Railway Herald

Issue 220 - 26th April 2010

A1 Locomotive Trust starts feasibility study into building a 'P2'!

The electronic journal for the railway enthusiast

Railway Herald

Issue 220
26th April 2010

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First Great Western names HST powercars

First Great Western (FGW) has marked links with two organisations over the past week, the Royal British Legion and the Institution of Railway Operators, with the naming of two HST powercars in separate events in London and Swindon

Full story on Page 4

Bank Holiday Publishing Break

Please note that as a result of the May Bank Holiday, *Railway Herald* will not be published on Monday 3rd May.

As a result, Issue 221 will be published on

Monday 10th May 2010

Apologies for any inconvenience this causes. Please do continue to submit images and news information for possible use in the magazine during this period.

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10 News in Pictures
Our weekly round up from a pictorial viewpoint, of newsworthy and unusual workings across the country.

17 Preservation News
Details of the forthcoming diesel galas at the Battlefield Line, Great Central Railway (Nottingham) and Peak Rail, plus 1960s weekend's for Midland Railway - Butterley and Severn Valley Railway.

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The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust has announced that it has started a feasibility study into the commercial viability of building a Gresley 'P2'
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Network Rail redundancies
Network Rail has announced that around 500 employees will be leaving the company by the end of May, as a result of productivity improvements.
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MyTrainTicket
Passengers across the UK now have a new option for booking rail tickets online, mytrainticket.co.uk, which provides options for all TOCs.
Click here to read the story on Page 8

GB3 ... and news of GB4!
Our special supplement on RTC's 'Great Britain 3' charter is available now, including news of the proposed itinerary of next year's 'GB4'!
Click here to download the supplement

Essentials

11 Railtours & Excursions
News from the charter scene, with comprehensive tour listings.

Front Cover Caption:

On 14th April, Peppercorn 'A1' Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* is pictured just north of Barrow-in-Furness with the 'Cumbrian Coast Tornado' charter bound for Carlisle. The success of *Tornado* both commercially and operationally, will bode well as a base for a 'P2' locomotive. Jim Barr

A1 Steam Locomotive Trust announce feasibility study into the construction of a Gresley 'P2'

The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust announced to covenantors at a special open day at Shildon on 25th April that a feasibility study had commenced to assess the operational, financial and commercial viability to building another new steam locomotive - in the form of a Gresley 'P2' Mikado.

The Trust Chairman, Mark Allatt, told *Railway Herald,* "The aim of the study is to answer the question once and for all as to whether the Trust can successfully and commercially build, certify and operate a P2." If the feasibility study proves that it is both possible to build the locomotive and commercially viable to operate it, then the initial stages of the construction process, along with fund-raising will commence early in 2011, subject to the continued strong support from covenantors and volunteers.

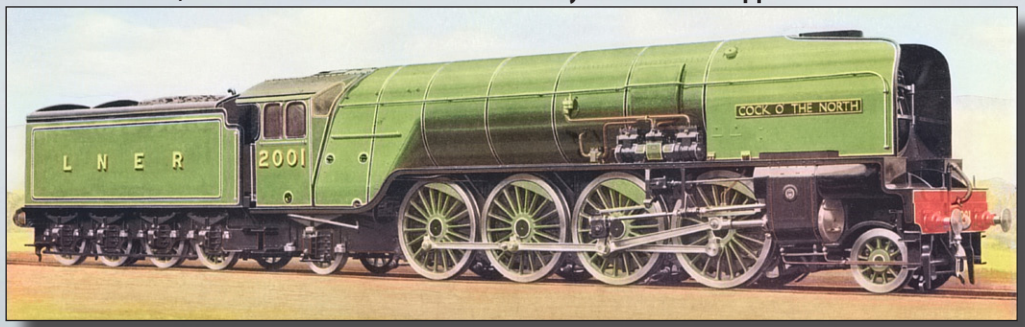
The advantage to such a build, is the compatibility with *Tornado*. Over 50% of items on the two locomotives will be compatible, and like the 'A1', a 'P2' would be a new build of an old-design, not a replica that is identical in every detail. The new locomotive would be numbered 2007, following on from the original build of six locomotives. It is the wish of the Trust that if the construction was to go ahead, then the locomotive would, like *Tornado*, be used extensively on the National Network. In order to permit this, the Trust has needed to gauge the opinions and reactions from various regulatory authorities, the responses from whom will be factored into the feasibility study, but which are said to be of a positive nature so far.

Elsewhere, while news of the 'P2' perhaps stole the show for covenantors, there was much news on *Tornado*. Amazingly, in just 18 months of main line operation, the A1 Steam Locomotive Trust will be able to repay all of its outstanding loans by the end of June this year, with the exception of covenantors bonds that are not due to be repaid until 2016. The net effect of this is that the debt from the building of *Tornado* has been reduced by half. The original business plan estimated the timescales for undertaking this, was of a far longer period.

In terms of the locomotive itself, *Tornado* continues to perform well on the mainline and its future use by railtour and excursion train operators remains strong, with dates already being added for 2011. The locomotive will once again undergo winter maintenance at the National Railway Museum over the Christmas and New Year 2010/2011 period, emerging in early 2011 from the NRMs paintshop in BR Brunswick Green livery. The 'A1' is expected to remain in the colour scheme for 12-18 months maximum before a further repaint takes place, keeping in touch with the promise to covenantors of ensuring that the locomotive carries all of the four historic liveries within the first 10-years.

Also announced was the news that the appeal to fund a dedicated support coach for *Tornado* was continuing to do exceptionally well, having raised £10,000 since its launch just three weeks ago. The Trust is currently using the support coach that is usually to be seen with the Thompson 'B1' No. 61264. As this locomotive is due to return to traffic after overhaul later this year, the Trust needs to have a replacement.

▼ How No. 2007 may look. The P2 class was introduced in 1934. While the first two employed large smoke deflectors, the last four of the class had an 'A4' style streamlined appearance. A1SLT



▼ The pioneer of 21st Century standard-gauge main line steam on Britain's National Network, the A1 Steam Locomotive Trust's Peppercorn A1 Class Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* glides across the King Edward Bridge at Newcastle-upon-Tyne with the 'Tees-Tyne Tornado' charter from Gloucester to Newcastle on 24th April. The locomotive worked through to Darlington on the return working before being detached and working to Locomotion at Shildon, where it is on display until 6th May. Paul Braybrook

First Great Western (FGW) has celebrated two organisations over the past week. First the naming of Class 43 powercar No. 43056 *The Royal British Legion* **by the organisation's National President, Lieutenant General Sir John Kiszely KCB MC, and Moir Lockhead of First Group, at Paddington (▲) on 19th April. The second naming, on 23rd April, marked 10 years of the Institution of Railway Operators with another of First Great Western's HST powercars, this time No. 43025 being named at Swindon (▼) by FGW Managing Director, Mark Hopwood (left) and IRO Chief Executive, Chris Daughton. Brian Morrison/Jack Boskett**

Deutsche Bahn buys Arriva plc

Arriva, which operates the Cross Country and Arriva Trains Wales franchises, has accepted an offer for its businesses of £1.58 billion from Deutsche Bahn (DB), Europe's biggest train operator with a workforce of 255,000, the bid being an increase over the £1.2 billion made in March after talks between Arriva and SNCF broke down.

