Railway Herald

Issue 223 - 24th May 2010

The electronic journal for the railway enthusiast

Railway Herald

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24th May 2010

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Paul Braybrook

Grand Central starts Bradford to London service

The inaugural scheduled train of Grand Central's new service from Bradford Interchange to London King's Cross operated on 23rd May, running via Halifax, Wakefield Kirkgate and Pontefract Baghill, becoming the first through train from Pontefract since 1863!

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The new £22 million Train Maintenance Depot at Etches Park, Derby, was officially opened on 20th May, over 100 guests being in attendance.

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New LKX platform opens
The new Platform 0 at London King's Cross was officially opened by the latest Secretary of State for Transport, Philip Hammond, on 20th May.

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Mainline Steam Reader Offer
Railway Herald and the Amethyst Experience have teamed up to offer readers a discount on the forthcoming *Tornado* trip to Bath & Bristol

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Bittern banned after fires
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Front Cover Caption:

Network Rail's New Measurement Train HST set heads north along the coast at Dawlish, with Class 43 powercar No. 43062 *John Armitt* at the helm as it curves past Langstone Rock. Heading in the opposite direction is one of the Cross Country HST sets. Roy Hutchinson

Rebuilt Etches Park depot is officially opened

The new £22 million Train Maintenance Depot at Etches Park, Derby, was officially opened on 20th May, over 100 guests being in attendance.

The depot has been constructed as a partnership, with East Midlands Trains operating the motive power and Bombardier maintaining it. The facility was financed by East Midlands Trains through its parent group, Stagecoach Holding, and will leaseback the facility through Network Rail's Regulated Asset Base.

The depot has been designed to complement the existing one, providing increased capacity to maintain and care for the fleet of 27 Class 222 Meridians. Constructed by Spencer in just 17 months, the building has three roads, one of which is capable of lifting a full seven-car Meridian on synchronised jacks in just four minutes.

There is also a new million pound wheel lathe, enhanced fuelling facilities and a building management system that constantly monitors the use of gas and electricity.

To mark the opening, representatives from East Midlands Trains, Bombardier and the builders Spencer were joined by Brian Souter, the CEO of Stagecoach Group, who unveiled a plaque to commemorate the opening.

In addition to the new depot, East Midlands Trains is investing £250,000 to improve the existing Etches Park facility, which will assist in ensuring that the operator's local services will also benefit from the enhanced maintenance facilities.

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▲ & ▶ The depot is purpose built to handle the maintenance of EMT's Meridian fleet, as demonstrated by Class 222s Nos. 222007 and 222018, seen during the opening ceremony. **Ron Cover**

◀ Brian Souter, Chief Executive of Stagecoach Group, unveils the plaque at the opening of the new Etches Park Depot on 20th May, with Tim Shoveller, Managing Director of East Midlands Trains alongside. **Brian Morrison**

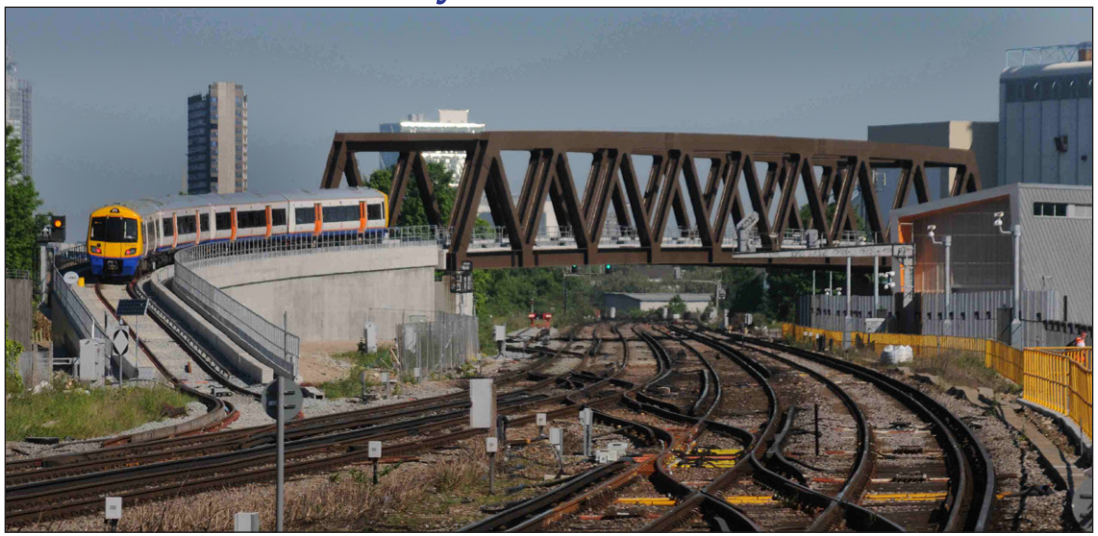
Transport for London hands out 10,000 free tickets on first full day of East London Line services

Ten thousand free tickets were given out to passengers to travel on London Overground's East London Line on its first full day of passenger operation on 23rd May.

The offer was to mark the first time that passengers were able to travel the complete length of the new £1 billion route from Dalston Junction to West Croydon, Crystal Palace and New Cross.

As previously reported, the new East London route is the largest piece of transport infrastructure for London since the opening of the Jubilee Line extension in 1999, and it has been delivered ahead of schedule and on budget. Class 378 Capitalstar EMUs now work the route, there are four newly-built stations and 14 others have been extensively refurbished to include upgraded CCTV, passenger information systems and lighting, with staff on duty at all times while trains are running.

Ian Brown, Managing Director of TfL London Rail, said: "With cheaper fare options, fast journey times and a route which takes in both Docklands and the City of London, London Overground's East London route completes two-thirds of the orbital railway planned for the Capital. By 2012 when the new line is connected to Clapham Junction, the London Overground orbital rail network will be completed". On Mondays to Saturdays, a full Metro-style service will run from 05.40 until approximately midnight, with passengers benefiting from a full 'turn up and go service' of 12 trains per hour through the core section from Dalston Junction to New Cross Gate. On Sundays, the service will start at approximately 07.00.



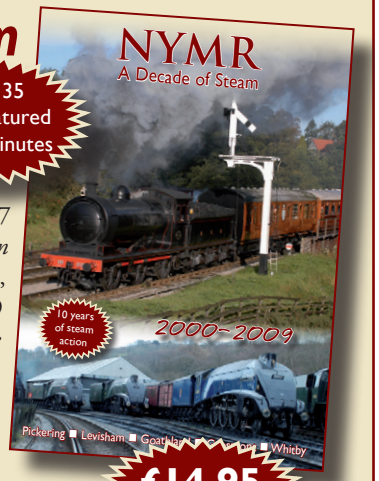
▲ On the first day of public service on the new East London Line, Class 378 No. 378141 working the 09.07 from Crystal Palace to Dalston Junction takes the newly-built flyover at New Cross on 23rd May. **Bill Turvill**

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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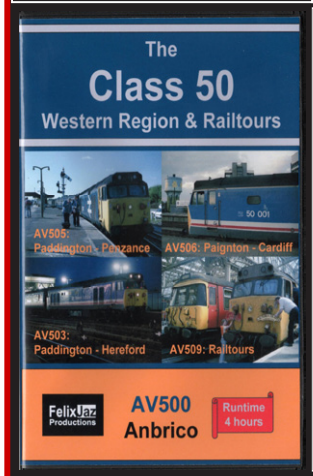

