Railway Herald

Issue 218 - 12th April 2010

The electronic journal for the railway enthusiast

Railway Herald

Issue 218
12th April 2010

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Kenny Marrs

Grand Central on target for Bradford Launch

Grand Central is on target to start running direct rail services between Bradford Interchange and London King's Cross at the start of the summer timetable on 23rd May. The 'West Riding' service will, with the exception of London, serve all new stations for the company.

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Front Cover Caption:

Formed of Class 377/5 No. 377504, the 08.02 FCC service from Luton to Sutton approaches New Cross Gate on 1st April. Brian Morrison

East London Line preview

▲ One small section of the new East London Line Control Centre at New Cross Gate on 1st April, complete with a very low-tech way of working out the North!

▼ Class 378 Capitalstars Nos. 378143 & 378149 in the Bombardier-operated New Cross Gate maintenance depot for the East London Line on 1st April.

▲ Class 378 Capitalstar No. 378146 arrives at the as yet unopened station of Shoreditch High Street on 1st April, forming a test run from Dalston Junction to New Cross. **All: Brian Morrison**

▼ Class 378 No. 378146 approaches Hoxton on 1st April, forming a test run from New Cross to Dalston Junction.

Tay Bridge memorial

The Tay Bridge disaster is to be commemorated with permanent memorials, more than 130 years after the tragedy.

A fundraising group has been formed to pay for tributes to the 75 people who died on 28th December 1879, when the rail crossing collapsed in a storm and a train plunged into the river. The plan is for memorials to be built on both the Fife and Dundee sides of the water. People have been surprised that there hasn't previously been a memorial to what was a very significant and tragic event in the latter part of the Victorian era. The disaster happened during a violent storm, when a central section of the bridge collapsed, taking with it a six-coach train and all 75 passengers and staff into the River Tay. At the time it was the longest bridge in the world and had been given the Royal seal of approval by Queen Victoria, but it had stood for less than two years. The disaster shocked the world and ruined the reputation of the bridge designer, Sir Thomas Bouch, who died a broken man. The original inquiry into the tragedy blamed the structure for its design and material defects, but later studies have claimed Bouch was made the scapegoat, when bad workmanship and economic corner cutting were really to blame. The event led to important changes in later bridge design, construction and inspection.

▲ Class 20/9s Nos. 20901 and 20905 head south past the site of the demolished Kegworth station on 26th March, working a 13.55 Derby Chaddesden Sidings to Peterborough empty HYA coal hoppers, returning wagons to GBRf that had been on hire to Fastline Freight. **Mark Widdison**

Funding package secures extra Class 156s for East Midlands Trains in 2011

A package of funding has been secured by East Midlands Trains, which will bring significant improvements to its busy Liverpool-Norwich route from May 2011.

The funding, which has been agreed with the Department for Transport, will enable the operator to lease four additional Class 156 units from May 2011, the trains to be used on services between Nottingham and Skegness and between Lincoln and Leicester. This will then allow a number of Class 158s to be cascaded to strengthen services on the Liverpool to Norwich route. This will mean that from May 2011, an additional 10 services every weekday will be strengthened between Nottingham and Liverpool from two to four cars, providing an additional 1,500 seats a day, the extra capacity enabling East Midlands to increase the number of discounted tickets offered on off-peak trains on the route.

In addition, following passenger and stakeholder feedback, the 13.52 Liverpool to Nottingham service will be extended through to Norwich, and the 05.50 Norwich to Liverpool train will operate with four-cars throughout, providing much needed additional capacity for the service.

The four additional Class 156s are currently in use by Northern, and are due to be transferred to East Midlands in May next year. The funding includes a cosmetic refresh and investment to improve the performance of the units. Further improvements are due from December 2012, when it is planned to operate all services between Nottingham and Liverpool with four-cars.

Keeping track of the latest time at London Waterloo

People who normally make arrangements to 'meet under the clock' at Waterloo station have had to change their plans while the historic timepiece is restored.

Specialist clock makers have removed the hands and many of the internal workings of the clock, with work, so they can be re-engineered to operate with the latest technology. The upgraded equipment will sit behind the clock's historic exterior, which will also be cleaned and decorated as part of the project.

The clock has been a central feature of Waterloo station since the early 1920s, and it has been more than 20 years since the last major overhaul, many of the internal workings now being obsolete. The refurbishment is scheduled for completion by 20th April.

At the same time the Victory Arch clock, which is dedicated to Southern Railway employees killed in World War I, will also be serviced and some of the internal workings replaced.

▲ The Waterloo Clock. Network Rail

Oxford to Stratford rail link plans

Plans to reinstate a direct rail connection between Oxford and Stratford-upon-Avon have been included in Network Rail's recently published Great Western Route Utilisation Strategy after lobbying from rail freight organisations and passenger groups.

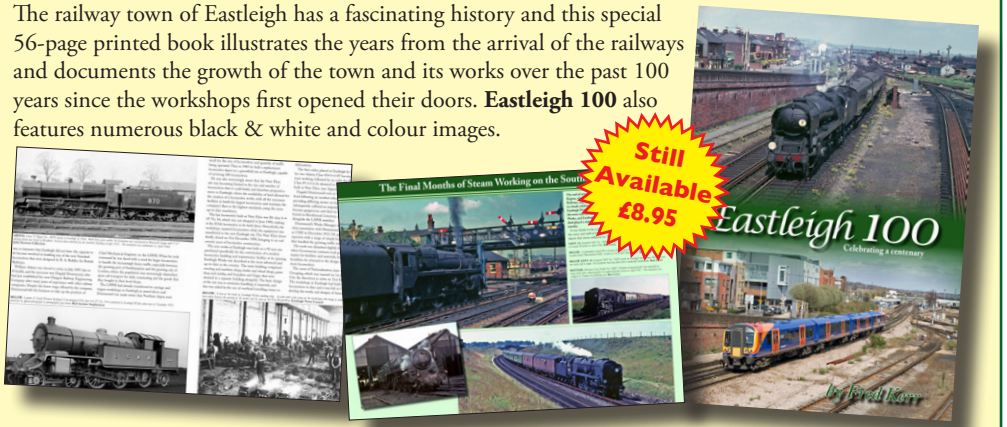
The move means that Warwickshire councillors will now be able to insist that developers provide funding towards the rebuilding of the rail link if the Government approves a proposed eco-town near Stratford-upon-Avon.

Supporters of the scheme want to see the reinstatement of a connection at Honeybourne, on the Cotswold Line between Oxford and Worcester, to the Long Marston branch line, and the rebuilding of a disused six-mile route from Long Marston to Stratford, which would tie in with the wishes of developers who want to turn part of the former Army depot at Long Marston into an eco-town, called Middle Quinton. As well as connecting two of southern England's biggest centres for tourism via the Cotswolds, with a potential journey time of about 50 minutes compared with 75 minutes via Banbury and Leamington Spa, the route would allow freight to run between Oxford and Birmingham to avoid the increasingly busy Banbury-Leamington Spa line.

The connection at Honeybourne linking Oxford and Stratford was closed in 1965, while the Long Marston-Stratford section closed in 1976.

The story of Eastleigh Works on the London & South Western Railway's South Western Main Line

The railway town of Eastleigh has a fascinating history and this special 56-page printed book illustrates the years from the arrival of the railways and documents the growth of the town and its works over the past 100 years since the workshops first opened their doors. **Eastleigh 100** also features numerous black & white and colour images.



