Railway Herald

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The electronic journal for the railway enthusiast

Railway Herald

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31st May 2010

Editor
Richard Tuplin

Contributing Editor
Brian Morrison

Railtour Editor
John Whitehouse

Advertising Manager
Ken Brunt

All editorial emails should be sent to the editor. To email a member of the team, send your message to firstname.surname@railwayherald.com

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John Stretton

SVR celebrates 40 years of achievements

On 23rd May, Ivatt Class 4MT Mogul No. 43106 departed from Platform 1 at Bridgnorth for Kidderminster, 40 years to both the day and hour that the Severn Valley Railway's first-ever train departed.

Full story on Page 11

Editorial

Our regular readers will note two unusual points with this issue - firstly *Railway Herald* has published on a Bank Holiday and secondly, it is a shorter than normal issue.

As readers will know, normally the magazine is not published when the publication date falls on a Bank Holiday Monday. However, due to the number of holiday periods over the past few weeks, with Easter and then May Bank Holiday, we felt we could not leave readers without another issue! Hence, we have a slightly smaller edition this week, before returning to our normal production schedule from Issue 225.

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Crewe Improvements
Network Rail is to undertake an estimated £3 million worth of improvements to Crewe station, starting within a few weeks.

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Metro & Light Rail News
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Making the impossible...
... possible! Vintage Trains is to operate a Stanier Pacific from Birmingham New Street to London Euston on 17th July.

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Front Cover Caption:

The latest modern traction arrival on the Llangollen Railway, Class 27 No. D5310, leaves Berwyn on 22nd May, with the 14.00 Llangollen to Carrog service. Steve Fulcher

Ambiance at Crewe to be improved

Network Rail has given details of two separate schemes for Crewe station, costing an estimated £3 million, which will start within a few weeks and give the appearance of the station a much-needed boost.

One scheme will tackle the environment of the ticket hall, concourse and platform level facilities, while the other will concentrate on the station roof.

Jo Kaye, Network Rail's route director, explained: "We have pledged to work with Cheshire East Council on its long-term vision for Crewe, which will cover the next 20 years. However, we need to do something now that will make the passenger experience of the station better in the immediate future, so together with Virgin Trains, we have come up with a plan to do just that over the next two years". The roof canopy above the main parts of Platforms 5 and 6 (effectively, those parts between the north and south staircases) will be reglazed in a scheme costing nearly £1 million. This work will start in the next few weeks and be completed by the end of the year. The other work, estimated at nearly £2 million, will involve cleaning of the brickwork to the station buildings on Platforms 5 and 6, and refurbishing the ticket hall, to include new flooring, ceilings and wall cladding, plus renewed lighting. In addition there will be improved lighting in the concourse and overbridge leading to the platforms, renewed surfacing on the staircases and refurbishment of the waiting rooms and toilets. All the work is expected to be completed by early 2012.

▼ **Class 66/5 No. 66519 was employed on the first working of a new flyash flow from Drax to Aberthaw Cement Works on 17th May, seen here at its destination reversing 20 PCA wagons into the cement works sidings to be unloaded. Adrian Kenny**

▲ **Due to engineering work on the West Coast Main Line, the 'Tescoliner' service, now operated by DB Schenker, was re-routed via the East Coast Main Line and the cross-country route. In rapidly fading light and with Class 66/0 No. 66134 at the helm and train locomotive No. 92017** *Bart the Engine* **dead in tow, the train passes Slitting Mill, near Barrow Hill, on 16th May. It is believed that this was only the fourth time that a Class 92 has traversed the 'old road' between Rotherham and Chesterfield. Ian Beardsley**

First Scotrail cracks down on fare-dodgers

In an attempt to at least reduce the current rate of fare dodging, what is being called a £5 million 'ring of steel' is to be put into place at Glasgow Central high and low level, Argyle Street, Charing Cross and Anderston stations, with automatic ticket barriers being installed next year as part of a crackdown to increase ticket revenue.

Central station is used by more than 27 million passengers a year, who often have their tickets checked only during peak periods, and ScotRail has said that fare dodgers had switched to off-peak trains to avoid detection.