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AV473 North Wales Class 47
AV474 Newcastle–Liverpool Class 47
AV477 Scottish Region Class 47
AV501 Waterloo–Exeter Class 50
AV503 Paddington-Hereford Class 50
AV505 Paddington-Penzance Class 50
AV506 Paignton-Cardiff Class 50
AV509 Hoover Dambuster Railtour
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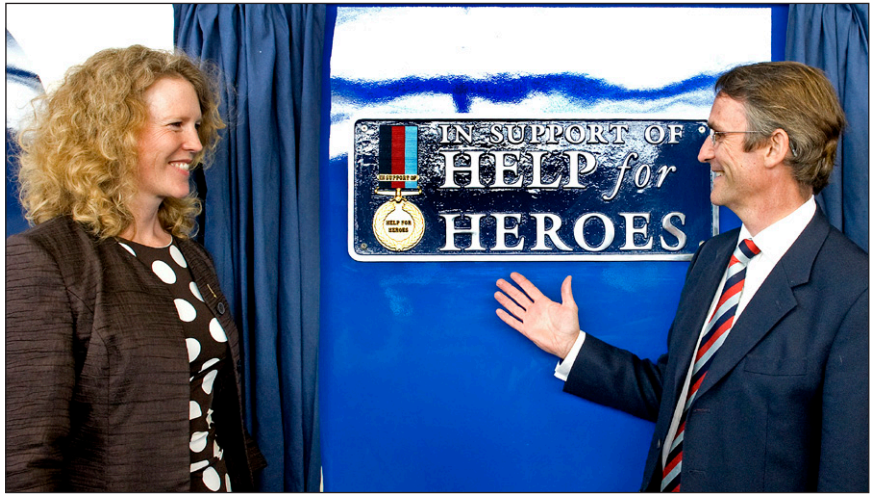
▲ The inaugural scheduled train of Grand Central's new service from Bradford Interchange to London King's Cross operated on 23rd May, running via Halifax, Brighouse and Wakefield Kirkgate. Class 180 No. 180114 operated the first service, arriving in the Capital eight minutes early at 10.49, and becoming the first through train from Pontefract since 1863! Here, classmate No. 180107 makes its scheduled stop at Pontefract Monkhill with the 12.08 Bradford Interchange to London King's Cross service.

▶ A new era for the former Railway Headquarters building in York began on 7th May, when it opened as the 'Cedar Court Grand', a five-star hotel. The building was completed in 1906 for the North Eastern Railway, and was later the headquarters for the BR North Eastern Region, merging with the Eastern Region in 1967. In the Privatised era, it was used by a number of different companies including GNER.
Both: Paul Braybrook

Farewell to the slam-door Lymingtons

▲ Class 421 3CIG No. 1497 *Freshwater* prepares for the imminent departure of the very last slam-door working on the Lymington branch, departing Lymington Pier at 22.14 on 22nd May. The train also brought to an end the use of Mk1 slam-door compartment stock in scheduled passenger service on the national network. **Peter Milford**

▼ The co-founders of the Help for Heroes charity, Emma and Bryn Parry, after Emma had named East Midlands Class 43 HST powercar No 43076 *In Support of Help for Hereos* at St Pancras International on 13th May. **Brian Morrison**



Metro and Light Rail News

The 2010 Weedkilling Season on London Underground has commenced.

The working, running as Special Train 777 consists of two Battery Locos and modified General Purpose wagon No. GP908.

▲ Battery-Electric locomotives Nos. 15 and 19 are pictured at Parsons Green on the Wimbledon branch of the Distrcict Line on 18th May. **Julian Gajewski**

▼ Wagon No. GP908 is pictured the same day. **Kim Rennie**

Better than expected returns for Laurencekirk station

Since it reopened a year ago, passenger levels at the Grade B listed Laurencekirk station have exceeded expectations.

The investment in the station of £3.5 million by the Scottish Government and Nestrans has delivered almost double the number of expected passenger journeys with 640,000 journeys having been made on First ScotRail services, well above the predicted 336,000.

▼ **The 09.38 Sunday service from Glasgow Queen Street to Aberdeen departs from reopened Laurencekirk station on 11th April, formed of Class 170/4 No. 170427 and Class 158/0 No. 158701.** **Brian Morrison**

Stobart starts work on £25 million Tesco contract

Eddie Stobart has started work on its £25 million a year Tesco contract, with the first shipment of goods passing out through the gates of a 528,000 square-foot Tesco chilled distribution centre in Widnes on 19th May.

The new distribution centre is part of the Mersey Multimodal Gateway, a brown-field site development undertaken by the Stobart Group in partnership with Halton Borough Council. The project is about to move into phase two of the development.

Steve O'Connor, Managing Director of Stobart Ports, said: "This week is a landmark in the development of this region as a whole. Today's activity at the site marks the completion of phase one of this major project for Stobart Group, Halton Borough Council and the Mersey region. Ultimately this project will create 5,000 jobs in the region, and that is something we all know is well worth working for".

UK News In Brief

■ ScotRail trains will return to Dunbar from 23rd May, after a 20-year gap, with the two return trips a day to Edinburgh envisaged as a first step towards an hourly service. There will also be a 22.08 Edinburgh-Dunbar train from Mondays to Thursdays, running one hour later than the current last service. The East Lothian station is at present only served by infrequent East Coast and CrossCountry trains.

■ With the ending of the Cumbrian loco-hauled passenger service between Maryport and Workington on 28th May, Northern Rail is to reinstate the normal fare structure for passengers. The company say that there has been a decline in the number of passengers using the service since the road bridge in Workington was re-opened, although the company will, in conjunction with the Department for Transport, continue to monitor the patronage of Workington North station, prior to deciding its long-term future.

■ Public consultation has opened into plans to extend the London Underground Northern Line into the Vauxhall Nine Elms Battersea Opportunity Area in South West London. A leaflet, sent to many thousands of homes, provides information about the proposed tube extension of the Charing Cross Branch of the Northern Line from Kennington to Battersea Power Station, and seeks views from the public on which of four options for the route of the extension and station locations is preferred. The extension is proposed as part of a package of measures to support the planned regeneration of the area, which covers nearly 500 acres. Subject to funding and consents the project could be completed by 2016.

■ The European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS) uses computers in the train cabs to control movements, such as speed when trains go too fast. It was supposed to go live on the Cambrian Coast line between Harlech to Pwllheli, but Network Rail has now postponed its introduction, as glare from the sun prevents drivers from seeing the screens! A long-term solution is being sought. The Cambrian Coast route, which runs from Aberystwyth and Pwllheli to Shrewsbury, was due to become the first railway in Great Britain to use the system which is extensively used in other European countries, including France, Belgium and Switzerland. Network Rail is now working with the manufacturer to explore a long-term solution.

■ With over two million train time enquiries handled in April alone, the free iPhone travel app from thetrainline.com is retaining its position in the top free travel apps for iPhone. The app is ideal for finding train times when on the go, and with the ability to download train timetables, users can view train times and information even when there's no internet connection - handy if travelling on the Tube. The app can be downloaded free of charge from thetrainline.com website, or by clicking here.

New Transport Secretary opens King's Cross Platform 0

The new Platform 0 at King's Cross was officially opened by the latest Secretary of State for Transport, Philip Hammond, on 20th May.