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No.7 UK Electric Units	TBC
No.19 Irish Railways	TBC

updated to 1st Jan (Nos.5 - 7) and 1st Mar 2010 (Nos.4 & 8)

Metro and Light Rail News

Modernisation or closure for Glasgow Subway

It has been reported that the four-foot gauge, six-mile circular Glasgow Subway, known as the Clockwork Orange, could be closed down if a £400 million modernisation project is not approved.

A range of options for the third oldest underground system in the world have been considered by officials, but the plan of the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) is for a major upgrade involving new trains, track, signalling and improvements to the stations and tunnels. The other ideas for new lines branching out from the existing circuit or a new loop to the East End have so far been discounted in favour of bringing the existing network up to current standards.

As long as the programme is approved, work on the first of the 15 stations is expected to begin this year, but should it be rejected, officials admit other options, including eventual closure, will need to be considered, as the only realistic alternative is to continue spending millions of pounds a year in subsidies to keep the ageing, out-of-date system limping on, despite frequent breakdowns. SPT officials admit that a shutdown is a possibility in the future, although without the Subway, more than 13 million passenger journeys a year would need to be made overground, involving about 50,000 journeys a day being forced on to bus, train or car.

The SPT Chairman raised the possibility of a transport network without the system, and said: "The Subway is a Glasgow icon and if we did not have it there would be gridlock throughout the city. It is the only underground system in Scotland and we need a modernised Subway for a modern city like Glasgow. We are faced with a system that has not had a major upgrade in 30 years. SPT receives funds from Glasgow City Council and the surrounding authorities that used to make up Strathclyde Regional Council, but the money is now more likely to come from the Scottish Government.

Tight budgets and looming cuts have already forced the cancellation of the Glasgow Airport Rail Link, which would have cost less than the £400 million needed by the Subway.

◀ A range of options for the third oldest Subway system in the world have been considered by officials, which includes closing it down but maintaining the tunnels. The Strathclyde Partnership for Transport plan is for a major upgrade involving new trains, track, signalling and improvements to the stations and tunnels. In this view a train enters Cowcaddens station on the Inner Circle on 22nd March. Bill Turvill

Network Rail issues two infrastructure build tenders

Network Rail has issued its first major design and build tender for the surface section of Crossrail.

The invitation to tender covers a two-mile stretch between Plumstead and Abbey Wood stations in south-east London, and includes the design and build elements for the new Abbey Wood station, which is the current terminus Crossrail station on the Kent spur.

The station work will include two new Crossrail platforms, while lifts and escalators will provide improved access. In addition, a four-track route will be created, requiring Network Rail to improve five bridges and build two new overhead electrified lines between Plumstead and Abbey Wood, giving capacity to run 12 Crossrail trains an hour from the central tunnel section to the new terminus.

The transformed Abbey Wood station is expected to act as a catalyst for the regeneration of the surrounding area, and provide opportunities for local employment, meeting the development aspirations of the two London boroughs it services, Greenwich and Bexley. The sections of Crossrail that are on the existing network cover 70km of track and 28 stations from Maidenhead to Shenfield and Abbey Wood.

Network Rail has also issued an invitation to tender for the design development of the major rail infrastructure project at Stockley Flyover, in West London, to progress the development of Crossrail.

The flyover is located in the very busy Heathrow Airport Junction area, servicing trains to and from Heathrow as well as those on the Great Western Main Line. When Crossrail services begin in 2017, even more trains will travel along the lines, so work is needed to improve capacity in the area. The work will consist of a new flyover constructed near the existing layout to provide a separate route for trains crossing the main line.

Grand Central on target for Bradford service launch

Grand Central is on target to start running direct rail services between Bradford Interchange and London King's Cross at the start of the summer timetable on 23rd May.

The 'West Riding' service will provide three trains a day in each direction and is confidently expected to prove particularly popular with the Bradford business community. Class 180s will be employed, and the journey time is expected to be about three hours and 20 minutes. The trains will stop at Halifax, Brighouse, Wakefield, Pontefract and Doncaster, and test running and crew training is set to start in a few weeks time.

Last year, Grand Central was finally granted permission to run the services along the East Coast Main Line after a long battle to secure track access rights. Although the timetable has yet to be confirmed, weekday trains are expected to depart from Bradford at 06.51, 10.22 and 15.46, and from London at 10.48, 14.48 and 19.48.

New deep-sea terminal to be built at Port of Bristol

The Government has approved a scheme to build a new deep-sea terminal at the Port of Bristol, alongside the existing facilities at Avonmouth.

The new terminal will be built partly on land reclaimed from the River Severn and will enable Bristol to handle some of the world's biggest container ships, which are currently unable to fit through the narrow lock entrances at the existing Avonmouth Docks. The increase in capacity will mean the Port of Bristol will be able to handle an extra 1.5 million 20-foot equivalent container units a year, and container traffic by rail would be considered a must.

▼ **Under a very threatening sky, Class 66/4 No. 66420 heads north along the West Coast Main Line at Garstang, north of Preston, on 30th March while working empty timber wagons from the Kronospan factory at Chirk to Carlisle yard. While Colas has used its own Class 66/8s on this train, this occasion was the first working of a DRS member of the '66' fleet. Anthony Roberts**

UK News In Brief

■ Plans for a newly-constructed £3.5 million station at Kidderminster were displayed for public comment on 30th March, and are going to be shown again on 15th April at the Corn Exchange between 14.00 and 16.00. Construction work is due to start in the summer, and will include improvements being made to the pedestrian link between the station and that of the SVR.

■ Maidenhead station is to become one of the key access points for visitors to boating events at Eton Dorney Lake during the 2012 Olympics. The station has rail links with Windsor and Eton Riverside and also Slough, which is to receive a £2.5 million upgrade to give disabled people better access. The Olympic Delivery Authority has designated all three stations as key arrival and departure points.

■ The historical group, Strathleven Artizans, has adopted Renton station, on the line to Balloch, which is now a heritage centre forming a tribute to Robert the Bruce. The old booking hall was officially reopened on 27th March, and now sports a painted ceiling recalling the Battle of Bannockburn as well as a variety of exhibits. This is an excellent example of how 'Adopt a Station' is encouraged by ScotRail.

■ Eddie Stobart Ltd, part of Stobart Group, has been awarded a three-year warehousing and distribution contract with AG Barr plc, the major supplier of soft drinks. The contract, which will be worth around £18 million over three years, involves the consolidation of deliveries at the newly created central stockholding warehouse in Crick and distribution to retailers throughout the country. Eddie Stobart will move stock by rail from AG Barr's factory in Cumbernauld to the distribution centre in Crick, which will generate significant environmental savings. Operations are due to commence in May this year.

■ The refurbishment/refresh of the entire Southeastern Networker Fleet, which is now underway, is to involve both Wabtec Doncaster and Bombardier Wolverton. The Class 465/0s and 465/1s consisting of units Nos. 465001 to 465050 and 465151 to 465197 are going to Wolverton, and the programme will take some 18 months to complete. The '465/2s', '465/9s' and two-car '466s', however, consisting of units Nos. 465235 to 465250, 465901 to 465934 and 466001 to 466043 that are going to Doncaster, will take around four years to complete. The oldest units are now approaching up to 20 years in continuous service.

■ Tipton station has reopened a month early, with London Midland services returning from 28th March, following a £2.5 million refurbishment. The station was closed in the middle of last September and initially was not expected to reopen until May. It will now be easier for passengers to get on and off the platforms by providing step-free access. The gap between the platform and trains has also been reduced.

