Railway Herald

Issue 219 - 19th April 2010

The electronic journal for the railway enthusiast

Railway Herald

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19th April 2010

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Paul Bigland

Chaos at 10,000ft as ash cloud closes airspace

The unprecedented closure of the airspace over the UK and most of Northern Europe has cancelled an estimated 50,000 flights, bringing thousands of extra passengers for rail companies, both on internal UK services and on Eurostar and Eurotunnel shuttles.

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Front Cover Caption:

Ex-Sierra Leone No. 85 worked its last trains on the Welshpool & Llanfair Railway, before expiry of its 10-year boiler certificate, over the weekend of 10th/11th April. The loco is pictured climbing Golfa bank on 9th April, with the smart set of two coaches behind. John Stretton

▲ Network Rail explained its plans for the North Cotswold Line to the media and local stakeholders during an event on board the NMT. Providing an example of the timetabling problems on the route at present, the NMT, led by Class 43 powercar No. 43014, waits for a service train to arrive at Evesham, releasing the single-line section. Both: Jack Boskett

Network Rail outlines Cotswold line modernisation work

Around £70 million will be invested over the next two years to transform the North Cotswold line, with the redoubling scheme leading the way as it moves into the next phase.

Network Rail is investing an additional £3 million to renew life-expired track near Ascott-under-Wychwood and Evesham and to spruce up stations at Kingham, Moreton-in-Marsh and Evesham. Work will also be undertaken at Evesham to build a new platform to accommodate terminating services from Worcester.

As part of the redoubling work a new junction (single line to double line) will be constructed just west of Evesham, as the route from here to Norton Junction will remain single track.

Track renewal work will begin in June at Ascott-under-Wychwood and Evesham, followed by the improvement work to redouble parts of the North Cotswold route this autumn.

It is understood that part of the work involves the full re-signalling of the route during the coming summer, with all semaphore signals being removed and replaced with coloured light signals, although the signal boxes at Norton Junction, Evesham, Moreton-in-Marsh and Ascott-under-Wychwood will remain. The current token-based signalling system along the route will be upgraded with new axle counter technology to improve the reliability of the infrastructure. Signalling control panels at Evesham and Ascott-under-Wychwood will be modernised with digital equipment.

Level crossings along the route will be modified and updated with the latest equipment, improving the safety of the railway for road users, as the work will remove the remaining half barrier crossings. Network Rail says that around 90% of the work in the next phase of the redoubling scheme will be carried out overnight when trains are not running.

As well as the previously mentioned station renewals, the work also looks ahead to the future with three new platforms being built at Honeybourne - two for main line services and one for the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway, ready for when the heritage line's steam operations extend northwards from Broadway. In addition, the sidings at Honeybourne will be relaid using track that is life-expired for main line use but suitable for stabling charter and freight services either to and from Evesham or Long Marston, and the junction to the ex-MoD site at Long Marston will also be relaid.

The project is expected to be completed during the middle of next year.

▼ The information screen within the conference vehicle provides the low-down on the route, complete with the view from the video camera on the leading power car.

£2 million investment in stations

Investment of almost £2 million will provide enhancements at many Scottish stations by the end of April.

The improvements include new toilet facilities at Airdrie, Clydebank, Dumbarton Central, Hamilton Central, Inverness and Westerton, and the addition of showers at Inverness. New station entrance clocks are being provided at Bridgeton, Carntyne, Coatdyke, Craigendoran, Croftfoot, Garscadden, Hillfoot, Hillington East, Pollokshields East, Pollokshields West, Stepps and Stewarton, and there will be CCTV installed at Perth and automatic doors at Arbroath, Dumfries, Dunfermline Town, Huntly, Inverkeithing, Kilwinning, Kirkcaldy, Montrose and Motherwell. For the benefit of wheelchair users, variable height ticket office counters are being introduced at Dumfries, Johnstone and Lanark, and a ramp at Carnoustie now allows step-free access to the southbound platform.

▲ The first Class 70 to visit Scotland, No. 70005, worked north on 16th April, from York, via the East Coast Main Line. The loco is pictured passing through South Lanarkshire at Cartland. Kenny Marrs

Reopening possible for Midlands route?

There is the prospect of reopening the freight-only line between Ryecroft Junction, north of Walsall, and Castle Bromwich Junction to passenger traffic, and continuing such services to Birmingham Moor Street, via five stations at Streetly, Sutton Park, another central Sutton Coldfield site, Walmley and Minworth, the project being discussed as part of local authority plans to reopen the route.

The service, possibly half-hourly, would begin at the existing Walsall station. Documents show that the new stop planned for Streetly cannot be implemented at the area's former station site due to other development there, which means an alternative location, potentially costing £3.2 million, has been identified within the Sutton Park boundary. Next stop in the journey would be another park stop, temporarily dubbed Sutton Park station.

Around £2.8 million would be needed to build on the remnants of the disused station site, where only a platform currently remains. Just 800 metres away lies the proposed site of Sutton Town station. For £2.5 million, it too would be built on the site of a former station, located in Midland Drive. Walmley would follow suit and, for £2.5 million, would be situated where the old Penns Lane station used to be. A £3.8 million station in Minworth, close to Midpoint Park, would complete the five.

Trains would then call at new stations on the outskirts of Sutton Coldfield and Castle Bromwich before heading into the city. Annual passenger demand for a half-hourly service at the five stations is projected at anywhere between 58,000 and 142,000. The figures have been worked out based on two trains per hour between Walsall and Moor Street and another two per hour on a line linking Tamworth and Moor Street, which forms part of a wider plan.

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Chaos at 10,000ft, as air passengers turn to rail services

After the unprecedented closure of the airspace over the UK and most of Northern Europe on 15th April, thousands of airline passengers were left with nowhere to go after over 50,000 estimated flights were cancelled in four days, as a result of the volcanic ash cloud emanating from Iceland.

While trans-atlantic passengers, together with those flying to mainly non-European destinations, were hardest hit, a large number of those travelling within Britain were resorting to the trains.

On 16th April, Virgin Trains provided 2,000 extra seats to convey passengers along the West Coast of the country, mainly between Scotland, the Midlands and London. The extra capacity was offered through a combination of two extra trains and providing extra seats on eight others compared to the normal operation, and giving priority to Anglo-Scottish services. The extra trains were the 08.55 London Euston to Glasgow Central and the 15.40 Glasgow Central to London Euston.