The event marked a major milestone in Network Rail's £500 million redevelopment of the station, allowing the refurbishment of the existing platforms to begin. In 2011, the new western concourse, three-times the size of the current 1970s one, is scheduled to be complete ready for the extra passengers that the Olympic Games will bring.

Work is progressing well on the new concourse, with the first steel roof supports now installed. It is due for completion in 2013.

▶ **The latest Secretary of State for Transport, Philip Hammond, cuts the tape to officially open Platform 0 at King's Cross on 20th May, accompanied by (left to right) Ian Fry, King's Cross Network Rail Programme Director, Robin Gisby, Network Rail Director of Operations and Customer Services, Neal Lawson, Managing Director, First Capital Connect, Elaine Holt, Chief Executive of Directly Operated Railways Ltd and Chairman of East Coast, and Richard Lungmuss, Network Rail Route Director LNE. Bill Turvill**

▼ **Class 91 No. 91116 stands in the new Platform 0 at London King's Cross. Amazingly, this platform was previously the station's taxi rank! Bill Turvill**

◀ Colas Rail Class 47/7 No. 47739 *Robin of Templecombe* had charge of a Stoke Marcroft to Heaton T&RSMD stock move on 19th May, conveying three Grand Central ex-loco-hauled Mk3 vehicles. The coaches have been modified to work with HST power cars. Here, the '47' together with vehicles Nos. 11038, 12044, 12088, 'topped and tailed' by translator vehicles 6340 and 6344, approach Milford Junction. **David Kirwin**

▼◀ The 16.17 Nottingham-Bedford service speeds past the site of the old Barrow-upon-Soar station in the bright sunshine of 16th May, with Class 43 powercar No. 43075 being one of the few still in the old MML livery with East Midlands Trains branding, while the coaches are all in the latest EMT colour scheme. Trains were beginning and ending at Bedord due to engineering work between St Pancras and Bedford over the weekend.

▼ Making a pleasing break to the routine, Tyseley's Class 47/4 No. 47580 *County of Essex* hauls Class 37/0 No. 37264, Class 45/1 No. 45133, Class 31/1 No. 31271 and Class 50/1 No. 50135 though Ashchurch while working from Swanage to the Severn Valley Railway at Kidderminster on 18th May. **Both: John Stretton**

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.

24th May 2010		
WCRC	45231 or 45407	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
The Royal Scotsman	WCRC 47	Kyle of Lochalsh-Inverness-Aviemore-Boat of Garten
25th May 2010		
WCRC	45231 or 45407	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
The Royal Scotsman	WCRC 47	Boat of Garten-Aviemore-Kingussie-Dunkelf-Perth
26th May 2010		
WCRC	45231 or 45407	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
Railway Touring Co.	44871	London Victoria-Dartford-Gravesend-Chatham-Gillingham-Whitstable-Margate-Ramsgate-Dover-Folkestone West-Ashford international-Edenbridge-Redhill-London Victoria
The Royal Scotsman	WCRC 47	Perth-Edinburgh Waverley
27th May 2010		
WCRC	45231 or 45407	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
28th May 2010		
WCRC	45231 or 45407	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
Amethyst Experience	60163	London Liverpool Street-Shenfield-Colchester-Ipswich-Norwich & rtn
29th May 2010		
Amethyst Experience	60163	(Ashford-Tonbridge-Bromley South-)Kensington Olympia-Bath Spa-Bristol Temple Meads & return
Compass Tours	DBS Class 67	Hooton-Chester-Northwich-Altrincham-Bolton-S&C-Carlisle-Workington-Grange over Sands-Carnforth-Preston-Bolton & return
Railway Touring Co.	5029	Bristol Temple Meads-Plymouth-Bodmin Parkway-Par & return
Spitfire Railtours	tbc	Preston-Stafford-Telford Central-Shrewsbury Abbey Foregate Curve-Welshpool--Minffordd-Porthmadog-Pwllheli & return
SRPS Railtours	tbc	North Berwick-Edinburgh Waverley-Kirkcaldy-Markinch-Ladybank-Perth-Blair Athol-Aviemore-Inverness-Plockton-Kyle of Lochlash & rtn
Statesman Rail	tbc	(Hull-Selby-Keighley-)Carnforth-Grange over Sands-Ravenglass & return
UK Railtours	35028	London King's Cross-York & return **Cancelled**
Vintage Trains	6201 + 9600	Tyseley Warwick Road-Birmingham SH-Worcester SH-Swindon-Didcot Parkway-Swindon-Bromsgrove (No. 9600 banking)-Lickey Incline-Kings Norton-Saltley-Tyseley Warwick Road
30th May 2010		
Torbay Express Ltd	6024	Bristol Temple Meads-Taunton-Exeter-Paignton-Kingswear & rtn
31st May 2010		
Compass Tours	DBS Class 67	Wigan NW-Carlisle-Crianlarich-Rannock-Fort William & return
Pathfinder Tours	60163	(Newport-Chepstow-Gloucester-Stroud-Swindon-London Victoria-Bromley South-Canterbury-Dover-Headcorn-London Victoria-Newport
Retro Railtours	55022	Stockport-Huddersfield-Wakefield Kirkgate-Edinburgh & return
WCRC	45231 or 45407	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return

Not all pick up/set down points are shown. Check with the operator before travelling any distance.

BLACK Charters expected to operate as booked. **RED** Tours cancelled by the operator
GREEN Tours postponed to a future date by the operator **BLUE** Provisional excursion
(Locations) in brackets on a steam tour listing indicates a diesel or electric-hauled section.

Clan Line trip to York cancelled after Merchant Navy locomotive sustains rare main line failure

UK Railtours has been forced to cancel its second main line steam working on the East Coast Main Line in as many weeks.

The company was due to operate Merchant Navy No. 35028 *Clan Line* on a rare non-VSOE return working from London King's Cross to York on 28th May, under the name of the 'Merchant Venturer'. However, on the return working from Oxford for VSOE on 21st May, *Clan Line* sustained a serious malfunction, resulting in the loss of a fusible plug and a consequent need to drop the fire. After the ejected fire had been doused by the local fire brigade, the train was diesel-powered back to London Victoria with *Clan Line* still attached. The loco and support coach were then returned to Stewarts Lane Depot.

The owning society, the Merchant Navy Locomotive Preservation Society, is urgently investigating the cause, although early indications are that the loco has not sustained any serious damage as a result of the incident.

The news is a particularly bad blow for UK Railtours, as a number of passengers had transferred to the 'Merchant Venturer' from the previous weeks ECML tour, which was cancelled when Network Rail banned LNER A4 Pacific No. 60019 *Bittern* from the National Network, after a series of lineside fires on its recent trains.

▼ **Bulleid Pacific No. 35028** *Clan Line* **approaches the disused viaduct flyover of the old East Putney connection line on 21st May, as it climbs from Wandsworth Town with the VSOE. Ian Docwra**

Stanier Pacific takes on the Lickey Incline

With the recent failure of BR Standard 7P No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell*, **the 'Britannia Banker' charter for Vintage Trains on Saturday 29th May is now scheduled to operate behind LMS 'Princess Royal' Pacific No. 6201** *Princess Elizabeth*.