The scheme follows barriers being erected at Glasgow Queen Street six years ago, and also at Edinburgh Waverley, Haymarket, Aberdeen, Ayr, Dundee and Stirling. The new gates are estimated to pay for themselves in five years by saving lost revenue of £1 million a year. ScotRail is currently finalising negotiations with Network Rail over the project.

The introduction of ticket barriers in 2004 ended ScotRail's pioneering 'open stations' policy, in which staffed barriers were scrapped in the 1980s 'to encourage more passengers'. Tickets were then checked on trains instead.

Clean up and repaint for Manchester rail bridge

The railway bridge in Manchester city centre that spans the busy A56 Chester Road close to Deansgate station, is to receive a £600,000 facelift by Network Rail to keep it in prime condition for the next 25 years.

The bridge carries a combination of over 400 local and long distance passenger and freight trains each day, and is vital for the operation of trains from all points of the compass that pass through Manchester. Built in 1849, the cast iron structure has serious corrosion, and repairs to the 'inside' of the bridge have taken place over a number of weeks when the railway was closed.

Now the public faces of the bridge need attention, and will be repaired, grit blasted, primed and repainted by the end of August. When the work is finished, the bridge will be predominantly red, black and cream to match other rail bridges in the city.

UK News In Brief

■ The Department for Transport (DfT) is to make a £309 million reduction in its grants to local authorities, as well as trimming Network Rail and Transport for London's spending, in a bid to meet its cost reduction targets this year. On 24th May, the Chancellor and the Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced over £6 billion of public spending cuts, including £683 million to be shaved off by the DfT. All local authority projects currently set to receive DfT grants are currently undergoing review, and a proposed £108 million reduction in the DfT's grant to Transport for London is under discussion. Network Rail is to reduce its spending by £100 million, and the DfT is also making £112 million savings in its direct expenditure. .

■ National Express East Anglia has invested £175,000 in a package of customer improvements at Southend Victoria station, including the installation of 16 new customer information screens around the station, and a new customer information point at the entrance to the platforms, helping to improve information provision. New toilets, including a new DDA compliant toilet, have been installed, together with improvements to the station lighting and redecoration, helping to enhance the station environment for both passengers and staff.

Metro and Light Rail News

Green light for CrossRail under new Government

Crossrail has been given the backing of Government. Concerns had been raised over political support from the Conservatives for the £16 billion construction, but new Transport Secretary Philip Hammond has now given his seal of approval.

Responding to Government support, the Crossrail Chairman said: "This is welcome news. To get such early and firm support from the Government means the project can go forward with confidence. This construction project will mean a lot of jobs in London and the south east and a boost for the wider UK economy as a whole".

However, despite the positive announcement by Philip Hammond, the Department for Transport (DfT) said spending on the service would be closely monitored. A DfT spokesman said: "The Government supports Crossrail. It is clearly a very important project for London, but we need to ensure that every pound invested in the project is well spent. Going forward, we will need to explore opportunities to optimise value from the scheme."

A spokesman for Crossrail said the Group's management was determined to keep the project on budget, adding that the team was confident of meeting the 2017 target. Station construction has already begun across London and work at Canary Wharf, which is mainly funded by the estate's owners, has had water partially removed from the West India Quay dock, with piling taking place. Crossrail will involve 42 kilometres of bored tunnels below the Capital, and is expected to have 14,000 people working on the construction at its peak.

The route begins at Heathrow and runs eastbound, splitting into two with the north part going through Pudding Mill Lane and on to Shenfield, and the southern section encompassing Canary Wharf, the Excel Centre, Plumstead and Abbey Wood, although there is still doubt in some circles whether the two eastern extremities will come to fruition.

▲ **London Underground/Tube Lines-Transplant battery locomotive No. 24, which has just been refurbished, passes through Earls Court, in the company of classmate No. 16. As part of the refurbishment, the locomotive has been equipped with new headlights, and this run was a cab headlight proving trial, operating on a circular route to and from Ruislip Depot. Julian Gajewski**

Costain-Skanska awarded Crossrail contract

Costain–Skanska joint venture has been awarded a second contract by Crossrail, as part of its enabling works framework for the construction of the Pudding Mill Lane portal.

The value of the contract is similar in size and scope to the Royal Oak portal previously announced in March.

