Railway Herald

Issue 222 - 17th May 2010

The electronic journal for the railway enthusiast

Railway Herald

Issue 222
17th May 2010

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Howard Elwyn-Jones

First Edinburgh Tram calls at Princes Street

Edinburgh took delivery of the first of 27 new tramcars in preparation for the opening of the light rail system in mid-2012. Having been delivered, the tramcar has been placed on public display in Princes Street, in the shadow of Edinburgh Castle.

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Click here to download the supplement

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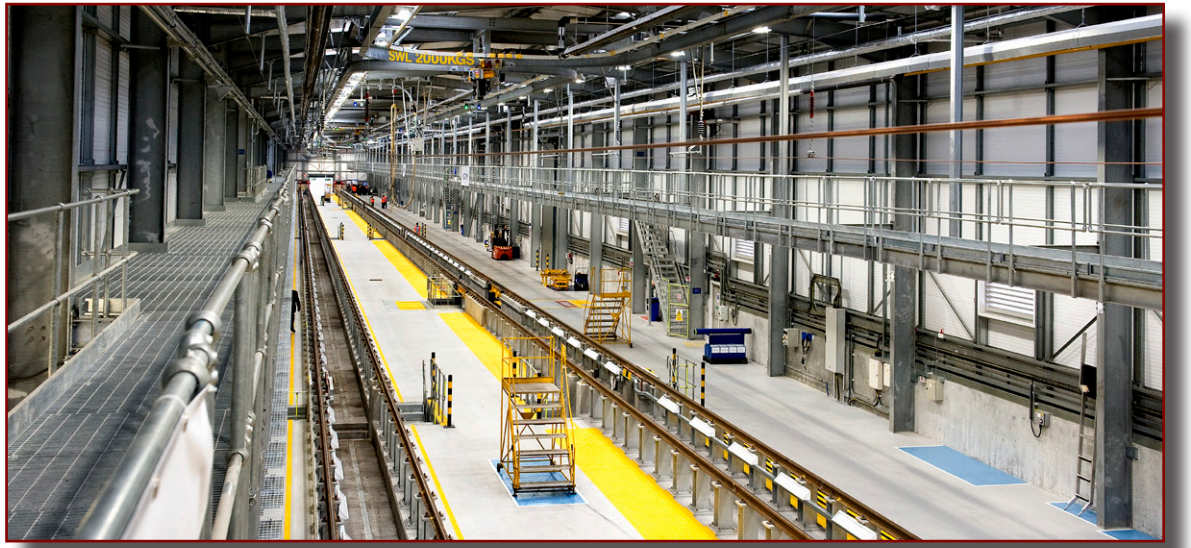
Front Cover Caption:

DBS operated its Executive Train on a circular trip from Reading via Weymouth, and Llandrindod Wells on 12th May. Here, the train powers out of Pantyffynnon. Class 67s and DVTs have made visits to the Heart of Wales line before, but are certainly unusual! Adrian Kenny

Alstom opens refurbished Edge Hill Traincare Centre



▲ The raised track within the facility is supported on steel sub columns, and high-level access to train roofs, doors and windows is provided by the steel gantries running the full length of the building. **Brian Morrison**

Following a £15 million investment by Network Rail in the facility, the new Liverpool Traincare Centre at Edge Hill was formally opened by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool on 12th May.

The two-lane, 280 metre-long depot is now able to receive up to eight Pendolinos each night for service and maintenance, compared with the five it formally handled. The increase greatly assists the running of the Virgin fleet, as 47 of the 52 Class 390s are required to be in operation on a daily basis. New lifting and access equipment on site now allows for a full range of tasks to be undertaken, including pantograph and wheelset changes and windscreen and catering equipment replacement.

Previously, only relatively minor maintenance could be carried out, major work being carried out at Alstom's other five Traincare centres on the West Coast Main Line.

The new Edge Hill building replaces the old one constructed in the 1960s, and will now play a major role in the programme to increase capacity on the Pendolino fleet, the first of four new 11-car trains being built at Savagliano, Italy, arriving at Edge Hill for initial testing in November this year. It is also here where two new carriages will be fitted into 31 of the existing nine-car trains, to be ready for service in 2012. The latter work is scheduled to take place from April next year, with the additional coaches being delivered via the Channel Tunnel and stored locally to Edge Hill, until required by the upgrade programme.

▼ Class 57/3 No. 57301 leads Mk3 DVT No. 82126 and the Virgin Mk3 set through Lichfield Trent Valley on 12th May, with the returning Liverpool Lime Street to London Euston press charter. Class 57/3 No. 57312 was on the rear. **John Whitehouse**

▲ Channel Tunnel Class 9/8 shuttle loco No. 9803 *Benjamin Luxon* rounds the loop to the Cheriton Terminal platforms on 11th May, with a car transporter service from Coquelles. **Brian Morrison**

Emergency alarm brings Channel Tunnel to a standstill

Services through the Channel Tunnel were disrupted shortly after 08.00 UK time on 15th May, following the trigger of a CO2 sensor within the south running tunnel.

All Eurotunnel shuttles and Eurostar services were immediately suspended, pending further investigation by the emergency services. The train that had triggered the alarm was one of Eurotunnel's HGV shuttles, operating from France to Great Britain, which was more than halfway through the bore at the time. All 30 drivers travelling the in the adjacent coach were evacuated to the service tunnel.

Emergency services are trying to establish what triggered the alarm, although the North Running Tunnel was reopened after some two hours. It is understood that nine Eurostar services were affected.

ScotRail investment in safety and security at Perth

Perth Station is now covered by 60 CCTV cameras in a £164,000 investment by ScotRail designed to 'provide even more security and reassurance to customers and staff'.

Platforms, footbridge, the travel centre, car parks and station entrances are now monitored at all times. The location of the cameras take into account the station's listed status, and their number is related to sightlines. The more complex the station in terms of buildings, structures, and areas to be covered, the more cameras are needed under the ScotRail standard that all parts of the station accessible by members of the public must be covered.

Proposals put forward for Alloa - Dunfermline passenger service

The prospects of recommencing a passenger service from Alloa to Dunfermline has been outlined in a report presented to Clackmannanshire Council by the South East Scotland Transport Partnership (SEStran).

The proposals examine four options for reopening the line:

Option 1 - Using the existing line from Alloa to Rosyth with passenger and freight services, with stops at Clackmannan, Kincardine and Cairneyhill and the Charlestown Chord in place. Services could be run hourly as an extension of the Glasgow-Stirling-Alloa service to Edinburgh and vice versa;

Option 2 - As option 1, but without the Charlestown Chord, adding 15 minutes to the journey time;

Option 3 - Using the existing line for freight, with a new express bus to Edinburgh along the A985, stopping at Clackmannan, Kincardine, Cairneyhill.

Option 4 - As Option 3, but with a new express bus along the A907, with stops at Clackmannan and Oakley.

The report recommends Option 1, as the most cost-effective, followed by Option 2. It adds that upgrading the line would cost £65 million and recommends that if Option 1 was taken forward, an operational assessment should be carried out to assess train path availability, as there is a shortage of rail capacity on the approaches to Edinburgh, and its possible impact upon journey times.

▼ A site to sadden all enthusiasts of a certain age. On 7th May, this is Shirebrook in what was the North Nottinghamshire coalfield. Class 156/4 No. 156410 forms the 12.25 Nottingham to Worksop service, while in the background a Welbeck Colliery to Daw Mill empty coal service disappears past the empty and rail-free shell that was once Shirebrook Depot. **John Illingworth**

Metro and Light Rail News

Could the extension of Tramlink to Crystal Palace be on the cards?

