Railway Herald

Issue 247 - 22nd November 2010

The electronic journal for the railway enthusiast

Railway Herald

Issue 247
22nd November 2010

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

Publication
Railway Herald is published weekly, 47 times a year.

Submissions
We welcome submissions from all readers, especially digital photographs. Pictures should be sent to the editor at *editor@railwayherald.com*

Good quality scans of colour slides and prints are also acceptable. There is currently no financial payment made for photographs published in *Railway Herald*. Where possible we always try to use news photographs taken within the production week of the publication date.

Website
Our website contains all back issues of the magazine and is available at **www.railwayherald.com**

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ISSN 1751-8091

Virgin to reform its four-car Class 221 fleet

Virgin Trains has decided to standardise its Class 221 fleet on five-car sets, by disbanding one four-car unit and reforming the other two. The changes are to take place over the coming weeks and will see increased utilisation of the five-car sets.

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Front Cover Caption:

As the signalman looks on, 'A1' Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* heads through Reigate with the VSOE 'Surrey Hills Luncheon Excursion' on 13th November. Keith Hemsley

▲ The first Class 156 to be refurbished by East Midlands Trains, No. 156410, stands at a wet Nottingham on 11th November, having arrived from East Midlands Parkway with invited guests.

First refurbished EMT Class 156 released into traffic

East Midlands Trains (EMT) celebrated its third birthday on 11th November, with the introduction of three new improvements for passengers.

The first of the company's Class 156 fleet to be refurbished in a £3 million programme for the units was shown at East Midlands Parkway, and after viewing the new Business Lounge at the station, guests were taken on a short trip aboard the train to Nottingham.

Aimed at avoiding traffic queues on the busy A453 road, the third innovation was the introduction of a 'congestion beating' cut-price 'Park & Ride' ticket, allowing all day car parking and return train travel between East Midlands Parkway and Nottingham stations for £5.

EMT Managing Director, Tim Shoveller, said: "What we have achieved in the past three years has far exceeded my expectations, and I am continually impressed by the enthusiasm shown by the team for delivering even more improvements for our passengers. Among the highlights of the last three years is the opening of two brand new stations, the launch of a £22 million new maintenance depot, as well as embarking on a £30 million-plus programme of investment that will see all of our trains refurbished by the end of next year. Our performance, which we know is top priority for passengers, has continued to go from strength to strength, and I am proud that we have been the best performing long-distance train operator for almost two years. Adding to that success are the improving levels of performance on our local routes, resulting in East Midlands Trains being named as the most improved regional train operator. However, what I am most proud of is how the team has worked together to deliver these improvements, and how positively our passengers have reacted. Today is really a celebration of everything we have achieved in our first three years, but also provides us with an opportunity to let passengers know that there is still lots more to come".

▲ The interior of the first Class 156 to be refurbished by East Midlands Trains, the new moquette is the same as the Standard Class used in the refurbished EMT HSTs.

▼ East Midlands Managing Director, Tim Shoveller, talks to guests in the new First Class Lounge at East Midlands Parkway station, part of the operating company's third birthday event at the venue on 11th November. **All: Brian Morrison**

Network Rail prepares for winter weather to minimise disruption

More than 16,000 metres of specialist heating strips have been installed onto the third rail power system across Kent as part of a countywide trial to improve reliability of train services during harsh winter weather conditions.

Ice forming on the third-rail is one of the biggest causes of disruption in the region during winter weather, as a layer of ice on the top of the rail head prevents or disrupts power being drawn by the train, often resulting in it becoming stranded. By the end of the year, heating elements will have been installed at 42 key locations across the Kent route, primarily at points where trains come to a halt.

Dave Ward, Network Rail's Route Director for Kent, said: "We are pioneering this new technology in Britain to further improve the reliability of train services during harsh winter weather conditions. We have analysed weather patterns over the last 10 years to identify the most vulnerable areas, and it is these places we are concentrating the trial of the heating strips".

