Railway Herald

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The electronic journal for the railway enthusiast

Railway Herald

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21st June 2010

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New flyover would help ECML congestion problems

Plans have been revealed for a new £54 million flyover to speed up trains on the main line through Doncaster, by displacing slow-moving freight on to a flyover line off the bottleneck section of track just north of Doncaster at Shaftholme Junction.

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Front Cover Caption:

Caledonian Railway 0-6-0 No. 828 has returned to steam on the Strathspey Railway. It is pictured on its first passenger working on 16th June double-heading the 11.30 Broomhill to Aviemore service with industrial 0-6-0T No. 17 *Braeriach*.
Cyril Lofthus

New Eurostar company is first International rail company

Following the changes reported with Eurotunnel, the European Commission has given permission for London & Continental Railways and SNCF to form a new Eurostar company, but on condition that the routes between London and Paris and Brussels are opened up to new competition from other rail operators.

The new group will have a single Eurostar company board for the first time, giving it control of its own accounting. The current Eurostar operator is a consortium owned by SNCF, SNCB and Eurostar (UK) Ltd, a subsidiary of London & Continental. In the new group, SNCF will receive a 55% holding, London & Continental 40% and SNCB 5%. All three have agreed to provide access for new operators to their stations at Paris Gare du Nord, St Pancras International and Brussels Midi.

A spokesman for Eurostar said that the restructuring of the business marks a major milestone and puts it in a strong position to compete and expand, and establishing Eurostar as a single corporate entity is central to growth and expansion.

The new structure has created the first international passenger rail company in Europe.

▲ In appalling weather conditions, Freightliner Class 66/5 No. 66571 stands at Bristol Railport having worked the 23.10 Grain-Bristol Railport intermodal service, conveying wine. The service, which was the second run of the new operation, arrived at 04.30 on 8th June, the first working being on 5th June. **Edward Gleed**

Newport rebuilding

Work to clad the newly rebuilt Newport station in Gwent with 31 futuristic air-filled plastic cushions - a look made famous by the Eden Project and the 'Water Cube' from the Beijing Olympics - has started.

Originally designed for the space industry, Ethylene Tetrafluoroethylene (ETFE) is recyclable, does not degrade under ultra-violet light or atmospheric pollution and its unique non-stick, self-cleaning design means that grime can be easily removed by rain. It is only 1% of the weight of glass and transmits more light. It costs 24% to 70% less to install and is resilient enough to support 400 times its own weight. The work in this respect marks the final major installation in the construction of the station, which is set to be ready for passenger use by September this year.

ETFE is among the most cutting-edge materials in the world and this is the first time that it is being used to construct a railway station in Great Britain.

Short-term freight traffic brings prospect of further rail operations for Port of Grimsby

The Port of Grimsby has always had a long history with rail freight and was initially constructed by the Great Central Railway.

Over the past few years there has been relatively little activity. A recent cargo arrival has improved matters, however, with five trains arriving from Falmouth over a four week period, loaded with bulk ferrous sulphates for use in the water treatment industry, situated less than half a mile from the port estate.

The event, the first for 17 years, takes place over the weekend of 14th/15th August.

Advance booking admission prices are £12.50 for Adults, £9 for children (under 16). Under 3s go free. Click here for full details of entry prices.

To download the PDF booking form for the 'Wolverton Wanderer' shuttles, click here. Completed forms should be sent to Transport Event Services, Lime Tree Lodge, Thorpe Road, Mattersey, Doncaster, DN10 5ED.

Government scraps upgrade of Crewe station

Nearly £3 million allocated to give Crewe station a much-needed facelift under two separate schemes has been scrapped. Crewe was included in former Transport Secretary Lord Adonis's list of 10 stations in the country that were in need of urgent modernisation, but the new Government has cancelled the project as part of its cuts.

The funding would have been used for improvements to the ticket hall, concourse and platform facilities, including renewed surfacing on staircases, improved lighting in the concourse, and refurbishment of the waiting rooms and toilets. The work was scheduled to have started later this year and to be completed by 2012. Another project to reglaze the roof canopy above Platforms 5 and 6, which is being funded by Network Rail, has started and is to be carried out at night to avoid disruption. Virgin Trains' Crewe Station Manager, Sam Dixon, said: "Crewe is a station that is in urgent need of improvement, so we are disappointed at this news. The announcement strengthens our view that operators running stations like Crewe on a day-to-day basis need freedom to carry out improvements themselves. Longer franchises would allow us to make this sort of investment". The Chairman of Crewe Railways Environment and Manufacture said he was "appalled" by the new coalition Government's decision, and added: 'I know they're on a cost-cutting mission, but I don't think they realise the ripples they will cause by throwing this stone in the pond. The station will worsen, people will lose confidence in investing in the area and local construction workers will not get work on the station. Then, when the work is to be done, the price tag will have gone up again. This is not going to save any money in the long-term".

▲ The first Mk4 coaches to be painted in the base East Coast silver colour scheme, are pictured in the yard at Wabtec Works, Doncaster, on 12th June. David Hainsworth

Metro and Light Rail News

New cable aims to reduce thefts

Since April 2009, thieves have targeted the overhead systems on the Network Rail section of the Tyne & Wear Metro line 35 times.

They have caused 2,250 minutes delay with compensation to train operators costing £33,000. Staff costs and the cost of replacement cable are estimated to have cost around the same amount again.

To combat the problem, new fully safety tested cables, not made of copper, are being fitted on the Sunderland line, which are worth considerably less as scrap then the old ones. Also, anyone with any information should report their suspicions to Crimestoppers could receive up to £1,000 as a reward.

Brian Budhoe of British Transport Police says: "We have recently arrested and charged nine people in connection with the theft of overhead line equipment in the Sunderland area. Those who steal cable are not just risking a prison sentence; they are also risking serious injury and even their lives. Technological and forensic advances are increasing the opportunities for us to detect criminals and BTP will continue to work hard to catch and prosecute offenders in an effort to stamp out this problem. Local scrap dealers should also be aware that if they knowingly buy such stolen cable then they will be dealt with in a similarly severe manner".

London Assembly group call for London Underground network to become 'driverless'

All trains on London Underground should be driverless according to the Conservative group on the London Assembly.

In a proposal to the mayor, they claim it would save about £141 million-a-year in wages and prevent strike action. The RMT union said the proposal would hit safety, but the London Assembly group maintain that driverless trains offer a safer, faster and more efficient level of service, saying: "Such a system would end the strangle-hold militant unions have on the City's tube network and seriously curtail their ability to bring London to a standstill. The Victoria and Central Lines already use technology that has reduced train drivers to mere door openers. Current upgrade work will extend this to the Jubilee, Northern, Piccadilly, District, Circle, Hammersmith and City and Metropolitan Lines. With the recent decision to bring Tube Lines under the control of Transport for London, this is the time to switch to a completely driverless train network".