Having mothballed plans to extend the Croydon Tramlink to Crystal Palace in 2008 because of lack of funds, the Mayor of London has now included the project again in a transport blueprint for the Capital.

There are still no public funds available for the project, but he now says that he will be lobbying for finances in the coming months. This is expected to be in both public and private sectors. Doubts remain, however, on how the loosly estimated £62 to £170 million required to build the scheme will be raised. Nevertheless, its inclusion in the strategy has been welcomed by business leaders. The Crystal Palace and Norwood Chamber of Commerce Chairman Ray Hall said: "This is excellent news for Crystal Palace. It will make the area easier to access, bringing more shoppers and encouraging people to further invest in the area."

The inclusion within the blueprint follows the forthcoming expansion of the East London Line on 23rd May to a full service, connecting Crystal Palace with Canary Wharf. The addition of the tramlink extension connecting into the East London Line would open up several strategic transport corridors for local residents.

Transport for London was committed to Tramlink and investing over £50 million in the system by 2015, but none of that investment was currently earmarked for extensions, although a spokesman for the Mayor of London did say that initial investigation of Tramlink extensions had been undertaken and would be explored further with the Boroughs.

First tram arrives in Edinburgh and goes on display in Princes Street

The inaugural tram for Edinburgh arrived in late April and was put on public display at the Princes Street stop from 28th April.

Fresh from successful testing in Germany, the 43-metre long vehicle is the first of the 27-strong fleet to arrive in the city. The set was delivered by road from Germany, via Amsterdam, in three sections on 30 metre-long trucks. The next batch of trams to arrive from the builders CAF, are due in Autumn this year. **Howard Elwyn-Jones**

Serco Docklands fined

Following the previous report of Serco Limited, the operator of the Docklands Light Railway, being found guilty of failing to stop a train after a passenger fell onto the track, it has been reported that a fine of £450,000 has been imposed and the company ordered to pay £43,773 costs.

The case was instigated following a serious Health & Safety offence brought by the Office of Rail Regulation, when there was inadequate procedures in place to stop a train in an emergency. Control room staff being allowed to decide whether to stop trains based partly on CCTV images, the CCTV system not being designed or intended for such a purpose.

ELL fully reopens in May

London Overground's £1 billion East London Line will fully reopen on 23rd May.

Since it opened on 27th April, the line has been operating trains under 'preview running' status, with a limited Monday to Friday service, between Dalston Junction and New Cross Gate. These trains will now run through the coming weekend before a full service between Dalston Junction and West Croydon commences.

The new route, the largest piece of transport infrastructure for London since the opening of the Jubilee Line extension in 1999, is being delivered ahead of schedule and on budget. Passengers will benefit from the new air-conditioned Class 378 Capitalstar EMUs, four newly-built stations and 14 refurbished stations, with staff on duty at all times while trains are running.

A full Metro-style service will commence from Monday 24th May from 05.40 until approximately 00.15, with passengers benefiting from 12 trains per hour between Dalston Junction and New Cross Gate. The next phases of the East London Line extension will take the route north to Highbury & Islington, due for completion in spring 2011, and south west to Clapham Junction, completing the London orbital rail network and opening in 2012.

Success for Stourbridge Shuttle

London Midland's 'Stourbridge Shuttle' has achieved over 99% reliability in service, and is carrying more passengers than ever, according to latest figures.

Each week, the Parry People Mover Class 139 railcars run over 1,300 trips in passenger service along the branch line between Stourbridge Town and Stourbridge Junction. The branch operates to an intensive timetable with just two minutes allowed between arrival and departure for most of the day on Mondays to Saturdays, making it an especially challenging environment for rail operations. The latest figures refer to the period from November 2009 to April 2010.

On 30th April, over 1,900 passenger journeys were recorded in a single day for the first time since the Class 139s commenced operation. In the same week another first was achieved when over 10,000 passenger journeys were made on the line.

In the six months from November to April, over 220,000 passenger journeys have been made.

'PowerHaul' locos stretch their wings

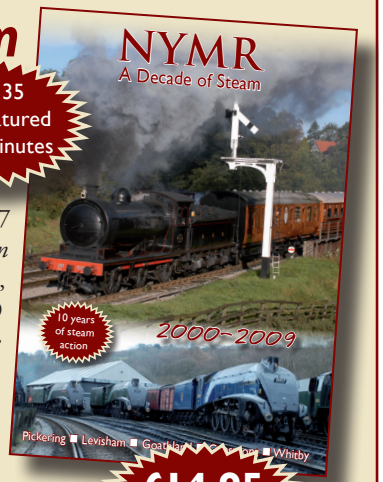
◀ **Running some two hours early, Class 70 No. 70004 sits with its engine shut down in the 'down' loop at Carstairs as it awaits a path into Ravenstruther with an empty rake of coal hoppers from York on 11th May. Kenny Marrs**

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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UK News In Brief

■ Network Rail has released artist's impressions of how Reading station will look, following its multimillion pound modernisation. The images have been shown in advance of a public exhibition of the project to be held in Reading Town Hall from Thursday 20th to Saturday 22nd May.

■ Robert Stephenson's 160-year-old Royal Border Bridge, linking England and Scotland across the River Tweed, is set to be recognised with a set of heritage panels describing its story. The display is set to be officially unveiled at Berwick-upon-Tweed station by the President of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE). East Coast has joined forces with Berwick-upon-Tweed's 'Stephenson 150 Committee' to celebrate its 160th year, it having been officially opened by Queen Victoria on 29th August 1850. Robert Stephenson was a former ICE President.

■ Timetable changes planned for May 2011 include four trains a day less for Chester-le-Street, despite passengers saying that some services are already overcrowded. The station is run by Chester-le-Track, an independent group. Although not an evening service, the 08.05 into Newcastle, is known locally as the 'sardine special'!

■ Network Rail has awarded Invensys Rail a £48 million contract for the Paisley Corridor project in Scotland. The scheme is a combination of both enhancement and renewal, replacing life-expired signalling equipment at Shields and Paisley with the company's Westlock signalling, as well as providing triple tracking of the line between the two locations. The project also includes removal of the control area of Paisley Signalling Centre to the West of Scotland Signalling Centre. The work is scheduled for completion over 21 months.

■ A 'Harrington Hump' has been laid at Valley station, making it easier for passengers to get on and off trains. Installation of the system raises the height of platforms, which in the past have been too low for all but the able-bodied to use. The modular area gets its name after Harrington station in Cumbria, where it made its debut.

■ To help passengers visiting London or having a weekend on the coast, Southeastern has introduced the 'Weekender Ticket', which allows passengers to travel off-peak on a Friday/Saturday and return on the Saturday or Sunday for little more than a normal off-peak day return. For details, visit southeasternrailway.co.uk.

■ Tube Lines, the PPP company responsible for the multi-billion pound upgrade of the Jubilee, Northern and Piccadilly lines, has completed upgrades to Hatton Cross, Colliers Wood and Tooting Bec stations. A total of 88 stations have now been upgraded since the project began in 2003, and completion of the remaining eight stations is scheduled for June this year.

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Department for Transport extends Northern franchise to 2013

The Department for Transport has announced that Northern, which is owned by a joint venture of Serco and Abellio (formerly NedRailways), will now operate the franchise beyond 2011, for a further two years until 15th September 2013.

