, South Wales. 'The Bulleid Pacifics' by Colin Boocock. Meeting commences at 19.30. £3 Admission.

Permanent Way Institution (Birmingham Branch)
The 11th Floor Boardroom, Network Rail Offices, The Mailbox, 100 Whartside Street, Birmingham B1 1RT. 'A Guide to Level Crossing Installation' by D.Butler. Meeting starts 18.15. Contact the Secretary, Ian Wardle on 07824 410961 or e-mail ian.wardle@;networkrail.co.uk for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (Manchester & Liverpool Branch)
Ove Arup Offices, St James Building, Oxford Street, Manchester.
'Light Rail Vehicles' by Mark Terry & Matt MacDonald. Meeting commences at 17.30. Contact the Secretary, Rob Cummings, on 07798 858784 or by e-main at rob.cummings@networkrail.co.uk for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (North Wales Branch)
The Town Crier Inn, City Road, Chester. 'Cambrian Line Speed Improvements' by Bob Langford. Starts 18.30. Contact the Secretary, Lynne Garner on 07771 672274.

Permanent Way Institution (South & West Wales Branch)
Kings Hotel, High Street, Newport. 'Rail Grinding' by Brian Whitney & Mark Allen. Starts 18.00. Contact the secretary, Andy Franklin on 07824 410762 or by e-mail at andy.franklin@networkrail.co.uk.

RCTS (Newcastle)
The Brunswick Methodist Hall Newcastle. 'Nationalisation to the Sixties' by Barry Atkinson. Starts 19.30. Contact the Branch Secretary at jimbrick@fsmail.net for 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 for the organisation 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.

Internet Links
Links to the various society websites can be found on the website, or by clicking here.

▼ **Hudswell Clarke 0-6-0ST** *Renishaw Ironworks No. 6* **approaches Andrews House on the Tanfield Railway with a demonstration coal train on 8th November. Nick Wise**

Stephenson Locomotive Society
St John Ambulance Centre, Sandes Avenue, Kendal. 'Cine Films - ' The Furnessman' and 'Ayrshire Explorer' Rail Tours' by Brian Irwin. Meeting commences at 19.15. Contact the Secretary on 01539 720706 for details.

13th November 2009

Altrincham Electric Railway Preservation Society
Altrincham Methodist Church Hall, Barrington Road, Altrincham. 'Archive Cine Films' by Nick Dodson. Meeting commences at 19.30. Admission £3. Contact the Secretary, Andrew Macfarlane on 0161 928 9394 for further details.

Great Central Railway Society (London)
Exmouth Arms, Starcross Street, Euston. LONDON. NW1. 'Railways of Czechoslovakia' by Jeremy Harrison. Meeting commences at 19.30. A Donation of £2 is suggested.

Shropshire Railway Society
The Gateway, Chester Road, Shrewsbury. 'Darjeeling Railway' by Peter Jordan. Meeting starts at 19.30.

14th November 2009

Cornwall Railway Society
The Community Centre, Foundry Row, Redruth. 'Cornwall-London-Cornwall' by Hugh Dady. Meeting commences at 18.30. Contact the Secretary, Derek Buttivant on 01637 860627 for further details

Irwell Vale Railway Photographers
Irwell Vale Village Church, Irwell Vale, Rossendale. 'British Railways Steam on Local Lines and an Excursion to the Southern Region' by Richard Greenwood. Doors open at 19.00 for 19.30 start. Donation of £3 requested. Contact the Secretary, Mike Taylor by e-mail at mike10fmpd@tiscali.co.uk for details.

RCTS (Exeter)
Conference Room, Great Western Hotel, Exeter. 'Through the Lens of a Railwayman' by Mike Goodfield. Meeting commences at 19.00. Contact the Branch Secretary at fixtureswoe@rcts.org.uk.

RCTS (West Riding)
Crewe Basford Hall at 09.00hrs. Contact Malcolm Riley on 07887 908501 or by e-mail at bigmal.w.b.r.rcts@talk21.com for further details.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
Kidderminster Railway Museum, Kidderminster. 'West Highland Railway Reconstruction' by John Sreeves. Meeting commences at 14.00. Contact the Secretary on 01242 582152 for further details.

16th November 2009

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Dorking Branch)
Pethick-Lawrence House, 85 South Street, Dorking.'West Somerset Railway' by Ian Wright. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Chester)
The Town Crier, CityRoad/Station Road, Chester. 'Reflections on a Railway Career' by David Rapson. Meeting commences at 19.45.

RCTS (Coventry)
Maudsley Hotel, 190 Allesley Old Road, Coventry. 'Sir Vincent Raven - Last CME of the North Eastern Railway' by Andrew Everett. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Oxford)
West Oxford Democrats Club, 1 North Street, Osney. 'Freight - Sectorisation to Privatisation' by Julian Worth. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Shenfield)
Shenfield Parish Hall, 80 Hutton Road, Shenfield. 'West of Vladivostok - Railways in the former Soviet Union' by Jeremy Harrison. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Wellingborough)
British Rail Sports and Social Club, Broad Green, Wellingborough. 'The Midland Main Line Today' by Richard Gennis. Meeting commences at 14.00.