Pudding Mill Lane portal, which is close to Stratford and adjacent to the existing Dockland Light Railway station, the Great Eastern main line and the Lea River, will act as the transition ramp for Crossrail trains when entering and exiting the north east section of the central London tunnels. Work is to begin immediately and is due to be completed by summer next year.

◀ Colas Rail Class 66/8 No. 66843 approaches Shap Summit with a loaded northbound timber working from Chirk to Carlisle on 21st May. The train is normally empty in the northbound direction, but Kronospan are currently trialing different timber, hence the loaded working. **John Whitehouse**

▼◀ On 25th May, Class 73/1 No. 73107 stands at the blocks at London Paddington. The loco was on hire to Serco for several days for driver route learning between Old Oak Common and the London terminus.
Paul Furtek

▼ On 19th May, Chiltern Railway's Class 01 No. 01509 *Lesley*, the depot shunter at Aylesbury awaits its next move, in the company of blue and grey-liveried Mk3 RFM No. 10232, part of the Cargo-D fleet, currently on hire to Wrexham & Shropshire.
Robert Jefferys

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.

1st June 2010		
WCRC	45231 or 45407	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
2nd June 2010		
Statesman Rail	tbc	Lancaster-Preston-Blackburn-Clitheroe-S&C-Appleby-Carlisle & return
WCRC	45231 or 45407	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
3rd June 2010		
Steam Dreams	60163	London King's Cross-York (break/rev) & return
WCRC	45231 or 45407	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
4th June 2010		
WCRC	45231 or 45407	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
5th June 2010		
Statesman Rail	tbc	Grantham-Nottingham-Loughborough-Leicester-Narborough-Hinkley-Nuneaton-Chester-Llandudno Junction-Blaenau Ffestiniog & return
PMR Tours	6233	(Sheffield-Chesterfield-Belper-Derby-Uttoxeter-Stoke on Trent-)Crewe-Preston-Blackpool North-Crewe-Derby(-Belper-Chesterfield-Sheffield)
Amethyst Experience	60163	TBA-Bath Spa-Bristol Temple Meads & return **Cancelled**
Railtourer	2xWCRC 47	Grantham-Nottingham-Beeston-East Midlands Parkway-Loughborough-Leicester-Hinckley-Walsall-Llandudno Junction-Blaenau Ffestiniog & rtn
Pathfinder Tours	DBS 59/2 & DBS 92 & 2xDRS 37	Bristol Temple Meads-Bath Spa-Chippenham-Swindon-Oxford-Banbury-Leamington Spa-Coventry-Bescot-Stafford-Crewe-Shrewsbury-Welshpool-Newtown-Bescot-Walsall-Nuneaton-Coventry & return
UK Railtours	2xDBS 67	London Waterloo-Woking-Basingstoke-Andover-Salisbury-Yeovil Jct-Axminster-Axminster-Salisbury-Romsey-Southampton-Winchester-Woking-London Waterloo
Compass Tours	DBS 66	Holyhead-Llandudno Jct-Crewe-Shrewsbury-Llandrindod Wells-Cardiff-Abergavenney-Hereford-Shrewsbury & return
Railway Touring Co.	30777 & 34067	Eastleigh-Minehead-Eastleigh **Postponed**
6th June 2010		
Torbay Express Ltd	6024	Bristol Temple Meads-Taunton-Exeter-Paignton-Kingswear & rtn
7th June 2010		
WCRC	45231 or 45407	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
8th June 2010		
WCRC	45231 or 45407	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
Kirklees Green Party	WCRC 47	Erdington-Sutton Coldfield-Lichfield City-Burton Upon Trent-Alfreton-Chesterfield-Carlisle-Hexham-York-Chesterfield and return
9th June 2010		
VSOE	35028	London Victoria-Salisbury-Westbury(-Bath Spa-Bristol TM-Westbury)-Westbury-Newbury-Reading-London Victoria
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.
GREEN Tours postponed to a future date by the operator
RED Tours cancelled by the operator
BLUE Provisional excursion
(Locations) in brackets on a steam tour listing indicates a diesel or electric-hauled section.

The Week Ahead

by John Whitehouse

British Bank Holidays generally enjoy a reputation for poor weather.