The punctuality of Northern services have increased from 83.7% in the 12 months to December 2004, when the franchise began, to 91.6% in the last 12 months, meaning that on average 200 more trains now arrive on time each day than was the case in 2004.

Ian Bevan, Managing Director, Northern said: "We are delighted that the improvements we have made to the punctuality and reliability of our services have been recognised. We have worked hard to turn the franchise from the 'steady state' it was predicted to be into the thriving railway that it is today. As well as improving performance, we have invested over £100million with our partners to provide more and newer trains and improve facilities at stations. We look forward to delivering even more for our passengers over the next three years."

Northern began operating services in December 2004. The franchise was let as 'steady-state', meaning that it was forecast to carry the same number of passengers, with the same trains, over the lifetime of the contract. There was no provision for investment in trains or stations, but Northern has done well to attract 34% more passengers, and to date has refurbished over half of its motive power fleet and introduced 61 additional carriages to provide extra capacity.

All change as General Election brings new Government team

When asked about Crossrail, the new Secretary of State for Transport, Phillip Hammond, said: "All capital projects are going to have to demonstrate value for money. I shall be working closely with the Mayor of London's team to absolutely maximise the benefits to the taxpayer of Crossrail".

On the subject of a new high-speed line, he commented that as the Government had ruled out a third runway for Heathrow Airport, he didn't think that it would be difficult to obtain private funding for it. "Over the coming years, we are going to have to learn to do things differently. As far as transport is concerned, we are going to have to 'sweat the assets' we have much better. We are going to have to look at new and innovative ways of funding capital expenditure".

With the General Election having seen a change of Government, Mr Hammond is the 13th Transport Secretary in the last 22 years!

The new Minister of State for Transport is Theresa Villiers.

▼ **Complete with an appropriate headboard, DRS Class 47/4 No. 47501 *Craftsman* leads a NENTA Railtour past Lockhurst Lane, Coventry, on 8th May with Class 47/7 No. 47712 on the rear. Jamie Course**

Hartlepool improvements

The many people visiting Hartlepool for The Tall Ships event this summer will get a good first impression of the town when arriving by rail, after refurbishment of the station canopies and redundant platform have been completed as part of a £1. 2million investment in the station.

During the last five months, the old canopies have been removed and replaced with new steel frames, completely transforming the look of the station. The redundant platform has also been resurfaced, with artwork due to be erected this summer.

The work is being developed in conjunction with plans by Hartlepool Borough Council and Northern Rail to transform the station into a transport interchange in time for The Tall Ships races in August, when the town is expected to attract up to one million visitors.

Hartlepool Council has already opened the station's new car park and is progressing with work at the front and to the west of the station, constructing the bus pick up/drop off areas as part of the interchange project. Further work to improve facilities for passengers will be carried out by Northern Rail and Network Rail through the National Stations Improvement Programme, and includes new CCTV, customer information screens and a public address system.

▲ The 14.12 Southeastern High Speed service from St Pancras International to Dover Priory departs from Folkestone Central on 11th May 2010, formed of Class 395 No. 395019. **Brian Morrison**

Southeastern's High Speed service to receive subsidy for next four years

Southeastern's high-speed line from St Pancras to Ashford International that is shared with Eurostar, is to receive a Government subsidy for the next four years because expected property developments around Ebbsfleet and Stratford stations remain unbuilt.

The 'Javelin' services started in December last, and have attracted many new passengers to the Southeastern franchise. However, the numbers are still lower than officials and transport executives predicted when the franchise was put out to tender in 2005. Go-Ahead Group, which runs Southeastern in a joint venture with Keolis, the French state-owned transport group, said that passenger revenue grew by 8% in the first three months of the year, while passenger numbers increased by 2%.

Before the high-speed services, passenger revenues rose by nearly 4% and passenger numbers fell by 2%. However, the bid for the franchise assumed growth of at least 10%. The high-speed line has slashed journey times from Ashford to 37 minutes, from one hour and 24 minutes, and since 1st April, has been receiving revenue support from the Department for Transport, worth around £80 million.

Nick Swift, Group Finance Director of Go-Ahead said: "Back in 2005 we assumed a lot more development along the line, particularly around Stratford and Ebbsfleet. Stratford's new shopping centre has been delayed by two years, while there has been little house building around Ebbsfleet."

Most rail franchises receive some form of subsidy and Southeastern was receiving a hefty sum before the high-speed line opened. However, that was due to a decline in the final years of the franchise, with Southeastern scheduled to pay a small premium to the Government in the year 2013-14. Instead of the Government receiving a share of the operator's profits, it will now top up Southeastern's revenue.

£290,000 for Network Rail improvements to Skegness

At least £290,000 is to be spent on improving Skegness station, in addition to the ongoing £21 million track upgrades between the town and Boston.

Network Rail has outlined how it plans to spend the allocation, which is hoped to be further supplemented by Lincolnshire County Council and other third parties. Among the improvements listed are the relocation of the existing taxi rank, installation of a glass, steel and masonry wind-break for the concourse, extensive landscaping and provision of trees and benches.

Also likely to be undertaken as part of the project is the demolition of the Old Station House, subject to no tenants being found who will carry out the necessary renovation.

▲ A sight soon to be consigned to the history books. Welbeck Colliery in the North Notts coalfield ceased mining with its last shift being on 11th May. Four days prior on 7th May, DBS Class 66/0 No. 66096 is pictured at Welbeck Colliery Junction with the 11.26 Ferrybridge Power Station to Welbeck Colliery service. The train has arrived and run past the junction and is now setting back, propelling onto the colliery branch, once off the 'main line' it will run round its train in a loop on the branch and then head the four miles to Welbeck Colliery. **John Illingworth**

New high as 94% of trains arrive on time

The number of trains arriving on time hit a new record high in April, with 94% across the whole of the country arriving punctually.

Almost 98% of trains on c2c arrived on time, pushing the operator's performance for the past year up to 96.7% - a new all time record for any British train operator and well ahead of services in continental Europe, including Switzerland. The figures were released in Network Rail's regular monthly report on train performance.

In all, 11 of the 19 operators had improved performance or stayed at record high levels compared to the same period last year, with Virgin Trains and London Midland having the best improvement in performance compared to the same period last year.

No access rights for Cross-London service

Southern has announced that it is unable to introduce the new service between Wandsworth Road and Ealing Broadway this month, as Network Rail has refused to grant access rights.

As required by the franchise agreement with the Department for Transport, the new service was planned to run Mondays to Fridays between the two stations, calling at Kensington Olympia and Shepherd's Bush, starting from the introduction of the new timetable on 23rd May.

Alex Foulds, Southern's Development Director, said: "We have done everything we can to introduce this service, but without the access rights there is nothing we can do. We have a further meeting planned with Network Rail to see if the issues can be overcome, but I am afraid there is now no chance of a May introduction". The current bus service will continue to operate, while Southern will continue to run the current timetable from Wandsworth Road to Kensington Olympia.

Kent summer timetable to be 'tweaked'

Kent's timetables will be 'tweaked' from the start of the summer operation on 23rd May, but many passengers will complain that the changes don't go far enough.

The massive recasting of timetables to accommodate high-speed 'Javelin' services last December was the biggest change to railways in the county since electrification was completed in 1961.