The deal gives DB access to 12 European markets before the planned liberalisation of the European Union transport system. Arriva has said that the offer was accepted with the unanimous approval both of its board, its own management and the relevant German ministries.

The Arriva trading and brand name, the management team and the company's Sunderland headquarters are to be retained, but Arriva's rail contacts in Germany will have to be sold.

It may be quicker by train, but for Blackfriars, the Thames leads the way

More than 2,000 lorry journeys will be taken off central London streets over the next two years by using river barges on the Thames to deliver and remove materials from the Blackfriars station project site.

During the length of time taken for the landmark Blackfriars project, 14,000 tonnes of materials to build the station's new bridge deck, longer platforms and roof, spanning the river will be transported by barge, and at the same time, more than 8,000 tonnes of deck and pier demolition materials will be removed. The barges will arrive on a daily basis.

The Port of London Authority Chief Executive said: "Water and rail are well regarded as the most environmentally-friendly forms of transport, so bringing them together is a winning combination. Moving building materials through the capital's marine highway instead of London's crowded roads will result in less pollution and congestion. By choosing barges, Network Rail has ensured the new Blackfriars station will have fine green credentials – not only when it's operational, but also while it's being built". The materials destined for Blackfriars are loaded onto the barges at Thames Wharf, near Blackwall and opposite to the O2 Arena. Each barge takes approximately 75 minutes to reach the site where the new steel work will be lifted by crawler crane onto the bridge deck.

Epsom development brings local outburst

A £4.5 million scheme to redevelop Epsom station has been approved by councillors, resulting in angry outbursts from residents and local groups concerned about the scale of the project.

The application is to replace the existing station with a six-storey building containing a new ceramic-tiled ticket hall, 117 residential flats, a 64-bedroom hotel, room for shops and extra parking spaces. At a meeting of the local council, opponents of the scheme clashed with councillors over issues such as traffic congestion, parking provision and the design of the building. Construction is scheduled to start later this year.

£130 million upgrade work begins at Waverley

The £130 million upgrade of Edinburgh Waverley station began on 12th April, with the first work to prepare replacement of the 365,973sq ft roof.

28,000 clear glass panels will be installed over the next three years, providing the station with natural light and much improving the environment for passengers. Other improvements to be made include new fully accessible entrances from Market Street and Princes Street, via the Waverley Steps.

The station concourse will also be resurfaced, station furniture will be cleaned or removed and the station building exteriors will receive a welcome makeover.

The work started with the assembly of scaffolding in the east end of the station, which will support a crash-deck that will lie just below the roof, providing a safe platform to work from and protecting the station environment from the worksite above. The construction will allow workers to begin removing old glass, strip old layers of paint from the metal framework, carry out any required repairs and apply new paint. Only then will the new glazing be installed.

TfL buys Oyster rights

Transport for London (TfL) has bought the rights to the Oyster Card brand for £1 million, enabling it to look at other uses of the smartcard system, which is currently used as a pre-pay ticketing service.

TfL has bought the rights from TranSys, whose contract to run the service expires this coming August. Cubic Transportation Systems and HP Enterprise Services will then take over operations for the next five years. TfL also has announced the early repayment of £101 million of private finance initiative debt, owed to TranSys.

It is generally agreed that Oyster has the potential to be used for so much more than simply getting around the Capital, and the technology is there to make it even more convenient for Londoners to use by integrating it into mobile phones or bank cards.

▲ EWS-liveried Class 60 No. 60096 passes Worting Junction on 23rd April, with a rake of long-welded rail wagons, while working a new Scunthorpe to Eastleigh service with rails for forthcoming engineering work from the Corus Rail plant in North Lincolnshire. Ironically, the locomotive returned to North Lincolnshire just two hours later ... running 'light engine' throughout! **John Clark**

Vandals damage Class 90 locomotive on 'Caledonian Sleeper' service

The locomotive powering the 23.40 Caledonian Sleeper from Glasgow Central to London Euston on 22nd April was badly damaged after striking a large rock that had been placed on the line at Gowkthrapple, on the outskirts of Wishaw, North Lanarkshire.

The incident happened as the service passed through at just before midnight, and the loco had to be replaced before the service could continue.

British Transport Police said: "Fortunately no-one was injured and the train was able to complete its journey to London, although the consequences of such action could have been worse. We are appealing for anyone in the area who has information regarding the identity of those who may be responsible to contact BTP as a matter of urgency".

Next phase of Birmingham transformation commences

The next important phase of work in the transformation of Birmingham New Street station has begun with the upgrading of Platform 1.

All the platforms will now be taken out of use one-by-one as the project progresses, but all services will run as planned throughout the work. The station is to be turned into a bright, modern, 21st Century focal point for the city, doubling passenger capacity, and providing a concourse that is three-and-a-half times bigger than at present and enclosed by a giant, light-filled atrium. It will also be more accessible, brighter and clearer, and serviced by over 30 new escalators and over 15 new public lifts. There will be a stunning new station façade, better links to and through the station for pedestrians, with eight new entrances.

The new concourse is expected to open for use in 2012, and then phase two of the project will see the old concourse redeveloped. The complete scheme is due to be fully completed in 2015.

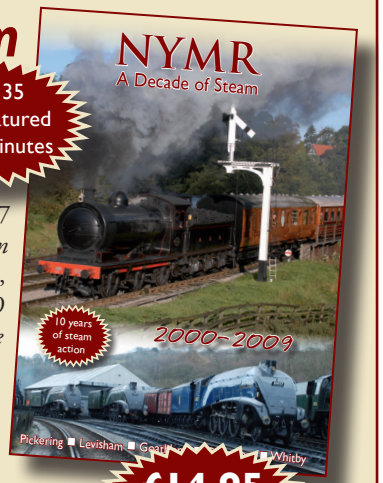
▲ DRS Class 57/0s Nos. 57009 and 57004 power the Tilbury - Daventry Intermodal service, south of Tring on 15th April. The move is the latest by DRS to trial pairs of Class 57s on some services, rather than using Class 66s. **Paul Maycock**