£17.8 million for longer trains in South Yorkshire

South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive has welcomed an announcement by Transport Minister, Chris Mole, in which he pledges Government funding of £17.8 million to provide longer trains at peak times, many travelling through the region.

Eight additional carriages will now allow many two-car East Midlands services on the Nottingham-Sheffield-Manchester-Liverpool route to be upgraded to four-cars from May 2011, which will mean the number of seats to Sheffield will effectively be doubled on key peak time services into the city. Furthermore, from December 2012 it is promised that all of these trains will be four-car.

Meanwhile eight more carriages are also being provided on Northern Rail routes to/from Manchester to provide another 130 seats for passengers travelling into Sheffield in the morning peak on the local stopping services.

Box Tunnel view is opened up after lineside clear-up

Thanks to a major lineside clean-up, Box Tunnel's famous western portal can be seen displayed in its full splendour for the first time in decades.

The western portal of the tunnel is the grand entrance to the 2,964-metre long structure, and until now, the view of its decorated façade from the public viewing platform on London Road (A4 Bath) had been blocked by overgrown vegetation along the railway embankment.

The invasive plants have now been carefully removed to make room for non-invasive ones to flourish, and new trees are to be planted without blocking the newly restored view of the Grade II listed structure. The viewing platform is the only vantage point of the western portal that is most accessible to the public and it is a popular destination for Brunel enthusiasts.

Network Rail's initiative is welcomed and backed by the Railway Heritage Trust, Box and Colerne Parish Council and Wiltshire Council. It also pays tribute to the engineer's 204th birthday on 9th April and the upcoming 175th anniversary of Great Western Railway.

Box was the longest railway tunnel at the time of its completion in 1841 and was the final and largest engineering work on the Great Western. It is said that Brunel had deliberately aligned the structure so that the rising sun is visible through it on his birthday every year! The western portal of the Tunnel is designed in classical style, influenced by the architectural design of nearby Bath.

▼ **The western portal of Box Tunnel between Chippenham and Bath during the process of removing the lineside vegetation. Network Rail**

Eurotunnel discusses permitted trains

Eurotunnel is in discussion with the Intergovernmental Commission over amendments to the safety regulations that restrict the types of train permitted to use the tunnel, notably the requirement that they should be capable of being split in an emergency and driven out separately.

The company has now set up a working group to assess the safety of running shorter trains, so that open-access operators would be able to use the Channel Tunnel more economically. The 393 metre-long Class 373 Eurostar sets were designed to ensure that wherever they stopped, passengers would be able to evacuate into the service tunnel through one of the cross-passages spaced at 375 metre intervals. Obtaining a derogation from the Intergovernmental Commission would be a major step in the liberalisation of Channel Tunnel passenger traffic, which would assist the arrival of competitors such as Deutsche Bahn. Insiders believe that the German operator could well be running high-speed services between Frankfurt and London as early as the December 2012 timetable change.

▶ **The first Class 172 Turbostar for London Overground, No. 172001, is pictured on 9th April passing the site of Widmerpool station on the Old Dalby test track. Eight two-car units will replace Class 150s on Gospel Oak-Barking services. Dave Coxon**

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RMT union to re-ballot members on strike action

Following no significant progress being made in the negotiations between Network Rail and the RMT union the RMT balloted for, and announced strike action during the week following Easter, as reported last issue.

Network Rail says it uncovered what it believed to be "scores of inaccuracies and deficiencies with the signallers ballot, leading the company to conclude in its papers to the RMT that it had "manifestly failed to comply with the requirements of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act of 1992". The railway operators stated that the inaccuracies included, among others, the balloting of 11 signal boxes that do not exist - one example being Chalford signal box, near Gloucester, that closed in the mid-1960s and 67 locations were balloted where the number of RMT members exceeds the total number of employees that work there.

As a result, Network Rail made and won an application for an injunction against the action at the High Court, although the company emphasised that they wanted to find a "negotiated settlement to this dispute". Reacting to the Court's verdict, Network Rail Director of Operations and Customer Service, Robin Gisby said the fact that the strike is off was good for passengers, a "dispute with the unions remains however, and we have a responsibility to our people to continue talking to the unions to find a settlement that works for us all."

In a statement, the RMT General Secretary, Bob Crow, said that all strike action from signallers and maintenance workers was called off and that operations and infrastructure members would be reballoted as soon as possible.

▼ **First Capital Connect Class 319/3 No. 319376 arrives at Luton on the 13.03 service from Bedford to St Pancras International on 3rd April. On the right, works are underway on the major project that involves bridge replacement and widening, track and signals remodelling and platform lengthening, all part of the Thameslink Programme. Ray Walkington**

The News In Pictures

◀ Southeastern Class 375s Nos. 375613 and 375805 head a diverted London Victoria to Ramsgate train through Gravesend on 3rd April. The train was diverted due to its normal route via Bromley South and Sole Street being closed as a result of the relaying of the junction at Swanley. Of note are the dual numbers of the front end in different colours and typefaces.
Roger Goodrum

▼◀ The 6½ mile Watford Junction to St. Albans branch was opened by the L&NWR in 1858, becoming the first railway to reach St. Albans. In the 1960s, the line was a candidate for closure under the Beeching régime, but managed to survive through local opposition. New housing developments have brought increased patronage, and the line was electrified in 1988. For the future, there is a proposal to convert the branch to light rail operation. London Midland Class 321/4 No. 321414 awaits departure at St. Albans Abbey forming the 13.52 service to Watford Junction on 20th March.
Phil Trotter

▼ Heritage green-liveried 3CIG EMU No. 1498 heads one of the half-hourly Brockenhurst to Lymington Pier shuttles on 28th March. The future of these units is currently uncertain. **Ian Hall**

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.