Stations and points between Hastings and Grove Park, Ashford and Maidstone and Tonbridge to Orpington have been identified for the installation of heating strips. To complement this initiative, train operator Southeastern has launched on its website a new online table showing at a glance how train services on all 12 routes are operating at any given moment. The tool shows either 'good service', 'minor disruption' or 'major disruption' and sits alongside an interactive map.

Southeastern has also published a contingency timetable to provide passengers with an idea of what services could look like on the rare occasions it needs to be implemented. Other upgrades have also been made to the website and all drivers and conductors have been issued with Blackberry devices to help improve information to passengers.

War memorial restored

The Midland Railway War Memorial, near Derby station, was vandalised by uncaring thieves in August when two plaques listing the names of Midland Railway staff that fell in the First World War were stolen.

Although later recovered, Network Rail kept them in store until they could be securely re-attached, the task being undertaken in time for Remembrance Sunday. Designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and constructed in 1921, the memorial is Grade II listed and was provided by the Midland Railway following the First World War, in recognition of its employees who had served or died in the war. A rededication service will be held in due course. The restoration costs were met by Network Rail and the Railway Heritage Trust.

▼ The 12.28 East Midlands Trains service from Nottingham led by Class 43 powercar No. 43081 is pictured shortly after arrival at St Pancras International on 11th November, framed on either side by Class 222 'Meridians' Nos. 222005 and 222013. **Brian Morrison**

Network Rail unveils plans to ease passenger congestion at London termini

Plans have been announced for a 220 metre-long balcony at Waterloo station, which would help ease congestion on the main concourse, provide a wider and improved choice of retail and catering facilities and improve passenger flow.

The proposed balcony would be built along almost the full length of the concourse at first-floor level, with the retail and catering facilities that are now in the middle of the concourse moved into 20,000 sq ft of converted former offices next to the balcony alongside new shops, restaurants and bars. This would create significantly more space to circulate at concourse level and would be one of the first steps to deliver Network Rail's vision of providing better retail facilities at destination stations to improve the overall passenger experience.

The balcony, which would be accessible by escalators, lifts and stairs, would also improve the connection between Waterloo East and Waterloo main line stations. The plans, which are still being fully developed, would also provide the opportunity to look at options for improving passenger ticketing facilities.

Richard O'Brien, Network Rail's Route Director for Wessex, said: "Passengers rely on Waterloo for 88 million train journeys every year making it the busiest station in Britain. With this number of passengers the station can become very busy, particularly at peak times. By creating this new balcony we can give people more space to move around the concourse, as well as providing the convenient and wide-ranging retail facilities and eateries that people want at busy mainline stations. Rising passenger numbers means the industry has to look hard at congestion and overcrowding, both on trains and at stations, to enable a larger number of people to make journeys by train. This investment will be an important early step in our long-term plans to boost passenger capacity at Waterloo".

The balcony at Waterloo would be one element of Network Rail's plans to create over 75,000 sq ft of new retail space in stations. Some 47,000 sq ft of this new space will be in London, where another station to benefit will be King's Cross. The creation there of a striking new concourse, three times the size of the current area, will mean passengers will have access to more than 27,000 sq ft of new shops and restaurants spread over two floors.

It is the aim to complete both the Waterloo and King's Cross schemes by spring 2012. The stations will remain open to passengers throughout the duration of the work, although access to some areas may be limited for short periods.

◀ **The current concourse at London Waterloo. Brian Morrison**

▼ **An artists impression of how the proposed new balcony, escalators and open plan concourse area at London Waterloo could look. Network Rail**

UK News In Brief

■ During a parliamentary backbench debate, the Government gave assurances that keeping the coastal section of the Great Western Main Line between Exeter and Teignmouth operational was a priority. £9 million has been spent in recent years to safeguard the most venerable sections of the line.

■ Passenger journeys increased by 9.9% between July and September when compared to the same period last year, according to the ORR.