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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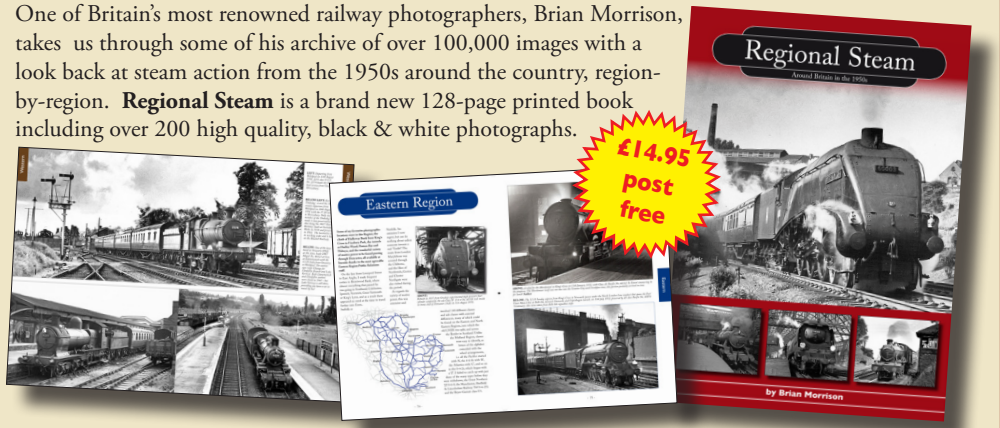

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UK News In Brief

■ A makeover of Swindon station is set to be completed this summer. Among the improvements, the forecourt is to be updated, as currently people literally walk out of the station doors onto the road, and the layout of the car park will be improved. The project forms part of an overall scheme to regenerate the town centre.

■ A new £1 million rail bridge has been built in Girvan to replace the old sandstone structure in Vicarton Street, regarded by many as a landmark in the town. However, Network Rail say that the new bridge will allow the line to run more efficiently as the old bridge was no longer fit for purpose, being subject to weight restrictions and could only take one train at a time.

■ Crossrail has announced a shortlist of six construction firms for the Paddington integrated Project. The work involves construction of a shell and core for a relocated Hammersmith & City Line tube station, plus resurfacing and construction of a roof structure, installation of lifts and escalators, and work on the main station. Crossrail will run from Maidenhead and Heathrow under central London to Shenfield and Abbey Wood in the east.

■ A London-based architects' firm has won an international contest to design a new £6 million square at London King's Cross station. The area, bigger than Leicester Square, will complete Network Rail's £500 million redevelopment of the site, and the final design will be announced later. The scheme will bring the Grade 1 listed southern facade of the station back into public view after 30 years.

■ The original colour of the Royal Albert Bridge when opened in 1859, is to be revealed as engineers press ahead with a two-year major refurbishment plan set to start in October. The restoration work will include stripping off the existing 30 or so layers of paint and then blast-cleaning the bridge. Contractors will then repaint the entire structure. Regardless of the findings, however, Isambard Kingdom Brunel's landmark is likely to get a new coat of grey, as all work must comply with English Heritage guidelines on listed structures.

■ A new sprinkler system to fight fires is to be installed in the Channel Tunnel. Eurotunnel has been testing a method of using fine water spray to starve fires of oxygen and prevent them spreading. Experts say that the system has been tested in temperatures equivalent to those created in a fire involving 40 cars.

■ Recognition has to be given to picture editors at times for having absolutely no idea what they are talking about! On 25th March, the *Enfield Independent* when talking about a story relating to crime on the Piccadilly Line around Enfield on their website, published a related picture to go with the story. The caption read "Police patrols stepped up along Enfield tube lines". The picture? Two Eurostar sets at the now closed Waterloo International!

▲ **Class 60 No. 60071 (left) heads north at Standish Junction with the Westerleigh to Lindsey Oil Refinery discharged petroleum tanks on 16th April, while classmate No. 60096 works south with the Robeston to Westerleigh Murco tanks. The number of options for photographing two of the class in the same picture is now extremely limited with only seven officially active members. Jon Ryder**

Network Rail reduces employee total through 500 redundancies

Network Rail has announced that approximately 500 maintenance employees will be leaving the company by the end of May, as a result of productivity improvements over the last two years.

They will be leaving as part of the company's voluntary redundancy programme and are in addition to the 235 volunteers who took redundancy in January last. Network Rail currently employs some 18,000 people, but is increasing productivity through improved technology and a newer asset base-track, signalling systems and power supplies. This combination of new infrastructure, which needs less maintenance, together with the elimination of over-manning and outdated working practices, is allowing the company to reduce its employee numbers and costs while still maintaining standards. It is expected that a further 200+ employees will leave under the voluntary scheme in the coming months. The planned changes in maintenance have been seen by the Office of Rail Regulation, which supports the changes.

Network Rail's Director of Maintenance, Steve Featherstone, said: "New infrastructure, new technology and new ways of working mean we can maintain the railway more safely and efficiently than ever before with fewer people. This is good news for the travelling public. More efficient maintenance means more investment in improving stations, opening new lines and adding capacity to allow more and longer trains. It is also good news for our employees – those who are leaving get a severance package and those who remain for the long-term will be part of a flexible and more skilled workforce who can deliver better value for money. That is the best way to safeguard skilled jobs in the future".

Previously, the RMT Union had called a maintenance strike for 6th – 9th April, but abandoned the action when a separate signallers' strike was stopped via a High Court injunction. Talks have been held at ACAS in an effort to reach a negotiated settlement, but were adjourned on 19th April.

My Train Ticket

Passengers now have a new option for booking rail tickets online, mytrainticket.co.uk

The facility shows best fares by price and route, and also shows all available Advance, Off Peak and Anytime fares on one page for all the train companies. The website also shows where two singles are cheaper than a return, and allows users to compare ticket flexibility, journey time and on-train facilities such as wifi internet access and catering. The website also has an agreement with Airmiles, so travellers can earn miles when travelling by train - one Airmile for every £10 spent on train tickets.

▲ Class 180 No. 180101 approaches Horbury Cutting, Wakefield, on 21st April, forming the 14.20 King's Cross to Bradford route learner for Grand Central's new 'West Riding' service, which is to commence on 24th May. **Neil Scarlett**

Stranraer route closure ahead?

The line that links Stranraer to Glasgow could face closure in under three years due to rising costs and the loss of direct ferry connections to Ireland next year.

The Scottish Association for Public Transport (SAPT) has said that there is a real prospect of the line closing south of Ayr from 2014, when the franchise is due for re-tender. An SAPT spokesman added that the switching of all ferry traffic by Stena Line from Stranraer Harbour to Cairnryan next year could signal the end of the Stranraer rail link.

At present, rail passengers step off trains just metres away from the ferries at Stranraer, whereas the new Cairnryan terminal will be seven miles from the nearest rail stop. A former freight specialist who runs the Stranraer to Ayr Line Support Association, said it was "madness" for Stena to be opening a new port without a rail link. "It must be the only ferry terminal in Britain which will have no railway," he added. ScotRail, which operates the line, via Ayr and Girvan, said it remained committed to the link, but that any decision on closure would depend upon transport ministers.