12th April 2010		
Railway Touring Co.	61994	Inverness - Kyle of Lochalsh (break/rev) & return
13th April 2010		
Railway Touring Co.	70013 & 61994	Inverness- Aviemore-Pitlochry-Perth-Dundee-Tay Bridge-Edinburgh
14th April 2010		
Railway Touring Co.	6201	Edinburgh Waverley-Berwick upon Tweed-Newcastle Central-York
	60019	York-Doncaster-Peterborough-London King's Cross
VSOE	35028	London Victoria- Salisbury-Westbury-Bristol TM and return
HF Railtours	60163	Crewe-Preston-Ravenglass-Workington-Carlisle-S&C-Wigan NW-Crewe
16th April 2010		
Vintage Trains	5043	Solihull-Dorridge-Warwick Parkway-Banbury-Oxford-Slough
17th April 2010		
Railtourer	2xWCRC 47	Skegness-Sleaford-Worcester-Evesham-Kemble-Oxford & return
Statesman Rail	tbc	Leicester-Loughborough-Langley Mill-Sheffield-S&C-Carlisle-Workington-Ulverston-Carnforth & return to Leicester
Pathfinder Tours	DBS 66 & FL Class 70	Swindon-Kemble-Stroud-Cheltenham Spa-Barnt Green-Birmingham NS-Crewe (DBS 66) - Preston-Lancaster-Carnforth-Hellifield-Leeds & rtn
Pathfinder Tours	FL Class 70	Leeds-Church Fenton-York-Harrogate-Leeds **Cancelled**
Pathfinder Tours	FL Class 70	Leeds-Micklefield-Selby-Hatfield & Stainforth-Wakefield Westgate-Leeds
UK Railtours	2xDBS 67	London Paddington-Reading-Exeter St. Davids-March Barton (Alphington Branch)-Exeter St. Davids-Okehampton-Exeter St. Davids and return to London.
Green Express Railtours	2xWCRC 47	Spondon-Langley Mill-Chesterfield-S&C-Carlisle-Edinburgh & return
Amethyst Experience Ltd	tbc	Stratford-Romford-Brentwood-Shenfield-Chelmsford-Keighley & return
Vintage Trains	5043	London Paddington-Reading-Swindon-Bath Spa-Bristol Temple Meads
Vintage Trains	5043	Bristol Temple Meads-Bristol Parkway-Badmington-Swindon-Paddington
Railway Touring Co.	6201	(Stevenage-Grantham-Leeds-)Hellifield-S&C-Carlisle-Hexham-Durham-York-(Doncaster-Newark Northgate and return)
18th April 2010		
SRPS Railtours	70013	Linlithgow-Forth Bridge-Kirkcaldy-Thornton Jcts-Cowdenbeath-Dunfirmline-Alloa-Stirling-Larbert-Linlithgow
SRPS Railtours	70013	Dalmeny-Inverkeithing-Kirkcaldy-Thornton Jcts-Cowdenbeath-Dunfirmline-Alloa-Stirling-Larbert-Linlithgow-Dalmeny- Inverkeithing
Vintage Trains	5043	Slough-Oxford-Banbury-Warwick Parkway-Dorridge-Solihull
21st April 2010		
A1 Steam Loco Trust	60163	London Euston-Crewe-Shap-Carlisle-S&C-London **Postponed**
22nd April 2010		
UK Railtours	2xDBS 67	London Victoria-Eastleigh-Fareham-Havant-Virginia Water-Victoria
23rd April 2010		
Steam Dreams	30777	London-Oxford-Banbury-Warwick-Stratford upon Avon & 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
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

Without doubt the highlight of the charters this coming weekend is the 'GWR 175' celebration charter featuring Tyseley's Castle class 4-6-0 No. 5043 *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe* **on a non-stop working between London Paddington and Bristol Temple Meads, celebrating the famous 'Bristolian' named train of the 1950s.**

The loco will work outwards to Temple Meads via Reading, Swindon, Chippenham and Bath Spa, while the return will be up Filton Bank to Bristol Parkway, and then along the Badminton route and through Chipping Sodbury Tunnel. Both trains are booked to operate non-stop, raising the question of how will the 'Castle' fare for water. All we can say is that Tyseley has a cunning plan up its sleeve, that will be revealed on the day. So says Tyseley's Chief Engineer, Bob Meanley, with more than a hint of mischief in his voice. Additionally, there will be positioning trains on 16th April from Solihull to Slough and returning on 18th April. Both workings are open to the public. All three trains are being run in conjunction with First Great Western, which will be providing a special HST service from Plymouth, picking up at key stations en route to Paddington, to connect with the down 'Bristolian', which will then carry them back to the West Country after leaving the steam service at Bristol.

Pathfinder's 'Yorkshire Dalesman' is booked for the first passenger use of one of Freightliner's Class 70 locos. The tour originates at Swindon, and picks up via Birmingham New Street to Crewe with a DBS Class 66, continuing to Leeds via Preston and the 'Little North Western' with the Class 70. A planned 'mini-tour' around the Harrogate Circle has been replaced with a circular from Leeds to Hatfield and Stainforth, outwards through Micklefield and the Selby Curve and returning via Wakefield Westgate.

UK Railtours head for North Devon from London Paddington, which includes visiting Okehampton. An added bonus is a venture down into Exeter City Basin on the outward leg when the tour offers the chance to travel over the very short and very rare Alphington Branch, which diverges, from the main line just south of Exeter St Thomas to Marsh Barton.

WCRC Class 47s will be the traction on two tours, firstly for Railtourer from Skegness for a trip to Oxford, running outwards via Worcester, Cheltenham Spa and the Golden Valley to Swindon and returning by the more direct route through Banbury and Leamington Spa. Green Express has its first charter of the year with a tour to Edinburgh Waverley, via the Erewash Valley, before traversing the S&C and Beattock.

Newcomer, The Amethyst Experience, is due to operate its first outing on 17th April with a trip from Stratford, which picks up along the Great Eastern to Colchester, prior to heading across country to Keighley.

In addition to 'The Bristolian', the pick of the steam tours is probably HF Railtours' working on 14th April from Crewe to Carlisle with the A1 Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado*, which introduces the new loco to the delights of the Cumbrian Coast railway outwards, and the slog of the Settle & Carlisle on the return. Also heading for the S&C on 17th April is Princess Royal No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth*, with RTC's 'The Hadrian' from Stevenage, which features the loco from Hellifield via the S&C to Carlisle, and then, back to York along the Tyne Valley and ECML.

The VSOE British Pullman will be out on 14th April with a working from London Victoria to Bristol Temple Meads, believed to be steam-hauled throughout via Wokingham, Berks & Hants and Bath Spa, which will feature Merchant Navy Pacific No. 35028 *Clan Line*.

Last, but very much not least, is the SRPS 'Forth Circle and Fife Coast' trains on 18th April, featuring Britannia Pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell*. The morning train originates at Linlithgow, and the afternoon working from Dalmeny, which both initially run along the Fife Coast before turning westwards at Thornton Junctions to head for the Alloa and Stirling line, via Cowdenbeath and Dunfermline. From Stirling the route is through Larbert, Falkirk Grahamston and Polmont, to set down at Linlithgow in the morning, prior to running ECS to Dalmeny for the afternoon working.

Dee Marsh & Rawtenstall

The Branch Line Society's first tour of the year on 12th June is due to feature Class 40 No. 40145 *East Lancashire Railway* **on a circular tour from Crewe to Rawtenstall.**

'The Wrexham & Lancashire Railtour' will, as usual with BLS charters, travel over unusual sections of track at various locations with the outline route taking in Stafford and Telford Central, which along with Crewe are pick-up points, and then continuing onwards via Shrewsbury to Wrexham and Dee March. It will then proceed via Chester, Warrington Bank Quay, Parkside and Manchester Victoria to Castleton, where it will move on to ELR metals through to Rawtenstall. The train returns via Stockport to Crewe. For more information, together with a detailed itinerary, go to www.branchline.org.

▶ **LNER Gresley-designed A4 class Pacific No. 60019** *Bittern* **passes Willesden Carriage Sidings on 27th March, with the 08.08 London Euston - Manchester charter service, 'The Palatine'. Ken Brunt**

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The tour will run on Monday 31st May 2010 picking up at:

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Railtalk Magazine

Ups & Downs

by John Whitehouse

■ The Cumbrian and Durham Coast lines are due to be graced with Class 52 traction soon, as Compass Railtours will be using No. D1015 *Western Champion* for the first time on one of its tours. The projected date is 30th August, and the charter will be open for booking later this month. It is due to originate at Crewe, and run via Hooton and Ellesmere Port, before working around the Cumbrian Coast, avoiding Carlisle to take the Tyne Valley to Durham, with an optional add-on tour via Ferryhill, Hartlepool, Sunderland and Newcastle. The return is via Leeds, the Aire Valley and the 'Little North Western'.

■ PMR Tours will be looking to mark the expiry of *Duchess of Sutherland's* main line ticket later this year with a number of trips, the highlight of which is a long day out from Carnforth, via Shap and Beattock, to Stirling. Projected date is 2nd October. Also look out for a run along the southern section of the West Coast Main Line, details of which are still very much in the planning stage.