On the opposite side of the country, operator East Coast was reporting that on 15th April its trains carried an extra 5,000 passengers - a 10% increase on a normal Thursday. Through the weekend, the company was operating additional Anglo-Scottish services and extending other trains from Newcastle through to Edinburgh, while early morning weekend services due to start from or terminate at Peterborough were extended southwards to London. An additional mid-day southbound service from Edinburgh was booked to run on Monday, together with mid-afternoon and late afternoon additional northbound trains, while four northbound Newcastle services are expected to continue to Edinburgh.

For passengers trying to cross the Channel, the choice was just as limiting, being an option of ferry services, which the operators were reporting high demand, or the Channel Tunnel. Eurostar are operating extra services with a spokesman telling the national media that the company had never seen so many passengers on its trains in one day. As of 10.00 on 17th April, all Eurostar services were fully booked for a 48 hour period!

Eurotunnel has also played its part in helping to move passengers, with additional shuttles being operated between Folkestone and Coquelles to accommodate an increasing number of people who have chosen to drive to the continent. The company reported on Saturday that more than 25,000 air travellers had already crossed the channel with Eurotunnel since Thursday.

▼ Passengers queue to buy tickets for Eurostar services at London St Pancras on 16th April. Paul Bigland

Eurostar to become an standalone company

Eurostar is moving to set up its high-speed service as a standalone company after years of negotiations.

The British government, along with French and Belgian state-owned rail companies, have announced that they will relinquish ownership of the company and instead create a new concern, which will be incorporated in Great Britain, with SNCF having the majority stake. Currently SNCF runs 62.5% of Eurostar, while Britain runs 32.5% and the Belgian rail group SNCB 5%.

The news comes as Eurostar's sales during the first three months of the year have seen a 5% increase, bringing turnover to £178 million. The number of passengers travelling on Eurostar during the first quarter of the year climbed to 2 million, compared with the same period last year when it transported 1.9 million passengers.

Also, Eurostar and SNCF are to trial a new service, enabling passengers to travel between the UK and Provence, connecting through Lille, in specially reserved coaches on connecting TGVs. On arrival at Lille, passengers will be given advice and directions for their onward travel. Tickets for travel to Lyon and Marseille on the connecting services are on sale now for travel from 1st June, and prices start from £109 return to Lyon and £119 return to Marseille. Journey time for travel between London and Lyon is around five hours and to Marseille around six and a half hours.

Over the coming months, Eurostar will seek feedback from passengers, and if the service proves popular, will look to extend it to other destinations.

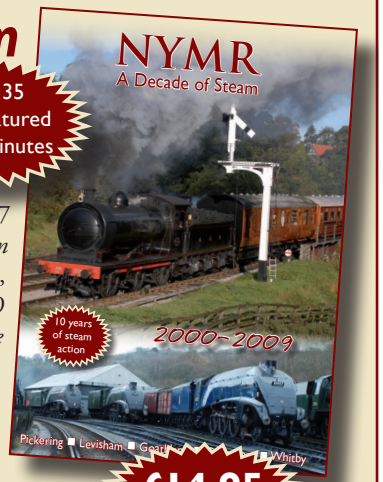
▲ **A rather bent and battered Class 66/0 No. 66048** *James the Engine* **was moved from Inverness to Toton, via Mossend and Bescot, over 9th-14th April. Here, the loco passes Euxton, Lancashire, on 13th April behind Class 92 No. 92037** *Sullivan* **on a Mossend to Hams Hall intermodal. Fred Kerr**

NYMR: *A Decade of Steam*

Charting the steam action on the NYMR between 2000 and 2009, this 100 minute long DVD programme features over 35 different steam locomotives hard at work on the line.

The engines featured include: GWR 3440 *City of Truro*, 4277 and 6619. SR 825, 32678, 34028 *Eddystone*, 34081 *92 Squadron* and 34101 *Hartland*. LMS 44767 *George Stephenson*, 45212, 45407, 49395 and 53809. LNER 60007 *Sir Nigel Gresley*, 60009 *Union of South Africa*, 60019 *Bittern*, 60163 *Tornado*, 60532 *Blue Peter*, 60800 *Green Arrow*, 61264, 61994 *The Great Marquess*, 62005, 63395 and 65462. BR 70013 *Oliver Cromwell*, 75014, 75029, 76079 and 90775. ***Running time: 100 minutes***

Over 35 locos featured in 100 minutes



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Photograph courtesy of Andrew P.M. Wright

▲ **Class 92 No. 92022** *Charles Dickens* **leads Class 37/4 No. 37425** *Pride of the Valleys* **and Class 90 No. 90029 past Cartland with the Mossend to Eastleigh 'Enterprise' working on 7th April. With snow duties in Scotland now finished, the future of the DB Schenker Class 37/4 fleet could look rather bleak. Nos. 37401 (brought south from Scotland on 15th April) and 37425 are now both at Crewe EMD. Kenny Marrs**

Metro and Light Rail News

Green light given for major Glasgow Subway investment

A £290 million upgrade proposal for the Glasgow Subway system has been given the go head by the Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT), which has approved plans paving the way for far-reaching changes to infrastructure and staffing.

It has already secured an additional £20 million to start the modernisation process, and work to improve some stations is expected to be tendered by the end of the current financial year. The modernisation proposal could see new trains introduced with waiting times reduced to just two minutes at peak hours.

All 15 stations would be redeveloped, disabled access improved and a smartcard ticketing system implemented. SPT plans to ask the Scottish Government for increased funding and also borrow against existing assets to deliver the upgrade. A new modernised Subway system could, in the long run, save the taxpayer £150million.

LUL tells contractors no to weekend closures for upgrade

London Underground Ltd (LUL) is to insist that signalling contractors undertake the work of upgrading the network without closing lines at weekends and evenings.

The crackdown will benefit hundreds of thousands of passengers and prevent a repeat of the Jubilee and Northern line fiascos that resulted in months of weekend closures. London's business leaders, particularly restaurateurs, have complained bitterly about loss of trade caused by the re-signalling and upgrade programme.