But Bob Crow, General Secretary of the RMT said: "It is badly thought out. What will happen in a terrorist attack, a derailment or a massive signal failure, is you could have 600 or 700 people trapped down the Tube with no driver - there would be utmost panic. I don't think the travelling public will put up with that. Under normal circumstances I would be tempted to dismiss this report as some kind of a joke, cooked up by anti-union fantasists, but in the current climate of cuts and attacks on public services we are taking it very seriously and it will be resisted. It may well be that some junior politician is simply flying a kite to make a name for himself, but the RMT will not sit back and allow this lethal and unworkable idea to gain any traction whatsoever".

A TfL spokesman said: "The Victoria and Central Line trains are the only ones currently in operation on the Tube network that are automatically operated, but on these lines a train operator is in the cab. Having a member of London Underground staff on a train helps give reassurance to passengers, ensures prompt opening and closing of doors, speedy boarding and alighting of passengers and departure of the train".

▼ **A Victoria Line service from Walthamstow Central to Brixton arrives at its destination, formed of 1967/72 Stock with Driving Motor No. 3011 leading. Brian Morrison**

T&W Sunderland terminus refurbishment almost finished

The work to completely refurbish the platform areas at Sunderland station enters the final phase on 21st June.

Upon completion, the north end of the station will reopen from the start of services, allowing passengers to see the improvements made, including the new open-plan staircase. At the same time the south end platforms, reached from the main concourse, will be closed for two weeks to complete work on the floor in this area. All trains, including Metro, Northern and Grand Central services, will call at the north end only, Platforms 1 and 4, and access to the station will be by the North Entrance only. The £7 million refurbishment, paid for by Nexus with the support of Network Rail and Northern, will be completed this summer, but all platforms and entrances will be fully open again from early July. The station is used by around two million passengers a year, three-quarters of which travel on the Tyne and Wear Metro, which is owned and managed by Nexus, leading it to invest heavily in modernising the platforms.

The refurbished platforms feature new lighting, ceilings, floors and wall paneling to give the station a unique new look. Public address systems and passenger information displays have also been transformed, and three separate artists have been commissioned to work with architects and designers to create a unique new urban landmark. One called 'Found' is made up of 41 photographs along the east wall of the station, showing items discovered in the lost property office of the Tyne and Wear Metro in a new light! Another is a colour scheme for the administration buildings along the platforms, designed to create a more intimate waiting environment. The third is the programming of a 140-metre-long moving light artwork behind a new glass block wall facing the west platforms. This incorporates film of local people into a montage of pixilated moving images representing ghostly figures apparently waiting for trains. Nexus, Sunderland City Council, Northern and Network Rail are meanwhile working in partnership to develop plans to refurbish the street-level concourses and other facilities.

UK News In Brief

■ Plans for regular direct services throughout the day between Lincoln and London King's Cross have been scrapped. Seven weekday trains in each direction had been due to start next summer, but East Coast has said that just one service to London in the morning and one returning in the evening will now continue to operate. The decision is blamed on the current economic situation, Elaine Holt, Chair of East Coast, saying that efficiencies had to be made in the "very tough economic climate". She added: "I know this will come as a disappointment to many people, especially to those in Lincoln who were looking forward to a much improved direct service to London".

■ The Department for Transport has confirmed that the £121 million project to extend Manchester's Metrolink tram system to Ashton-under-Lyme and Didsbury will go ahead, having escaped the latest round of Treasury cuts.

■ Stagecoach has won a victory against the Department for Transport (DfT) following a dispute about the timing for a subsidy payment for South West Trains, an arbitrator having ruled that revenue support when ticketing income is lower than expected should kick in from the start of the financial year in April and not from February 2011 as argued by the DfT. Stagecoach had argued that the availability of revenue support from April this year would enable its UK retail division to remain profitable for the remainder of the financial year to April 2011. However, the arbitrator did not agree that the £8 million annual income from SWT car parks should be excluded from calculated franchise payments to the DfT.

■ The former Managing Director of London Underground, Tim O'Toole, has been appointed Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Chief Executive of First Group, having joined the board as an independent non-executive director a year ago. Prior to becoming MD of the Tube network, he was President and Chief Executive of Consolidated Rail Corporation in the U.S.A. He was awarded an honorary CBE following the part he played after the terrorist attacks on the Underground trains in 2005.

■ Network Rail's Iain Coucher is to resign after eight years with the company, the last three as Chief Executive Officer. His decision is said to be for purely personal reasons as he has no wish to remain in office to negotiate the next funding round, which would involve him staying for another four to five years. He will stay on until a replacement is found.

GBRf Metronet-liveried Class 66/7 No. 66720 *Metronet Pathfinder* **heads south near Needham Market with the 13.47 Carless tanks from North Walsham to Harwich. Brian Morrison**

GBRf renews contract with Petrochem Carless

GB Railfreight (GBRf) has renewed its contract with Petrochem Carless for the haulage of gas condensate and mud oil for a further five years.

Under the terms of the contract GBRf will move between one and five trains per week loaded with gas condensate from North Walsham to Harwich, together with mud oil from Harwich to Aberdeen. With only one loading point at the Petrochem refinery in Harwich, GBRf's planning team is required to be highly organised and able to offer flexible working practices to ensure the smooth running of the contract

DfT announces consultation on rail franchises

The Department for Transport has announced that it will shortly begin a consultation exercise on the future of rail franchising policy.

This is to provide the industry with the opportunity to comment on the Government's approach to rail franchising and whether bidders for longer terms would be able to offer investment in improvements to trains and services. It will also allow the industry to set out its proposals for improving the efficiency and value for money of rail franchises, for both taxpayers and fare payers. Further details will be given in due course. To enable the next National Express–operated Greater Anglia and Essex Thameside franchises, which are currently in the process of being re-let, to fully reflect the changes resulting from this review of policy, the competitions for the franchises, which were started in January 2010, are to be cancelled. It is currently expected that a new competition for the Greater Anglia franchise (National Express East Anglia) will be advertised by the end of the year, after the consultation responses have been considered, with the Essex Thameside franchise (c2c) following in autumn 2011. It is also expected that there will be some consequent changes to the procurement timescales previously published for the InterCity East Coast franchise. Meanwhile, services will continue to run as normal.

In response to the announcement, Tom Smith, Chairman of the Association of Train Operating Companies, said: "It is welcome news that the Government has today announced a review of rail franchising policy. The coalition government has already pledged to introduce longer franchises and there is broad consensus that change is needed to provide taxpayers with value for money and passengers with services that continue to improve. Longer and more flexible franchises that give private sector operators more of a say over how the railways are run would free up train companies to improve services for passengers more quickly and effectively".