■ A limited number of backstage tours have been arranged on the set of the Railway Children Live at Waterloo show, being held in the original London terminus of Eurostar at Waterloo International. These will provide the opportunity not only to go backstage, but also to get up close to the Stirling Single and go on board the Old Gentleman's Saloon (LNER Officers Inspection Saloon No. 21661, which is normally kept on the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway) both of which feature in the production. The tours are independent of the performances, and are planned to take place at 18.15 on Wednesdays and 13.15 and 18.15 on Thursdays from now until 16th December at a cost of £10 per ticket, and last about 30 minutes. Details are on the Railway Children at Waterloo website www.railwaychildrenwaterloo.com and can be booked online - go to 'Book Tickets' or 'About the Train' and click on the Backstage Tours button - or telephone 0871 297 0740.

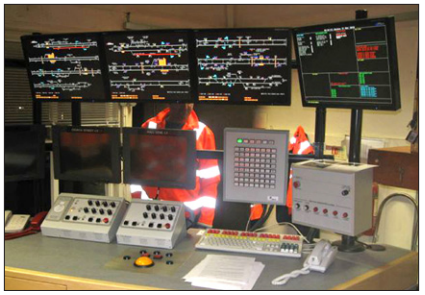
Durham Coast route upgrade completed

Network Rail has completed the resignalling of the route between Stranton, Hartlepool, and Ryhope Grange.

Five signal boxes have been decommissioned and are now controlled from a single point at Ryhope. Warrick Dent, Area General Manager for Network Rail, said: "Unfortunately the area is a notorious cable theft hot spot so we have taken the opportunity of this project to protect the new system by making the cables more difficult to steal and easier for police to trace if they are taken. These anti-theft measures along with the new, modern equivalent will help us to deliver a reliable railway at reduced cost and with potential for increased services in the future".

The project has been competed 'on time and on budget' at a cost of some £28 million in just 18 months, and has had minimal impact on running trains, the majority of work being carried out when trains were not running. The work undertaken also included the renewal of Hall Deane and Church Street level crossing with a modern equivalent controlled by CCTV.

▼ **The new digital panel at Ryhope box. Network Rail**



▲ **The last Class 221 'Super Voyager' to be built, No 221144** *Bombardier Voyager*, **passes Carpenders Park at speed on 30th January, forming the 08.55 Virgin service from Holyhead to Euston. This set will be disbanded, with the two middle vehicles being added into the remaining two four-car sets. Brian Morrison**

Summer Saturday Paignton services return?

CrossCountry is looking to reintroduce HST services to Paignton on Summer Saturdays.

It is proposed to operate an 06.00 Leeds to Paignton, arriving at 11.35, returning as the 12.25 Paignton to Glasgow arriving at 22.18. In addition, there would also be a 06.01 Glasgow to Paignton, via York, arriving at 15.33, returning at 16.25 to Leeds, arriving at 22.04. Both trains would be operated by HST sets.

The TOC is also looking to reintroduce station stops at Dawlish Warren, Dawlish and Teignmouth, which are not presently served by summer Saturday CrossCountry services.

Apology

In the news briefs of Issue 246 we reported on the interim financial results of Parry People Movers Ltd (PPM).

While PPM supplied the passenger vehicles for the Stourbridge Town branch, the operator of the passenger service is in fact, Pre Metro Operations Ltd (PMOL), under subcontract to London Midland. PMOL reported a profit in its 2009-2010 accounts and has achieved high levels of reliability and punctuality since commencing operations last year. The branch itself, has seen significant ridership growth since the introduction of the new railcars and operating arrangements.

Our apologies to all for the error.

Virgin Trains to move to entire five-coach Class 221s

Virgin Trains is to reform two four-car Class 221 Super Voyagers in order to provide more flexibility and consistency in the operation of the Birmingham-Scotland and London-Chester-North Wales services, which are booked for Class 221 operation.

The company currently operates a fleet of 21 Super Voyagers, of which three are four-car sets and the remainder have five-cars. There is a requirement for 18 sets to be provided for service every day. Over the last year one set has been out of service as part of a bogie overhaul programme without affecting the daily provision of 18 trains.

However, one of the challenges of a mixed size fleet is ensuring that the smaller four-car trains are only allocated to diagrams specified for them. Use on five-car diagrams can result in overcrowding and discomfort for passengers and complaints. Growth in passenger numbers, currently running at 12% year-on-year, also means that even when the four-car trains are used on the correct diagrams, overcrowding can still occur.