The sun can be splitting the paving stones on the days leading up to the break, but come the Bank Holiday itself and the rain just seems to tumble from the sky. Or at least, that is the perception. However, for the steam charter operators a bit of the water would be welcome just now, as the lineside is tinder dry, and a potential steam ban could be in the offing in the event of any more dry weather and significant lineside fires. Following the incidents on the Settle & Carlisle last week that got *Bittern* red-carded, it is understood that a message went out from Network Rail saying that the situation was under review. Fortunately, there were no further incidents of lineside fires over the weekend.

So this week's preview comes with the caveat that a blisteringly hot Bank Holiday could spell doom for the steam operations booked, so let us for once look forward to some rain to dampen things down. Two trains are booked for mid-week, the first being the opening salvo of Statesman Railtours popular 'Fellsman' season on 2nd June. Running from Lancaster, Preston, Bamber Bridge, Blackburn, Clitheroe and Long Preston to Carlisle, this train proved to be an outstanding success last year, and all the pointers indicate that this year will not be any different. Statesman have already added an extra working on 15th September to meet demand. Traction is not yet specified, but 'Jubilee' 4-6-0 No. 5690 *Leander* looks a good bet. The next day Steam Dreams has a 'Cathedrals Express' that features No. 60163 *Tornado* throughout on a return working between King's Cross and York. The ability of the locomotive to do the trip with just one water stop each way means that the whole journey can be steam hauled, when in the past steam would feature in just one direction.

In view of the lineside situation, it is maybe fortuitous that the weekend has only two steam-hauled workings booked, with one each on Saturday and Sunday. PMR Tours' last working of the spring programme takes No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland* to the seaside on the 'Fylde Coast Express', which starts at Sheffield and features the 'Duchess' from Crewe to Blackpool North outwards and to Derby, via Crewe, on the return. Next day, the second 'Torbay Express' of the season heads for Kingswear from Bristol Temple Meads, again with No. 6024 *King Edward I*.

Due to circumstances entirely beyond its control, UK Railtours, having been frustrated with its recent steam-hauled activities, head for Axminster from London Waterloo to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Seaton Tramway. The return working is booked via Salisbury, Southampton Central and Winchester.

Compass Railtours, meanwhile, has 'The Heart of Wales Scenic Rambler' from Holyhead, which picks up along the North Wales Coast prior to heading via Crewe for the Central Wales Line, and a break at Llandrindod Wells, before continuing to Cardiff. The return working is along the Welsh Marches.

This weeks preview concludes with Pathfinders' 'Powys Chugger' from Bristol Temple Meads to Newtown. Leading initially with a DBS Class 59/2 through to Birmingham New Street, where a Class 92 will take over for the final run to Crewe, a pair of DRS Class 37s will haul the train via the Independant Lines for the run to Whitchurch and Shrewsbury, then on to Welshpool and Newtown. The original plan to use Network Rail Class 97s has been superseded, in part due to the postponement of the implementation of ERTMS.

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

The impossible is possible - steam from New Street to Euston and behind a Stanier Pacific!

Note, there is no question mark in our headline. The steam-hauled working we all thought was impossible will happen on 17th July.

After their success with 'The Bristolian' Bob Meanley and the Vintage Train people will be pulling off one of the greatest coups in main line steam history, by working between two of the most important stations on the network which we all thought were totally off limits in one respect or another.

Birmingham New Street, because it is classed as an underground station, and London Euston for incoming workings because of the perceived view that steam would set off all the fire alarms. The latter has been disproved, as steam can now use the platforms at Euston that were specifically designated for use by Virgin's HST fleet.

It is understood that a 'window of opportunity' has been identified at New Street, by means of ensuring that the steam locomotive remains outside the enclosed platform area of the station. This will be achieved by bringing the train in diesel-hauled from Tyseley Warwick Road with the steam locomotive attached at the rear and thus in position to lead the charter out of New Street towards Proof House Junction and the direct route to Euston, via Coventry, Rugby and Northampton.

The return working will be from Euston via Northampton and Rugby, but then continuing along the Trent Valley to Nuneaton and through Water Orton directly back to Tyseley Warwick Road. As Bob Meanley said: "Getting steam into New Street is a giant step forward, but getting it under the roof at New Street will have to wait for another day".