London Underground is also looking to award its biggest-ever signalling contract, worth up to £600 million, to replace the ageing systems of all the network's lines, including the Circle, District, Metropolitan and Hammersmith & City. Work will start next year and continue until 2018, and LUL is understood to be considering four bidders, a consortium of Alstom and Siemens, Bombardier, Thales and Inventis.

It expects to make the final choice this year. At least one of the contractors, Bombardier, has said it will offer a guarantee that it will do the work without additional closures. It re-signalled Madrid's Metro system, and allowed trains to keep running by installing the new system to run alongside the old one during night-time slots.

LUL has looked at the Madrid project, and also the Paris and Hong Kong Metros, to "learn lessons". The Director of Engineering has been "really struck" by the Madrid programme, and although not naming any bidders he confirmed that offers of "minimal line closures would be taken into account".

The London Assembly's Transport Committee has called for changes to the way upgrade works are procured and carried out to minimise future disruption, a report highlighting the Madrid Metro in contrast with the "chaotic" work on the Jubilee line.

UK News In Brief

■ As part of the Southampton to Nuneaton freight upgrade scheme to allow transport of the larger containers, Network Rail has successfully rebuilt the first of three bridges in the Winchester area as part of the £71 million project designed to remove up to 50,000 lorries a year from the region's roads. During the last three months, a new wider bridge deck has been built at St Cross on the B3335 road on top of the existing structure, which will accommodate space for a shared footpath and cycle track, making it easier and safer for pedestrians and cyclists. The final part of the construction work took place over the Easter weekend when the old structure was demolished. Major construction work to rebuild the other two bridges began at Stoke Charity on 6th April and Andover Road on 12th April.

■ The final phase of a £100 million, five-year scheme to upgrade the Settle & Carlisle line has begun with the last 23 miles of old jointed track being replaced with continuously welded track. Once complete, it will mean that the whole of the route will have been upgraded to modern standards. A new track-replacement train is being used, which relays track in front of itself and can replace up to 600 yards of track per night. A total of 22 different sites, mainly through Cumbria, north of Appleby, will be worked on. The overall project has included far more than replacing tracks, having also involved waterproofing viaducts and installing new signals to halve the headway between trains, effectively meaning twice as many trains can be run.

■ Work on the £1 billion Edinburgh-Glasgow Improvements Programme, Scotland's single largest rail improvement programme ever, is making good progress. Preparatory work for the electrification of the line nears completion, a £950,000 pilot piling programme to test the foundations for the overhead power lines having been undertaken at 95 sites along the length of the route.

■ A company in Yeovil has purchased land that transport campaigners had hoped could be used to re-establish a station at Chard Junction. The land, on Station Road, was bought for £182,500 after auctioneers put a guide price of £100,000-£120,000 on the site. The transaction has prompted the local MP to criticise Somerset County Council for showing a lack of commitment towards acquiring the land to facilitate reopening of the station, saying that there is very little chance of the Government, National Rail or South West Trains taking the opening of Chard Junction seriously if the county council does not appear to be interested in the project.

■ Class 66/4 No. 66410 has officially been renumbered to Class 66/8 No. 66845 and joined the Colas Rail fleet. It has yet to visit Eastleigh Works to be re-liveried into the company colours.

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▲ "I hereby name Derby County!" Tom Glick, President and CEO of Derby County FC names No. 66729 while John Smith, MD, First GBRf (right) and ex-Derby County players Roger Davies, Archie Gemmill (left) look on. Both: Jack Boskett

First GBRf honours Bombardier contract with loco naming

First GBRf has named one of its Class 66 locomotives to mark the contract it has with Bombardier Transportation, for the delivery of new Underground stock.

The naming of Class 66/7 No. 66729 *Derby County* took place at Bombardier Transportation's Derby Litchurch Lane works on 16th April.

Nigel Clough, Derby County manager said "This is a great gesture and something we are all delighted about at the football club. The rail industry is extremely important to Derby and therefore has always had a big impact on Derby County itself".

After the naming ceremony, guests were taken to the football ground for lunch, followed by either a tour of the football club or a rail trip to Melton Mowbray, the latter 'topped and tailed' by Class 66/7 No. 66729 and Class 47/4 No. 47580 *County of Essex*.

▶ **With Class 66/7 No. 66729** *Derby County* **having led on the outward journey from Derby to Melton Mowbray, Class 47/4 No. 47580** *County of Essex* **hauls the return leg, matching the Cargo-D Mk2 coaches nicely!**

Report says long franchises can save money

Britain's train operating companies (TOCs) say they have calculated that the railway industry could save £600 million a year, a fifth of all railway costs, if their proposals for longer franchises of between 15 and 20 years were to be adopted by the Government.

They argue that giving the TOCs a longer time to innovate, invest and find savings would cut the annual operational costs by £250 million and investment costs by £350 million within four years. They calculate that significant savings could come from having greater input into railway upgrades of less than £500 million, now carried out by Network Rail, that are at risk of receiving insufficient attention within the track operator's project portfolio, and go on to maintain that a long-term stake in the network gives greater impetus to the TOCs to challenge Network Rail on the efficiency of its scopes and costs.

The report was part of a document from the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC), which was released alongside a critical assessment of the Government's own proposals for overhauling rail franchises, it being maintained that proposals made by Transport Secretary, Lord Andrew Adonis, "fall well short of what is needed and in some cases represent a step backwards".

The criticisms include the Government's ongoing proclivity to 'micro manage' and the fact that its own proposals for franchises of up to 22 years are undermined by evaluating all bids on the first 10 years.

Co-operative plan to operate open access rail service

A plan to restore direct services between Oxford and Swindon has been put forward by Britain's first co-operative rail firm, the Go Co-operative, which hopes to secure official approval.

The plan would result in Oxford and Banbury being linked with Swindon, Chippenham, Westbury and Yeovil, with the possibility of extensions to Weymouth and Birmingham.

The Oxford-Swindon-Bath-Bristol service, run by First Great Western and previously by Thames Trains, was withdrawn in 2003.

The co-operative is to apply to run trains under the Office for Rail Regulation's open access scheme, which allows firms to operate routes not served by the main rail franchise operators, and hopes to have services running from December 2011, initially with four trains a day each way.

Go needs to raise some £500,000 to start the service and is looking for small investors willing to put up £100 for 100 shares. So far £50,000 has been raised. The Chief Executive said: "This will be the first time a co-operative has managed to get into the rail industry. It's a great opportunity for people who become members to have a say in the running of a train operating company".