Make a beeline for Harlech

Works of art, history, local legends and the buzzing of contented bees will soon greet passengers at Harlech station!

What locals readily admitted was something of an eyesore is being transformed, thanks to the efforts of a determined group of retired ladies from Harlech Women's Institute. It started with a group of 12 on a rota basis, but has now gone from strength to strength with involvement from the local school and college. Each child is to be given their own silkscreen panel for stencil designs, with Wales as a theme on one side of the building. The other side will be given over to a mural based on Harlech Castle and the local legend of Taliesin, filling 12 large boards.

In addition, tubs have been planted up, and for a nautical-theme an old boat has been obtained that is also to be planted with flowers that attract bees, the Women's Institute nationally having a project to 'save the bee'.

▲ Class 37/5 No. 37676 and Class 156 vehicle No. 57499 (from set No. 156499) stand at Crianlarich on 12th June. The unit was involved in the derailment at Falls of Cruachan and having been re-railed was collected by the '37' for transfer to Glasgow Works. The other vehicle was moved by road to Glasgow due to the damage. **Ron Jessop**

More than 300 engineering, signalling and electrical jobs to be created by Network Rail over 12 months

Network Rail is creating more than 300 skilled engineering jobs during the coming 12 months to help deliver some of the country's most vital rail infrastructure projects, such as Thameslink, Crossrail and the Reading advance.

The roles will be varied across many aspects, including civil engineering, signalling and electrical and general project management. Iain Coucher, Network Rail Chief Executive said: "Creating these jobs and bolstering our engineering talent will help us deliver the better railway that is vital for the economic prosperity of this country. The work they will do will transform how people travel across the capital and make a massive difference to passengers and freight users right across Britain. We want the best to work for us – both men and women – and I hope that as we continue to show our modern business and the opportunities that we offer that we can attract exceptional women to apply for these roles and be part of something fantastic".

Redruth station upgrade completed

The work to revamp Redruth station is complete. Its 122 year-old footbridge has been restored to its former glory, and the canopy of the station has been refurbished with modern materials.

The Grade II listed footbridge had to be removed temporarily for strengthening and repainting to its original colour, and while the work was carried out, a temporary walkway was installed at the station to minimise disruptions to passengers. A crash deck was also installed on the roof to allow refurbishment work on the canopy to be carried while trains continued to run as normal.

Major doubts surround electrification of Great Western Main Line

Mark Hopwood, the Managing Director of First Great Western (FGW), has admitted that there are major doubts surrounding the £1 billion plan to electrify the main line between London Paddington and Bristol.

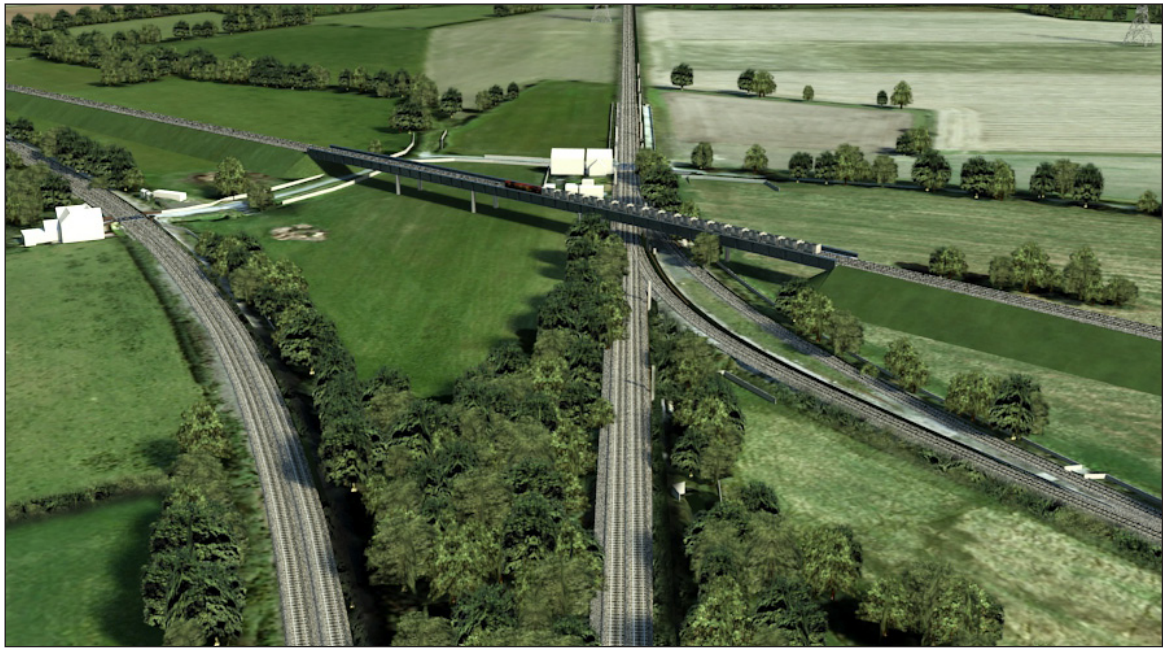
The project was a key part of the previous Government's transport policy and was designed to reduce rail journey times between Bristol and the Capital by as much as an hour. However, FGW is now in talks with the new Government over the future of the scheme. He said: "Electrification does make sense in terms of reliability and the cost of running the service, but in the current climate we have to be realistic when it comes to spending on major projects. However, the Government is still going to have to take a view. The high-speed trains we use on that route are now 34 years old and reaching the end of their lifespan. Whatever happens, the trains will have to be replaced in 2013, and it would be a real challenge for us to refurbish them".

FTA launches new FastTrack system

The Freight Transport Association (FTA) has introduced a free assessment service to promote the use of rail freight to companies that have not used it before.

The free service, called FastTrack, provides companies with impartial advice in assessing the potential benefits of rail and whether it is worth exploring matters further. Christopher Snelling, FTA's Head of Global Supply Chain Policy said: "Rail freight has a tremendous amount to offer, but there may still be some companies that don't explore the rail option, as they assume it will not work for them, or that it will be too complicated. The FTA wants to help encourage those companies to think rail, by providing a very simple to use first step that can estimate if rail is a possibility for them and if so, where they would go from there".

The potential user is asked to provide information on the type of freight and the number and volume of shipments, as well as origin and destination points, and FastTrack then assesses feasibility, cost and environmental benefit.



▲ A computer-generated scene of how the new flyover would be positioned at Joan Croft Junction. The line curving at the bottom left is the Askern branch, with the ECML running from top to bottom down the centre of the picture, and the line from Joan Croft Junction to Applehurst Junction, then on to Scunthorpe and Immingham, curving off to the right. The bridge and embankment would form the new freight route, connecting the Askern Line with the Adwick to Hatfield & Stainforth route. **Network Rail**

North Doncaster flyover to reduce ECML congestion

Plans have been revealed for a new £54 million flyover to speed up trains on the main line through Doncaster, by displacing slow-moving freight on to a flyover line off the bottleneck section of track just north of Doncaster at Shaftholme Junction.