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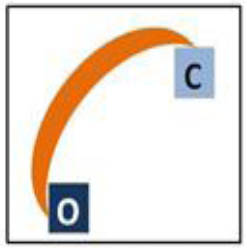

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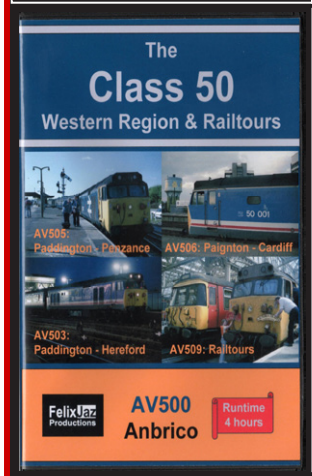

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◀ The 10.08 empty steel scrap wagons from Sheerness Docks to Tyne Yard heads north between Bromley South and Shortlands on 17th April, powered by DRS Class 37/5s Nos. 37667 and 37510. It is understood that as part of the current traction review, this train is booked for a pair of Type 3 locomotives. **Brian Morrison**

▼◀ Rather unusually operating with just a single Class 86/6 at the helm, instead of the usual pair, the Friday's Only 18.21 Coatbridge to Crewe Basford Hall Intermodal winds around the reverse curves on the approach to Carluke on 9th April with No. 86604 providing the motive power. **John Whitehouse**

▼ EWS-liveried Class 66/0 No. 66174 heads along the East Coast Main Line, just south of Hambleton Junction, on 17th April while working a Redcar to Santon (Scunthorpe) Iron Ore service. **Paul Braybrook**

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WHESTRAIL TOUR PRICE GUIDE 2010

Steam-hauled services (3rd/4th July & 25th/26th September)

	Standard Adult	Standard Child	First Class
Falkirk Grahamston - Fort William Single	£79	£49	£110
Falkirk Grahamston - Fort William Return	£125	£75	£165
Glasgow Springburn - Fort William Single	£74	£44	£105
Glasgow Springburn - Fort William Return	£120	£70	£160
Dumbarton & Helensburgh - Fort William Single	£69	£39	£99
Dumbarton & Helensburgh - Fort William Return	£115	£65	£155

Although advertised as a set down stop it may not be possible to use Glasgow Springburn on the Sunday evening and all passengers would be set down at Dumbarton Central or Falkirk.

Diesel-hauled services (all other dates)

	Standard Adult	Standard Child	First Class
Edinburgh Waverley - Fort William Single	£39	£29	£55
Edinburgh Waverley - Fort William Return	£59	£39	£85
Falkirk - Fort William Single	£36	£26	£49
Falkirk - Fort William Return	£56	£36	£79
Glasgow Springburn - Fort William Single	£34	£24	£45
Glasgow Springburn - Fort William Return	£54	£34	£75
Dumbarton & Helensburgh - Fort William Single	£30	£20	£39
Dumbarton & Helensburgh - Fort William Return	£49	£39	£69

The WhestRail Highlander operates the direct link at weekends during July and August from Edinburgh, via Glasgow, to Fort William. All tours allow the visitor to access Lochaber, Glenfinnan and Mallaig by steam or diesel.

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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.

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	
Pathfinder Tours	6024	(Basingstoke-Reading West-Swindon-Bristol Temple Meads-Taunton-) Exeter St. Davids-Totnes-Plymouth-Bodmin Parkway-Par and return	
Railtourer	2xWCRC 47	Cleethorpes-Scunthorpe-Thorne South-Chester-Llandudno & return	
Vintage Trains	4965 & 5043	Solihull-Dorridge-Warwick Parkway-Oxford-Didcot Parkway & return	
Compass Tours	DBS Class 66	Stafford-Hednesford-Wolves-Codsall-Telford Central-Wellington-Craven Arms-Llandrindrod Wells-Cardiff-Newport-Hereford & return	
Railway Touring Co.	70013	Poole-Bournemouth-Southampton-Eastleigh-Westbury-Cardiff & return	
3rd May 2010			
Railtourer	2xWCRC 47	Huntingdon-S&C-Carlisle-Workington-Carnforth & return	
UK Railtours	2xDBS 67	London Euston-Watford Jct-Rugby-Crewe-Chester-Llandudno & return	
Compass Tours	2xDBS 67	Crewe-Warrington Bank Quay-Wigan North Western-Preston-Lancaster-Oxenholme-Penrith-Carlisle-Lockerbie-Beattock-Forth Bridge-Tay Bridge-Dundee-Aberdeen & return	
North East Railtours	2xWCRC 37	Newcastle Central-Cramlington-Berwick upon Tweed-Oban & return	
8th May 2010			
Steam Dreams	60163	London King's Cross-York & return	
PMR Tours	6233	(Gloucester-Kidderminster-Wolverhampton-)Crewe-Shap-Carlisle & return	
UK Railtours	35028	London Waterloo-Woking-Basingstoke-Andover-Salisbury-Yeovil Jnc (-Maiden Newton-Weymouth)--Wareham--Bournemouth-Southampton-Basingstoke & return	
NENTA Traintours	2xWCRC 47	Norwich-Ipswich-Stowmarket-Bury St. Edmunds-Ely-Aberystwyth & rtn	
SRPS Railtours	tbc	North Berwick-Falkirk High-Crianlarich-Fort William-Mallaig & return	
NELPG	62005	(Carnforth-Skipton-York-)Middlesborough-Stockton-Ferryhill-Newcastle Central-Bedlington-North Blyth-Ashington-Bedlington-(Morpeth)-Stockton-(Middlesborough)-York & return	
MCRUA	2xDBS 67	Manchester Piccadilly-Mobberley-Chester-Bath Spa-Bristol TM & rtn	
Railway Touring Co	46115	York-Leeds-King's Cross & return	**Cancelled**
Railway Touring Co	70013	London Liverpool Street-Cambridge-Newmarket-Bury St.Edmunds-Ipswich-Colchester-Shenfield-London Liverpool Street	

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.

Contents Page

Oh to go a wandering with the ranger!

Although Ranger Trains maybe a new name, the brains behind this business has been around that block many times, and probably more than most.

Graham Campion has long been connected with heritage railways, either through the *Leander* Locomotive Society, which was responsible for preserving No. 5690 *Leander*, and more recently as the organiser of Vintage Trains' excursion programme, prior to a reported short spell at the newly formed Torbay Express.