It is understood, although not confirmed, that the organisation are initially looking at a loco-hauled operation.

The organisation has previously been reported at looking at various routes including local branch line operations and longer cross country services, some of which could well operate in agreement with heritage railway operators.

Further details can be found on the official website for the venture at www.go-now.coop

In 2010 take a trip to the future

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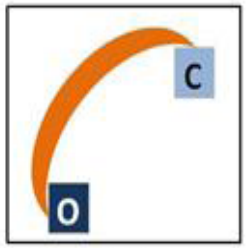

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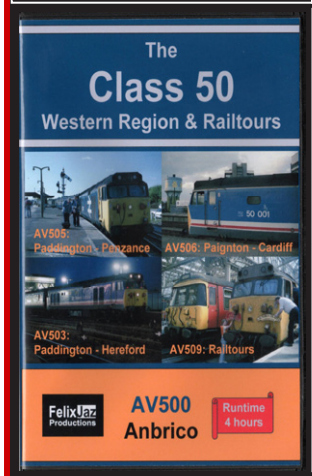

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▲ Class 156 No. 156445 was the first unit to carry the Gaelic translation of the ScotRail slogan as part of the current Saltire livery, seen in the works yard at Springburn on 7th April.

▼ Class 180 No. 180107 departed from the works on 7th April, having been outshopped in Grand Central livery.
All: Bill Wilson (with permission of First ScotRail, Grand Central & Railcare)

Funding bid made for Coventry-Nuneaton

A bid for nearly £16 million funding for a proposed new rail link between Coventry and Nuneaton has been sent to the Department for Transport (DfT).

The proposal includes a new station at Bermuda Park in Nuneaton, a new bay platform at Coventry station and a longer platform at Bedworth. On match or major event days, trains would be able to travel between Coventry and the Ricoh Arena every 15 minutes. Coventry City Council is aiming to have final approval by early 2012. The authority said it would continue to add more detail after receiving approval for the outline bid. It added that the final detailed bid would then be submitted to the DfT again for full funding, aiming for a final approval in late 2011 or early 2012.

Improvements sought for Liverpool Airport

Improved rail links between Chester and Liverpool's John Lennon Airport are being sought, as airport-bound passengers from the city are currently obliged to endure a one-and-a-half-hour journey, travelling into Liverpool city centre and back out again to Liverpool South Parkway station, the official station for the Airport, with a bus link for the final stretch.

Both Merseytravel and the Airport have been talking about how to reopen the 2.5km Halton Curve, which would provide a direct link to Liverpool South Parkway, cutting journey times for people from Chester and North Wales, or alternatively building a direct link from Chester to South Parkway.

Dutch Airline KLM is now operating alongside Easyjet from the Airport, offering daily flights to Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, from where passengers can connect to hundreds of destinations worldwide.

Merseytravel commissioned a report in 2005, which indicated a revived Halton Curve would create almost 1,000 jobs, and the company is now currently carrying out a detailed feasibility study to ascertain how much it would cost to fully reopen the line, which is currently only single track in the direction of Chester, to maintain a minimal service.

Blackpool trams back after five-month closure

Blackpool's tram system is back up and running after a five-month closure. The service, which runs along the seafront to Fleetwood, is part way through a £100 million revamp.

After work started last year on the new tracks and extra stops, the route is now fully open, with the exception of a section between Cleveleys and Fleetwood, which is due to open by the end of May, following delays caused by the theft of electrical cable. The service will close again next winter for further work to be undertaken. When fully completed in 2012, the upgrade will make travel easier for disabled passengers and those with pushchairs, and new low-level trams will operate on an increased frequency.

The tramway, which is owned by Blackpool Council, has been operating since 1885 and carries some four million passengers a year.

◀ Class 66/5 Nos. 66523 and 66560 double-head the 08.53 Rugeley Power Station-Bristol Stoke Gifford empty Freightliner Heavy Haul coal hoppers, in place of the rostered Class 70, as they approach Ashchurch station on 6th April. **John Stretton**

▼◀ First Scot Rail-liveried Class 90 No. 90024 pushes the 13.30 London Liverpool Street to Norwich service out of Colchester on its penultimate day in service with National Express East Anglia on 14th April. The locomotive will be returning to Crewe for a 'C exam' in the near future. **Jonathan Kirkham**

▼ A rare shot, but not for the common reason! Rebuilt Merchant Navy Pacific No. 35028 *Clan Line* heads one of the regular London Victoria to Bristol VSOE charters past Monkton Combe, near Bath, on 14th April. Heading in the opposite direction and explaining the start of this caption, Colas Rail Class 47/7 No. 47739 *Robin of Templecombe* heads for Eastleigh with a rake of Fastline Freight coal hoppers for store.
Bob Rosenthal