But not everyone was happy, with Maidstone and Malling losing all their Cannon Street trains. A campaign group set up to fight for those services has since lost five of its original committee, saying they had been forced to sell-up and move away to keep working - and that is not going to change with the new timetable as most changes are simple retimings to make connections more robust, although Southeastern says that some trains will be lengthened and others shortened to reflect demand.

Major changes to the timetable as required by Maidstone's commuters will have to emanate from the Department for Transport, not Southeastern, which can advise but is mainly concerned with running the trains it is told to.

The News In Pictures

◀ BR blue-liveried Class 20/0 No. 20142 leads BR green-liveried classmate No. 20189 into Melton Mowbray on 14th May, with a Derby to Old Dalby stock movement, conveying London Underground 'S Stock' for testing. Class 20/9s Nos. 20901 and 20905 were on the rear of the train. **Stuart Chapman**

▼◀ DB Schenker Class 66/0 No. 66101 hauls the return leg of 'The Broadsman' charter through Salhouse, just after setting off on its journey from Hoverton & Wroxham to London King's Cross. **Jonathon Kirkham**

▼ Although not the UK, it is a British livery on an ex-UK locomotive! Class 87 No. 87004 *Britannia* passes Vasil Levski station in Bulgaria, with the PTG Railtours 'Class 87 Long Weekend' en route back to Sofia. This was the last day of the three-day tour. Further coverage of the ex-British Class 87s can be found in our World supplement. **Steve Madden**

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.

17th May 2010		
Steam Dreams	60019 & 6233	Edinburgh Waverley-Berwick-Newcastle-York-London King's Cross
The Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Keith - Inverness - Kyle of Lochalsh
WCRC	tbc	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
18th May 2010		
The Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Kyle of Lochalsh-Inverness-Carrbridge-Aviemore-Boat of Garten
WCRC	tbc	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
19th May 2010		
The Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Boat of Garten - Aviemore - Kingussie - Dunkeld - Perth
WCRC	tbc	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
20th May 2010		
Kirklees Green Party	2xWCRC 47	Spondon-Long Eaton-Langley Mill-York-Newcastle-Edinburgh-Forth & Tay Bridges-Dundee & return
Steam Dreams	60019	(London King's Cross-)York-Leeds-Hellifield-S&C-Carlisle & return
The Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Perth - Edinburgh Waverley
WCRC	tbc	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
21th May 2010		
VSOE	35028	London Victoria-Didcot Parkway-(Oxford)-Didcot-London Victoria
WCRC	tbc	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
22nd May 2010		
Pathfinder Tours	Hanson 56	Bristol Temple Meads-Cam & Dursley-Cheltenham Spa-Barnt Green-Birmingham NS-Crewe-Blackburn-S&C-Carlisle-Shap-Crewe & return
PMR Tours	6233	(Milton Keynes-Northampton-Lichfield TV-)Crewe-Shap-Carlisle & rtn
Steam Dreams	60163	London Euston-Milton Keynes Central-Rugby-Chester & return
UK Railtours	60019	(London King's Cross-York)-Hambleton N & E Jcts-Selby Canal Jcts-Doncaster-Gainsborough LR-Lincoln Central-Spalding-Peterborough-Ely-Cambridge-Hitchin-London King's Cross
Railway Touring Co.	5029	(Birmingham Intl.-Birmingham NS-Barnt Green-Worcester SH-Cheltenham Spa-Gloucester-)Newport-Cardiff-Briton Ferry-Swansea District Line-Llanelli-Carmarthen(-Fishguard Harbour)-Whitland-Llanelli-Neath-Newport-& return
Railway Touring Co.	70013 & 30777	London Paddington-Newbury-Westbury-Castle Cary-Yeovil Pen Mill-Maiden Newtin-Dorchester West-Weymouth-Wareham-Bournemouth-Basingstoke-Reading-Slough-London Paddington
The Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Edinburgh Waverley-Forth Bridge-Dundee-Aberdeen-Huntly-Keith
23rd May 2010		
Southern Electric Grp	2xSouthern 442	London Victoria-Selhurst Depot-London Bridge-Three Bridges-Crawley-Redhill-Tonbridge-Redhill-Brighton-Hove Yard-Quarry Line-Victoria
The Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Keith-Inverness-Kyle of Lochalsh

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.

UK Railtours head to Dungeness with First GBRf

As train titles go UK Railtours 'The Ness Monster' would seem to be a bit misleading as it is booked to operate exclusively in the south east of England, and not as perhaps would be expected by the title, in the Scottish Highlands.

The reason is that the train will at some point during the day visit both Sheerness and Dungeness, so as UK Railtours point out 'Look out for the monsters'! This is an enthusiast tour running with GBRf traction, featuring ' top and tail' Classes 66 & 73.

The departure point is London Bridge, and it then proceeds to Waterloo, prior to heading for Sheerness for possible nature watching. After reversal, it continues along the North Kent coast, via Margate and Dover, to Ashford, where it will reverse for Appledore and the Dungeness branch. The return is routed via Tonbridge, Bromley South. New Beckenham and Clapham Junction to a reversal at Neasden, the tour terminating at London Marylebone. Note that the route imposes restrictions on the length of the train, so early booking is vital.

Two other new tours have also been announced, including a visit to Carlisle on 28th August from Eastleigh and stations through to Woking, and then northbound along the WCML, via Shap. The 'Cumbrian Fellsman' returns over the Settle & Carlisle to Hellifield and Blackburn, and then back to Crewe and onwards to Eastleigh as outwards.

On 18th September, Ironbridge, Shrewsbury (or the Welshpool & Llanfair Railway) are the options on a tour from King's Cross, Potters Bar or Stevenage, which is routed via Peterborough, Melton Mowbray, Leicester, Nuneaton, and Walsall.

Tickets are now also on sale for the company's shuttle services to Wolverton Open Weekend.

LATE NEWS ❖ LATE NEWS ❖ LATE NEWS ❖ LATE NEWS ❖ LATE NEWS ❖ LATE NEWS ❖

Oliver Cromwell fails fitness to run exam at Southall

In demand 'Britannia' Pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* failed its 'fitness to run' examination on 14th May, ahead of its planned use on Shepherd Neame's 'Spitfire' trains on 16th May.

With only 'King Arthur' 4-6-0 No. 30777 *Sir Lamiel* at Southall, which cannot work into London Victoria because of gauging issues, no other steam locomotive was available and so the decision was made to run the Shepherd Neame tours with 'top and tail' West Coast Class 37s. They worked the main train from London Victoria to Faversham in each direction, travelling via Dover, and the afternoon excursion from Faversham to Sheerness.

The nature of the problem with *Oliver Cromwell* is firebox related, but its extent has to await a boiler inspectors report, which will no doubt be hastily arranged for the coming week. However, even a brief spell out of traffic could cause problems for tour operators as No. 70013 has four charters booked for the remainder of May. Three of which are for the Railway Touring Company where the loco is deputising for Battle of Britain Pacific No. 34067 *Tangmere*, while the fourth is Vintage Trains 'Britannia Banker' on 29th May. June, however, is not as busy, as No. 70013 has a tour for Vintage Trains on 19th June to West Wales, and will also be spending time at Tyseley leading up to an appearance at the Open Weekend on 26th/27th June, and possibly two early season runs on the 'Shakespeare Express'.

In order to cover the position, it looks likely that a 'relief' locomotive, the identity of which is presently unknown, will be moved from Carnforth to Southall via Tyseley later this week.