In order to ensure that five-car trains cover all 18 diagrams, Virgin has developed a plan that will see four-car set No. 221144 disbanded. The two driving cars will be placed into warm storage and the remaining two coaches will be used to strengthen the two other four car trains Nos. 221142 and 221143 to five-car sets. Despite the fact that two coaches will be stored, the ability to operate the two additional five-car trains more intensively and with greater flexibility will result in an increase in the number of seats provided by the Super Voyager fleet each day, commencing at the start of the winter timetable on 12th December.

The changes are expected to take place in the coming weeks, with the driving cars likely to be stored at Central Rivers. Operationally, aside from inserting the extra coach to become the third vehicle in the four-car sets, the only other work required is a software modification to the onboard Train Management System computers, to allow the set to recognise that there are five vehicles, not four.

▲ In fading light, Class 33/2 No. 33207 and Class 37/5 No. 37516 pass Leicester on 15th November, working from Eastleigh to Hotchley Hill (on the Great Central Railway (Northern)) with a pair of blue and grey Mk2 coaches, Nos. 5365 and 5376, for storage. **Richard Moxon**

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The News In Pictures

◀ Passing a crippled MGR wagon located close to the site of the long-closed Aberthaw station on the Vale of Glamorgan line, is Arriva Trains Wales Class 142 No. 142069, working the 11.42 Bridgend to Aberdare service on 13th November. **Stuart Warr**

◀▼ Class 444 No. 444041 is pictured in the workshops at Eastleigh on 27th October. Siemens is using one part of the facility to undertake high mileage bogie overhauls on Class 444 and 450 Desiro sets. **Ron Cover**

▼ A pair of Northern Rail Class 153s stand at Cleethorpes on 13th November. On the left, No. 153363 awaits departure with the 11.13 service for Sheffield, via Brigg and Gainsborough Central (not Sellafield as the destination blind suggests!), while alongside No. 153380 awaits departure for Barton-on-Humber (although the destination blind seems undetermined as to whether it would rather head to Middlesborough or Millom! **Geoff Burton**

UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

25th November 2010

Railway Touring Co.	34067	Poole-Bournemouth-Southampton-Salisbury-Bath Spa-Bristol Temple Meads & rtn	
Steam Dreams	60163	London King's Cross-Stevenage-Peterborough-Doncaster-York & return	

27th November 2010

Statesman Rail	5690	Lancaster-Preston-Blackburn-Clitheroe-Long Preston-S&C-Appleby-Carlisle & rtn	
Railway Touring Co.	60007	Newcastle Central-Darlington-York-Peterborough-London King's Cross & return	
Railway Touring Co.	34067	Swanage-Bournemouth-Eastleigh-Basingstoke-Reading-London Paddington & return	
Vintage Trains	45305	Tyseley WR-Wolverhampton-Crewe-Chester-Wrexham-Shrewsbury-Wellington-Cosford-Wolverhampton & return	
Pathfinder Tours	6024	(Paignton-Exeter SD-)Bristol TM-Severn Tunnel-Abergavenney-Shrewsbury & rtn	
Pathfinder Tours	tbc	Westbury-Bath Spa-Bristol Parkway-Barnt Green-York-Durham & return	
UK Railtours	tbc	Guildford-Redhill-East Croydon-Clapham Jct-Kensington Olympia-York & return	
Retro Railtours	47580	Leeds-Dewsbury-Huddersfield-Stalybridge-Stockport-Oxford & return	
Compass Tours	tbc	Nuneaton-Tamworth-Stafford-Stoke-Stockport-Stalybridge-York & return	

1st December 2010

Compass Tours	tbc	Worcester Shrub Hill-Kidderminster-Tame Bridge Parkway-Stafford-Crewe-Preston-Shap-Carlisle-Beattock-Carstairs-Edinburgh Waverely & return	
Steam Dreams	60007	London Victoria-Staines-Ascot-Reading-Bath Spa-Bristol TM & return	