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 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	
Railway Touring Co	70013	(Manchester Victoria-WCML-)Edinburgh Waverley-Carstairs-Beattock-Carlisle--Shap-Preston (sd) & return	
24th April 2010			
Chester Model Rly Club	DBS Class 67	Hooton-Crewe-Kensington Olympia-Windsor & Eton Riverside & rtn	
Green Express Railtours	2xWCRC 47	Leeds-Huddersfield-Stockport-Exeter St.Davids-Paignton & return	
Hastings Diesels Ltd	Hastings DEMU	Hastings-Tunbridge Wells-Bromley South-Clapham Jct-Reading-Swindon-Stroud-Cheltenham Spa-Kidderminster-Bewdley-Bridgnorth and return via Birmingham, Leamington Spa and Oxford	
Pathfinder Tours	60163	(Gloucester-Barnt Green-Coleshill Parkway-Derby-)York-Durham-Newcastle Central (sd)-Blythe & Tyne-Bedlington Jct-Morpeth-Newcastle Central-Durham-Ferryhill-Norton Jct-Eaglescliffe-Darlington -(Darlington-York & return)	
PMR Tours	6233	(Lincoln-Nottingham-)-Crewe-Llandudno Junction-Holyhead & return	
Railtourer	WCRC Pool	(Whitby-Middlesborough-)York-Skipton-Hellifield-Lancaster & return	
Railway Touring Co.	70013	(Oxenholme-)Edinburgh-Crianlarich-Fort William	**Cancelled**
Statesman Rail	tbc	Wolverhampton-Shrewsbury-Chester-Frodsham-Warrington Bank Quay-Wigan North Western-Blackburn-Hellifield-S&C-Carlisle-Workington-Ulverston-Carnforth & return	
Spitfire Railtours	DRS 37 & 20	Crewe-Stafford-Wolverhampton-Birmingham New St-Coleshill Parkway-Nuneaton-Leicester-Melton Mowbray-Peterborough-Ely-Norwich & rtn	
Spitfire Railtours	2xDRS 37	Norwich-Cromer-Sheringham-Weybourne-Holt & return	
Spitfire Railtours	DRS 20/3	Norwich-Reedham-Great Yarmouth-Acle-Norwich	
25th April 2010			
Railway Touring Co.	70013	Fort William-Crianlarich-Edinburgh(-Oxenholme)	**Cancelled**
27th April 2010			
Railway Touring Co.	70013	London Liverpool Street-Harwich Parkeston Quay & rtn	**Cancelled**
Railway Touring Co.	70013	London Liverpool Street-Bury St.Edmunds and return	**Postponed**
28th April 2010			
Railway Touring Co.	34067	London Victoria-Margate-London Victoria	**Cancelled**
29th April 2010			
Steam Dreams	30777	London-Canterbury (break) & return	
UK Railtours	60019	London King's Cross-York-Scarborough-York(-London King's Cross)	
1st May 2010			
VSOE	35028	London Victoria-Guildford-London Victoria	
UK Railtours	2xDBS 67	London King's Cross-Peterborough-Spalding-Sleaford-London KX	

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

On a busy weekend of charters, Spitfire's 'The Broadsman' on 24th April stands out as being the tour of the day. Featuring a DRS Class 37 and Class 20 pairing from Crewe via Birmingham New Street, Leicester, Melton Mowbray and Peterborough through to Norwich, from where the itinerary gets really interesting. The train is split, with one portion proceeding to Great Yarmouth with a single DRS Class 20/3 running outwards via Reedham, and returning on the more direct route through Acle. The remainder of the train heads off to Cromer and Sheringham with a pair of DRS Class 37s 'topping & tailing', where it will become only the second main line charter to pass over the newly re-opened level crossing at Sheringham to proceed onto the North Norfolk Railway through to its terminus at Holt. The train is reporting to be selling extremely well.

A variety of steam traction will be in action, including the 'Black Duchess' No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland*, which will be heading for Holyhead from Crewe with PMR Tours 'The Welsh Dragon', which originates at Lincoln. Railtourer will also be featuring steam haulage as the operator heads for North Yorkshire with the 'Steaming through the Dales', which starts it's day at Whitby and travels diesel-hauled via Middlesbrough to York, where steam takes over for the journey to Lancaster, via Leeds, Hellifield, Giggleswick, Wennington and Carnforth. Although presently unspecified the train is likely feature the main line return of West Coast's Stanier Class 8F 2-8-0 No. 48151. The return to Esk Dale is via Shap, Carlisle and the Tyne Valley.

This weeks' *Tornado* outing (well, there will be very few weeks in the foreseeable future which will not see the 'A1' on a main line charter) is for Pathfinder from York to Newcastle and then around the Blythe & Tyne to Morpeth and back to York, via Newcastle and the East Coast Main Line. Note, that despite 'The Tyne-Tees Express' name, the train will not be travelling via the Durham Coast as originally specified, due to gauging issues. The charter sets out from Gloucester and runs diesel-hauled to York, via Coleshill Parkway and Burton-upon-Trent.

There are mid-week dates for both Steam Dreams and Railway Touring Company, the former heading to Warwick and Stratford-upon-Avon from London Victoria, with 'King Arthur' 4-6-0 No. 30777 *Sir Lamiel* on 23rd April, while the latter will be bringing 'Britannia' pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* back from Scotland on the same day with the 'Auld Reekie' from Edinburgh Waverley to Manchester Victoria over Beattock and Shap summits

The feature of Hastings Diesels 'The Severn Explorer' is a through working over the Severn Valley Railway from Kidderminster to Bridgnorth with the Hastings DEMU. Outwards from Hastings will see the unit working over Sapperton, to reach Kidderminster, via Worcester Shrub Hill, while the return will feature an ascent of Old Hill Bank and then to Birmingham Snow Hill, Leamington Spa and Oxford.

The line-up for the week is concluded with four charters aimed at the general market, commencing on 22nd April, when UK Railtours heads for Eastleigh from London Victoria with 'The Cunarder' tour. The clue is in the title, as both RMS *Queen Mary 2* and RMS *Queen Victoria* will be in Southampton that day. The return working will be via Fareham, Havant, Godalming and Virginia Water. Then on 24th April, Statesman operate the 'Cumbrian Mountain and Coast Statesman' from Wolverhampton, via Shrewsbury, Wrexham and Chester, outwards via the Settle & Carlisle, and back along the Cumbrian Coast.

The Green Express 'Devonian' will be heading for Paignton from Leeds, which also picks up at Huddersfield and Stalybridge, while Chester Model Railway Club's annual charter is from Hooton, Bache, Chester and Crewe to Kensington Olympia and Windsor & Eton Riverside. West Coast traction will feature on all the tours except for the UK Railtours' working, which is likely to feature a DBS Class 67.

On its first main line charter in LMS post-war black livery, 'Duchess' Pacific No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland* departs from Scarborough on 10th April, beneath the imposing signal gantry, which is due to be removed later this year. **Richard Tuplin**

New operator announces programme for 2010 West Highland trains

The West Highland Line to Fort William is well known for being a haven for charter operators, given its dramatic and superb scenery.

However, keen to promote the region and provide easier access than may be possible with National Network services, one local businessman has spent the last two years laying the foundations for a new series of charter operations.

WhestRail is the brainchild of Spean Bridge resident Gerald Rivett, and begins operations on 10th July with a new series of trains from Edinburgh to Fort William, travelling outwards on a Saturday and returning on the Sunday, aimed at providing locals and tourists alike with easy access to the West Highlands from Edinburgh and the central belt of Scotland.