▲ On 3rd April, Railtourer operated a charter from Bedford to York and Scarborough, with motive power supplied by WCRC Class 47s Nos. 47787 and 47826. Prior to the return working, No. 47787 failed with a reported blown turbo and its classmate failed to start, resulting in Malcolm Rail-liveried, DRS-operated Class 66/4 No. 66412 being called out as 'Thunderbird' from York to work the train back to Bedford. The '66' stayed with the set, working the ECS back to Carnforth the following day. Here, No. 66412 pilots No. 47826, still with its Scarborough Spa Express promotional decals, and with No. 47787 'dead' on the rear, around the curves at Kirkham Abbey, between Malton and York. **David Hainsworth**

Denton: An Update

In response to speculation in the last issue that *Western Champion* will call at Denton station, we are grateful to Kevin Melia of Compass Railtours, who advises that Denton is perhaps not quite so isolated as was thought.

Compass operated a Class 47-hauled tour from Preston to Cardiff, via the Central Wales Line, which called at Denton southbound on 29th April 2006. The train was greeted by the Manchester Evening News as being the first to call at Denton southbound for over a decade. Just over two years later, on 2nd August 2008, Class 40 No. 40145 picked- up and set-down at Denton on a Compass charter from Stafford to the Cumbrian Coast and S&C. In answer to when such an event is likely to be repeated, the answer is 29th May this year, when Compass has a Class 67-hauled tour from Hooton calling at Denton in each direction, outwards via the S&C and returning around the Cumbrian Coast.

UK Railtours operate shuttles and charter service for Wolverton event

UK Railtours (UKR) has provided advance information of tours in the pipeline associated with the Wolverton Works Open Weekend, which is due to take place on 14th/15th August.

The first day will be highlighted by two planned shuttle workings from Northampton, Wolverton and Milton Keynes Central, which will run via the Bletchley Flyover as far as Swansbourne on the disused branch to Claydon Junction. After reversal, the shuttle will then re-cross the flyover and take the Bedford line at Bletchley Flyover Junction and continue to Bedford. A further reversal will return the shuttle across the line via Fenny Stratford to Bletchley, and then back to Northampton, setting down at Milton Keynes Central and Wolverton.

The first shuttle is timed to depart around 10.00, and the second around 14.00. 'Top and tail' DBS Class 66s will feature. Engineering work precludes a re-run of the shuttles next day, so UKR, unusually for them, start a railtour at Preston for an outing to Wolverton, for direct access to the Works, or Milton Keynes Central for a bus shuttle to the Works. The train will be hauled by a DBS Class 92 (two different locomotives will feature), and it will pick up at Wigan North Western, Warrington Bank Quay and Crewe. It is routed via the Trent Valley.

The Preston start is significant, as UKR has acquired the legal title to the old Past Time Rail mailing list from that company's liquidator, which effectively opens up the Midlands and North Western markets, where Past Time was particularly strong. This does not mean a dilution of operators from UKR's traditional south-eastern base, as trains working from the Midlands and North-West will complement UKR's existing operations. Full details of the Wolverton trains will be available in due course, and we await with interest the company's future expansion north of the M25 corridor.

Sir Nigel Gresley withdrawn from 'Coronation' charter in May

The A4 Locomotive Society has taken the precaution of advising Steam Dreams that it cannot guarantee the availability of A4 Pacific No. 60007 *Sir Nigel Gresley* **for its booked working on the southern legs of 'The Coronation' in May.**

The locomotive has been undergoing its scheduled winter maintenance at its base at Grosmont on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, and as part of the routine checks, a dye penetration test revealed a small crack on the rear valve liner of the middle cylinder. As both valve liners in the middle cylinder had been re-bored on several occasions, the decision was made to replace both as a precaution. By late March, the new liners had been cast and were at Crewe for machining, and are to be delivered to Grosmont during the early part of this month. Refitting will involve freezing the new liners in order to facilitate installation, following which is the job of reassembly. The Society recognise that this will take time, as the loco will need to be passed by the Vehicle Acceptance Board as well as being run-in on the NYMR.

As a consequence, the decision has been taken to effectively withdraw from Steam Dreams 'Coronation', to provide good time to source a replacement locomotive. The good news is that in addition to having full-sized middle cylinder liners, which should last many years, the society is now confident of being ready to resume their booked main line turns in June, which include two 'Cathedral Expresses' for Steam Dreams, one to Bristol Temple Meads on 10th June and the other to Nottingham seven days later.

You can view the long-term line-up of railtours by visiting the railtours section of our website click here or visit www.railwayherald.com

▶▲ **LMS Pacific No. 6201** *Princess Elizabeth* **passes Streatham on 25th March, the train being the 'Cathedrals Express' to Bristol via the Surrey Hills & Reading. Leslie Bailey**

▶ **Returning from York with the 'Help for Heroes' charter on 27th March, BR Standard 'Britannia' Pacific No. 70048** *The Territorial Army 1908-1958* **(alias No. 70013** *Oliver Cromwell***) pilots LMS 8F 2-8-0 No. 48151 through Normanton, past the site of the former Goose Hill Junction. The '8F' was standing in for LMS 'Royal Scot' No. 46115** *Scots Guardsman* **which was still undergoing repairs. Denis Williams**

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On 20th March, Pathfinder Tours operated 'The Western Rocks' charter with 'Western' No. D1015 *Western Champion* from Bristol Temple Meads to Buxton. The return journey ran via the freight-only line through Peak Forest. Masquerading on one side as classmate No. D1054 *Western Governor*, the diesel-hydraulic makes a fine sight powering up the climb to Peak Forest from a standing start at Great Rocks. **Jonathan Stevenson**

▲ The Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway began services on the Manuel extension on 27th March, with LNER D49 class 4-4-0 No. 246 *Morayshire* working the service, seen here crossing the River Avon under a stormy sky with the 15.30 departure from Bo'ness to Manuel. **Paul Armitage**

SRPS opens its extension to Manuel to passengers

The Scottish Railway Preservation Society (SRPS) has extended the Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway for a further 1.5 miles from Birkhill to Manuel, and passengers are now able to travel along the full length of the line for the first time in over 50 years.

The extension cost only £125,000, thanks to an army of volunteer workers, who saved an estimated £600,000 in labour costs. The society has operated the railway since 1979, with Bo'ness station opening in 1981. The line was restored for passenger trains and extended to Kinneil in 1987 and to Birkhill in 1989. The final section between Birkhill and Manuel was relaid in 1990 to provide a connection with the Edinburgh to Glasgow main line at Manuel, but until now has only been used for moving locomotives and coaching stock to allow trains to reach Bo'ness from main line routes. Regular services will now run from Bo'ness to Manuel.

The SRPS has also been awarded £160,000 of capital funding from Museums Galleries Scotland towards the cost of providing a new EMU, DMU & carriage building with covered accommodation over the four roads at the east end of the yard at Bo'ness station, between the Reserve Collection Building and the Modern Motive Power Depot. The SRPS is one of 15 museums across Scotland that will share the £750,000 total award.

The project to provide covered accommodation will cost £200,000, with SRPS having to raise £40,000 of this figure. It will be used to house the Society's recently restored class 126 diesel multiple unit and the yet to be restored class 303 electric multiple unit (the former Glasgow 'blue train') as well as other items of rolling stock that are currently stored outside, where they are deteriorating rapidly from exposure to the elements. The project will be completed during 2011.