West Coast's problems unfortunately did not stop at having to replace *Oliver Cromwell*, as its Southall Depot received a visit from an idiot 'aerosol brigade' on the night of 13th May, resulting in a number of vehicles being vandalised with graffiti, which thanks to a herculean effort by the staff was removed in time for the weekend's operations.

The Week Ahead

by John Whitehouse

There is an interesting week of charters to look forward to, with a variety of motive power to enjoy.

The Southern Electric Group has its 'Ruby Rover' tour on 23rd May, which features a pair of ex-'Wessex' Class 442 EMUs, known affectionately for years as 'Flying Pigs'! The tour has a number of key points, including the first passenger working of the class between Tonbridge and Crawley, travel through Selhurst Depot, a visit to Hove Yard and a non-stop run from Hove to London Victoria on the return. Briefly the tour sets out from Victoria and travels to London Bridge via Balham, Selhurst and Norwood Junction, before continuing along the Quarry Line for reversals at Crawley, Redhill, Tonbridge, and then via Lewes to Eastbourne for a break. After further reversals at Brighton, Preston Park, Hove Yard, Preston Park (again) and Hove there is the non-stop dash back to Victoria. The tour commemorates the 40th anniversary of the SEG, hence the title of 'Ruby Rover'. Booking forms and further details can be downloaded at www.southernelectricgroup.org.uk

Pathfinder's 'Scenic Settler' is due to feature Hanson Class 56 power from Bescot to Carlisle and back, running outwards over the Settle & Carlisle and returning via Shap. The tour starts from Bristol Temple Meads and picks up Cheltenham Spa and Birmingham New Street with a DBS Class 66 through to the locomotive change at Bescot, then continuing to Carlisle, via Crewe and Blackburn. Also heading north on 20th Maywill be the Kirklees Green Party charter from Spondon and stations via the Erewash Valley and Chesterfield to Edinburgh Waverley and Dundee. West Coast Class 47s should feature, and the highlight of the tour will obviously be crossing both the Forth and Tay Bridges.

A busy week of steam activity approaches, notable for the commencement of the first of the 'summer-season' trains, West Coast's 'Jacobite' from 17th May. It runs Mondays to Fridays until 29th October and seven-days a week between 26th June and 29th August. The locomotive pool was due to consist of K1 class Mogul No. 62005 and 'Black 5' No. 45231 *Sherwood Forester* in the early season, with Ian Riley's No. 45407 replacing No. 45231 in August. However, the reported demise of No. 62005 with a cracked right-hand cylinder means that *Sherwood Forester* is going to have to carry the early season workings until the 'K1' can be repaired. The 'Black 5' is booked to cover the first fortnight of 'The Jacobite' anyway, and hauled 'The Jacobite' coaching stock to Fort William on 13th May. As for the 'K1', it is understood that the problem may not be as serious as initially feared, and an early move to Scotland could well be on the cards, see separate story in this issue.

Steam Dreams has a busy week to look forward to with two trains scheduled, commencing with something of a 'cracker' on Thursday 20th May, featuring 'A4' No. 60019 *Bittern* on an out-and-back working over the Settle & Carlisle, with the steam section commencing at York, and via Leeds to Carlisle and then back to York as outwards. The train originates at London King's Cross.

The other train creates a little bit of history, being the first steam-hauled service to work into London Euston for a good many years. The train, which will have No. 60163 *Tornado* at the helm, will take advantage of the ventilated platforms designated for use by Virgin's HST fleet. It also departs from Euston and travels via the southern-end of the WCML, via Watford Junction to Northampton, and then along the Trent Valley to Stafford, Crewe and its destination, Chester.

It is a busy week for *Bittern*, as following Thursday's outing, the locomotive has a Saturday booking also for UK Railtours on the 'East Coast Diversion'. This train puts a different slant on the York to King's Cross itinerary, as to begin with it follows the 'old' East Coast route from York to Doncaster by deviating via Selby, and after Doncaster taking the long way round to Peterborough, via Gainsborough Lea Road, Lincoln, the Sleaford avoiding line and Spalding. And there is more, as after Peterborough, the train heads east to March, Ely and Cambridge, before rejoining the ECML at Hitchin for the final few miles to King's Cross. The outward working from King's Cross to York, directly along the ECML is likely to be hauled by a DB Schenker Class 90.

Going head to head with Steam Dreams will be the Railway Touring Company, which will also be operating two trains, both on Saturday 22nd May. The 'Royal Wessex' from London Paddington to Weymouth, was due to be double-headed throughout with 5305 Locomotive Society stable-mates Nos. 30777 *Sir Lamiel* and 70013 *Oliver Cromwell*. However, the failure of *Oliver Cromwell* means that Ian Riley's 'Black 5' No. 44871 will now be working with *Sir Lamiel*. The train is booked via the Berks and Hants to Westbury, and then to Weymouth, via Castle Cary, Yeovil Pen Mill and Dorchester. At Weymouth, the locomotive pairing will be split, with the 'Black 5' taking charge for the return but with the added bonus of the 'King Arthur' providing rear-end assistance on the departure from Weymouth and for the ascent of Upwey Bank, before leaving the train at Wareham, where *Sir Lamiel* continues to Swanage for a short stay, while the main train with No. 44871 continues back to Paddington, via Basingstoke and Reading.

RTC's other tour is the 'Southern Irishman' from Birmingham International, which is due for steam-haulage from Newport, via Cardiff and the Swansea District Line, to Carmarthen with No. 5029 *Nunney Castle*. The train will continue from Carmarthen diesel-hauled to Fishguard Harbour, where the 'Castle' will rejoin the train to haul it back, via Llanelli to Newport.

Making a second visit to Shap Fell in as many weeks will be No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland*, now frequently referred to as 'The Black Duchess'. Although it was an agonising decision by the trustees, generally the lineside comment is favourable to the new livery, although in any conversation the phrase 'BR Green' soon crops up as well! On 22nd May No. 6233 will again be covering the Crewe-Shap- Carlisle and return portion of PRSLT's 'Royal Scot', which starts the day at Milton Keynes and picks up through to Crewe by way of the Trent Valley. The train is already reported as being full.

The remaining steam working takes place the previous day when No. 35028 *Clan Line* heads a VSOE British Pullman luncheon train around the Surrey Hills from London Victoria.

▼ **N15 'King Arthur' Class No. 30777** *Sir Lamiel,* **having just passed Otford Junction, heads towards Maidstone East with 'The Cathedrals Express' to Canterbury West on 29th April. Andrew Crampton**

Steam and a touch of wizardry for 'Scarborough Spa Express'

West Coast's 'Scarborough Spa' workings this year will carry a very pronounced 'wizard' theme as the trains will be marketed as using the 'Hogwarts Express' coaching stock and featuring haulage by 'Hall' No. 5972 *Olton Hall*, **better known to the legions of Harry Potter fans as Hogwarts Castle.**

The 'Hall' will be a member of a pool of as yet unspecified locomotives to cover the Scarborough operation, which will run on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 20th July through to 2nd September, plus Bank Holiday Monday 30th August.

In another significant move, West Coast has radically altered the route, which is now south from York (10. 20) to pick up and set down at Normanton (11.04/19.05), Wakefield Kirkgate (11.13/19.13), Wakefield Westgate (11.21/19.21), Woodlesford (11.58/19.55), Castleford (12.11/20.08) and back to York (12.45), prior to proceeding onwards to Scarborough for a scheduled 14.05 arrival. West Coast has secured an earlier departure time from Scarborough of 16.55, returning to York at 18.12, and then proceeding to set down in the same order as the morning pick-up points, with an eventual final arrival back into York at 20.49. A range of fares will be available. On a related note, No. 5972 *Olton Hall* undertook a test run from Carnforth to Hellifield on 13th May. It had been out of action for several months prior to the test run.