The train will operate as advertised from Tyseley Warwick Road to Didcot, via Worcester Shrub Hill, returning via the Lickey Incline with GWR 5700 Class Pannier No. 9600 being attached as a banker at Bromsgrove.

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Bittern is temporarily banned from National Network after causing three lineside fires

UK Railtours 'East Coast Diversion' tour on 22nd May was cancelled by Network Rail less than 48 hours from departure due to the perceived fire risk on the East Coast Main Line.

The move, taken after discussions with Network Rail, followed a series of fires reportedly started by A4 class Pacific No. 60019 *Bittern* on both the northbound 'Coronation' last weekend and the 'Cathedrals Express' on 20th May, which it worked from Hellifield to Carlisle and back. The Settle & Carlisle incident occurred shortly after 13.20 and resulted in two fire appliances and a Landrover from Settle, Bentham and Skipton being in attendance to tackle the fire, which covered 1,500 square meters of railway embankment - the last appliance finally leaving the site shortly after 18.00.

As a result of the fires, Network Rail took the decision around 17.00 on 20th May to inform UK Railtours that *Bittern* could not be used on its charter on 22nd May, until the locomotive had been inspected and reassurances given that any problems had been corrected. As no other steam locomotive was available, UK Railtours was given the option of running the train with diesel motive power, but it was not felt to be an appropriate alternative, given that the train was advertised as a steam-hauled charter. Passengers booked on the trip have been offered the facility of transferring to the company's 'Merchant Adventurer' running from London to York behind *Clan Line*, for which seats are still available in all classes.

The months of April and May are more prone to fires, as the new growth has yet to take hold, leaving a base of dry rotting vegetation from last year that is far more prone to ignite. North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue Service told Railway Herald that the lineside conditions in the area were currently tinder dry.

With a deteriorating weather forecast leading up to the Bank Holiday, the problem should (hopefully!) only be a temporary issue rather than the start of a summer steam ban.

▶ **The lineside fire near Selside. Rod Smith**

▼ **On 20th May, 'A4' No. 60019** *Bittern* **passes Horton-in-Ribblesdale bound for Carlisle, having taken over the train at Hellifield. Paul Braybrook**

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The Week Ahead

by John Whitehouse

The forthcoming Bank Holiday weekend brings with it a range of tours.

The most notable, however, must be Retro Railtours 'Deltic Retro Scot, as it heralds the return of the distinctive drone of a 'Deltic' back to the main line scene on Monday 31st May. No. 55022 *Royal Scots Grey* has been sidelined for a couple of years and the difficulty of getting its engines sorted out has been well documented. Retro Railtour's first outing of 2010 sets out from Stockport, and picks up at Stalybridge, Huddersfield and Mirfield to Wakefield Kirkgate, prior to making a welcome return to East Coast metals for the dash, no doubt in typical and distinctive 'Deltic' style, via York, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Berwick-upon-Tweed, to Edinburgh Waverley.

In the run up to the Bank Holiday weekend, two tours operate, both steam-hauled, commencing with The Railway Touring Company's 'Kentish Belle'. Originally billed as a potential regular operation, the initial two trains were cancelled and the third re-dated to 26th May. The tour works out of London Victoria along the North Kent Coast, then via Margate and Ramsgate to Dover, Folkestone West and Ashford, prior to returning to Victoria through Edenbridge and Redhill. Traction originally was to be No. 34067 *Tangmere*, then No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* due the unavailability of the Battle of Britain. With the 'Brit' now sidelined, Riley's 'Black 5' No. 44871 will deputise.

Amethyst Tours should not have a traction problem with its inaugural steam operation featuring No. 60163 *Tornado* from London Liverpool Street to Norwich on 28th May. This will be the first visit of *Tornado* to Norwich, and the tour will feature the 'A1' on the Great Eastern main line through Shenfield, Chelmsford, Colchester, Ipswich and Diss. Next day, on Saturday 29th May, Amethyst also employs the loco on a working that commences diesel-hauled at Ashford through to Bath Spa and Bristol Temple Meads, with steam working between Kensington Olympia and Bristol and return.

Bank Holiday Saturday features a number of high profile steam tours. The highlight of which may perhaps have been ex-Southern Railway Merchant Navy Pacific No. 35028 *Clan Line* making a very rare foray away from the South East for UK Railtours and its 'Merchant Adventurer' charter. The failure of *Clan Line* has now resulted in this train being cancelled.

Meanwhile, Vintage Trains has 'The Britannia Banker', which was supposed to feature *Oliver Cromwell* throughout from Tyseley Warwick Road to Didcot, working outwards via Kidderminster and the Golden Valley, and returning via the Lickey Incline, where the train was booked to be banked by Tyseley's Pannier Tank No. 9600. The Pannier will now remain with the train to Saltley, where it reverses, and will return to Tyseley via St Andrews and Bordesley Junctions, which itself is quite an incline. Look out for a Tyseley locomotive deputising for the 'Britannia' (see separate article).

RTC's 'The Cornishman' was originally booked for No. 70000 *Britannia*, but wisely there was also a Plan B (featuring 'A4' No. 60019 *Bittern*) in case the loco was not ready, now however, with the recent fire problems (see related story) its Plan C! The tour will see GWR 'Castle' No. 5029 *Nunney Castle* at the helm for the tour from Bristol Temple Meads via Exeter St. Davids and Plymouth to Par.

Statesman Rail's summer steam programme also gets underway on 29th May with the first of four 'Lakelander' workings, which will be steam-hauled between Carnforth and Ravenglass. Each tour has a regional originating point, which on this day will be Hull, with the train working via Leeds and the Little North Western through Wennington. Traction is unspecified, but West Coast's '8F' 2-8-0 No. 48151 is likely to feature on some, if not all of the tours.

From the enthusiast viewpoint, the tour of the day has to be Spitfire Railtour's 'The Prisoner' from Preston to Pwllheli. Traction is scheduled to be West Coast Class 37s to Shrewsbury, via Crewe, Stafford and Telford, with a pair of DRS Class 37s onwards along the Cambrian Coast to Barmouth, Porthmadog and Pwllheli. The name honours the iconic 1960s TV programme of the same name, starring Patrick McGoohan, which was filmed on location at nearby Portmeirion. Of the other diesel-hauled workings operating on 29th May, Compass Tours employ DBS Class 67 haulage on its 'Cumbrian Fellsman' charter from Hooton, via Chester, Northwich and Manchester Victoria to Carlisle, outwards over the S&C, while in Scotland the SRPS will be utilising West Coast Class 47s from North Berwick to Plockton and Kyle of Lochalsh, which will operate via Edinburgh Waverley, Kirkaldy, and Ladybank, to Perth and then along the Highland main line to Inverness.

Sunday 30th May has the inaugural 'Torbay Express' of the year, the first of 14 trains booked to operate up to 26th September. This trip is scheduled to feature No. 6024 *King Edward I* throughout between Bristol Temple Meads and Kingswear, with additional pick up points at Weston-super-Mare, Taunton and Exeter St Davids.

On 31st May there is a variety of trains on offer as well. Including the already mentioned Retro Railtours trip, the other modern traction tour is Compass Rail's 'The West Highlander' from Wigan North Western to Fort William, with DBS Class 67 traction throughout. The route is along the West Coast before getting into West Highland territory. It is good to report that both Compass tours this weekend are sold out.