A consultation on the project is underway, but it could be three or four years before the scheme is completed if permission is granted. The proposed North Doncaster flyover will take slow freight services up and over the East Coast Main Line, which over the past decade has seen a 35% increase in passenger numbers between Doncaster and York. The scheme allows for around 300 extra seats per hour on passenger trains and provides capacity for the massive increase in the amount of freight being transported by rail. Freight services from ports on the Humber to West Yorkshire currently have to run on the ECML for up to 14 miles, slowing up passenger services between London and Scotland.

Richard Lungmuss, Route Director for Network Rail said: "This project is part of Network Rail's vision for freight that will allow many of the increasing numbers of freight containers coming into Britain's ports to be transported by rail – one of the most environmentally-friendly methods of transport. We have to get the necessary planning permissions to complete the work, and feedback from the consultations will be fed into the planning documents, which are due to be submitted next year".

The layout of the through routes at Doncaster is restricting, with a large number of crossing movements at both the north and south ends of the station. The investment announced by Network Rail is an attempt to alleviate the latter problem.

Southern crackdown on crime and behavior

A crime crackdown team that started patrolling Southern's network in April has made 52 arrests to date. Southern said its Safer Travel Team had also issued 33 cautions, dealt with 14 trespassers, and handed out 1,677 anti-social behaviour warnings.

The team, which responds to incidents and deals with low-level crime, had also given out 516 penalty fares and 245 notices for fare evasion. It includes British Transport Police and Southern's neighbourhood officers. Southern's head of security and revenue protection, said: "This is a remarkable impact considering the short time the team has been in existence. I'm particularly pleased with the number of anti-social behaviour warnings that have been issued."

He said issues such as feet on seats and loud music on trains were just two problems that annoyed passengers intensely and the team was on a mission to stamp out unacceptable behaviour.

Sponsor an engine for Three Peaks Challenge

The annual 'Three Peaks Challenge' in aid of the Railway Children charity takes place on 24th June.

As before, teams of intrepid walkers from the rail industry will climb to the top of the three highest peaks in England, in Wales and Scotland - in just 24 hours.

A special train will start from London on the evening of 24th June and take participants firstly to Bangor for an overnight ascent of Snowdon, then to Ravenglass to climb Scafell Pike, and finally to Fort William to scale Ben Nevis). See Railtours & Excursions for more details on motive power.

This year there is a novel twist to the event, thanks to the Wrexham, Shropshire & Marylebone Railway, which has agreed that its Class 67 No. 67014 *Thomas Telford* can, subject to availability, haul the train - in return for donations to the charity.

The Railway Children does a priceless job around the world by making contact with runaway and abandoned children as they arrive at railway stations, when they are most at risk from adult exploitation. By joining with other street children projects, it provides the youngsters with protection and support through counselling, education, healthcare, shelter and friendship.

In previous years the train has been hauled by whatever traction was to hand, but this time WS&M has agreed, subject to availability, to the unusual request to put *Thomas Telford* in charge. Normally the loco plies back and forth between Wrexham and London Marylebone, and very rarely has it visited North Wales, and it has never been on the Cumbrian Coast or West Highland lines.

The idea came from Andrew Griffiths of Imagerail, a photo-design company based at Kirkby Stephen station on the Settle & Carlisle line. The idea is seek sponsorship at the rate of £1 a mile for the trip, the target being to raise £1,670.14 - enough to take the train all the way from London around the circuit and back to the Capital.

Online donations can also be made by going online to http://www.justgiving.com/67014ThomasTelford

◀ Unique-liveried Class 67 No. 67018 hauls Class 508 No. 508210 from Stewarts Lane to Donnington Railfreight Terminal for storage. The ensemble is pictured crossing the Thames at Chelsea Harbour on 10th June. **Stuart Chapman**

▼◀ Led by battery-electric locomotive No. 50, no less than five of the unique machines pass through Chalfont & Latimer on 14th June. Pairs are normally seen in 'top and tail' formation with engineering wagons, but it is rare to see this number working together. **Colin Cooke**

▼ Newly outshopped from Barrow Hill, the second Class 37/4 locomotive to join the DRS fleet, No. 37409 is paired with classmate No. 37423 as the duo head away from Vauxhall on 15th June, propelling Saloon No. 975025 *Caroline* from London Waterloo to Southampton. **Stuart Chapman**

UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

The following table details the latest information available on railtours for the forthcoming weeks from the date of publication. Information is understood to be correct at the time of going to press.

21st June 2010		
Spitfire Railtours	2xDRS 37	Inverness-Aviemore-Perth-Edinburgh-Carlisle-Shap-Preston & return
WCRC	45231 or 62005	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
22nd June 2010		
WCRC	45231 or 62005	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
23rd June 2010		
WCRC	45231 or 62005	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
24th June 2010		
WCRC	45231 or 45407	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
A1 Steam Loco Trust	6016	(London Euston-)Crewe-Shap-Carlisle-S&C-Blackburn-Crewe & return
Three Peaks Challenge	DBS 67 & 87002	London Euston-Rugby-Crewe-Llandudno Jct-Bangor-Holyhead
25th June 2010		
WCRC	45231 or 62005	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
Three Peaks Challenge	DBS 67	Holyhead-Chester-Preston-Ravenglass-Carlisle-Crianlarich-Fort William
26th June 2010		
NENTA Traintours	2xWCRC 47	North Walsham-Norwich-Diss-Ipswich-Stratford-Southampton-Bournemouth-Wareham (for Weymouth)-Swanage & return
Pathfinder Tours	Hanson 56	Tame Bridge Parkway-Birmingham NS-Bristol TM-Penzance & return
Spitfire Railtours	2xDRS 37	Gloucester-Bristol TM-Taunton-Exeter-Plymouth-Par-Penzance & return
SRPS Railtours	61994	(Polmont-Larbert-Stirling-)Perth-Pitlochry-Aviemore-Broomhill & return
Steam Dreams	6024, 5029	London Paddington-Exeter St. Davids-Newton Abbott-Plymouth-Par
	D1015	(Par - Truro - Penzance)
Torbay Express Ltd	60163	Bristol Temple Meads-London Paddington & return **Cancelled**
WCRC	45231 or 62005	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
UK Railtours	2xDBS 67	London Paddington-Reading-Newbury-Taunton-Plymouth-Penzance & rtn
Railway Touring Co.	46115	York-Leeds-Wakefield Westgate-Doncaster-London King's Cross & rtn
Three Peaks Challenge	DBS 67	Fort William-Crianlarich-Motherwell
	87002	Motherwell-Carlisle-Preston-Crewe-Rugby-London Euston
27th June 2010		
WCRC	45231 or 62005	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
28th June 2010		
Steam Dreams	5029 & 6024	Penzance-Plymouth-Newton Abbott-Exeter-London Paddington
WCRC	45231 or 62005	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
29th June 2010		
WCRC	45231 or 62005	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
30th June 2010		
WCRC	45231 or 62005	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig & return
1st July 2010		
Steam Dreams	5029	London Victoria-Staines-Reading-Swindon-Cheltenham-Worcester SH & rtn
WCRC	45231 or 62005	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.