NR and WCRC pull together to allow 'Blyth Spirit' to run

The locomotive's owners and tour promoter NELPG have revealed the details causing the last minute withdrawal of 'K1' No. 62005 from 'The Blyth Spirit' railtour on 8th May.

The loco had passed its fitness to run examination on 7th May, but while moving around the yard at Shildon, a steam leak was evident from the right-hand cylinder. Initial thoughts were that it was from the drain cock, but further examination revealed it was actually coming from the cylinder. With the drain cocks and cladding removed, a longitudinal fracture to the cylinder wall was revealed and the locomotive was declared a failure. This decision was made at 21.30, far too late to advise passengers on the next day's tour, which therefore had to run. Efforts to secure the services of Ian Riley's 'Black 5' No. 45407, stationed at the nearby NYMR, foundered on the fact it was now around midnight' and it was simply not possible to obtain the necessary paperwork completed in time.

So the tour had to run diesel-hauled throughout. Further braking complications precluded the use of 'top and tail' diesels, as two coaches were vacuum-braked only, which would have required both diesels to be dual braked. On the day, the only dual-braked locomotive available was West Coast's Class 37/5 No. 37516.

As the tour involved two reversals, it meant that it could not go to North Blyth, but with the considerable efforts of West Coast Railways and Network Rail's York Control Centre, a re-routing along the Durham Coast to Newcastle was agreed on the outward leg to Morpeth. Efforts to return via the Ferryhill and Stillington to Norton Junction route on the return were thwarted by a lack of a signalman at Norton Junction, so the train ran directly to Darlington.

A further complication was that the Class 37 was not fitted with an electric train heating supply, as it was expected that it would have been steam-heated by the 'K1'. Because of the re-routing, a longer stay was arranged at Morpeth to allow passengers to leave the train. By the time it arrived back at Carnforth, NELPG engineers had already stripped down the cylinders for closer specialist investigation. Looking ahead, they hope to take up their planned duties at Fort William, and later, after this season's 'Jacobite', they will examine the possibility of rearranging the 'Blyth Spirit' railtour to North Blyth with the 'K1' as originally planned.

The circumstances of the failure were totally exceptional, and once again NELPG, West Coast and Network Rail are to be congratulated for the outstanding effort made to mitigate the impact for the railtour participants. A failure so close to the time of departure is every operator's worst nightmare, and this situation has been handled to the credit of all parties involved.

▼ **LNER A1 Class Pacific No. 60163** *Tornado* **stands at the stops at Platform 1 at London King's Cross station after a spirited run from York with 'The Cathedrals Express' on 8th May. Ted Robinson**

Amethyst Proudly Presents

The Bath & Bristol Explorer

Saturday 29th May 2010

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Vibrant Bristol is famous for the work of the great Victorian engineer Isambard Kingdom Brunel, and the industrial history here is a wonder to view. Take time to visit the SS Great Britain, take a stroll over the Clifton Suspension Bridge or maybe just relax on a ferryboat and view the city from the harbour which gives an entirely different perspective of Bristol. Beautiful parks and gardens abound, together with Medieval, Georgian and contemporary architecture.

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***Railway Herald* and the Amethyst Experience have teamed up to present readers with a special offer on 'The Bath & Bristol Explorer' charter, hauled by the newest standard-gauge mainline steam locomotive - Peppercorn A1 Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado*.**

Standard Class tickets on the trip would normally cost £99 per person, however, readers calling Amethyst Experience directly and quoting 'RAILWAY HERALD' will be able to purchase them with a 10% discount at £89 per person, when paying in full at the time of booking. With limited standard class seating available, prompt booking is suggested.

The train will depart from Ashford and pick-up at Headcorn, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Sevenoaks, Orpington and Bromley South, with *Tornado* taking over in the London area for the journey to Bath and Bristol.

Further details on the train can be found on the advert opposite, or for details of other charter excursions being operated by the Amethyst Experience click here, or log onto the website at www.amethyst-experience.com

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Three days of Scottish steam prior to Christmas

Following on the success of their previous 'Coronation' workings between London Kings Cross and Edinburgh, Steam Dreams has announced a Christmas version booked to run from Thursday 18th November through to Saturday 20th November.

There are some changes to the 'summer' version, notably that it is booked for one locomotive throughout: No. 60163 *Tornado*. The outward working is along the classic East Coast route between King's Cross and Edinburgh, via York and Newcastle, but there is a significant change on the return, as the train is booked over the West Coast Main Line, via Carstairs, Beattock and Shap, to London Euston. On the middle-day, 19th November, *Tornado* will run a circular route from Edinburgh Waverley, working south over the ECML to Newcastle, then taking the Tyne Valley to Carlisle and returning to Edinburgh, via Beattock, Motherwell and the Shotts route. Full details will be announced shortly.

Ups & Downs

by John Whitehouse

■ The next Hastings Diesel's outing with the DEMU will be on 19th June to Minehead. The train will pick up the usual points from Hastings through to Tonbridge, and then Redhill, Guildford and Reading, prior to the run along the Berks & Hants, via Westbury to Taunton, before passing onto West Somerset metals for an approximate two hour break at Minehead.

■ Following the sell-out success of the 'Purbeck Tornado' from London Victoria to Swanage booked for 16th June, UK Railtours has announced a re-run on 29th September, which will follow the same itinerary, outwards from Victoria to Swanage, via Woking, Southampton, Bournemouth, Wareham and Worgret Junction. As *Tornado* cannot fit onto the small turntable at Swanage, the train will be diesel-hauled on the return, with *Tornado* on the rear as far as Southampton, where it will reverse, and with No. 60163 again at the helm return to London Waterloo via Redbridge, Romsey, the Laverstock Loop, Andover, Basingstoke and Woking.

GWR King Class No. 6024 *King Edward I* **powers upgrade on Dainton bank with 'The Royal Duchy' charter on its way to Par on 1st May. Paul Maycock**

LMS 'Duchess' Pacific No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland* **speeds through the Lune Gorge with the northbound 'Citadel Express' charter on 8th May. David Price**

GWR 'Castle' Class 4-6-0 No. 5043 *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe* **passes King's Sutton on 1st May, with a Didcot to Solihull charter.**
Ken Brunt

Glasgow Museum prepares for move

Glasgow Museum of Transport closed its doors for the last time on 18th April, to prepare for the move to the spectacular new Glasgow Riverside Museum, which is due to open in Spring next year.

The current building has provided a popular home for a fine range of transport exhibits, including some of Scotland's most famous steam locomotives, and visitor numbers have regularly exceeded 500,000 per annum. The Caledonian Single and Highland Railway 'Jones Goods' locomotives reside inside the museum. These two engines were 19th century products of NBL constituent companies Neilson and Sharp Stewart, respectively, and will be joined by SAR 15F 4-8-2 No. 3007 (NBL 25546) and several others in the new museum. Further details can be found on the dedicated website at http://www.riversideappeal.org

WSR stages 'Western Region' mixed traffic event in June

As part of its celebrations for 'GWR175', the West Somerset 'Mixed Traffic Weekend' from 11th to 13th June will feature diesel traction with a definite 'Western Region' flavour.