The awards from Museums Galleries Scotland are designed to improve the visitor experience to Scotland's recognised collections of national significance.

Severn Valley wins Talyllyn boiler job

The Severn Valley Railway has been awarded a contract to build the boiler for the Talyllyn Railway's 1866-built tank engine No. 2 *Dolgoch*, the existing boiler having been condemned as beyond repair in November last year.

Duncan Ballard, the Bridgnorth Boiler Contracts Foreman, said: "Since this facility opened in 1990, we have tackled every type of boiler repair, from building new sections of fireboxes, to making new copper tube plates and doorplates, so we have both the skills and the track record to build anew. In 1995, we constructed what was virtually a new boiler for the Isle of Man Railway 2-4-0 tank engine *Fenella*, but because it retained some of its original firebox parts, it was classified as a rebuild, not a new boiler. The contract to build the boiler for *Dolgoch* though, is a vote of confidence in the SVR's engineering facilities and expertise, which we have demonstrated over the last 20 years. We're well prepared for this challenge".

Royal Oak works first preservation trains

▼ **Class 50 No. 50017, previously named *Royal Oak* and still carrying the remains of its Coronation Scot livery applied while in VSOE ownership, hauled its first passenger trains in preservation on 3rd April. The working took place on the Plym Valley Railway and the '50' is pictured at Marsh Mills station with the 'Stag n Oak' private charter. Robert Sherwood**

Bury Transport Museum reopens after a two-year, £3 million restoration programme

HRH The Duke of Gloucester reopened the newly refurbished Bury Transport Museum on 26th March.

The museum, which is operated by the East Lancashire Railway, has undergone a major two year restoration programme at a cost of more than £3 million, and the former East Lancashire Railway Goods Warehouse at Castlecroft, which dates from 1848, is now welcoming visitors once again. The Grade II listed building was closed to the public in 2003, following concerns about the condition of the roof, which has required complete replacement.

Along with this major project, a host of other structural works has transformed the museum from its previous run-down condition into a showpiece attraction that is very different from that which greeted visitors before it was closed, the building now having a bright, airy and spacious exhibition of historic road and rail vehicles, along with transport artefacts and interactive displays telling the story of local transport through the ages.

The project has been funded by a number of organisations, with the principal contributions made by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Northwest Regional Development Agency, Biffaward, PEC, Bury Metropolitan Borough Council, the East Lancashire Light Railway Co Ltd and the East Lancashire Railway Preservation Society.

The Museum is open from Wednesday to Sunday every week and also on Bank Holiday Mondays (excluding Christmas Day) from 10.00 to 16.00. More information can be found at the new Bury Transport Museum website at www.burytransportmuseum.org.uk

▲ An view of the ELR Bury Castlecroft Museum of Transport on the occasion of its formal opening by HRH the Duke of Gloucester. In the foreground is the Bury Royal train, which completed the last 25 yards of its journey hauled by ex-Manchester Ship Canal, Hudswell Clarke-built 0-6-0ST *Gothenburg*.

▼◀ HRH The Duke of Gloucester at the opening.

▼ The Duke joined the ELR Royal Train, consisting of Pete Waterman's observation coach, at Bury Bolton Street, which was hauled the short distance to the headshunt by Ian Riley's 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 44871, motive power then being provided by the industrial tank *Gothenburg*. **All: Chris Dixon**

◀▲ Ex-BR Standard Class 4MT 2-6-4T No. 80072 heads south past the signal gantry at Beeches Road, Loughborough, with a service for Leicester North on 26th March, the second day of the GCR 1960s Gala weekend. **Mick Rogers**

▲ Former Southend coal yard Class 03 No. D2184 'tops and tails' a brake van special with No. D2041 at the Colne Valley Railway on 28th March. **Stuart Chapman**

Strathspey starts £5 million appeal

The Strathspey Railway has officially started an appeal to raise £5 million to lay the remaining three miles of track needed to connect Aviemore with Grantown-on-Spey.

The money would also pay for a bridge donated by Network Rail to be put in place across the River Dulnain.

Trains already operate throughout the season on almost 10 miles of line from Aviemore to Broomhill, and the railway hopes to complete the project by 2014.

Eric Treacy is almost back in traffic

◀ An almost, but not quite complete LMS 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 45428 *Eric Treacy* stands outside the running shed at Grosmont during the NYMR's Bridge 30 Reopening Weekend. The locomotive is to undergo running in trials, before re-entering service on the railway. **Andrew Graves**

Under a grey sky, Peppercorn A1 Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* **accelerates away from Loughborough Central with a train for Leicester North on the afternoon of 26th March, forming part of the Great Central Railway's four-day 1960s Gala weekend. Mick Rogers**

The days of Great Western excursion trains are recalled as double headed 'Manors' Nos. 7802 *Bradley Manor* **and 7812** *Erlestoke Manor* **depart from Bewdley on the Severn Valley Railway during a Matt Fielding photographic charter on 26th March. Stuart Chapman**

East Midlands Trains Class 158 No. 158788 calls at Heckington on 31st March with the 10.51 service to Skegness from Nottingham. **Graham Lightfoot**

▲ EWS-liveried Class 92 No. 92031 hauls a short consist through Crewe on a Willesden to Garston working on 30th March. **Brad Joyce**

◀ A lowly duty for Royal Train-liveried Class 67 No. 67005 *Queen's Messenger* as it performs shunting duties with a rake of HTA hoppers at Walton Sidings, Warrington, in early April. **Jeff Nicholls**

▶ DBS-liveried Class 67 No. 67018 *Keith Heller* arrives at Stafford to run-round, while working from Crewe to Stoke with a wagon maintenance trip. **Brad Joyce**

Riviera Trains Class 47/4s Nos. 47805 and 47839 lead the 06.05 Washwood Heath to Boston steel empties past Quarrington on 31st March. The train was late leaving Washwood Heath and had been an hour down earlier in the journey. It had been planned to be worked by Class 56s Nos. 56311 and 56312, but both 'Grids' had failed the previous day. As no Colas Rail locos were available, the two Riviera Class 47s were called in to deputise. **Steve Harper**

▲ Class 66/0 No. 66181 enters Stirling on 19th March, hauling the 14.28 Hunterston-Longannet Power Station loaded HTA hoppers. In the background can be seen Stirling Middle Signal Box. Opened on 4th August 1901, Stirling Middle was one of three large boxes that controlled the station and the surrounding junctions. Two of these are still in use today, the box is of the Caledonian Railway's Northern Division 1889 design. **Bill Turvill**

▶ Class 92 No. 92017 *Bart the Engine* climbs through Beckfoot with the 06.25 Rugby to Mossend Stobart Rail service on 19th March. **Mick Langton**

12th April 2010

Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln. 'On and Off the Footplate' by Bill Davies. Starts 20.00. Contact the Secretary on 01522 705365 for further details

Permanent Way Institution (Bristol & West of England)
STEAM Museum, Swindon. 'High Speed 2 - Turning Hope into Action' by Andrew McNaughton. Meeting commences at 18.00. Contact the Secretary, Phil Harrison on 0117 976 5432 or at philip.harrison@arup.com for details.

Permanent Way Institution (London)
10th Floor Restaurant, 55 Broadway (LUL HQ), London. 'Cooling the Tube' by Kevin Payne. Meeting starts at 18.00. Contact the Secretary, Shazma Mahmood-Shakoor on 07921 943820 for further details..