The remaining two charters both feature steam. Pathfinder is due to operate the second of its 'Canterbury Tornado' workings around Kent to Canterbury with No. 60163 *Tornado*. The steam section commences in West London, and the train works out via Tonbridge and Ashford, while the return is around the coast via Deal, Dover and Folkestone. This train starts at Newport and picks up via Gloucester, Stroud and Swindon to Didcot.

Swanage is becoming a popular charter destination following the reinstatement of the connection with Network Rail, and RTC's 'The Swanage Belle' is the first of three proposed workings onto the heritage line this summer. The train sets out from London Victoria, via Woking, Basingstoke and Bournemouth to Wareham. *Oliver Cromwell* should have taken the outward working, with the train returning with *Sir Lamiel*, but Ian Riley's 'Black 5' No. 44871 is likely to deputise for the now unavailable 'Britannia'.

▼ **GWR 'Castle' No. 5029** ***Nunney Castle*** **heads 'The Southern Irishman' charter from Birmingham to Fishguard Harbour, heading along the West Wales coast between Pwll and Burry Port, on 22nd May. This loco will now be used on the RTC Bristol to Penzance tour on 29th May. Matt Turner**

Contents Page

Success for Coronation trip as train rescues ash stranded airline passengers

Steam Dreams pulled off another marketing coup on 17th May when a local radio interview provided further national coverage, when spaces on the returning leg of the 'Coronation' working were offered to people stranded in Edinburgh because of the Icelandic volcano ash grounding flights out of Edinburgh Airport.

Some half-a-dozen took up the option of a leisurely trip along the ECML behind classic LNER and LMS traction. The tour had operated well, with the only hitch being some lineside fires north of the border attributed to No. 60019 *Bittern* on the outward working.

The Sunday working to Ayr with 'Black 5' No. 45407 produced some excellent reviews, particularly concerning the use of the rare 'Union' freight lines that run to the south of Glasgow Central.

On the final day, a freight train injudiciously parked in the siding allocated to 'The Coronation' for watering at Peterborough Yard, cancelled out some early running, but a final flourish bought No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland* to a stand at King's Cross just 30 minutes down. The many smiling faces that surrounded the engine were confirmation that it had been a success all round.

As mentioned last week, Steam Dreams will now also be running a pre-Christmas 'Coronation' with *Tornado* between 18th-20th November.

◀▲ **On the final day, Steam Dreams' 'The Coronation' charter returns from Edinburgh along the East Coast Main Line on 17th May, and is pictured north of Skelton Junction, on the approach to York headed by LNER 'A4' Pacific No. 60019** *Bittern*. **Paul Braybrook**

◀ **With a loco-change having taken place at York, LMS 'Duchess' No. 6233** *Duchess of Sutherland* **stands at journey's end - London Kings Cross. John Whitehouse**

Amethyst Proudly Presents

The Bath & Bristol Explorer

Saturday 29th May 2010

- **A 'Gem' in luxurious travel together with an exquisite dining experience**
- **In true Pullman style, from the moment you are welcomed on-board, the magic begins**
- **Classic journeys with cultural and historic interest**
- **Carefully planned, imaginative itineraries**
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At the heart of this wonderful excursion to the Southwest lies the thrill of mainline steam. Providing that special magic as we head south west towards historic Bath and vibrant Bristol will be the brand new A1 Pacific "Tornado".

It's no wonder Bath is a designated world heritage site, with its breathtaking Georgian architecture and the splendour of the Roman Baths! On arrival you can choose to marvel at the Royal Crescent, one of Britain's most famous architectural masterpieces, visit Bath Abbey where the first King of England was crowned in AD973 or simply stroll and admire all that this famous city has to offer.

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.

A truly wonderful trip not to be missed!...

Our journey starts at Ashford calling at Headcorn, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Sevenoaks, Orpington and Bromley South. As we enter London, "Tornado" will be waiting to haul our train to the historic city of Bath and the vibrant city of Bristol. All Silver Service/First Class seating has deep cushioned armchairs where you can just sit, relax and enjoy, while our waiter and hosting service comes direct to your table.

SILVER SERVICE, £219.00 per person

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With all options, complimentary newspapers, button hole flower for the ladies and full information on our destination will be provided.
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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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To book your tickets on this steam-hauled excursion call

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◀ **Harry Potter's steam locomotive, No. 5972** *Olton Hall* **(masquerading** *Hogwarts Castle***) moved from Carnforth to Southall on 20th May, hauling a rake of seven Mk1 maroon carriages. This move was in connection with further filming work, undertaken at London King's Cross during the early hours of 24th May. Here, the 'Hall' passes Streetly Gate in Sutton Park. Andrew Edkins**

Ups & Downs

by John Whitehouse

■ As a result of the withdrawal of 'A4' Pacific No. 60019 *Bittern* from mainline operations, RTC's 'The Cornishman' trip on 28th May will now be hauled by GWR 'Castle' No. 5029 *Nunney Castle*.

■ Look out for unusual motive power on the Railway Touring Company's inaugural 'Dorset Coast Express' on Friday 9th July. The word is that the job will be in the hands of LMS-power in the shape of No. 46115 *Scots Guardsman*, which will remain in London after working RTC's 'The White Rose' from York on 26th June. The locomotive is believed to have charge of the charter throughout, and will then return north for its scheduled working on RTC's 'Cotton Mill Express' on 17th July. Note also, that RTC's 'Quantock Hills Express', scheduled for 5th June, has been postponed to 23rd October.

■ New from Spitfire is its 'Cumbrian Crusader III' from Birmingham New Street, with DRS traction throughout. The route north is via Derby, Chesterfield and the 'Old Road' via Beighton Junction to Sheffield, with a DRS Class 57, where the train will reverse and go forward with a Class 20/37 combination, via Settle to Carlisle. The return is initially along the Tyne Valley to Newcastle Central with a Class 66/4, where a pair of Class 37s take over for the journey back to Birmingham, via the ECML to York, then Church Fenton to Sheffield and then directly to Chesterfield and home.

■ Vintage Trains has given advanced notice of a potential tour featuring No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* on 17th July, and seeks expressions of interest. A working to the south is the objective but no further details are available at present. A couple of interesting possibilities come to mind, one of which would be innovative, to say the least. Suffice to say, the starting point will be Birmingham: be that Moor Street, Snow Hill, Tyseley Warwick Road or.....? Contact Vintage Trains to register your interest, and be the first to have your curiosity satisfied!

The strong winds of 'Western' adventure blow in for Pathfinder's summer and autumn season

Tornado will form a significant part of Pathfinder's summer offerings, with a number of high profile tours using the new A1 Pacific.

Of the selection, two immediately catch the imagination, commencing with a weekend affair to Penzance that introduces *Tornado* to the far South West extremity of the national rail system. 'The Cornish Tornado' commences diesel-hauled from Crewe on 11th September, running via Birmingham New Street and Oxford to Bristol Temple Meads, where steam will take over for the run through to Penzance. After an overnight break, the train returns from Penzance, again with *Tornado*, through to Temple Meads where diesel-haulage takes over. Two weeks later, and *Tornado* is again heading west, this time in the company of 'King' 4-6-0 No. 6024 *King Edward I*, for a rare double-heading treat from Bristol Temple Meads through to Plymouth and back. It will be very interesting to reflect on the performance log of this pairing over the South Devon banks.