Probable star of the show will be home-based Class 52 No. 1010 *Western Campaigner*, which will be making a welcome return to traffic after a lengthy lay-off. However, the presence of SVR-based D1062 *Western Courier* will give the gala two operational 'Westerns', along with an additional 'Warship' Class 42 No. D821 *Greyhound*, also from the SVR, which will operate alongside the WSR's own D832 *Onslaught*. Making up five main line hydraulic classes will be home-based 'Hymek' Class 35 No. D7017. Class 14s will also feature, with WSR-based No. D9526 being joined by visiting No. D9520.

Non-hydraulic traction will be represented by Brush Type 4 No. 1661 *North Star* and Sulzer Type 2 No. D7523, while the steam diagram should be covered by 5101 class Prairie No. 4160. There will be 11 return diagrams, with the 11.00 & 15.00 departures from Bishops Lydeard and 1300 & 1700 from Minehead on Saturday and Sunday being steam hauled.

Eric Treacy returns to traffic on a poignant date

LMS 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 45428 *Eric Treacy* **hauled a memorial train on the North York Moors Railway (NYMR) on 13th May, 32-years to the day after Bishop Eric Treacy died of a heart attack at Appleby station while out to photograph BR Standard 9F 2-10-0 No. 92220** *Evening Star* **on a charter.**

It was also the first outing for the loco after its full return to traffic, following a restoration programme costing £600,000.

Eric Treacy was the Bishop of Wakefield, and possibly the best-known railway photographer of all time. His photographs were published prolifically in magazines and books during the 1950s to 1970s, and his 12,000 glass plates and negatives are now at the National Railway Museum in York.

▲ **LMS 'Black 5' No. 45428** *Eric Treacy* **stands at Grosmont station during its official launch back into traffic, surrounded by the MPD staff who have worked on the overhaul.**

▶ **LMS 'Black 5' No. 45428 heads for Pickering past the sheds at Grosmont, with its first solo public passenger working in 11 years and 32 years to the day that Bishop Eric Treacy died.**
Both: Andrew Graves

Butterley diesel gala sees visiting 'Teddybear'

The Midland Railway – Butterley will be holding its diesel gala over the weekend of 22nd/23rd May.

The home fleet is expected to be Class 08 No. 08590 *Red Lion*, Class 20 No. 20048, Class 31/1 No. 31271 *Stratford 1840 - 2001*, Class 40 No. 40012 *Aureol*, Class 45/1 No. 45133 and Class 47/4 No. 47401 *North Eastern*. As well as the resident fleet, visiting locos will be Class 14 'Teddybear' No. 14901 from the Elsecar Railway, Class 31/1 No. 31206 from the Rushden Transport Museum and Class 37/0 No. 37264.

Most of the home fleet that is not in use will be on display at Swanwick Junction.

Lancashire diesels head east to Yorkshire!

East Lancs-based Class 50 No. 50015 *Valiant* **will be one of five visiting locomotives for this year's diesel gala at the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway, which is scheduled to take place between 11th-13th June.**

Joining the Class 50 will be Class 47/4 No. 47402, Class 37/9 No. 37901, Sulzer Type 2 (Class 25) No. D5185 and an as yet to be confirmed DRS locomotive.

The highlight of the home fleet's involvement will be the return to traffic of the prototype shunting locomotive No. D226 after four years out of traffic. It will be joined by Class 20 No. 20031 and Class 25 No. 25059.

A summary of services shows 13 return diagrams on all three days. A full timetable of all three days of the event is available by clicking here.

Success for Swanage gala

The Swanage Railway held its popular Diesel Gala Weekend on 7th-9th May.

The event, which has become a regular and popular feature in the railway calendar, always attracts a good selection of motive power and this year was no exception, with nine locomotives and a 4VEP EMU in action, in a variety of single and double headed, plus 'top and tail' workings. Operating services over the weekend were Class 31/1 No. 31271 *Stratford 1840-2001*, Class 37/0 No. 37264, Class 45/1 No. 45133, Class 47/4 No. 47580 *County of Essex*, Class 50 No. 50135 *Ark Royal*, Class 56/0 No. 56101 and Class 73/1 No. 73119 *Borough of Eastleigh*.

The railway operated evening dining and 'Beerex' services on both Friday and Saturday nights, in conjunction with the Beer Festival being held adjacent to Harmans Cross station.

▶ **Class 56 No. 56101 and Class 33/1 No. 33103** *Swordfish* **depart Corfe Castle on 7th May. Stuart Chapman**

▼ **Loadhaul-liveried Class 50/1 No. 50135** *Ark Royal* **crosses Corfe Common on 7th May.**

▼▶ **A northern visitor was Class 45/1 No. 45133 seen here with another service on 7th May. Both: Brian Garrett**

▲ Almost resembling a post-war shed scene, 4300 Class 2-6-0 No. 5322 and 'Manor' Class 4-6-0 No. 7808 *Cookham Manor* stand in the shed at Didcot on 8th May. **Roger Brown**

▲ Great Western 'City' Class 4-4-0 No. 3717 *City of Truro* catches the evening sun on the exhibition line at Didcot on 6th May during the 'GWR 175' celebrations. **Paul Maycock**

▼ A veritable line-up of GWR locos outside the shed at Didcot on 8th May. From left to right are 9400 Class No. 9466, 'Manor' Class No. 7827 *Lydham Manor*, 'City' Class No. 3717 *City of Truro*, 'Hall' Class No. 5900 *Hinderton Hall* and GWR 'Castle' Class No. 5029 *Nunney Castle*. **Kev Gregory**

◀ **Visiting GWR 1400 Class 0-4-2T No. 1450 stands beside the Radstock Signal Box at Didcot Railway Centre, during the night-shoot organised as part of the 'GWR 175' celebrations, on 6th May.**

◀▼ **The fire is thrown out of 'City' Class 4-4-0 No. 3717** *City of Truro* **at the end of the evening night-shoot on the same day. Both: Graham Wright**

▼ **'City' Class 4-4-0 No. 3717** *City of Truro* **and 'Manor' Class 4-6-0 No. 7827** *Lydham Manor* **make an impressive sight double-headed as they leave Oxford Road station with a short trip on the demonstration line on 8th May. Kev Gregory**

Bagnall 0-4-0ST *Linda* runs passed Snibston Colliery during a Russ Hillier photo charter on 14th May. **Stuart Chapman**

Recent tree felling in Avenham Park, Preston, has opened up the view of the North Union bridge from the disused East Lancs bridge. Class 66/0 No. 66178 works north with coal empties on 11th May. **David Price**

DB Schenker-liveried Class 67 No. 67018 has landed on the FGW loco-hauled circuit, and on 12th May, leads the 08.00 Cardiff Central to Paignton service past Hollicombe Beach, with the English Riviera balloon floating in the background. **Nathan Williamson**

Class 70 No. 70002 passes Long Preston on 12th May, with a loaded Chalmerston to Fiddler's Ferry coal working, routed via the Settle & Carlisle line.
Anthony Roberts

Engineering works between Doncaster and Wakefield resulted in ECML services to Leeds being diverted on 25th April. DBS Class 67s were used to drag electric services via the ECML and Garforth to reach Leeds from the east and then Wakefield, via Castleford. Here, Class 67 No. 67016 joins the ECML at Hambleton South Junction, with the 16.25 Wakefield Westgate to London King's Cross service in tow. **Jonathan Stevenson**

10th May 2010

Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln. 'Another Settle & Carlisle Presentation' by Bob Goodman. Start 20.00. Contact the Secretary on 01522 705365.