Electric Traction's 'Constellation' Class 86/7s Nos. 86701 *Orion* **and 86702** *Cassiopeia* **approach Lichfield Trent Valley on 15th June, while in the course of transfer from Willesden to Crewe LNWR, following their release from stand-by duties for mail trains after the transfer of the Royal Mail contract from GBRf to DB Schenker on 31st May. John Whitehouse**

Where next for ETLs 'Constellation' Class 86s?

When DB Schenker took over the Royal Mail contract from GBRf on 1st June, it also had the effect of releasing the two Electric Traction Ltd (ETL) Class 86/7s from their stand-by duties.

As a consequence, the two locomotives were moved from Willesden to Crewe LNWR on 15th June, initially for tyre turning and storage awaiting work. Currently there is nothing in the diary for these two locomotives, and so the question has to be asked, what next?

Owen Hodgson of ETL says that some trials with new operators and flows may be in the offing, but nothing of any substance is currently booked. He did add that ETL regard the medium term future for Nos. 86701 & 86702 to be in this country, but obviously if no work can be found on these shores, then the110mph machines would be an attractive proposition to Europhoenix, for export to Eastern Europe to join other members of the Class that are currently at work in Hungary.

Plans to expand the ETL Class 86/7 'Constellation' fleet are on hold, although two stored ex-Anglia Class 86s have been earmarked for refurbishment if the need for an increased fleet is established.

Also released from mail stand-by duties are the AC Locomotive Group's Class 87 No. 87002 *Royal Sovereign* and Class 86/1 No. 86101 *Sir William A Stanier*. Currently these will remain at Willesden, and the Class 87 has two jobs booked in the coming weeks, commencing with covering the Euston to Crewe and Motherwell to Euston legs of the 'Three Peaks' Challenge' special booked to run between 17th & 19th June. Later, on 10th September, it is booked to haul Rail Blue Charters 'West Coast Premier' throughout from Watford Junction to Edinburgh Waverley.

In a separate development, there is positive news for the likely main line certification of No. 86401 *Northampton Town*. Initially a main line candidate until the acquisition of No. 87002, the Class 86/4 had been identified as having a wheel-set problem, which could not be rectified by using a set from a member of a different Class 86 sub-class. It needed an 86/4 wheel set, and by the acquisition of No. 86424 from Network Rail, the problem has been solved.

No. 86424 has effectively been acquired by a swap with the AC Loco Group's Class 73/1 No. 73138, which it is understood will be returned to main line use by Network Rail. Northampton Town is believed to have TPWS fitted, but OTMR will be required, as the set originally destined for No. 86401 ended up in No. 87002.

The Week Ahead

by John Whitehouse

Mazey Day at Penzance has always been a popular draw for railtours, and this year is no exception, with four charters due to roll into the Cornish terminus on 26th June. In previous years the limit has been for just two charters to be allowed into Penzance on a summer Saturday, but this year Network Rail has managed to shoe-horn three during the busy middle of the day, as the fourth is the evening arrival of Steam Dreams 'Cornish Riviera'.

At the time of writing, the chronology of the arrivals is not known, so we will start with Pathfinders' 'Cornishman' working from Birmingham International, which is booked to feature Hanson Class 56 power throughout. Whether another loco will be tucked 'inside' for insurance, as with the recent 'Scenic Settler', remains to be seen. Not the first 'Grid' into the Duchy, but a very rare occurrence all the same. The tour picks up at Barnt Green, Cheltenham Spa, Cam & Dursley, Bristol Parkway and Temple Meads. There is an optional set-down at Truro. Heading on parallel tracks will be Spitfire Railtours 'Kernow Explorer' from Gloucester, which will go head to head with Pathfinder for the Cam & Dursley, Bristol Parkway and Temple Meads traffic. According to outline website timings they should be little more than a block section behind Pathfinder through to the Duchy. With a pair of DRS Class 37s at the helm, this tour also sets down at Bodmin Parkway, Par and Truro. To complete the trio, UK Railtours operate the 'Mazey Day in Penzance' from London Paddington, Slough, Reading and Newbury, which runs directly to Penzance. DBS Class 67 traction should feature, which will add to the interesting gallery of diesel traction using the Long Rock facilities during the day, and will get even more interesting come the end of the day. Read on!

On their way back home the three tours will pass the undoubted 'Tour of the Day', as Steam Dreams 'Cornish Riviera' weekend charter will be making its way west with classic Great Western power up front in the shape of 'King' 4-6-0 No. 6024 *King Edward I* and 'Castle' No. 5029 *Nunney Castle*. With the locomotives working on their 'home patch' they should make a fine sight attacking Dainton and Rattery banks, hopefully on a gloriously sunny evening. The train is sold out, with a waiting list, and will set out from Paddington with No. 6024 in charge and run via the Berks and Hants to Exeter St. David's, where passengers will be able to enjoy a couple of hours exploring, before continuing west, now with No. 5029 aiding the 'King' in readiness for the assaults on the South Devon Banks. However, it should be noted that the steam section outwards is only to Par, due to a bridge clearance issue on the down road at Hayle. It was originally hoped to run the train 'wrong road' to clear the bridge, but it has not proved possible due to local pathing issues. But all is not lost, as the Duchy will now also vibrate to the Maybach sounds of No. D1015 *Western Champion*, which is booked to cover the final miles from Par to Penzance, and complete the line of classic diesel traction gracing Long Rock on the day. The following day is taken up with 'off-train' excursions, ahead of a double-headed return to Paddington on Monday 28th June, featuring the 'King' and the 'Castle' throughout, which will be routed via Bristol Temple Meads and Bath.

A challenger for tour of the week, but usurped due to the pedigree GWR traction on the home turf of 'The Cornish Riviera', is the A1 Steam Trust's 'Border Raider' on Thursday 24th June, which pits No. 60163 *Tornado* against Shap northbound for the first time. For good measure it gets another run at Ais Gill on the return, as well. The tour sets out from London Euston, probably with a DBS Class 90 up front as far as Crewe, where *Tornado* takes over. This tour was postponed from April, and now has the added advantage of being steam-hauled throughout to Crewe on the return, unlike on the original date when the steam section terminated at Hellifield.