The 160th anniversary of the Royal Border Bridge at Berwick-upon-Tweed is the backdrop of the 22nd October 'Royal Borderer' tour from Doncaster, which features *Tornado* throughout to Edinburgh Waverley, via York, Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Berwick-upon-Tweed. On the return, the train will call at Berwick, where passengers will have the opportunity of seeing the commencement of the bridge anniversary celebrations, when it will be floodlit to mark the occasion. An early evening departure follows, for a return to Doncaster as outwards.

Two trips to Carmarthen feature in the early summer period, with *Tornado* working outwards from Bristol Temple Meads, via the Severn Tunnel and Newport, to Port Talbot and then via Landore and Llanelli to Carmarthen. The return working will take the Swansea District Line. 'The Towy Tornado I' is on 10th July from Tame Bridge Parkway, while the second working is on 30th August from Exeter St Davids and stations via Westbury to Bristol.

Speciality traction also features on two tours with D1015 *Western Champion*, with the first on 31st July when 'The Western Fellsman' sets out from Westbury, outwards via Swindon, Oxford and West Coast, via Shap and the Upperby Curve to the S&C and a break at Appleby. The return will be over the S&C then home via Blackburn and Stoke-on-Trent.

The next tour features the 'Western' on home ground, working deep into the west of Wales to Haverfordwest, the Robeston branch and Fishguard Harbour. A DBS Class 66 will be used to 'top and tail' on the Robeston branch. 'The Western Wales Explorer' originates at Crewe, and runs via Birmingham New Street and Gloucester to Newport.

▼ **'The East Lancs Champion' charter undertook a two-day excursion from Crewe to Penzance over the weekend of 15th/16th May. Here, Class 40 No. 40145 passes Restormel, near Lostwithiel in glorious spring sunshine en-route to Penzance. Stuart Warr**

While the National Network has its thunderbirds, the steam movement has Riley's International Rescue!

In a parallel railway world, the gallant green knight (well, Lord Protector, actually) lays wounded, stricken maybe by its labours of the recent past. Time is needed to tend and heal the wound, but what will happen while the gallant green knight recovers?

There may be a wringing of hands, a worried frown, but in the hour of need up chugs the saviours, two Black 5s, bearing the headboard proclaiming 'Riley's International Rescue'! All is well again: 'The Jacobite' will be steam hauled, so will 'The Kentish Belle', and 'The Swanage Belle, and who knows what more in the forthcoming weeks. The movement rejoices! 'RIR and its 'Black 5s' are here, so all is well! And so it should be, had it not been for the foresight of Ian Riley, his team and his 'Black 5s', the railtour movement would be in a right pickle just now.

Key locomotives have failed; first it was *The Great Marquess*, then NELPGs 'K1' and then *Oliver Cromwell*, yes, the saviour of 'Great Britain III'. Against all this, in the background is the overhaul of everyone's standby, No. 34067 *Tangmere*, the Carnforth visit of which, appears to have turned into a lengthy job lasting into July. Great for the long term, but in the short term it has created a bit of a hole that the loss of *Oliver Cromwell* has turned into a possible chasm.

This is not a criticism of anybody or any organisation: what has happened is just life, some of the perils of dealing with equipment which is a minimum of 40 years old, plus as we all know life has its ups and downs.

As individuals, sometimes we take on too much, which is an observation that could possibly be made also of the railtour movement. The ratio of tours to available suitable traction was tight to begin with, and is now a whole lot tighter.

The problem with the Britannia Pacific is in its firebox, the extent of which varies by whomever one is talking to. So we will not speculate, and let the 5305 Locomotive Society team do its job without hindrance. At the time of writing, the only certainty is that No. 70013 was spotted heading north on the M1 tethered to a low loader heading for Loughborough. Let us hope that the repairs required to get the loco up and running again are not either major or lengthy.

Fortunately the workload of *Oliver Cromwell* over the next six weeks was not as extensive as the previous period. Three commitments for RTC and a Vintage Trains working (that can be covered internally with a home-based locomotive) up to the end of May, and a further Vintage Trains charter on 19th June, is the sum total. The locomotive was due to spend time at Tyseley in any event, being the star of the open weekend at the end of June, ahead of some possible 'Shakespeare' turns.

So, although the movement grabs a moment to consider options, 'Riley's International Rescue' keeps the jobs going. With 'Black 5' No. 45407 heading to Fort William after deputising for the 'K4' on the middle day of Steam Dreams 'Coronation', while No. 44871 heads south to cover for No 70013 on the RTC trains. Why are the 'Black 5s' so important? Simply because they can go virtually anywhere and when pushed, will virtually pull anything as well.

What of the future? There is an intensive programme of steam operations looming, particularly during the high season of mid-July through to the end of August. Looking at the listings, virtually every main line registered locomotive is committed to the full. Increasing individual engine's productivity by working more tours is not an answer because their availability is subject to a number of outside factors, of which the ability of the support crews to keep them running is paramount. Come the end of August, there are going to be some very tired support crews as well. So let us be grateful that in our hour of need, the 'Black 5s' of 'RIR' were ready, willing and able!

With the Atlantic Ocean to the left of this image 'Western' No. D1015 *Western Champion* enters Carbis Bay while working to St Ives with 'The East Lancs Champion' on 16th May. **Stuart Warr**

On 15th May, Tyseley's GWR 'Hall' 4-6-0 No. 4965 *Rood Ashton Hall* **and GWR 'Castle' 4-6-0 No. 5043** *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe* **were used from Bristol on a Birmingham Snow Hill to Plymouth charter. Here, the train passes Dawlish. Stuart Warr**

Full steam ahead for Blaenavon extension

The Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway has announced that the Railway Inspector has given preliminary approval for the opening of the Blaenavon extension, assuming some outstanding paper work issues are resolved.

The long-awaited opening of the extension to Blaenavon High Level will take place on 29th May, and services will commence with the 10:40 from Furnace Sidings to Blaenavon High Level (10.50 arrival), and will continue hourly until the 16.40 departure. All trains will be 'topped & tailed' with Bagnall 0-4-0ST No.19, courtesy of the Bodmin and Wenford Railway, and Austerity 0-6-0ST No. 71515, and the same procedure will apply on the Sunday and Monday 30/31st May. For the half-term, services will be diesel hauled to the same timetable on the Monday to Thursday 1st - 3rd June.

The official opening of the extension will take place on 18th/19th September as part of the 'GWR 175' celebrations, when the City class 4-4-0 No. 3414 *City of Truro* will be visiting the railway.

Chairman, Robin Cornelius said: "This is an exciting moment in the railways history. After 28 years we have finally made it back into Blaenavon. It has been a long struggle but well worth it. I'm really proud of our volunteers and what they have achieved. We must also thank Torfean Council and the Heads of the Valleys Initiative for their backing in all of this, without them this would not have happened".

The railway is run entirely by volunteers and is to be found situated at Furnace Sidings, Garn-yr-Erw, just north of Blaenavon, and Torfaen. It runs weekends from Easter until October plus Christmas 'Santa Specials'. Visitors are advised that is no car parking at Blaenavon High Level station, but ample parking can be found in Blaenavon and at Furnace sidings, where the railways tea room is also located.