17th November 2009

Permanent Way Institution (West Yorkshire Section)
The Pullman Room, The Cosmopolitan Hotel, 2 Lower Briggate, Leeds LS1 4AE. 'Enhancing Rail Life Through Metallurgical Developments' A presentation from Corus Rail. Doors open at 18.00 for 18.30 start. Contact the Secretary, Martin Wooff on 07747 760949 or by e-mail at abcts@daelnet.co.uk for further details.

RCTS (Hull)
Upstairs, The Highway Public House, Willerby Road, Hull. 'South of Stafford to the Isle of Wight' by Tony Arnold. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Branch Secretary at richard@djbroady.co.uk for further details.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
Great Hall, Discovery Museum, Blandford Square, Newcastle upon Tyne. 'Robert Stephenson - Mechanical Engineer' by Dr Michael Bailey. Meeting commences at 17.30. Contact the Secretary on 01434 688946 for further details.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
Fox Covert Inn, High Leven, Nr Yarm, Teeside. 'North Yorkshire Moors Railway' by Philip Benham. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01642 321205 for further details.

Tewkesbury Railway Society
YMCA, Church Street, Tewkesbury. Video/DVD Evening. Meeting commences at 20.00.

18th November 2009

Aeron Valley Railway Society
Prince of Wales Hotel, Aberaeron. 'Annual Film Night'. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact the secretary John Hughes on 01974 298513 or send an email to caeronprom@aol.com

Permanent Way Institution (Bristol & West of England Branch)
Arap Auditorium, 63 St Thomas Street, Bristol. 'Engineering in Amey/Colas Track Renewals' by Bruno Taylor. Starts 18.00. Contact the Secretary, Phil Harrison on 0117 976 5432 or by e-mail at philip.harrison@arup.com.

Permanent Way Institution (Glasgow Branch)
Upstairs Lounge, The Iron Horse, West Nile Street, Glasgow. Graduate and Young Members Presentations. Doors open at 17.15 for 17.30 start. Contact the Secretary, Jack Scott, on 07789 765291 or by e-mail at jack.scott1@btinternet.com for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (Nottingham & Derby Branch)
The Midland Hotel, adjacent to Derby station, Derby. 'Geosynthetics and Railway Foundations' by Peter Musgrave. Starts at 18.30. Contact Colin Cowey on 07946 482343 for further details.

RCTS (Eastleigh)/Mid Hants Railway
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'Trams around Europe' by Ken Middleton. Meeting commences at 19.45.

Severn Valley Railway (South East Branch)
Wenlock Arms, 26 Wenlock Road, Islington, London N1 7TA. 'Slides from his Father's Collection' by David Cross. Meeting commences at 19.30.

19th November 2009

Breconshire Railway Society
R.A.F.A.Club, The Struet, Brecon Railway Films from Cine Archives by Jonathan Marsh MBE. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary, Arthur Robinson on 01982 560219 for further details

Irish Railway Record Society
The Exmouth Arms, 1 Starcorss Street, London, NW1 2HR. 'Rails around Monaghan' by Charles Friel. Meeting commences at 19.00.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (North West Branch)
The St David's Social Centre, 249 Wargrave Road, Newton-le-Willows. 'BR in the Early Eighties' by Tom Heavyside. Meeting starts at 19.30.

Marlow & District Railway Society
British Red Cross Society, Victoria Road, Marlow. 'Paddington to Maidenhead - An Architectural and Engineering Review' by David Wadley. Doors open at 19.45 for 20.00 start. Non-members £2.

RCTS (Darlington)
The Scout Building, Widdowfield Street, Darlington. AGM/ Members' Slides. Meeting commences at 19.00. Contact the Branch Secretary at jimbrick@fsmail.net for details.

RCTS (Pudsey)
Pudsey Civic Hall (Fulneck Room), Pudsey. 'Recent Travels in the UK' by Steve Batty. Starts at 19.30. Contact the Branch Secretary at bigmal.w.b.r.rcts@talk21.com for further details.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
United Reform Church Hall, Mowbray Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire. 'Thirty Eight Years on the Railways in North London and Hertfordshire' by David Cockle. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 0208 368 6200 for further details.

Back Issues

All of the back issues of the magazine are available 24 hours a day, on our website **www.railwayherald.com**

Rear Cover Caption

DRS Class 66/4s Nos. 66420 and 66426 approach Ingatestone in 'top and tail' mode on a Stowmarket to Shenfield RHTT working on 12th November.
Charlie Robbins

Magazine Information

Editorial Address:
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Telephone: 01904 500175

Railway Herald is produced by Railway Herald Ltd (Registered as company number 05837609 in England).
VAT Registration: 942 6509 14
Registered office: Hobarn House, 12 Brompton Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 1DY

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