RCTS (Ashford)
The Elwick Club, Church Road, Ashford. 'The Gazira Light Railway of the Sudan' by Alan Wild. Meeting starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary at southeast@rcts.org.uk for details.

RCTS (Croydon)
Small Hall, United Reform Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon. 'The Development of the Railway Poster as an Art Form' by Peter Hay. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Ipswich)
Bridge Ward Social Club, 68 Austin Street, Ipswich. 'ASnother Look at Ireland' by David Soggee. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary at ipswich@rcts.org.uk for further details.

RCTS (Sheffield)
St Matthews Church Rooms, Carver Street, Sheffield. '60 Years dow the Line with a Camera in Tow' by Martin Welch. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Wellingborough)
British Rail Sports and Social Club, Broad Green, Wellingborough. 'A to Z of Engine Sheds part 2' by Chris Banks. Meeting starts 14.00.

Severn Valley Railway (Wolverhampton)
Old Wulfrunians Club, 253A Castlecroft Road, Castlecroft, Wolverhampton, WV3 8NA. 'The Last 30 Years of British Steam' by Hugh Ballantyne. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Southern Electric Group (Sussex)
Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre. '85 Years of Southern Electrics' by Ted Goodman. Meeting commences at 19.30. Donation of £2 requested. Contact Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094 or at b.cakebread@ntlworld.com for further details.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
;New Trinity Parish Hall, Saltcoats, Ayreshire. 'Ayrshire Centre AGM and Members Night. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01294 822303 for further details.

Wrexham Rly Society
St Mary's Catholic Club, Regent Street, Wrexham. 'Rocket 150' by Eric Shenton. Meeting commences at 19.45. Admission £2.

York Railway Circle
The Library, Archbishop Holgate's School, Hull Road, York. 'Photographing Trains Around the World' by Robin Patrick. Meeting starts 19.30. Contact Robin Patrick at locopatrick@aol,com for details.

13th April 2010

Abergavenny and District Steam Society
Upper Room, The Hen & Chickens, Flannel Street, Abergavenny 'Stephenson Locomotive Society?' Meeting starts 20.00. Contact Ken Mumford at ken.mumford@ntlworld.com for further details

Great Western Society (Bristol)
BAWA, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol BS34 7RG. '150 Years of the Somerset & Dorset Joint Railway' by Mike Beale. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact the Secretary on 01454 324230 for further details

Monmouthshire Railway Society
Room A28, UWCN, Allt-Yr-Yn Ave, Newport, South Wales. 'Out & About in the Last 12 Months' by H.Gould. Meeting commences at 19.30. Admission: non-members £3. See www.mrsoc.co.uk for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (Darlington & North East)
Railway Athletic Club, Brinkburn Road, Darlington. 'Track Renewals on the Manx Electric Railway' by Alastair Gregory and Steve Goodwin. Meeting commences at 18.15. Contact the Secretary, Dave Lugsden on 07825 766328 or at david.lugsden@networkrail.co.uk for further details.

RCTS (Nottingham)
Nottingham Mechanics Ground Floor, 3 North Sherwood Street, Nottingham. 'In Retrospect - A Review of 1979/1989/1999/2009' by Roger Jones. Meeting starts 19.30.

Tewkesbury Rly Society
YMCA, Church Street, Tewkesbury. 'The Severn Valley Before Preservation' by David Postle. Meeting commences at 19.45.

14th April 2010

Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St. Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'The Bluebell Railway - past, present and future; by Tony Drake. Meeting commences at 20.00. Visitors Welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01256 819401 for further details.

Bromsgrove Rly Club
St Godwalds Church Hall, Aston Fields, Bromsgrove. 'From Black to Blue Green to Grey' by Paul Chancellor. Meeting starts 19.45. Contact Dave on 01527 873800 or Gordon on 05127 873609 for details.

Oxfordshire Rly Society
Seacourt Day Centre, Seacourt Road, Botley, Oxford OX2 9LN. 'A Tour De France by Train' by Michael Bunn. Meeting commences at 19.30. Visitors welcome £3.

Permanent Way Institution (Lancaster, Barrow & Carlisle)
Carnforth Station Visitor Centre. 'Blackburn to Hellifield Works'. Also AGM. Starts 18.00. Contact Philip Bull on 07920 702614 for details.

RCTS (Cardiff)
Old Church Rooms, Park Road, Radyr. 'Syphons in South Wales, the South West and Scotland and Stuff' by Adrian Kenny. Starts 19.30. Contact noelinda@noel65.fsnet.fo.uk for details.

RCTS (Hitchin)
Hitchin Christian Centre, Bedford Road, Hitchin. On the Road to Mandalay' by Hugh Ballantyne. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Stephenson Loco Society
YMCA, Bridge Street, Guildford. 'From Banker to Train Driver' by Alan Nicholls. Meeting starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01373 379216 for further details.

Swiss Railways Society (London)
The Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London N1 9AT. (near Kings Cross Station) Branch AGM & supporting programme. Meeting starts 19.00. £2 Donation. Contact Ron Dawes on 0208 660 3532 for further details.

15th April 2010

Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society
Roundhouse Lecture Theatre, Barrow Hill, Chesterfield. 'Early Days on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway' by David Birtle. Meeting starts 19.30. £2 non members. Contact beardspaul@aol.com for details.

Breconshire Rly Society
R.A.F.A.Club, The Struet, Brecon. 'The Daffodil Line' by David Postle. Starts 19.30. Members only. Contact the Secretary, Arthur Robinson on 01982 560219 for further details and all membership enquiries.

Festiniog Rly Society (White Rose Group)
Oxford Place Methodist Centre, Oxford Place, Leeds. LS1 3AX "Shipley Station, the Baildon line and the Otley-Ilkley Joint Railway" by Robin Leleux. Meeting starts at 19.30. Contact Paul Martin on 01904 331973 for further details

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (North West)
The Parkside Room, St David's Social Centre, 249 Wargrave Road, Newton-le-Willows, WA12 8EW. 'Steam under the Southern Sun'by Geoff Monks. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Marlow & District Railway Society
British Red Cross Society, Victoria Road, Marlow. 'South African Railways' by Ron White. Meeting commences at 20.00. Non-members admission £2.

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.

▼ With Fastline Freight having ceased operations, the leasing company that owns its wagon fleet has moved the vehicles from Derby Chaddleston Sidings into secure storage, with Colas Rail being contracted for the moves. Here, No. 47739 *Robin of Templecombe* approaches Clay Mills on 3rd April, with the second movement of ex-Fastline coal hoppers, the 13.00 Chaddesden Sidings to Gloucester New Yard. John Illingworth

Permanent Way Institution (Nottingham & Derby)
Jurys Inn Hotel Station Street, Nottingham. 'Engineering Track Systems for the East London Line' by Barnaby Temple & Paul Insley. Starts 18.30. Contact Colin Cowey on 07946 482343 for further details.

RCTS (Darlington)
The Scout Building, Widdowfield Street, Darlington. 'Tornado's Story so Far' by Graeme Bunker. Meeting Starts at 19.00. Contact the Secretary at jimbrick@fsmail.net for details.

RCTS (Shipley)
Saltaire Methodist Chapel, Saltaire Road, Shipley. 'History of the Keighley and Worth Valley Railway' by David Scriven. Starts 19.30.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
United Reform Church Hall, Mowbray Road, New Barnet. 'Pictures from the Society's Photographic Collection' by Keith Greenwood. Starts 19.30. Contact 0208 368 6200 for further details.