It is a day of quality tours all round, as otherwise the first 'Royal Scot' into King's Cross since the Locomotive Exchanges, or a K4 on the Highland main line would vie for top spot. As it is, Railway Touring Club's 'White Rose' from York to King's Cross, via Leeds and Wakefield Kirkgate is the vehicle for positioning No. 46115 *Scots Guardsman* in London for later RTC trips, via the L&SWR to Weymouth, and perhaps Swanage. Returning to the 'White Rose', that will return diesel-hauled as outwards. Also scheduled is a SRPS working, booked for 'K4' Mogul No. 61994 *The Great Marquess* from Perth to Aviemore, and then on to the Strathspey Railway to its eastern terminus at Broomhill. The train starts diesel-hauled from Polmont, with steam taking over from Perth. The SRPS advise that it has received the all clear from John Cameron that No. 61994 will be available, following the repairs to its middle cylinder, which was damaged while taking part in this year's 'Great Britain III' railtour.

Nenta Traintours completes this week's line-up, with its 'Swanage & Dorset Explorer', which heads directly onto the Swanage Railway with optional set-downs at Southampton, Bournemouth and Wareham. The train originates at North Walsham and travels via Norwich, Diss, Ipswich and the Great Eastern prior to circumnavigating London to reach London & South Western metals. West Coast Class 47s should feature.

▼ **DRS Class 47/4 No. 47802** *Pride of Cumbria* **heads the 'Mersey Fellsman' charter through Horton-in-Ribblesdale station on the outward leg to Carlisle on 12th June. Rod Smith**

Rail-Blue Charters

DAY EXCURSIONS BY TRAIN

Travel to Salisbury on 'the 20s Southern Circular II' charter
or visit Edinburgh with us in late Summer

SATURDAY, 14TH AUGUST - 'The 20s Southern Circular II'

This tour is a must for fans of Type 1 haulage as a pair of DRS Class 20s take us to the cathedral city of Salisbury, via an interesting route along the Midland Mainline. Outwards our route should see us run via Virginia Water, Staines, Woking, Guildford, Havant, Fareham, Eastleigh and Romsey. You will then have time to visit Salisbury before we return via Basingstoke, Mortimer, Reading, Slough and Acton.

PICK UP STATIONS are Barrow Hill, Chesterfield, Alfreton, Langley Mill, East Midlands Parkway, Leicester, Market Harborough, Kettering, Wellingborough, Bedford and St. Albans.

FARES: **First Class** £85 (£65 for juniors) and **Standard Class** £57 (£37 for juniors)

FRIDAY, 10TH SEPTEMBER - 'The West Coast Premier'

A visit to historic Edinburgh behind electric traction, in the form of BR blue-liveried 87002 is on offer with this trip. The train takes a scenic run through the Cumbrian and Lakeland Fells, over Shap, then on through the Borders over the spectacular climb to Beattock and along the Cobbinshaw line into Edinburgh with distant views of the Forth Bridge. Edinburgh offers a world of shopping and award winning attractions like the historic castle or a tour around the Royal Yacht Britannia.

PICK UP STATIONS are Watford Junction, Hemel Hempstead, Berkhampsted, Tring, Leighton Buzzard, Milton Keynes Central, Northampton, Rugby and Nuneaton.

FARES: **Premier Dining** £149 (our Silver Service option with the Full English Breakfast and four-course Evening Dinner), **First Class** £84 (£64 for juniors) and **Standard Class** £57 (£37 for juniors)

A comprehensive buffet service is available.

Let us welcome you aboard!

Tables for 2 and discounts for groups are available. Junior fares apply for aged 10 and under.

To BOOK and for INFO, email us at **bookings@rail-bluecharters.co.uk**, telephone **0161 850 0559** or visit **www.rail-bluecharters.co.uk/tour_list**

▲ **A unique glimpse of the past and the present on the ECML. Class 55 No. 55022** *Royal Scots Grey* **heads north on the approach to Connington North level crossing on 12th June, with the Oxford to Preston 'Capital Deltic' charter, while Class 91/1 No. 91119 overtakes it, also bound for Newcastle. Andy Moore**

Ups & Downs

by John Whitehouse

■ Last week it was incorrectly reported that the joint Railway Touring Company/SVR Association 'Severn Valley Limited' would be steam-hauled from Blackpool North, as well as on the outward working throughout from Bridgnorth. It has since been realised that this is not the case, as the train is effectively a positioning special to return 'Jubilee' 4-6-0 No. 5690 *Leander* to the north, following its appearance at the Severn Valley Railway's autumn steam gala. It will, in fact, be diesel-hauled back to Kidderminster (Network Rail) and a special SVR train will operate for passengers to Bridgnorth.

■ Stephen Underhill, who was Chairman and Chief Engineering Officer of the 6024 Preservation Society Ltd until late 2007, has previously filed a libel case against two members of the society, following remarks made in an editorial in the 6024 magazine 'Kings Messenger'. The case was held before Mr. Justice Tugendhat in the England & Wales High Court of Justice (Queens Bench Division) who decided for Mr Underhill in two out of three preliminary issues. Part costs were awarded to Mr. Underhill. An appeal may be pending.

■ Following what appeared to be a perfect test run on 16th June, Merchant Navy No. 35028 *Clan Line* is believed to have failed a fitness to run examination on 18th June, prior to working on the VSOE British Pullman's Luncheon working on 19th June around the Surrey Hills. No. 60163 *Tornado* will deputise, which is another first for the locomotive, being its first job for VSOE.

■ The 'Three Peaks Challenge' charter working will operate over three days from 24th June when Class 87 No. 87002 *Royal Sovereign* is due to head the charter to Crewe. From there a Wrexham & Shropshire Class 67 will take over through to Holyhead, for the ascent of Snowden, and later Ravenglass for the assault on Scar Fell Pike on 25th June. Next in line is Ben Nevis, once again with Class 67 haulage to Fort William, and later back to Motherwell, where No. 87002 will whisk the weary walkers back to Euston.

■ Ambassador Train Travel is a new name in the charter world, but the man in charge is far from a newcomer, he has a long pedigree in the market, particularly with enthusiast-based railtours. Mark Elderkin is working with WCRC on a series of trains, the first being 'The Newcastle Ambassador' on 13th November, which is booked to feature a pair of Class 37s (presumably West Coast) from Hereford, via Birmingham and York, the latter also being a set-down option along with Darlington, Durham and Newcastle. A mini tour to Morpeth, via Bedlington Junction, is also proposed.