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. 'AGM and Photo Competition'. Starts 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.

RCTS (Sheffield)
St Matthews Church Rooms, Carver Street, Sheffield. 'Members' Night - Railway Relics' Meeting starts 19.30.

SVR (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)
Deal Room, Southwick Community Centre. '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' 'Middlesborough to Pickering via Whitby and Scarborough' by Victor Lee.. Starts 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 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 Rly 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'. Starts 19.30. Contact 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. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary at richardh@djbroady.co.uk for details.

19 May 2010

RCTS (Eastleigh)
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'Isle of Wight Railway' by Jim Loe. Starts 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 and Running Charter Trains in Switzerland' by Alan Spencer. Starts 19.30. £2 non members. Contact 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. Starts 19.30. Members only. Please contact Arthur Robinson on 01982 560219 for details and membership info.

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. Starts 19.30.

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

Should your society information be listed on this page?

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

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

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

▼ **Recalling exploits on the Somerset and Dorset Railway, LMS Fowler 4F No. 44422 leads BR Class 5MT No. 73050 away from Wansford during a Russ Hillier photographic charter on 5th May. Stuart Chapman**

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.

25th May 2010
RCTS (Welwyn Garden City)
The Methodist Church, Junction of Ludwick Way and Colegreen Lane, Welwyn Garden City. 'London Steam on Shed 1060' by Peter Groom. Meeting commences at 14.15.

RCTS (Woking)
The Wheatsheaf Ember Inn, Chobham Road, Woking.
'Branch AGM followed by Lanzhou to Lhasa' by Andy Davies, then 'Southern Miscellany' by Richard Golding. Meeting starts at 19.30.

26th May 2010
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St. Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'The CrossCountry Franchise' by Richard Gibson. Meeting starts at 20.00. Visitors Welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01256 819401 for further details.

RCTS (Chichester)
Council Meeting Room2, County Hall, West Street, Chichester. 'Investigation of Railway Accidents' by Nick Solti. Meeting starts 19.30.

28th May 2010
Great Western Society (Oxford)
Pauling Human Resources Centre, 58 Banbury Road, Oxford. 'I Remember the 1970s' by Richard Crane. Meeting commences at 19.30.

1st June 2010
Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend DA12 1BB.
'The Sandringham/B17 Trust' by Ken Livermore. Meeting starts at 19.45. Contact the Secretary, Roger Hart on 01474 833320 for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Bedford)
St John's Church Hall, St John's Street, Bedford.
'UK, Irish and Industrial Railways' by Geoff Biggs and Bryan Cross. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01525 750149 for further details.

RCTS (Watford)
St Thomas Church, Langley Road, Watford. 'Railways in the Pyrenees' by Peter Featherstone. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire)/ LRTA (Southern)
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. Members' Slide Evening. Meeting commences at 19.30. Admission £2. Contact the SEG Secretary, John Goodrich on 023 8067 0028 for further details.

Weston super Mare Railway Society
Function Room, Conservative Club, Alexandra Parade, Weston super Mare. 'More Steam Recreations' by Don Bishop. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact the Secretary, Lionel Jones on 01934 628289 or at wsm1977rlysocy@talktalk.net for further details.

3rd June 2010
Great Central Railway Society (Rotherham)
The Three Horseshoes, Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham S66 2BW.
'An Evening with Howard Turner'. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Mick Hayes on 01709 820544 for further details.

7th June 2010
RCTS (Ashford)
The Elwick Club, Church Road, Ashford. 'A Digital Extravaganza'. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretar at southeast@rcts.org.uk for further detail

8th June 2010
Abergavenny & District Steam Society
Upper Room, The Hen and Chickens, Flannel Street, Abergavenny.
'Landore Shed (87E)' by Brian Miles. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact the Secretary, Ken Mumford at ken.mumford@ntlworld.com for further details.

9th June 2010
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St. Club, New Road, Basingstoke.
'Cable's Railway Year 2009' by David Cable. Meeting commences at 20.00. Visitors Welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01256 819401 for further details.

Bromsgrove Railway Club
St Godwalds Church Hall, Aston Fields, Bromsgrove. 'Tornado, a Locomotive for the 21st Century' by Bob Alderman. Starts 19.45. Contact Dave on 01527 873800 or Gordon on 05127873609 for further details.

RCTS (Cardiff)
Old Church Rooms, Park Road, Radyr. 'Quiz. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretar at noelinda@noel65.fsnet.co.uk for further details.

RCTS (Hitchin)
Hitchin Christian Centre, Bedford Rd, Hitchin. 'Blue Grey to Black Green' by Paul Chancellor. Starts 19.30.

12th June 2010
RCTS (Northampton)
'Visit to Bluebell Railway' (Travel by train - Southern day Saver). Contact David Pick on 01604 810613 or at northampton@rcts.org.uk for details.

14th June 2010
Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln. Members Slides. Starts 20.00. Contact the Secretary on 01522 705365 for further details

Southern Electric Group (Sussex)
Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre. '40th Anniversary of SEG' Starts 19.30. £2 Donation. Contact the Secretary, Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094 for further details.

15th June 2010
Monmouthshire Railway Society
Room A28, UWCN, Allt-Yr-Yn Ave, Newport, South Wales. 'The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway' by David Barrie. Meeting commences at 19.30. Non-members £3. See www.mrsoc.co.uk for further details.

16th June 2010
Severn Valley Railway (South East)
Wenlock Arms, 26 Wenlock Road, Islington, London N1 7TA. 'On and Off the Footplate' by Bill Davies. Meeting commences at 19.30..

17th June 2010
Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society
Roundhouse Lecture Theatre, Barrow Hill, Chesterfield. 'Out With the Old - In With the New' by Howard Turner. Meeting commences at 19.30. Admission £1.50 members, £2 non members. Contact the Secretary at beardspaul@aol.com for further details.

Breconshire Railway Society
R.A.F.A.Club, The Struet, Brecon. 'Each a Glimpse and Gone Forever? - The Vanishing Infrastructure of Railways' by Graham Vincent. Meeting commences at 19.30. Members only. Please contact the Secretary, Arthur Robinson on 01982 560219 for further details and all membership enquiries.

Marlow & District Railway Society
Bourne End Community Centre, Wakeman Road, Bourne End. 'Rebuilding the Welsh Highland Railway' by Andy Savage. Meeting commences at 20.00. Non-members admission £2.

18th June 2010
Great Western Society (Taunton)
Village Hall, Stoke St. Mary, Nr Taunton. 'Pulling the Levers' by Martin Southwold. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01823 334188 for further details.

21st June 2010
Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill)
The Angel Hotel, 26 College Road, Spinkhill, Sheffield S21 3YB.
'A Tribute to Doug Copley'. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Frank Greaves on 01909 473927 for details.

RCTS (Northampton)
'London Midland Day Rover' Contact the Secretary, David Pick on 01604 810613 or at northampton@rcts.org.uk for further details.

RCTS (Shenfield)
Shenfield Parish Hall, 60 Hutton Road, Shenfield. 'Nottingham Victoria' by Ken Grainger. 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

Class 92 No. 92012 leads classmate No. 92003 and Class 67 No. 67021 'dead in tow' on a Mossend to Didcot freight past Float Viaduct, near Carstairs on the 7th May.
Kenny Marrs

Magazine Information

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EWS
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Thomas Hardy