The service will run every weekend between 10th July and 29th August, departing from Edinburgh Waverley at 09.25 and calling at Falkirk Grahamstone (10.15), Springburn (10.50), Dumbarton Central (11.30), Helensburgh Upper (11.45) and then nominated stations on the West Highland Line to Fort William (arriving at 15.05). The return working on the Sunday is timed for departure at 16.50, giving passengers almost a full day to enjoy Fort William and the surrounding area. Arrival back in Edinburgh Waverley is due at 22.00. Standard class tickets are priced at £59 Edinburgh to Fort William return, or £49 from Dumbarton and Helensburgh stations. Single fares both from intermediate stations and throughout the whole journey are also available.

As a prelude to the trains on 3rd/4th July (and also as a finale on 25th/26th September) WhestRail is to operate a steam-hauled service over the same route, although departing from Falkirk Grahamston, rather than Edinburgh Waverley and, naturally, with a slightly longer journey time. The train will depart Falkirk at 11.00, calling at the same stations as the main trains, to arrive in Fort William at 18.45. The following day's return service departs at 13.00 and arrives at Falkirk Grahamstone at 21.15. Standard Class return is priced at £125 with First Class at £165.

On both steam and diesel hauled dates, the organisers are unable to guarantee a set-down at Glasgow Springburn on the Sunday, because of engineering work. The trains, being operated on behalf of WhestRail by West Coast Railway Company, provide a loco-hauled operation with both First and Standard Class accommodation and a buffet car, a clear improvement over the ScotRail Class 158!

Bookings can be made online, 24-hours a day, by visiting www.whestrail.co.uk, or by calling 01397 712005, Mondays to Fridays between 09.00 and 16.00

WHESTRAIL

▼ **LNER 'K4' No. 61994** *The Great Marquess* **crosses Loch a'Chuillin on 12th April with the Great Britain III charter to Kyle of Lochalsh. The 'K4' will be used from Falkirk Grahamstone to Fort William for the inaugural Whestrail trip on 3rd/4th July. Jack Boskett**

Ex-Wes Charter for SEG

This year is the 40th anniversary of the Southern Electric Group (SEG) and to celebrate the event the SEG will operate a railtour on 23rd May, entitled 'The Ruby Rover', featuring a pair of Class 442 units around the South East.

This is likely to be the Group's only tour this year, the features of which will be the first passenger use of a Class 442 between Tonbridge and Crawley, travel through Selhurst Depot, a non-stop run from Hove to London Victoria and, if confirmed, a visit to Hove Yard.

The tour is due to commence from the eastern side of London Victoria and then run to London Bridge via Balham and Selhurst. After reversing and picking up at London Bridge, the tour proceeds to Eastbourne, running via the Quarry Line and Three Bridges, after reversals at Crawley, Redhill and Tonbridge. After a break, the train then proceeds to Brighton and onwards to Hove, before the non-stop return run to Victoria.

The SEG previously used Class 442s on a tour 19 years ago to celebrate its 'coming of age', which coincidentally used unit No. 2413, being the reverse number of the SEG's preserved 4COR unit No. 3142! South West Trains also operated Class 442s on railtours just prior to their withdrawal in 2006.

Christmas trips for 'Lizzie'

'Princess Royal' Pacific No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* **has got some late year-end work lined up with the new Ranger Trains operation.**

Ranger Trains' 5th December 'Melton Mowbray Victorian Fayre' is set to originate at Preston, with the steam section booked from Crewe via Stoke-on-Trent, Uttoxeter and Loughborough. There is also a planned 'Steam over Harringworth Viaduct' from Melton Mowbray to Corby, with diesel-haulage back to Melton Mowbray, prior to No. 6201 returning on the main train back to Crewe, and then diesel haulage onwards to Preston.

Watch for a special supplement in our next issue, covering the Great Britain III charter!

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The train will be hauled by former LNER K4 Class locomotive 61994 The Great Marquess, a locomotive built for Scotland where it operated out of Glasgow for most of its working life.

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▶ **GWR 'Castle' 4-6-0 No. 5043** *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe* **heads a Vintage Trains positioning special from Solihull to Slough on 16th April, seen here heading downgrade through Lapworth towards Hatton. Paul Braybrook**

Ups & Downs

by John Whitehouse

■ Following last week's teaser, we can now confirm that Steam Dreams is looking to work No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland* out of London Euston on 9th October on a 'Cathedrals Express' to Chester, via Milton Keynes, Northampton, Rugby and the Trent Valley. Of significance, the 'Duchess' is also scheduled to work the train back into Euston. No doubt this will be part of a series of tours organised to see the locomotive 'out of ticket' in style.

■ AC Electric traction is scheduled for Rail Blue Charter's newly announced 'West Coast Premier' railtour on Friday 10th September, featuring the AC Locomotive Group's Class 87 No. 87002 *Royal Sovereign* from Watford Junction to Edinburgh. The train also picks up at Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted, Tring, Leighton Buzzard, Milton Keynes Central, Northampton, Rugby and Nuneaton, before heading north via Shap and Beattock. The train will consist of the Cargo-D blue and grey Mk2 & Mk3 stock, which will recreate the West Coast Main Line scene of the late 1970s and early 1980s.

■ Railway Touring Company has re-dated its planned charter from London Liverpool Street to Bury St. Edmunds from 27th April until 8th May. The route and traction will remain as originally planned. However, the associated evening excursion to Harwich Parkeston Quay has had to be cancelled.

■ The long awaited mainline return of No. 71000 *Duke of Gloucester* is set for 3rd July, when it is scheduled to haul a HF Railtours' charter. Full details are awaited, but the outline route is northbound from Crewe, via the Cumbrian Coast to Carlisle, returning over the Settle and Carlisle to Crewe via Blackburn.

Conquering another first for the loco, 'A1' Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* **rounds the Cumbrian coast line at Parton, north of Whitehaven, with steam to spare on 14th April, at the head of the 'Cumbrian Coast Tornado' charter from Crewe to Carlisle. The train returned via the Settle & Carlisle line and Blackburn. Richard Tuplin**

LMS 'Princess Coronation' class No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland*, **now in LMS lined-black livery, passes Huttons Ambo, near Malton, with the 'Yorkshire Coronation' from Leicester to Scarborough on 10th April. Paul Braybrook**

Crich learning project

The disused stone workshop that formed part of the first public steam line in the world is to be turned into a learning and exhibition space to 'inspire a generation' in a £1 million project at the Crich Tramway Village in Derbyshire.