▼ The Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway's new steam locomotive, RSH built 0-6-0ST, Works Number 7169, is pictured at Whistle Inn on 16th May, after a successful test run from Blaenavon. The locomotive should be lined out in time for the Bank Holiday weekend public opening of the railway's extension. Alistair Grieve

▲ LB&SCR 'Terrier' 0-6-0T No. 55 *Stepney* & LB&SCR E4 Class 0-6-2T No. B473 double-head the 12.00 Sheffield Park to Kingscote service out of Horsted Keynes on 22nd May. *Stepney* returned to service on 17th May, which was the 50th Anniversary of its arrival on the Bluebell Railway in 1960. The loco carries the same livery that it wore when delivered, and will retain the colour scheme until the end of the year. Tony Sullivan

Bluebell Railway celebrates 50 years of preservation

The Bluebell Railway has celebrated its Golden Anniversary by recreating the journey of one its original locomotives 50 years ago.

Some of the line's founder members gathered at Horsted Keynes station to mark the arrival of LB&SCR Class A1X 0-6-0T No.55 *Stepney*, and travelled behind it to Sheffield Park. The railway opened in 1960, and now runs for nine miles from Sheffield Park to Kingscote.

Roy Watts, the Chairman of the Bluebell Railway Preservation Society, said: "We have got people here from that first day. Some of them have been talking to me about where they stood when the steam engine first came around the corner. There's a great amount of respect for the railway in the community."

A £4 million project to extend the line to East Grinstead is well under way, with building work for the new Bluebell Railway platform at East Grinstead well advanced, as is track laying towards the north end of the tip.

On 5th/6th June, the site will be open for viewing with the final opportunity to walk across the ten arch Hill Place Viaduct. Visitors will be able to view the station platform which is nearing completion as well as viewing the track laid from the new platform down to the north end of Imberhorne cutting, the site of the rubbish tip.

The station site will be open from 10.00 until 16.00 and admission tickets are priced at £4.00 per person if purchased before the 31st May or £5.00 on the day.

Buckfastleigh's 2251 class is back in BR green

Following a major overhaul in the South Devon Railway's own workshops, GWR 2251 class 0-6-0 No. 3205, the only example of the class to have been preserved, is ready to debut as the star attraction at the railway's forthcoming May Bank Holiday '1950's and 60's' gala event and linked real ale festival on 29th to 31st May.

The locomotive first arrived on the Buckfastleigh line nearly 45 years ago in October 1965. It has operated on three other lines across the country since then, and was withdrawn from service in 2006 requiring major overhaul.

This work, which has included extensive boiler repairs, is now virtually complete and 'running in trials' have commenced - and, after nearly 40 years painted in its former GWR colours, No. 3205 will now be seen in British Railways unlined green, the last livery it carried prior to being purchased for preservation, and the one that it carried when it first arrived at Buckfastleigh.

Climbing the grade in Cornwall

▶ On 16th May, the Bodmin & Wenford Railway's resident GWR 4200 class 2-8-0T No. 4247 works hard to lift the 15.25 service from Bodmin Parkway to Bodmin General through Charlie's Gate.
Stuart Warr

▲ **Looking smart at Toddington on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway, GWR 'City' No. 3717** *City of Truro* **stands on a rake of Mk1s on 24th May. Both: Jack Boskett**

Toddington gears up for 'GWR175' gala

A landslip that severs the last few miles of the line is the last thing any aspiring heritage line wants, especially on the eve of one of its biggest galas ever.

However, forget the landslip, because as the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway says, 'Rumours of the death of the Honeybourne Line are very greatly exaggerated!' In fact, they are very much open for business, and the GW175 Gala, which is due to run from 29th May until 6th June, is going to be one of the best yet.

The landslip (see opposite story) has occurred at Gotherington, but trains will still be able to access the station, running in 'top & tail' mode from Winchcombe, which means the GWSR has lost just the section onwards to Cheltenham Racecourse.

The big news, however, is at the other end of the line, as the Railway Inspectorate has within the last few days passed the track north of Toddington for passenger services, which means that an auto-trailer service will be able to run with 1400 class 0-4-2T No. 1450 and auto-trailer No. 178, which will provide the opportunity to travel by train over Stanway Viaduct for the first time since BR closed the line in 1976. This service will operate half-hourly from 09.55 until 16.55 each day.

There will also be 15 departures from Toddington to Winchcombe and Gotherington each day, commencing at 09.00 until 17.05. A demonstration freight is also booked to operate between Toddington and Winchcombe, and a full working timetable, together with daily locomotive rosters is available on the railway's website at www.gwsr.com or by clicking here.

The Gloucestershire Warwickshire expects to turn out 12 locomotives during the period of the gala, representing the standard gauge history of Swindon Works, ranging from No. 3440 *City of Truro* to BR Standard Class 9F No. 92203. Of note, will be the first appearance of 2800 class 2-8-0 No. 2807.

Static exhibits will include the Broad Gauge *Iron Duke*, 'Castle' No. 5051 *Earl Bathurst* and ex-Barry 2-8-0 No. 2885, which will show what is involved in restoring a steam locomotive. Gas Turbine No. 18000 and Class 14 diesel-hydraulic No. D9553 will also be on display.

There will be a host of other attractions, including a display of GWR nameplates, shed-code plates, cab side number plates and totems. Over the second weekend there will be auction of railwayana, as well as mainline footplate rides offered by West Coast Railway Company and First Great Western. Long lost GWR locomotive classes will be represented in miniature as part of a model railway display.

Landslide problem worsens for Gloucestershire Warwickshire

The landslip affecting the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway at Gotherington, as reported in RH Issue 220 has become worse.

A void within the embankment has been discovered, which has progressively affected the surrounding area, to the point that that initially just the run-round loop was affected, but within a short space of time slippage around the shoulder of the main running line was noticed.

As a consequence of the initial excavations it has become clear that there had been previous problems at the location when in the ownership of British Railways. Specialist advice is being sought to put together a plan to remedy the problem for good, together with plans to improve drainage over the full length of the line, as well as checking embankments on the 'new' stretch of line to Broadway.

The good news is that the railway's insurers have accepted the claim for the landslip, but the GWSR is planning to raise a 'Slip Fund', which is a contingency against further substantial expense in dealing with future occurrences, as well as funding remedial work in other locations as a preventative measure. To encourage donations to the fund, the GWSR has reduced the minimum investment for the purchase of its shares to £50.

▼ **Prairie No. 5542 and Auto Coach No. 178 crosses Stanway Viaduct on 24th May with the first passenger train over the viaduct since the early 1970s.**

On 20th May, BR green-liveried Class 73/0 No. E6001 has just detached from its train and is about to run around a private charter at Parkend on the Dean Forest Railway. **Richard Taylor**

First Scotrail-liveried Class 90 No. 90021 awaits the 'right away' from Edinburgh Waverley with the 23.40 'Caledonian Sleeper' to London Euston on 16th May. **Mark Walker**

A pair of East Coast HSTs meet north of Skelton Junction, York on 17th May. The service in the foreground bound for Newcastle, while heading south is the Inverness to London 'Highland Chieftain'. **Paul Braybrook**

Freighliner Class 86s Nos. 86609 and 86613 cross Dutton Viaduct with the 14:01 Coatbridge – Crewe Basford Hall intermodal service on 21st May.
Nigel Capelle

Still carrying Stobart Rail decals, DRS-operated Class 66/4 No. 66411 *Eddie the Engine* **passes Colton Junction on 14th May, with a Tyne Dock to Cardiff Tidal loaded steel scrap service. Ron Cover**

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 starts at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01525 750149 for 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. Starts 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'. Starts 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 starts at 20.00. Contact the Secretary, Ken Mumford at ken.mumford@ntlworld.com for 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 Rly 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
SVR (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 starts 19.30. Admission £2 non members. Contact the Secretary at beardspaul@aol.com for details.