▲ Stanier 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 44871 passes Hathersage on 12th June on the return section of a charter to Cleethorpes from Chester. The 'Black 5' was be replaced by 'top and tail' Class 47s at Sheffield, for the final leg to Cleethorpes. This image was taken from a public footpath crossing. **Simon Kerry**

▲ **Class 55 Deltic 55022** *Royal Scots Grey* **accelerates away from Didcot, with the return of fill-in mini tour from King's Cross to Oxford on 12th June. Upon arrival at King's Cross the train formed the return Capital Deltic to Preston. Class 57/6 No. 57601 is attached to the rear. Peter Lovell**

▲ Emitting plenty of smoke, ex-GWR King class 4-6-0 No. 6024 *King Edward I* departs from Taunton on 13th June with the down 'Torbay Express' for Paignton and Kingswear.
Mick Rogers

Skipton reconnected to Bolton Abbey again?

Transport planners have has been commissioned by the Yorkshire Dales Railway Museum Trust to establish the benefits from reconnecting the Embsay & Bolton Abbey Railway to the main line network at Skipton.

Embsay station is adjacent to the existing Swinden Quarry to Skipton freight line, and a Network Rail study in 2008 confirmed the feasibility of reconnecting the two lines, which would enable a direct service from Skipton to Bolton Abbey to operate. The cost of such a reconnection would be in the region of £1.1 to £2.6 million, depending upon the technical solution adopted.

The National Park Authority believes that there is real potential in the longer term to provide a new station at Swinden Quarry, close to the popular visitor destination of Grassington, which would provide even better access to the National Park, without the need to arrive there by car.

▶ **The signalman at Weybourne swaps tokens with the fireman of 'N7' 0-6-2T No. 69621 on 5th June, as it arrives with the 13.10 service from Holt, while 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 44767 waits with the 13.12 service from Sheringham. Ian Williams**

Successful main line and heritage return for RSG

Class 55 'Deltic' No. 55022 *Royal Scots Grey* **has performed superbly on its return to main line passenger charter work, both the 'Deltic Retro-Scot 2' and the Capital Deltic' railtours having run as planned and both trains being sell outs.**

The trips to Edinburgh, London and Oxford put another 1,500 miles on the clock, and the loco is now back at its home base of Bury, where it will continue to operate regularly as part of the East Lancs Railway's diesel fleet.

The next few weeks will see No. 55022 kept busy working the diesel diagram on 26th/27th June, another of the popular 'Footplate Experience Days' on 28th June and in operation for the Diesel Gala on the following weekend. In addition to routine maintenance, the loco received attention to both silencers at Barrow Hill, both units being load bank tested and slight adjustments made to ensure the locomotive is providing the correct power output was being provided. The four coolant fan prop-shafts removed from the other Deltic No. D9016 *Gordon Highlander* are now to be overhauled, and those from *Royal Scots Grey* removed, overhauled and installed in No. D9016. The next main line outing for No. 55022 will be a staff and customer charter for GBRf on 24th July, followed by a return to King's Cross for Spitfire Railtours 'Norseman' on 11th September, running East Coast Main Line to York and Newcastle-on-Tyne. Another sell-out is anticipated and a booking form is available at www.royalscotsgrey.com

South Devon puts No. 3803 up for sale

The SDR Trust Board has taken the decision to sell GWR 2800 Class 2-8-0 No. 3803 in order to help pay for the costly restoration of resident Pannier tank No. 6412 and also to fund other important development projects on the railway.

The board has set a guide price of £350,000, and expressions of interest should be directed to the General Manager, Dick Wood, by telephoning 01364 643536 or by email to DickWood@southdevonrailway.org.

The locomotive, which has six years left on its ticket, is currently on hire to the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway until the end of August.

Elsewhere, with No. 3803 on hire, it is the first season in the railway's history that every working South Devon Railway steam loco has been on hire to other lines. 5700 class 0-6-0PT No. 5786 visited the Severn Valley Railway in March; Prairie No. 5526 visited Bodmin in April; Pannier No. 1369 is at the Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway, and subject to successful running in, 2251 class 0-6-0 No. 3205 should visit the Severn Valley briefly in September as part of the SVR 40th anniversary year.

◀ Painted in BR green with the temporary addition of yellow ends for the weekend, Class 37/0 No. D6737 passes alongside the River Dart after departing from Staverton on 13th June with a service from Totnes Riverside to Buckfastleigh. **Daniel Phillips**

▼◀ With the current northern end of Swindon & Cricklade's line in the background, visiting GWR 4300 Class 2-6-0 No. 5322 makes a fine sight as it heads the 15.04 South Meadow Lane-Blunsdon return service in warm summer sunshine on 12th June, during the Swindon & Cricklade Railway's 'GWR175 Steam Gala'. **John Stretton**

▼ The return on the Strathspey Railway of ex-Caledonian Railway McIntosh 812 Class 0-6-0 No. 828 took place on 16th June, the locomotive having been overhauled thanks to Heritage Lottery funding. Although normal services started on that day with the regular ex-WPR 0-6-0T No. 17 *Braeriach*, the railway decided to introduce the 'Caley' back to service by running it 'light engine' from Aviemore to Boat of Garten, where it was attached to the front of the tank engine for the remainder of the run back to Aviemore. . Once back to Aviemore, No. 828 took over the running of all services for the rest of the week. Here, proudly wearing its Caledonian Railway blue livery, Caley 0-6-0 No. 828 departs from Aviemore with a service to Broomhill on its second day in traffic on 17th June. **Cyril Lofthus**

▲ Obviously only one horse is a railway enthusiast! GWR Small Prairie No. 5542, together with Autocoach No. 178, departs Blunsden over the new southern extension on the Swindon & Cricklade Railway on 16th June, during a Russ Hillier photo charter. **Stuart Chapman**

◀ The KWVR Diesel Gala, held over the weekend of 11th-13th June, gave a rare opportunity to operate a pair of Class 25s in multiple. The GCR's Class 25 No. D5185 *Castell Dinas Bran* joins resident No. 25059 powering out of Oakworth on 13th June with the 15.38 Keighley - Oxenhope service. **Fred Kerr**

◀▼ Class 33/1 No. 33109, visiting from the East Lancs Railway, enters the loop at Damems Junction on 11th June, with the 11.35 from Oxenhope to Keighley, passing resident Class 20 No. 20031.

◀▼▼ DRS Class 37/0 No. 37194 and Class 37/9 No. 37901, the latter also visiting from the ELR, descend towards Oakworth with 12.25 service to Keighley. **Both: Paul Braybrook**

▲ Making its first appearance after overhaul, English Electric prototype No. D0226 arrives at Oakworth on 13th June, paired with Class 20 No. 20031, bound for Oxenhope. **Both: Fred Kerr**

▼ Gala attendees Nos. 08266, 50015, 37194, D5185, 33109 and 37706, the latter of which powered one of the convoys, stand in Haworth Yard on 13th June awaiting their next workings.

GWR 175
West Somerset Style

▲ It was almost a case of seeing double at the West Somerset Railway's 'Mixed Traction Gala'. Class 14 0-6-0DH Nos. D9520 and D9526 depart from Blue Anchor on the 11th June with a Minehead-bound service.