The 169-year-old two-storey building, at the heart of the National Tramway Museum, will become a welcome centre for visitors, featuring displays on the mineral railway it once served, as a station for limestone hauliers, and educational facilities. Work on the former smithy and wagon works will begin in June, largely funded by a £900,000 Lottery award. The development is expected to be completed by Easter 2011.

Swanage funds appeal

The Swanage Railway Trust has applied for funding of £3 million to allow reconnection of the Swanage line to the main network.

Network Rail has set a deadline to receive the funds by the end of April, but the local MP has asked for it to be extended until after the election. The line has been cut off since 1972 and supporters argue that reopening it would greatly ease road congestion. The funding would allow for vital re-signalling work to take place, enabling a regular passenger service to resume from Wareham to Corfe Castle and Swanage. The railway has long held an aspiration to see the return of a scheduled passenger service between Swanage and Wareham.

Signalling equipment for ELR

The old wooden signal box at Shaw and Crompton station, which guarded the level crossing for years, is to be demolished.

The East Lancashire Railway had hoped to be able to move it to the line, but Network Rail has decided to destroy it after a routine check revealed that the structured contains asbestos.

Shaw and Crompton box has a long history, but now there is no use for it as the Oldham Loop is being converted for use by Metrolink trams, and flashing lights will then control the level crossing. However, although the box is doomed, some items inside it have been saved, the ELR having acquired its levers and power switches.

The railway has also saved the Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway canopy from Oldham Mumps station.

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▼ **Members of the public could take a step back in time in early April, with the chance to take a short ride behind the replica of Stephenson's *Rocket*, in Kensington Gardens, London. The loco is pictured on temporary track, close to the Albert Memorial on 7th April. Stuart Chapman**

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- At least 12 steam locomotives in their glory including Schools Class 30926 *Repton*
- 45428 *Eric Treacy* making its first major appearance following overhaul

▲ The Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway-based Class 26 No. 26043 is pictured at Toddington in early April in undercoat livery. The loco is due to be back in action for the diesel gala in July. **Jack Boskett**

Type 4 traction to inaugurate Wensleydale loop

The NRM's ex-'Royal' Class 47/7 No. 47798 *Prince William* **will make history on the Wensleydale Railway on 1st May.**

The loco is due to be in use on the first day that the railway brings the Constable Burton passing loop into operation, allowing trains on the line to cross on the Wensleydale branch for the first time in about 50 years. This weekend was chosen to start the improved timetable, as it coincides with the Leyburn Food and Drink Festival. The Railway's home fleet of Class 20 No. 20166 and '47/7' No. 47715 *Poseidon* will also be in operation during the weekend.

▼ The Spa Valley Railway is repainting GWR Class 5700 Pannier tank No. 7715 into its former London Transport guise of L99, to be launched back into service at the line's London Steam Gala on 24th/25th April. The locomotive was rolled out briefly at Tunbridge Wells West on 21st March for inspection prior to final finishing and lining. **Jon Nye**

▲ BR 'Britannia' No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* became the first of the class to visit the South Devon Railway in preservation, during a stop-over on the line. Here, the loco works alongside the River Dart, after calling at Staverton with a Totnes to Buckfastleigh service on 4th April. **Daniel Phillips**

▶ GWR Class 4575 Small Prairie No. 5526 heads an afternoon milk train alongside the River Dart at Bishops Bridge during the gala on the same day. **Mick Rogers**

Colas Rail Class 66/8 No. 66843 heads south through Docker on 12th April in lovely spring conditions, with the 12.51 Carlisle-Chirk timber service. **John Wade**

Hanson Traction Class 56/3s Nos. 56311 and 56312 *Artemis* approach Evesham with the 13.10 Long Marston to Bescot service, moving stored TEA tanks on 16th April. **Peter Tandy**

▲ Class 180 No. 180105 heads through Coatbridge Central bound for Glasgow Works for modification work and repaint into Grand Central livery on the 7th April. **Kenny Marrs**

▲ A contrast of new and old front ends at Fareham. Slam-door EMUs Nos. 1497 and 1498 were undertaking a turning move on 13th March, passing Class 377/1 No. 377106. **Adam Ball**

▼ At Leeds on 3rd April, Class 43 No. 43208 has recently arrived from London, while Class 158 No. 158818 heads for Selby and Class 321/9 No. 321903 awaits departure for Doncaster. **Neil Bradley**

For the first time a Class 67 appeared on the Ashchuch MoD working on 8th April. No. 67003 is pictured shortly after leaving Ashchurch. **Brian Thomas**

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 Locomotive 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 Railway 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 Jack Scott on 07789 765291.

RCTS (Chichester)
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.

SVR (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. Starts 19.30. 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. 'American Wanderings' by Gordon Davies. Starts 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.

3rd May 2010

North Yorkshire Moors Railway (Northallerton)
Northallerton Cricket Club, Farndale Avenue, Northallerton. Starts 19.30. Admission £1.50. Contact Ian McInnes on 01642 767233.

4th May 2010

Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend DA12 1BB. 'Bring a Thing 2010'. Starts 19.45. Contact the Secretary, Roger Hart on 01474 833320 for further details.

Locomotive and Carriage Institution
LUL Headquarters, 55 Broadway, St James's Park, London. 'Bromsgrove and The Lickey Incline' by Alan Spencer. Starts 18.00. Contact Stuart Smith at smithstuart@btinternet.com for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Bedford)
St John's Church Hall, St John's Street, Bedford. 'The Stratford-upon-Avon and Midland Junction Railway' by Andy Thompson. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01525 750149 for further details.

Should your society information be listed on this page?

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

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

Web Links

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

▼ The unusual sight of a container train on the North & West route. Class 66/5 No. 66587 disturbs the tranquillity of a very pleasant spring afternoon at Llanover with the 11.09 Basford Hall to Wentloog on 10th April. **Phil Trotter**

RCTS (Watford)
St. Thomas Church, Langley Road, Watford. 'Much Mardling Around - East Anglia' by Chris Youett. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire)/ LRTA (Southern)
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'England v Germany' by Peter Hall and Doug Cross. Start 19.30. Admission £2. Contact the SEG Secretary, John Goodrich on 023 8067 0028 for further details.

Tewkesbury Railway Society
YMCA, Church Street, Tewkesbury. AGM. Meeting starts at 19.45.