Ironically, the route from Nuneaton to Water Orton and beyond is also classic West Coast territory, as it is the prime diversionary route for Euston to New Street services when the lines through Coventry are closed for engineering work.

Stanier Pacifics were banned from New Street until the early 1960s, when clearances in the approach tunnels at each end of the station were eased to accommodate the overhead electrification of the route from Wolverhampton High Level, via Birmingham New Street, to Euston. As a consequence both 'Princesses' and 'Duchesses' began to appear on key expresses, including 'The Midlander', primarily from 1963.

Demand from passengers wanting to be on the first steam working out of New Street for around 45 years is going to high, so early booking is recommended.

◀ The 10.08 'Kentish Belle' charter from London Victoria and back, via Whitstable, Ramsgate, Dover and Ashford, rounds the curve to Bickley Junction on 26th May, powered by Stanier 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 44871. Brian Morrison

Ups & Downs

by John Whitehouse

■ After the introduction of a new computerised timing system to co-incide with the start of the summer timetable, Network Rail are experiencing major problems with providing timings to charter train operators. Recent weeks have seen some schedules provided to operators just two-three days prior to the trains running. Part of the problem is the knock on delay caused by the proposed signallers strike earlier in the year, but the majority of issues surround the lack of speed in the new system; the timing of some trains now taking days rather than hours to produce. Network Rail's Special Trains team are working to reduce the delay and solve the problems, but the issue is likely to affect the industry for several weeks to come, especially as the number of charter trains running increases with the high summer. From the passengers perspective, this will likely result in late notification of times at pick-up and set-down points and potentially the late arrival of tickets.

■ The repairs to the right hand cylinder of K1 class Mogul No. 62005 seem to have gone well and the locomotive looks to have proved itself following transfer from Shildon to Grosmont, to the extent that a path was in the system for a 'light engine' move to Fort William on 29th May.

■ A main line charter came to the aid of around 60 stranded passengers on 22nd May. First Great Western was experiencing severe overcrowding on the Bristol to Weymouth route, and the 08.42 service from Gloucester to the Dorset seaside resort was reported as being full to standing by Westbury and could not accommodate the 150 passengers waiting for the service at Yeovil Pen Mill. The following Railway Touring Company 'Royal Wessex' charter hauled by 'Black 5' No. 44871 and 'King Arthur' No. 30777 *Sir Lamiel* was booked to stop at Yeovil Pen Mill, and a special request went from FGW control to its West Coast counterparts to ascertain whether the charter could help ease the situation. RTC's Nigel Dobbing was only too pleased to help the remaining unfortunate stranded passengers, who not only got a free ride to Weymouth, but also in significantly more comfortable surroundings, hauled by double-headed steam for good measure. Nigel told RH that he is always happy to help out when possible, as he has done with the Scarborough workings in the past. Look out too for double-headed 'Black 5s' on RTC's 12th June working from Cleethorpes to Chester. The train is reported to have sold particularly well, and it is likely that the booked locomotive, 'Black 5' No. 44871, could well be joined by stablemate No. 45407 on a strengthened train.

Wrexham & Shropshire help out The Railway Children charity with 'Three Peaks' charter train

The Railway Children Three Peaks Challenge is an annual event that involves scaling the three highest peaks of England, Scotland and Wales within three-days.

As in the past, a charter train will again operate to get the participants as close as possible to the Peaks, which this year will be sponsored by a new partnership consisting of The Railway Children's Charity, Rail Blue Charters, First GBRf, DRS, DBS and the Wrexham and Shropshire Railway.

The train will operate over three days from Thursday 24th June through to Saturday 26th June.

The first leg of the journey will be from London Euston, departing at 18.00 to Holyhead, for a nocturnal ascent of Snowdon. After spending the night in Holyhead, the train will depart at 06.00 for Ravenglass, where the walkers will transfer to the Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway to Dalegarth to conquer Scafell Pike. The next stage is an overnight journey to Fort William, departing Ravenglass at 20.00, for a 'stroll' to the summit of Ben Nevis, prior to resting aching feet on the return to Euston, departing Fort William 12.30 and arriving at Euston at 23.30. The train also sets down at Motherwell at 17.30, and Crewe at 21.00. It should be noted that all timings are approximate, and will be confirmed nearer the time.