16th April 2010
Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill)
The Angel Hotel, 26 College Road, Spinkhill, Sheffield S21 3YB. 'Trains, Trams, Trollies and Trivia' by Frank Greaves. Starts 19.30. Contact Frank Greaves on 01909 473927 for further details.

Great Western Society (Taunton)
Village Hall, Stoke St Mary, Nr Taunton. 'Trains in the Landscape' by Alan Randle. Starts 19.45. Contact 01823 334188 for further details.

17th April 2010
Great Western Society (South West)
The Parish Centre, Church End Road, Kingskerswell, Torbay. 'Roaming Northern Rails' by Peter Darke.

19th April 2010
RCTS (Chester)
The Town Crier, City Road/Station Road, Chester. AGM & Members' Digital Presentation. Meeting starts 19.45. Contact geoffreymorris@tiscali.com for further details.

RCTS (Coventry)
Maudslay Hotel, 190 Allesley Old Road, Coventry. 'Light Rail in France - The Current Scene' by Graham Jellett. Meeting starts at 19.30.

RCTS (Oxford)
West Oxford Democrats Club, 1 North Street, Osney. 'The Question is Why - 35 Years of Railway Photography' by John Tomlinson. Starts 19.30. Contact murraylewis@hotmail.co.uk for further details.

RCTS (Shenfield)
Shenfield Parish Hall, 60 Hutton Road, Shenfield. 'The Longmoor Military Railway' by Mike Walshaw. Meeting commences at 19.30.

20th April 2010
Permanent Way Institution (West Yorkshire)
The Pullman Room, The Cosmopolitan Hotel, 2 Low Briggate, Leeds LS1 4AE. 'Plain Line Track Renewals Using the Bottom Up Method' by Hugh Delahunt & Jamie Breckenridge. Meeting starts at 18.00. Contact the Secretary, Martin Wooff on 07747 160949 for details.

RCTS (Cheltenham)
Victory Club, Burlington House, Lypiatt Road, Cheltenham. 'Branch Annual Buisiness Meeting collowed by Members' Entertain'. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary at paulandpauline@gearey.fslife.co.uk for further details.

Stephenson Loco Society
Fox Covert Inn, High Leven, Nr Yarm. 'The Long Haul' by Alan Clothier. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01642 321205 for further details.

Tewkesbury Rly Society
YMCA, Church Street, Tewkesbury. Members Slides/Digi Evening. Meeting commences at 19.45.

21st April 2010
Permanent Way Institution (Bristol & West of England)
Great Western Hotel, Swindon. 'Cambrian Line ERTMS' by Jeremy Palmer. Starts 18.00. Contact Phil Harrison on 0117 976 5432 for details.

Permanent Way Institution (Glasgow)
Upstairs Lounge, The Iron Horse, West Nile Street, Glasgow. 'Project M6 Guardsmill - Construction of the Mossband Bridge Over the WCML'. Also AGM. Starts 17.30. Contact the Secretary, Jack Scott on 07789 765291 for details.

RCTS (Chichester)
Council Meeting Room 2, County Hall, West Street, Chichester. 'A Further Presentation on Historical Photography' by Brian Stephenson. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Eastleigh)/ Mid Hants Railway
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'War Department Locomotives' by Mike Hudson. Meeting commences at 19.45.

Severn Valley Railway (South East)
Wenlock Arms, 26 Wenlock Road, Islington, London N1 7TA. Members' Slides Evening. Starts 19.30.

22nd April 2010
Forensic Science Society
NRM, York. "Planes, Trains and Automobiles" - a one day event on accident investigation with speakers from TRL Limited, Forensic Science Service and British Transport Police. For more information please contact Keshia McGuire at the Forensic Science Society on 01423 506068 or e-mail conference@forensic-science-society.org.uk

Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend DA12 1BB. 'On and Off the Footplate No 2' by Bill Davies. Starts 19.45. Contact Roger Hart on 01474 833320 for details.

RCTS (Darlington)
The Scout Building, Widdowfield Road, Darlington. 'Now and Then' by Ken Horan. Starts 14.00. Contact jimbrick@fsmail.net for details.

23rd April 2010
Shropshire Rly Society
The Gateway Arts and Education Centre, Chester Road, Shrewsbury. AGM - Members only. Starts 19.30.

Stephenson Loco Society
The Mining Institute Lecture Theatre, Westgate Road, Newcastle. 'Steam in North East China' by Ian McInnes. Starts 19.00. Contact the Secretary on 01434 688946 for further details.

Swanage Railway (Bath)
St John's Church Hall, St John's Road, Bathwick, Bath. TBC. Starts19.30. Admission £1. Contact John Lakey on 01225 315918 for further details.

24th April 2010
Bournemouth Rly Club
All Purpose Room, Winton Methodist Community Centre, Alma Road/Heron Court Road, Bournemouth. 'All Sorts and Conditions' by Alan Thorpe. Starts 19.30. Admission £2. Contact Martyn Thresh at martyn.thresh@ntlworld.com.

26th April 2010
Permanent Way Institution (Ashford)
The Elwick Club, Church Road, Ashford. 'Cambrianco' by Phil Ransom. Starts 18.30. Contact Ted Hamer on 01227 711897 or at teditorial@talktalk.net for details.

RCTS (Brighton)
Brighton Model Railway Club Room, London Road Station, Shaftesbury Place, Brighton. 'An Emerald Cornucopia Ireland' by Bruce Cakebread. Meeting starts at 19.30.

RCTS (Maidenhead)
Cox Green Community Centre, Highfield Lane, Cox Green, Maidenhead. 'North American Wanderings' by Gordon Davies. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Sheffield)
St Matthews Church Rooms, Carver Street, Sheffield. 'The True Brit Rail' by Norman Brownell. Starts 19.30.

27th April 2010
RCTS (Nottingham)
Nottingham Mechanics, Ground Floor, 3 North Sherwood Street, Nottingham. 'The GNR/LNWR Joint Line + Leicester GN' by John Meredith. Meeting starts at 19.30.

RCTS (Scunthorpe)
The Star Public House, Rochdale Road, Ashby. 'Railways in Lincolnshire and the Surrounding Area' by Dave Smith. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Welwyn Garden City)
The Methodist Church, Junction of Ludwick Way and Colegreen Lane, Welwyn Garden City. 'Blue Grey to Black Green' by Paul Chancellor. Meeting commences at 14.15.

RCTS (Woking)
The Wheatsheaf Ember Inn, Chobham Road, Woking. 'Rail Competition - How Can it be Made to Work' by Ian Yeowart. Starts 19.30.

28th April 2010
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St. Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'Memories of an ex-BR Fireman' by Ken Horan. Starts 20.00. Visitors Welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01256 819401 for details.

RCTS (Redhill)
Redhill Methodist Centre, Gloucester Road, Redhill. 'The Spa Valley Railway and the Extension to Eridge' by Brian Halford. Meeting starts at 14.00.

30th April 2010
Great Western Society (North West)
St Hilda's Clubroom, Slater Street, Latchford, Warrington. Speaker from Didcot. Meeting starts 19.30.

Great Western Society (Oxford)
Pauling Human Resources Centre, 58 Banbury Road, Oxford. 'The North Wales Coast Line, Part II' by Peter Scudamore. Starts 19.30.

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

▼ **BR Standard 'Britannia' Pacific No. 70013** *Oliver Cromwell* **and LMS 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 44871 are seen on a positioning special approaching Craven Arms in pouring rain on 2nd April. John Edkins**

Magazine Information

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