He is based in the East Midlands, where he knows the market very well and his brainchild, Ranger Trains, is set to exploit that knowledge with a series of tours based from that area. The inaugural outing is on 17th July and features No. 60163 *Tornado* on 'The Solent Tornado', which starts diesel-hauled from Chesterfield, picking up along the Erewash Valley to East Midlands Parkway, followed by Leicester, Hinkley, Nuneaton and Coleshill Parkway, prior to heading for Bristol Temple Meads, via the Lickey incline. At Temple Meads, *Tornado* will take over the tour and work via Bath Spa and Westbury to Salisbury, continuing to Southampton and Eastleigh, before returning via Romsey on the way back to Salisbury, where a break will be taken. The return to Bristol is directly via Westbury with *Tornado*, and then back home as outwards with diesel traction.

On 11th September, Headcorn is the destination for a visit to the nearby Kent & East Sussex Railway, with the tour originating at Derby, with pick-ups at Long Eaton, East Midlands Parkway, Leicester, Market Harborough, Kettering, Wellingborough, Bedford and Flitwick. This is followed by a Thames cruise on the paddle steamer PS Waverley on 2nd October, which has Southend Central as its destination for onward transfer to the ship. This tour starts at Chesterfield, and then to Derby, picking up at the same locations as the September tour.

The Melton Mowbray 'Christmas Fayre', a favourite destination for Vintage Trains when Graham was with them, features on 5th December, but this time with a difference. Starting from Preston, this offering brings a Stanier Pacific to the East Midlands in the shape of No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth*, which will cover the cross-country leg from Crewe via Stoke-on-Trent in each direction, as well as participating in the outward leg of a shuttle from Melton Mowbray across Harringworth Viaduct to Kettering.

▼ **LMS 'Princess Royal' Pacific No. 6201** *Princess Elizabeth* **is seen in fine form just north of Settle Junction, with the Hellifield to Carlisle section of 'The Hadrian' charter on 17th April. Richard Whiteley**

The Week Ahead

by John Whitehouse

As there will be a publication break for *Railway Herald* over the May Day Bank Holiday, this preview covers the busy period through to the weekend of 8th/9th May.

The coming weeks will see several steam-hauled workings, commencing with two trains on 29th April, the first of which signals the entry of UK Railtours as a major player in the 'steam-market'. The initial working of an ongoing programme of trains planned to operate throughout 2010 sets out of London King's Cross with 'A4' No. 60019 *Bittern* at the helm with 'The Scarborough Flyer', which it will work via York, to Scarborough returning as far as York, from where modern traction (possibly a DBS Class 90) will return the train to King's Cross. Meanwhile Steam Dreams will be heading from London Victoria to Canterbury East with a 'Cathedrals Express' booked for haulage by 'King Arthur' 4-6-0 No. 30777 *Sir Lamiel*.

Saturday 1st May has no fewer than four steam-hauled trips, curiously all concentrated in the south of England. A Vintage Trains Great Western double-header featuring Tyseley's 'Hall' No. 4965 *Rood Ashton Hall* and 'Castle' No.5043 *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe* feature in a working from Solihull to Didcot, in order visit the first day of the main 'GWR 175' celebrations at the Didcot Railway Centre, which continue through to 9th May. The train is entitled 'The Beltane Express'; 'Beltane' bring the Anglicised version of the Gaelic name for the festival, which traditionally takes place on the first day of May, marking the commencement of the pastoral summer season - you get an education as well as a railtour from Vintage Trains' these days!

Another GW stalwart in action on 1st May, will be No. 6024 *King Edward I* which is due to head Pathfinder's 'Royal Duchy' from Exeter St Davids, via the South Devon banks and Plymouth to Par and back. The train originates at Basingstoke and runs diesel-hauled via Bristol Temple Meads. Railway Touring Company set out from the south coast with 'The Welshman', featuring the extremely mobile 'Britannia' No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* on a return working from Poole, via Westbury and Bath Spa, to Cardiff. The final steam outing is a British Pullman 'Surrey Hills' luncheon train hauled by Merchant Navy Pacific No. 35028 *Clan Line*.

Modern or heritage traction tours also feature on 1st May, with Railtourer heading from Cleethorpes to Llandudno with WCRC Class 47s, while UK Railtours are bound for the Spalding Flower Festival from King's Cross with DBS Class 67s. The Central Wales line features in Compass Railtours' 'Scenic Wales Explorer' from Stafford, which offers a rare chance nowadays to travel over the Cannock Chase Line, prior to heading for Llandrindod Wells and Cardiff with DBS Class 66 traction.

Four tours are booked to operate on May Day Bank Holiday, starting with UK Railtours' following Railtourer's lead with a visit to Llandudno from London Euston with DBS Class 67s, while Compass head for Dundee from Crewe with DBS Class 67 traction. There is also the opportunity to stay aboard for an add-on trip to Aberdeen with this train. Railtourer are bound for Carlisle from Huntingdon and East Coast stations to Doncaster, working northbound over the Settle & Carlisle and returning around the Cumbrian Coast, before taking the 'Little North Western' route from Carnforth, via Wennington, to Leeds and home. North East Railtours starts its 2010 programme on 3rd May with a working to Oban from Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Cramlington, Morpeth and Berwick-on-Tweed, which should feature West Coast Class 37 power on the Oban line, if not throughout.

The following weekend, all the action takes place on 8th May. Again steam holds pride of place with some six charters planned. Leading the pack is NELPG's 'Blyth Sprit', which features the 'K1' Mogul No. 62005 working around the Blyth and Tyne from Middlesbrough, taking in Ashington and Bedlington, before regaining the East Coast Main Line at Morpeth. The train then heads south to Newcastle Central and Stockton, and after a diesel drag from there to Middlesbrough, there is a final run with the 'K1' to York. The train originates at Carnforth, and also travels via the 'Little North Western', and Leeds to Middlesbrough outwards diesel-hauled, and from York on the return.

UK Railtours second steam working programme features No. 35028 *Clan Line*, which is making a rare appearance on a non-VSOE train. 'The Somerset & Dorset' works out of London Waterloo along south west metals, via Salisbury to Yeovil Junction, where the loco will be detached for coaling and water while the train continues to Weymouth diesel-hauled, passing Maiden Newton and Dorchester en route. The return is a classic ex-Southern operation with *Clan Line* at the head throughout from Weymouth to Waterloo, via Bournemouth, Basingstoke and Woking.

Classic LMS traction is also in action, on familiar territory. Steam on Shap inevitably conjures up thoughts of 'Duchesses' on heavy northbound passenger trains, and on 8th May thoughts again become reality when No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland* returns to its spiritual home with PMR Tours 'Citadel Express', which has No. 6233 throughout from Crewe to Carlisle, via Shap, in both directions. The tour starts at Gloucester diesel-hauled and picks up via Worcester Shrub Hill and Wolverhampton. RTC has its re-dated working from London Liverpool Street to Bury St Edmunds, with *Oliver Cromwell* on 8th May. The outward route is via Cambridge, while the return is along the Great Eastern main line through Ipswich.