Breconshire Rly Society
R.A.F.A.Club, The Struet, Brecon. 'Each a Glimpse and Gone Forever? - The Vanishing Infrastructure of Railways' by Graham Vincent. Starts 19.30. Members only. Please contact 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. Starts 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 David Pick on 01604 810613 or at northampton@rcts.org.uk for details.

RCTS (Shenfield)
Shenfield Parish Hall, 60 Hutton Road, Shenfield. 'Nottingham Victoria' by Ken Grainger. Starts 19.30

23rd June 2010
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St. Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'Operating the Freightliner Fleet' by Tom Jones. Starts 20.00. Contact 01256 819401.

28th June 2010
RCTS (Brighton)/LCGB
Brighton Railway Model Club Room, London Road Station, Shaftesbury Place, Brighton. 'Mass Production in Railway Engineering - The LMS Contribution' by Keith Harcourt. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Should your society information be listed on this page?

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

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

Web Links

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

▼ **The Editor makes no apologies for yet another shot of the slam-door stock on the Lymington branch. On its final day in traffic, 22nd May, 3CIG No. 1497 approaches Lymington Pier. Adam Ball**

29th June 2010
RCTS (Welwyn Garden City)
The Methodist Church, Junction of Ludwick Way and Colegreen Lane, Welwyn Garden City. 'An Afternoon with David Kelso'. Starts 14.15.

5th July 2010
Swanage Railway (Bath)
St John's Church Hall, St John's Road, Bathwick, Bath. 'Here, There and Roundabout' by Bob Bunyar. Starts 19.30. Admission £1. Contact John Lakey on 01225 315918 for details.

6th July 2010
Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend DA12 1BB. 'South Eastern Trains' by Neville Dyson. Starts 19.45. Contact Roger Hart on 01474 833320 for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Bedford)
St John's Church Hall, St John's Street, Bedford. 'A Round-up of Early Steam Locomotives' by Dr Michael Bailey. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01525 750149.

Weston super Mare Railway Society
Function Room, Conservative Club, Alexandra Parade, Weston super Mare. Evening Trip - TBA. Contact the Secretary, Lionel Jones on 01934 628289 for further details.

12th July 2010
Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln. Annual Quiz Night. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact the Secretary on 01522 705365 for further details

Southern Electric Group (Sussex)
Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre. 'The Great Western Broad Gauge Project' by Sam Bee. Meeting commences at 19.30. Donation of £2 requested. Contact the Secretary, Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094 or at b.cakebread@ntlworld.com for further details.

13th July 2010
Abergavenny & District Steam Society
Upper Room, The Hen and Chickens, Flannel Street, Abergavenny. 'My Father's Work in B&W' by David Cross. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact the Secretary, Ken Mumford at ken.mumford@ntlworld.com for further details.

14th July 2010
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St. Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'Tender Loving Care (TLC) for Trains' by Colin Boocock. Meeting commences at 20.00. Visitors Welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01256 819401 for further details.

15th July 2010
Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society
Roundhouse Lecture Theatre, Barrow Hill, Chesterfield. 'A Grinder to Town (Sheffield Midland - London St |Pancras over 60 years of images)' by Martin Bromley. Meeting commences at 19.30. Admission £2 non members. Contact the Secretary at beardspaul@aol.com for details.

Breconshire Railway Society
R.A.F.A.Club, The Struet, Brecon. AGM. Meeting commences at 19.30. Members only. Please contact the Secretary, Arthur Robinson on 01982 560219 for further details and all membership enquiries.

16th July 2010
Great Western Society (Taunton)
Village Hall, Stoke St. Mary, Nr Taunton. 'My Memories of the Mid 20th Century' by John Cramp. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01823 334188 for further details.

28th July 2010
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St. Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'Steam on London Underground 1933 - 1971' by John Manners. Starts 20.00. Visitors Welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01256 819401 for further details.

3rd August 2010
Weston super Mare Railway Society
Function Room, Conservative Club, Alexandra Parade, Weston super Mare. Members Slides. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact the Secretary, Lionel Jones on 01934 628289 or at wsm1977rlysocy@talktalk.net for further details.

9th August 2010
Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln. 'The Blue Pullman Story' by Mick Hayes. Meeting starts 20.00. Contact the Secretary on 01522 705365 for further details

Southern Electric Group (Sussex)
Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre. 'Closed Stations' by Malcolm Stroud. Meeting commences at 19.30. Donation of £2 requested. Contact the Secretary, Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094 or at b.cakebread@ntlworld.com for further details.

10th August 2010
Abergavenny & District Steam Society
Upper Room, The Hen and Chickens, Flannel Street, Abergavenny. 'When Steam Ruled the Rails' by Colin Jacks. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact the Secretary, Ken Mumford at ken.mumford@ntlworld.com for further details.

11th August 2010
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St. Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'Signal Boxes, People and Trains on the Berks & Hants Line' by David Canning. Meeting commences at 20.00. Visitors Welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01256 819401 for further details.

19th August 2010
Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society
Roundhouse Lecture Theatre, Barrow Hill, Chesterfield. 'The Woodhead Route' by Jeff Lane. Meeting commences at 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. 'The Great Western Society at Didcot' by Andrew Hook. 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. 'Developments in Hornby Railways' by Simon Kohler. Starts 19.45. Contact the Secretary, Roger Hart on 01474 833320 for further details.

25th August 2010
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St. Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'The Hiustory of the Ian Allan Publishing Group' by David Allan. Meeting commences at 20.00. Visitors Welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01256 819401 for further details.

7th September 2010
Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend DA12 1BB. 'On and Off the Footplate No 2' by Bill Davies. Starts 19.45. Contact the Secretary, Roger Hart on 01474 833320 for details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Bedford)
St John's Church Hall, St John's Street, Bedford. 'GRES Reminiscences' by GRES Members, Old and New. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01525 750149 for further details.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire)/ LRTA (Southern)
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'Railways in the North East - Retrospective and Recent' by Bruce Oliver. Starts19.30. 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. 'Steam on Road and Rail' by Malcolm Ranieri. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact the Secretary, Lionel Jones on 01934 628289 or at wsm1977rlysocy@talktalk.net for further details.

8th September 2010
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St. Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'Broad Gauge Railway Journey' by Canon Brian Arman. Starts 20.00. Contact the Secretary on 01256 819401 for further details.

Bromsgrove Rly Club
St Godwalds Church Hall, Aston Fields, Bromsgrove. 'Cine Film Evening' by John Constable Starts 19.45. Contact Dave on 01527 873800 for further details.

13th September 2010
Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln. 'British Transport Police' by Brian Bell. Starts 20.00. Contact 01522 705365 for details

Southern Electric Group (Sussex)
Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre.'Vintage SR EMU Photographs from the 1950s' by Richard Larkin. Starts 19.30. £2 Donation. Contact Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094.

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 60 No. 60040 *The Territorial Army Centenary* **approaches Pleasington on 12th May, with a Preston Docks to Lindsey Oil Refinery bitumen service, a rare working for a Class 60.**
David Price

Magazine Information

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