◀ 'Western' No. D1010 *Western Campaigner* and 'Warship No. D832 *Onslaught* pass Bicknoller, between Williton and Crowcombe, with the 15.00 service from Minehead.

◀ A pair of 'Warships'. No. D832 *Onslaught* leads classmate No. D821 *Greyhound* through Nornvis Bridge, near Crowcombe Heathfield, with the last departure of the day from Bishops Lydeard to Minehead.

▼ 'Hymek' No. D7017 pilots GWR Prairie No. 4160 through Yard Farm with a recreation of a traditional working from the past. **All: Brian Garrett**

The pioneer member of the production fleet, Class 43 powercar No. 43002 heads the 17.36 London Paddington-Exeter St Davids at Berkeley, Frome, on 16th June. Presumably problems with the sunblind resulted in the ingenious use of a national newspaper by the driver!
Darren Brooks

Running in the path of a booked Carlisle Yard – Tyne Yard wagonload working, DBS Class 66/0 No. 66025 approaches Greenhead on the Tyne Valley line with an eastbound intermodal service on 16th June. **Nigel Capelle**

DB Schenker Class 66/0 No. 66131 crosses Arten Gill viaduct with a southbound coal train on 16th June. **David Price**

Colas Rail Class 47/7 No. 47739 *Robin of Templecombe* **approaches Norton Junction, on a Doncaster to Long Marston working conveying ex-Fastline wagons for storage on 16th June. Paul Maycock**

▲ The powercars of Class 201 No. 2001 leave the North London Line at Haringey Park Junction, bound for wheel turning at Hornsey depot on 16th June. **Peter Watson**

▶ Newly Southern-liveried and reclassified Class 313/2, No. 313205 departs from Falmer, forming the 17.25 Southern service from Seaford to Brighton. **Brian Morrison**

With blue doors instead of yellow following refurbishment, Class 465/0 No. 465024 departs from Lewisham on 10th June, forming the 11.20 service from Hayes to Cannon Street. **Brian Morrison**

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. Meeting commences at 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. Meeting commences at 19.30.

10th June 2010
Continental Railway Circle
St Paul's Church Centre, Rossmore Road, Marylebone, London NW1 6NJ. AGM followed by three short presentations by Brian Garvin, Geoff Warren and Mike Hudson. Meeting commences at 19.15. Admission £2. Contact the Secretary, Adrian Palmer on 01932 850624 or at akpalmer@talktalk.net for further details.

12th June 2010
Bournemouth Railway Club
'All Purpose Room', Winton Methodist Community Centre, Junction of Alma Road/Heron Court Road, Bournemouth. 'The North Cornwall Railway' by George Reeve. Starts 14.30. Admission £2. Contact the Hon.Chairman, Martin Thresh on 01202 742099 or at martyn.thresh@ntlworld.com for further details.

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' Meeting commences at 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.

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'. Meeting commences at 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.

8th July 2010
Continental Rly Circle
St Paul's Church Centre, Rossmore Road, Marylebone, London NW1 6NJ. 'A Tribute to Dave Theobald' by Peter Greatorex. Meeting commences at 19.15. Admission £2. Contact the Secretary, Adrian Palmer on 01932 850624 or at akpalmer@talktalk.net for further details.

10th July 2010
Bournemouth Rly Club
'All Purpose Room', Winton Methodist Community Centre, Junction of Alma Road/Heron Court Road, Bournemouth. 'Bournemouth Central Station 125'. Meeting starts at 14.30. Admission £2. Contact Martin Thresh on 01202 742099 for further details.

12th July 2010
Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln. Annual Quiz Night. Starts 20.00. Contact 01522 705365 for further details

Southern Electric Group (Sussex)
Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre. 'The Great Western Broad Gauge Project' by Sam Bee. Starts 19.30. £2 Donation requested. Contact Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094 for further details.

Should your society information be listed on this page?

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

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

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

▼ An unidentified Class 220 'Voyager' races northwards along the ECML past the village of Hambleton, just west of Selby on 11th June. Richard Young

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 Rly 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. Starts 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.

2nd August 2010
RCTS (Ashford)
Members only visit to IECC Ashford. Contact the Secretary at southeast@rcts.org.uk for further details.

RCTS (Northampton)
'Southern Day Saver' day out. Contact the Secretary, David Pick on 01604 810613 or at northampton@rcts.org.uk for further details.

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

7th August 2010
RCTS (Northampton)
Visit to Welshpool & Llanfair Railway. Contact the Secretary, David Pick on 01604 810613 or at northampton@rcts.org.uk for further details.

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

Southern Electric Group (Sussex)
Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre. 'Closed Stations' by Malcolm Stroud. Starts 19.30. £2 Donation requested. Contact Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094 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. Starts 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. Starts 20.00. Contact 01256 819401 for details.

16th August 2010
RCTS (Northampton)
Visit to Midland Metro Depot at Wednesbury. Contact the Secretary, David Pick on 01604 810613 or at northampton@rcts.org.uk for details.

RCTS (Thames Valley)
Evening Observation At Didcot Station. Contact Murray Lewis at thamesvalleyoutdoor@rcts.org.uk for further details.

19th August 2010
Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society
Roundhouse Lecture Theatre, Barrow Hill, Chesterfield. 'The Woodhead Route' by Jeff Lane. Starts 19.30. Admission £2 non members. Contact 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. Starts 20.00. Contact the Secretary, Lionel Jones on 01934 628289 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.

9th September 2010
Continental Rly Circle
St Paul's Church Centre, Rossmore Road, Marylebone, London NW1 6NJ. 'Southern Africa' by Ron White. Meeting commences at 19.15. Admission £2. Contact Adrian Palmer on 01932 850624 for details.

10th September 2010
Great Western Society
Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, off Windsor Road, Lawn, Swindon, SN3 1JE. TBA. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01793 495976 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.

14th September 2010
Abergavenny & District Steam Society
Upper Room, The Hen and Chickens, Flannel Street, Abergavenny. 'The Power of Steam' by Peter Donovan. Starts 20.00. Contact Ken Mumford at ken.mumford@ntlworld.com for details.

16th September 2010
Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society
Roundhouse Lecture Theatre, Barrow Hill, Chesterfield. 'Steaming Through Britain'. 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. Annual Luncheon. Meeting commences at 19.30. Members only. Please contact, Arthur Robinson on 01982 560219 for further details and all membership enquiries.

Back Issues

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Rear Cover Caption

On 10th June, Class 60 No. 60040 passes Lowdham signal box with the Westerleigh to Lindsey oil refinery discharged tanks. Lowdham, east of Nottingham on the line to Lincoln, is a 16-lever Midland box and, by virtue of it possessing its original windows and frame, retains much of its Midland character. John Illingworth

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LOWDHAM