The final steam working of the day unsurprisingly features 'A1' Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* on a Steam Dreams 'Cathedrals Express' from London King's Cross to York and back, thus providing King's Cross' with three steam-hauled workings in the day. In the past an out and back between King's Cross and York was not usually possible due to the need for two water stops along the way, and the resulting extra time, but *Tornado's* greater range now renders this itinerary possible.

Modern traction tours number just three, with the Mid Cheshire Rail Users Association enjoying its traditional annual early spring outing, which this year is entitled 'The Great Western Express', starting from Manchester Piccadilly and picking-up at all-stations via Altrincham and Northwich to Chester before proceeding via Crewe to Bath Spa and Bristol Temple Meads with DBS Class 67 traction. Meanwhile, Nenta Traintours will be heading across country from Norwich to Aberystwyth, via Peterborough, with West Coast Class 47s, which should also feature on the SRPS outing from North Berwick, via Edinburgh Waverley to Fort William and Mallaig.

▼ **LMS Stanier 8F 2-8-0 No. 48151 eases across the Afon Leri, near Borth, at the head of an Aberystwyth to Wakefield WCRC private charter on 23th April. John Whitehouse**

THE CATHEDRALS EXPRESS

LUXURY TRIP *by* STEAM TRAIN
to AYR *from* EDINBURGH

Sit back, relax and enjoy the experience of travelling by steam, the evocative whistle of the engine, steam drifting past the windows while you are looked after by our friendly and attentive staff.

Three hours to sight-see or shop in Ayr, visit the beach or take a trip to Robbie Burns Birthplace (supplement) and gardens at the Burns National Heritage Park.

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.

This trip will take the hilly Shotts route which has not seen preserved steam in decades and then via the south side of Glasgow and out via Paisley and Troon before arrival in Ayr.

Times:
Depart: Edinburgh Waverley 10am
Arrive: Ayr 1pm
Depart: Ayr 4.00pm
Arrive: Edinburgh Waverley 7.00pm

Pullman Style Champagne Brunch, 5 course dinner including wine/canapes	**£199**
Premier Dining Champagne Brunch and 4 Course Dinner	**£165**
1st Class Champagne, fruit juice, tea, coffee, morning pastry	**£89**
Standard Class	**£59.50**

Code 3198

Tel: 01483 209888 *or* www.steamdreams.co.uk

Oliver Cromwell favourite for 13.55 at Newmarket!

It is a long time since Newmarket saw a steam train, a situation that will be rectified on 8th May.

The Railway Touring Company's re-dated 'Bury St Edmunds' charter from London Liverpool Street, featuring 'go-anywhere' No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* will bring steam back to the racing town.

The outward route is to Cambridge, before diverging at Coldham Lane Junction for Bury St. Edmunds, via Newmarket and Kennett. The return follows the Great Eastern through Ipswich and Colchester back to Liverpool Street. The continued absence of No. 34067 *Tangmere* will mean that *Oliver Cromwell* will deputise on RTC's 'The Royal Wessex' on 22nd May and 'The Swanage Bell' on 31st May.

▲ WCRC Class 47/7 No. 47786 hauls 13 Mk1s, together with classmate No. 47787, into Whiteball Tunnel with a Leeds to Paignton charter on 24th April. **Brian Garrett**

Our special supplement covering the 'Great Britain III' charter over 6th-14th April

Can be downloaded here

Tyseley-based GWR 'Castle' 4-6-0 No. 5043 *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe* **steams through Duffield Road, at the east end of Sonning Cutting, with 'The Bristolian' charter on 17th April bound for Bristol Temple Meads. Of note is the maroon-liveried GUV van behind the locomotive, which contained a water tank, allowing the 'Castle' to run non-stop. The train arrived back into London significantly early, having been routed via the fast lines for the majority of its journey. Tony Callaghan**

Having been kept with a low-profile, WCRC operated a private charter on 22nd April with Carnforth-based '8F' 2-8-0 No. 48151. The train originated at Wakefield behind Class 37/7 No. 37706, which worked as far as Shrewsbury, from where the '8F' took over for the remainder of the run to Aberystwyth. The train is pictured on the return journey, which the '8F' worked throughout, at Cilcewydd, between Newtown and Welshpool. **David Price**

SR Maunsell-built 'King Arthur' Class 4-6-0 No. 30777 *Sir Lamiel* **hauls its first main line working in several months, seen here passing Ruscombe on 23rd April, with Steam Dreams' 08.45 London Victoria to Stratford-upon-Avon charter. To celebrate St Georges Day, the loco was carrying the name and identity of classmate No. 30453** *King Arthur*. **However, the original No. 30453 was a Urie-built 'King Arthur', with a significantly different appearance. Ken Brunt**

Great Western steam and diesel locomotives headline gala weekends at Midland Railway - Butterley

The Midland Railway Butterley has two main events in May, both featuring diesel traction, commencing with a 1960s weekend on 8th/9th May, when steam will also participate.

Visiting the centre is the Furness Railway Trust's ex-GWR 5600 class 0-6-2T No. 5643, which will be operating alongside resident Class 9F No. 92214. From the diesel fleet, it is also expected that Class 40 No. D212 *Aureol*, Class 46 No. 182 and a DMU will be in operation.

The visiting Great Western tank locomotive will be available for the driver experience course on 7th May.

The main diesel gala is scheduled for 22nd/23rd May, when three visitors are expected. These are scheduled to be Class 14 No. 14901, Class 31 No. 31206 and Class 37 No. 37264, which will operate alongside the home fleet of Class 08 No. 08590, Class 20 No. 20048, Class 31 No. 31271, Class 40 No. 40012, Class 45/1 No. 45133, Class 46 No. 46045 and Class 47/4 No. 47401. The full timetable and locomotive allocations can be downloaded from the Butterley website, and No. 31206 will be available for driver experience courses on 21st May.

Triple Grids could be stars of Battlefield Diesel Gala

Advance notice for readers that the next diesel gala at the 'Battlefield Line' is scheduled for 15th/16th May, when the principal attraction will be a triple-headed working of three 'Grids'.

The line's three operational Class 56s Nos. 56040 *Oystermouth*, 56086 and 56098, the latter sporting it's recently applied 'Loadhaul' livery are all expected to take part in the proceedings.

Trains are due to operate hourly from 09.00 each day, and full details of the planned operations and a round up of the locomotives expected to be participating are due to be announced shortly.