The stock will consist of a rake of Mk3 First Class coaches from the Rail Blue and Wrexham & Shropshire pool, with haulage by a W&S Class 67 throughout, with the added attraction of an ETL 'Constellation' Class 86 or ACLG Class 87 covering the initial part of the journey from Euston to Crewe, plus part of the return working on 26th June. Train crew will be provided by W&S, First GBRf and DRS. This is a private charter train, but one can get to travel on it by becoming a participant in the 'Three Peaks Challenge', which is an ideal way to get fit as well as support a very worthy charity! For more details go to the Railway Children's Charity website.

Of course another way to contribute would be for all the photographers who turn out for the train to donate at least a fiver into the charity kitty.

▼ **LMS 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 44871 and SR 'King Arthur' Class 4-6-0 No. 30777** *Sir Lamiel* **climb alongside the Kennet and Avon Canal at Crofton on 22nd May with 'The Royal Wessex' bound for Weymouth. The 'Black 5' was once again standing in for the unavailable 'Britannia' No. 70013** *Oliver Cromwell*. **Dave Swan**

Class 37/7 No. 37706, standing in for Britannia No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell*, **passes Otford with Shepherd Neame's 'Spitfire' charter en route to Faversham on 16th May. Andrew Crampton**

Hanson Traction Class 56/3 No. 56312 pilots DB Schenker Class 66/0 No. 66148 on the 05.30 Bristol TM to Carlisle charter on 22nd May, approaching Gregson Lane, on the climb towards Blackburn. **Kevin Truby**

Severn Valley Railway celebrates 40 years of preservation

▲ Exactly 40 years to the day, Ivatt 'Flying Pig' 2-6-0 No. 43106 hauls the 14.00 Bridgnorth-Kidderminster celebratory train away from Highley on 23rd May, with the headboard commemorating the original 14.00 departure that in 1970 only ran as far as Hampton Loade. **John Stretton**

At 14.00 on 23rd May, Ivatt Class 4MT Mogul No. 43106 departed from Platform 1 at Bridgnorth for Kidderminster, 40 years to both the day and hour that the Severn Valley Railway's first-ever train departed from the same platform, bound for the line's then southern terminus of Hampton Loade.

'Collett' 2251 class 0-6-0 No. 3205, an early resident at Bridgnorth, had charge of that inaugural working, but No. 43106 was also in attendance and has been a resident of the SVR ever since.

A feature of the day was the presence of many of the 'Founding Fathers' of the railway, who were at the now famous meeting at the Coopers Arms pub in Kidderminster in 1965, the outcome of which, resulted in the Severn Valley Railway being saved, as at that time BR's bulldozers were hovering to rip the line up for good.

The Holding Company Chairman, Mick York, commented on the resultant success of the SVR being based on the initial support for the embryo heritage railway, not only from enthusiasts but also many local residents who did not want to see 'their' railway destroyed.

That faith has been repaid by the Railway, which is now reckoned to bring over £6 million of income into the local economy of the area. Another significant factor, he added, was the tremendous support for the SVR, ranging from the highly successful initial public floatation of the company back in the early 1970s to fund the purchase of the line south from Hampton Loade, which was mirrored some two decades later when it needed to raise over £300,000 very quickly in order to secure the key base at Kidderminster.

Above all though, the volume of support from organisations and individuals who came to the aid of the railway after 'The Storm' in 2008 was truly both humbling and breathtaking, and certainly confirmed the key role the SVR plays both within the heritage railway movement and the local community.

Typical of the SVR, they continue to invest heavily in the future; the Bridgnorth by-pass bridge is now 30 years old and in need of refurbishment, while the on-going appeal for funds to pay for the ex-Leicester MPD wheel-drop has reached the half-way mark. The combined cost of these two projects alone runs well into six-figures.

Also, the Railway is proactively dealing with the report of the derailment of No. 43106 at Hampton Loade last September, which has highlighted a number of deficiencies within internal procedures that contributed to the incident. Never a dull moment on the SVR you might think, and you would be right!

Above all though, the one overriding feature is that the SVR is now a mature business, which has been in existence for a significantly high proportion of most readers lives, and much longer than most of us remember everyday steam on British Railways. As an organisation it continues to look to the future, and so, the mission statement probably does include the phrase 'Life begins at 40!' Happy Birthday SVR.