Weston super Mare Railway Society
Function Room, Conservative Club, Alexandra Parade, Weston super Mare. 'A Foreign Steam Miscellany' by Frank Cronin. Meeting starts at 20.00. Contact Lionel Jones on 01934 628289 or at wsm1977rlysocy@talktalk.net.

5th May 2010
Stephenson Locomotive Society
Hayes Village Hall, Hayes Street, Hayes, Bromley. 'Steam in Various Places Since 1960' by John Snell. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 0208 289 9935 for further details.

6th May 2010
Great Central Railway Society (Rotherham)
The Three Horseshoes, Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham S66 2BW. 'Reedie's Rambles' by Gordon Reed. Starts 19.30. Contact Mick Hayes on 01709 820544 for further details.

RCTS (Milton Keynes)
The Crown Public House, Market Square, Stony Stratford. 'London's Developing Railway Network' by Ian Brown. Meeting starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary at dexter-skiddaw@tiscali.co.uk for further details.

7th May 2010
Gloucestershire & Warwickshire Railway (Birmingham)
Northfield Library, Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham. Members' Slides. Meeting starts 19.30.

RCTS (Bristol)
St Peters Church Hall, Church Road, Filton. 'A Narrow Gauge Journey - Narrow Gauge Steam from Around the World' by Malcolm Ranieri. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary at paul.udey@talktalk.net for further details.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
The Mining Institute Lecture Theatre, Neville Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. 'Workin' On The Railroad' by Phil Kirkland. Starts 19.00. Contact the Secretary on 01434 688946 for further details.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
Settlement Centre, Union Street, Middlesbrough. 'The Stainmore Railway' by Mark Keefe. Starts 19.00. Contact the Secretary on 01642 321205 for further details.

8th May 2010
Cornwall Railway Society
The Community Centre, Foundry Row, Redruth. 'Rocky Mountain and River Canyon Ways' by David Mitchell. Starts 18.30. Contact the Secretary, Derek Buttivant on 01637 860627 for further details

Great Central Railway Society
Marylebone Station, Chiltern Railways Boardroom. AGM (11.00) followed by 'From Manchester to Marylebone by GCR' by Ken Grainger Meeting starts 14.00.

RCTS (Carnforth)
Committee Room, Royal Station Hotel, Carnforth. 'Visit to Ribblehead' by Party Leader, Neal Simpson. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Exeter)
Conference Room, Great Western Hotel, Exeter. 'An Evening of Classic Railways and Trams' by Les Folkard. Meeting commences at 19.00. Contact the Secretary at fixtureswoe@rcts.org.uk for details.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
Kidderminster Railway Museum, Kidderminster. 'The Cream of the Stanford Jacobs Collection' by John New. Meeting commences at 14.00. Contact the Secretary on 01242582152 for further details.

10th May 2010
Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln. 'Another Settle & Carlisle Presentation' by Bob Goodman. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact the Secretary on 01522 705365 for further details

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

RCTS (Croydon)
Primary Room, United Reform Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon. 'Branch AGM and Photographic Competition'. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Ipswich)
Bridge Ward Social Club, 68 Austin Street, Ipswich. 'German Steam' by Tom Hobin. 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. 'Members' Night - Railway Relics' Meeting starts 19.30.

Severn Valley Railway (Wolverhampton)
Old Wulfrunians Club, 253A Castlecroft Road, Castlecroft, Wolverhampton, WV3 8NA. 'Picture Postcard Railway Rambles' by Stephen Gay. Starts 19.30.

Southern Electric Group (Sussex)
Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre. 'A Further Selection of Photographs Taken by the Late J.J. Smith of Eastbourne' by Tony Hillman. Starts 19.30. £2 Donation. Contact the Secretary, Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094 for further details.

York Railway Circle
The Library, Archbishop Holgate's School, Hull Road, York. 'Vintage Cine Films' from Allan Dawson. Meeting starts at 19.30. Contact Robin Patrick by e-mail at locopatrick@aol,com for further details.

11th May 2010
Abergavenny and District Steam Society
Upper Room, The Hen & Chickens, Flannel Street, Abergavenny AGM followed by Films/Slides. 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. 'Remarkable Relics - The Great Western Trust' by Peter Rance. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact the Secretary on 01454 324230 for further details.

12th May 2010
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St. Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'The Joys and Sorrows of a Railway Photographer' by Don Mitchell. Starts 20.00. Visitors Welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01256 819401 for further details.

Bromsgrove Railway Club
St Godwalds Church Hall, Aston Fields, Bromsgrove. 'Steam on Digital' by John Bagshaw. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact Dave on 01527 873800 or Gordon on 05127873609 for details.

RCTS (Cardiff)
Old Church Rooms, Park Road, Radyr. 'Steam on the Main Line in 2009' by Karl Jauncey & Dave Richards. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary at noelinda@noel65.fsnet.co.uk for further details.

RCTS (Hitchin)
Hitchin Christian Centre, Bedford Road, Hitchin. 'The Corris Railway 1858 -1948' by John Scott-Morgan. Meeting commences at 19.30.

13th May 2010
Continental Railway Circle
St Paul's Church Centre, Rossmore Road, Marylebone, London. 'Railways of Queensland' by John Knowles. Meeting commences at 19.15. Admission £2. Contact the Secretary, Adrian Palmer on 01932 850624 or at akpalmer@talktalk.net for further details.

Monmouthshire Railway Society
Room LL1, UWCN, Allt-Yr-Yn Ave, Newport, South Wales. 'Southern in the South and West, I.O.W to Padstow' by Peter Gray. Meeting commences at 19.30. Admission: non-members £3. See www.mrsoc.co.uk for further details.

RCTS (Newcastle)
The Brunswick Methodist Church Hall, Newcastle. 'The Good Old Days' by David Tyreman. Meeting commences at 18.30. Contact the Secretary at jimbrick@fsmail.net for further details.

14th May 2010
Great Western Society (Swindon)
Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, off Windsor Road, Lawn, Swindon SN3 1JE. 'Swindon-2-Didcot - A Difference Perspective' by Neil Lover. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01793 495970 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

Aggregate Industries-liveried Class 59 No. 59001 *Yeoman Endeavour* **passes Newbury on 9th April with the 12.46 Hither Green to Whatley service, returning empty aggregate hoppers to the Mendips. Phil Trotter**

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