DIDCOT RAILWAY CENTRE
Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 7NJ 01235 817200
info@didcotrailwaycentre.org.uk www.didcotrailwaycentre.org.uk

GWR EXTRAVAGANZA
Saturday 1 May - Sunday 9 May

Probably the largest gathering of GWR locomotives in modern times.
A NINE DAY CELEBRATION OF 175 YEARS OF THE GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY
Featuring up to 13 GWR engines in steam (subject to availability)
- LIKELY ENGINES IN STEAM:- Broad gauge replica Fire Fly, City of Truro, Lydham Manor, Nunney Castle, 5322, 3822, 9466, 3650, 3738, 1338, 1340, 1450 (with auto-coach)
- ON SAT 1 MAY, with the visit of Rood Ashton Hall & Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, 31 GWR engines on site with a total age of 2,456 years.
- TUESDAY 4 MAY - FRIDAY 7 MAY Specialist themed days, using 3 different guest engines, plus one from the home fleet, each day
- Photo charters THURSDAY 6 MAY (evening) & SATURDAY 8 MAY (0630)
- Single day or three day ticket available. Please call or refer to website
- Turntable demonstrations all days. Traverser demonstrations on SAT/SUN 8/9 MAY
- Cafe Shop Picnic Areas Small Relics Museum

1835 GWR 2010 DIDCOT
Registered Charity No 272616

MIDLAND RAILWAY BUTTERLEY

Spring Events at the Midland Railway - Butterley
24th and 25th April - All Aboard with Ivor
1st to 3rd May - Vintage Train Weekend
8th and 9th May - 1960s Weekend
featuring visiting loco GWR 0-6-2 No 5643
22nd and 23rd May - Diesel Weekend
with visiting loco 31-206 & 14.901
More than just a railway with our Railway Museum, the West Shed Experience, Golden Valley Light Railway, Victorian Railwayman's Church, Demonstration Signal Box, Farm Park, Country Park, Shops, Buffets, Model and Miniature Railways, Stationary Power Display, Road Transport Display.
More details on our website:
www.midlandrailwaycentre.co.uk
Midland Railway – Butterley
Butterley Station, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3QZ
Phone: 01773 570140
Email: midland.railway@btconnect.com
The Midland Railway Trust Limited is a Registered Charity

One of the prize pieces of the National Collection is No. 3440 *City of Truro*. The locomotive is based at Toddington on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway for most of the time, and over the last few months has been undergoing work to repaint it into GWR green livery, together with its post-1912 number of 3717. The work is pictured in progress at Toddington on 20th April. Jack Boskett

Class 46 'Peak' to star in GCR(N) gala

The Great Central Railway (Nottingham) will be operating a diesel gala over the weekend of 15th/16th May, the feature of which will be the appearance of the recently acquired 'Peak' Class 46 No. 46010.

Also in action will be the 'home' fleet which consists of Class 20s Nos. 20007 & 20154, Class 25 No. 25279, Class 47s Nos. 47292 &47765 and Class 73 No. 73110, plus the prospect of a further visitor for the event.

An intensive service will operate on both days, and new for 2010, there will be a free shuttle bus from East Midlands Parkway station to Rushcliffe Halt.

Diesel Mania at Peak Rail in May

Peak Rail plans to feature its diesel fleet during a 'Diesel Mania Weekend' scheduled for 8th/9th May.

Locomotives likely to be involved will be Class 47 No. 47635, Class 44 No. 44008, Class 37 No. 37152 and Class 31 No. 31270. Additionally, the Heritage Shunters Trust Class 08 No. 08016 will also be in action. A special timetable will be in operation, details of which, together with the associated fares will be announced shortly.

Severn Valley Railway goes 1960s for gala while diesel shed plan progresses

The latter days of BR steam and the early age of diesel traction will again be the feature of the SVR's 1960s weekend booked for 8th/9th May, as well as, no doubt, the fashions of the day!

A mixture of steam and diesel traction is booked with Class 52 No. D1062 *Western Courier* and Class 42 'Warship' No. D821 *Greyhound* earmarked to represent the latter, together with members of the SVR steam fleet.

Currently the outline timetable indicates up to 10 diesel diagrams on both days. Look out for some DMU action as well as possible double-heading.

With planning application for the proposed diesel shed at Kidderminster submitted, the SVR Diesel Shed Appeal has renewed efforts at raising the necessary £250,000 to finance its construction.

The new shed will provide a range of facilities to the owning groups, including a reinforced floor to support locomotive jacks to permit work on bogies, inspection pits to enable inspections and maintenance to the under-frames of the diesel fleet, good lighting and heating to permit work to continue throughout the year, and most importantly good and secure storage for components.

To date the appeal has reached £180,000, which should be given a major boost on 1st May when a concert has been organised featuring the tribute band 'Shameless Quo', which will take place in the concourse of Kidderminster station.

Also diesel driving experience courses are being auctioned for the event.

For further details visit the official website at www.svrdieselshed.co.uk

▲ **One of the stalwarts of the NYMR, LMS 'Black 5' No. 45428** *Eric Treacy* **stands in Grosmont station on 16th April, on the locomotive's first outing from the MPD, a test run over the short distance to Green End. Alongside is SR 'S15' 4-6-0 No. 825 on the 14.30 service to Pickering. Philip Benham**

Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway hit by landslip

A landslip at Gotherington on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway has resulted in all train services south of Gotherington Halt to Cheltenham Racecourse station being suspended as precautionary measure until further notice, but trains are still operating between Toddington and Gotherington Halt.

The planned celebration of the 175th anniversary of the Great Western Railway between 29th May and 6th June, however, will still go ahead with what is described as a 'star-studded cast of visiting locomotives'. As a bonus, trains will for the first time in nearly half a century, be travelling north from Toddington over the 15-arch, 50ft-high Stanway Viaduct, affording Festival visitors an impressive new view.

The slip was discovered on 22nd April, and although it does not directly affect the track over which trains run, safety is a priority, and specialist engineers are to make trial bores in the land to determine the extent and cause of the problem. Repairs will be carried out as soon as possible.

▲ **The visible effect of the landslide, on the now unused loop line at Gotherington. As a result services are now suspended south of Gotherington Halt. Jack Boskett**

Statfold Spring Gala

▲ The newly restored Quarry Hunslet *Edward Sholto* with a demonstration goods train on the Statfold Barn Railway, during the 'Spring Open Day' on 27th March. **Sam Maisey**

▶▲ The line's Krauss 1899-built 0-4-2T *SRAGI No. 1* stands on display in the loop.

▶▼ *Paddy*, a vertical-boilered 0-4-0 locomotive awaits its next duty. **All: Graham Lightfoot**

▼ Another of the railway's fleet, O&K 1923-built 0-6-0, *SRAGI No. 14* waits in the loop with a passenger service.