Weardale Railway extends passenger service to Bishop Auckland

The Weardale Railway, which currently operates on a six-mile stretch of line between Stanhope and Wolsingham in County Durham, extended its passenger service to Bishop Auckland, 18 miles from Stanhope on 22nd May.

Five trains are planned from Stanhope to Bishop Auckland and return each day, from where passengers can connect with the National Network to catch a train on to Darlington and the East Coast Main Line.

A spokesman for the railway commented that the inspection of the line between Bishop Auckland and Wolsingham by Her Majesty's Railway Inspector took place on 17th May, saying that it was a very constructive day and that the inspector was very positive about the completed works.

As well as some minor works, there were three areas where work was still under way, the Bishop Auckland platform and the building of road signs by the railway and Durham County Council at two level crossings, all of which were completed by the opening.

The Weardale Railway has had a chequered history, including a period in receivership, but when Chicago-based Iowa Pacific Holdings took over a 75% stake in the railway in 2008, its president announced that negotiations were taking place with a number of local firms to transport freight, and that it would also extend its passenger service to Bishop Auckland.

Charter trains have already visited Stanhope from London King's Cross and Crewe, with visitors calling at Locomotion, the National Railway Museum at Shildon, near Bishop Auckland, as part of the excursion. Local County Councillor, John Shuttleworth, a frequent critic of the railway in the past, said: "I am delighted it is providing a service from the Dale to Bishop Auckland, without being overly subsidised by public money".

▲ After a lengthy overhaul and repaint from unlined black, one of the Dean Forest Railway's resident Class 08 shunters, No. 08238, sports its new BR blue livery in ex-works condition. The '08' is pictured at the head of a special charter train at Norchard Low Level on 20th May. **Richard Taylor**

◀▲ During a visit to the East Lancashire Railway on 21st May, the only LMS 8F Class to carry LMS lined maroon livery, normally based on Peak Rail at Rowsley, awaits the road at Ramsbottom, with the 11.35 service from Bury Bolton Street. The locomotive is visiting the East Lancashire Railway until 3rd June, when it moves to the Churnet Valley Railway. **Gary Packer**

◀ The first Welsh Highland Railway passenger train to run through to Pont Croesor crosses the River Glaslyn behind Beyer Garrett No. 89 on the 22nd May, having departed from Caernarfon at 10.00. This was the first passenger service to use the extension, following approval by HMRI and before the official opening on 27th May. **Andrew Wood**

▲ Ancient and modern together. Overlooked by semaphore signalling and an impressive former goods shed, Class 150/0 No. 150001 glides towards Kidderminster station, to form the 09.26 service to Shirley on 22nd May. These units will be displaced by the new-build Class 172s for London Midland. **John Stretton**

▲ The first weekday of the London Overground service to West Croydon encountered some disruption to services as a result of a lineside fire at Norwood Junction. Prior to the operational issues starting, Class 378/1 No. 378147 waits to head for Crystal Palace. **Ian Docwra**

▼ Unidentified north and southbound Virgin Pendolino sets pass each other at speed near Atherstone, Warwickshire, on 19th May. **Adrian Davenport**

A late 1970s picture on the East Coast Main Line? No, this is Uttoxeter, in Staffordshire, on 24th May this year, with Class 55 No. 55022 *Royal Scots Grey* heading a Warrington Arpley to Barrow Hill stock move. The 'Deltic' had worked 'light' from the East Lancashire Railway earlier in the day, prior to collecting the stock from Warrington.
Richard Holmes

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.

▼ **Class 66/0 No. 66117 powers a Clitheroe to Leicester loaded cement service on 22nd May, shortly after departing from its origin point. This is believed to be only the second working of this new service. Paul Manley**

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

Royal-liveried Class 67 No. 67006 *Royal Sovereign* **passes Blackpool Carriage Sidings on the 07.11 Blackpool North to Wembley 'Footex' charter on 22nd May. Classmate No. 67004 was on the rear. Kevin Truby**

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Editorial Address:
The Railway Herald, PO Box 252, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire. United Kingdom. DN17 2WY
Telephone: 01904 500175

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