A Serco test train crosses the recently refurbished viaduct over the River Hamble at Bursledon on 20th April. The train was returning from Portsmouth Harbour with Class 31/1 No. 31233 leading and Class 73/1 No. 73107 on the rear. **Mervyn Turvey**

The early morning loco-hauled commuter service to and from Edinburgh, via the Fife Circle, with Class 67 No. 67018 *Keith Heller* slows for the Dalmeny stop at the southern end of the Forth Bridge on 19th April. **Fred Kerr**

◀◀ Class 70 No. 70005 heads the first revenue-earning service for the type in Scotland, a Ravenstruther to Longannet coal working thorugh Alloa on 20th April. **Alex Napier**

◀ Classmate No. 70003 is pictured at Burn on the ECML, while working the first railtour for the class on 17th April. **Ron Cover**

▼ Two days later, and the same loco is pictured on a training run, bringing the first Class 70 to Immingham. Here, the train passes Melton Ross. **Richard Tuplin**

▼ **DRS Class 37/6 No. 37611 worked its first main line passenger service in almost nine years on 22nd April, when it was paired with Class 47/4 No. 47501** *Craftman*. **The set heads for Workington on the Cumbrian Coast 'Floodex' service.** **Michael Dalgleish**

▲ **On 22nd April DRS Class 37/0 No 37087** *Keighley & Worth Valley Railway - 40th Anniversary 1968 - 2008* **passes Swanley with a 'stoneblower' move to Ashford.** **Brian Morrison**

▲ **Class 37/4 No. 37423 leads 'The Broadsman' mini-tour from Norwich to Holt through Kelling Cutting on the North Norfolk Railway on 24th April.** **Steve Allen**

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.

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 John Goodrich on 023 8067 0028 for details.

Tewkesbury Rly 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 Loco Society
Hayes Village Hall, Hayes Street, Hayes, Bromley. 'Steam in Various Places Since 1960' by John Snell. Start 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 - Steam from Around the World' by Malcolm Ranieri. Starts 19.30. Contact paul.udey@talktalk.net for 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 Rly 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. 'The Cream of the Stanford Jacobs Collection' by John New. Starts 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. Starts 19.30. Contact 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. Starts 19.30. Contact ipswich@rcts.org.uk for details.

Should your society information be listed on this page?

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

▼ **Seen passing through Bristol on 18th April is the 11.30 Cheltenham Alston Sidings to Taunton Fairwater Yard engineers train behind Freightliner's Class 66/6 No. 66610 and comprising of the lengthy High Output Ballast Cleaner (HOBC) set. At this point, only 75% of the train can be seen! Edward Gleed**

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 Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094 for further details.

York Railway Circle
The Library, Archbishop Holgate's School, Hull Road, York. 'Favourite Lines' a slide show from Middlesborough to Pickering via Whitby and Scarboroughby Victor Lee.. Meeting starts at 19.30. Contact Robin Patrick by e-mail at locopatrick@aol.com for details.

11th May 2010
Abergavenny and District Steam Society
Upper Room, The Hen & Chickens, Flannel Street, Abergavenny AGM & Films/Slides. Starts 20.00. Contact 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.

RCTS (Edinburgh)
Quakers Meeting House, 7 Victoria Street, Edinburgh. 'Narrow Gauge Spectacular' by Les Nixon. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary at evanwilliams@talktalk.net for further details.

15th May 2010
Stephenson Locomotive Society
St John Ambulance Centre, Sandes Avenue, Kendal. Outside Visit and Walk. Meeting commences at 19.15. Contact the Secretary on 01539 720706 for further details.

17th May 2010
The Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill)
The Angel Hotel, 26 College Road, Spinkhill, Sheffield S21 3YB. 'The Hedjaz Railway in Jordan and Syria' by Richard Paget. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Frank Greaves on 01909 473927 for details.

RCTS (Coventry)
Maudslay Hotel, 190 Allesley Old Road, Coventry. 'Steaming Through Britain' by Graham Briggs. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Maidenhead)
Cox Green Community Centre, Highfield Lane, Cox Green, Maidenhead. 'Branch AGM followed by Members' Presentations'. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Oxford)
West Oxford Democrats Club, 1 North Street, Osney, 'Branch AGM followed by Members' Slides'. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary at murraylewis@hotmail.co.uk for further details.

RCTS (Shenfield)
Shenfield Parish Hall, 60 Hutton Road, Shenfield. 'Journeys in North America' by John Jolly. Meeting commences at 19.30.

18th May 2010
RCTS (Hull)
Upstairs, The Highway Public House, Willerby Road, Hull. 'Reedies Railway Rambles Part 2' by Gordon Reed. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary at richardh@djbroady.co.uk for further details.

19 May 2010
RCTS (Eastleigh)
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'Isle of Wight Railway' by Jim Loe. Meeting commences at 19.45.

Severn Valley Railway (South East)
Wenlock Arms, 26 Wenlock Road, Islington, London N1 7TA. 'Slides from BR & the Early Preservation Era' by Martin Smith. Meeting commences at 19.30.

20th May 2010
Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society
Roundhouse Lecture Theatre, Barrow Hill, Chesterfield. 'The Lickey Incline: The Steepest Adhesion Mainline in the UK and Running Charter Trains in Switzerland' by Alan Spencer. Starts 19.30. Admission £1.50 members, £2 non members. Contact the Secretary at beardspaul@aol.com for details.

Breconshire Railway Society
R.A.F.A.Club, The Struet, Brecon. 'A Railway Holiday in Scotland in 1961' by Noel Thompson. Meeting commences at 19.30. Members only. Please contact Arthur Robinson on 01982 560219 for further details and all membership enquiries.

Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend DA12 1BB. '25 Years of the Spa Valley Railway' by Brian Halford. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact the Secretary, Roger Hart on 01474 833320 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. AGM and Members & Visitors Slides/ Digital Photos, Prints & 8mm Film. Meeting commences at 19

Marlow & District Railway Society
Bourne End Community Centre, Wakeman Road, Bourne End. 'On and Off the Footplate' by Bill Davies. Meeting commences at 20.00. Non-members admission £2.

RCTS (Darlington)
The Scout Building, Widdowfield Street, Darlington. 'The G5 Project' by Dr Mike Wood. Meeting commences at 19.00. Contact the Secretary at jimbrick@fsmail.net for further details.

RCTS (Pudsey)
The Fulneck Room, Pudsey Civic Hall, Pudsey. 'Cold Wednesday (or what happens when a question is asked at the AGM)' by Jamie Guest. Meeting commences at 19.30.

21st May 2010
Great Western Society (Taunton)
Village Hall, Stoke St.Mary, nr Taunton. 'Railways in West & North Devon' by Peter Gray. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact the Secretary on 01823 334188 for further details,.

24th May 2010
RCTS (Brighton)
Brighton Railway Model Club Room, London Road Station, Shaftesbury Place, Brighton. 'The Life and Times of Isambard Kingdom Brunel' by Peter Hay. Meeting commences at 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

DRS refurbished Class 37/5s Nos. 37667 and 37510 power through Church Brampton on 17th April, with empty wagons from Sheerness to Tyne Dock, to be loaded with steel scrap for export. Steve Madden

Magazine Information

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