3rd December 2010

SRPS Railtours	2xWCRC 47	Linlithgow-Morpeth-York-Gainsborough Lea Road-Saxilby-Lincoln & return	
Railway Touring Co.	tbc	Newcastle Central-York-Leeds-Doncaster-Gainsborough Lea Road-Lincoln & rtn	
Compass Tours	tbc	Lockerbie-Preston-Blackburn-Hebden Bridge-Doncaster-Saxilby-Lincoln & return	
Steam Dreams	60007	London KX-Peterborough-Spalding-Lincoln-Newark-Peterborough & London	

4th December 2010

Railtourer	2xWCRC 47	Stevenage-Peterborough-Retford--Newcastle upon Tyne-Edinburgh & return	
NENTA Traintours	2xWCRC 47	Norwich-Diss-Ipswich-Stowmarket-Ely-March-York-Newcastle Central & return	
Torbay Express Ltd	tbc	Bristol TM-Bath Spa-Reading-London Paddington & return	**Cancelled**
Railway Touring Co.	34067	Haywards Heath-Eastleigh-Westbury-Bath Spa & return	**Postponed**
Statesman Rail	tbc	Shrewsbury-Wilmslow-Manchester Victoria-Bolton-Preston-Edinburgh & return	
Hastings Diesels Ltd	Hastings DEMU	Hastings-Tunbridge Wells-Clapham Jct-Bedford-Bletchley & return	
UK Railtours	60163	Bedford-Clapham Jct-Staines-Woking-Westbury-Bath Spa-Bristol TM & return	
Pathfinder Tours	tbc	Eastleigh-Winchester-Basingstoke-Banbury-Dorridge-Lincoln-Cleethorpes & return	
Spitfire Railtours	55022	Preston-Bolton-Huddersfield-Leeds-York-Newcastle-Edinburgh Waverley & return	
Spitfire Railtours	55022	Edinburgh-Dalmeny-Forth Bridge-Dunfermline Town-Ladybank-Tay Bridge-Dundee-Ladybank-Forth Bridge-Dalmeny-Edinburgh Waverley	

5th December 2010

Ranger Trains	6201	(Preston-Crewe)-Stoke-Uttoxeter-Melton Mowbray & return	**Cancelled**
Ranger Trains	6201	Melton Mowbray-Oakham-Corby-Kettering & return	**Cancelled**
Railway Touring Co.	60007	London King's Cross-Peterborough-Grantham-Lincoln & return	

7th December 2010

VSOE	35028	London Victoria-Guildford-London Victoria
Steam Dreams	34067	London Victoria-Staines-Woking-Salisbury-Sherbourne & 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.

▲ **Peppercorn 'A1' Pacific No. 60163** *Tornado* **powers through Wandsworth Town with a VSOE 'Surrey Hills Luncheon Circular' on 13th November. Rob Wheatley**

▼ **GWR 'King' Class No. 6024** *King Edward I* **stands at Taunton, while working from Bishops Lydeard to Bristol Barton Hill on Remembrance Sunday, 14th November. Allan Mckever**

The Week Ahead

by John Whitehouse

'After the drought, comes the flood' not necessarily a comment on British weather, but certainly reflective of the railtour market.

Last week there was just one charter to talk about, Steam Dreams' three-day 'Christmas Coronation', and this week there are no less than 10 tours scheduled to operate, of which seven are booked for steam haulage! November is a tricky month in which to operate due to the onset of ever-shorter days exacerbated by the end of British Summer Time. Maybe the significant increase in activity this coming week, which is mirrored in the forthcoming weeks on the run-up to Christmas, is indicative that this years festive celebrations are just about to start.

The festive theme is certainly uppermost at the Railway Touring Company, which features strongly after a short break, with three charters planned commencing with the 'Bath & Bristol Xmas Express' from Poole to Bath Spa and Bristol Temple Meads on 25th November, which runs via Eastleigh, Salisbury and Westbury. LMS 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 44932 will replace the advertised Battle of Britian Pacific No. 34067 *Tangmere, as the latter remains unavailable.* The Christmas theme is also in evidence with the 'Capital Christmas Express', which will now employ No. 44932, on its 27th November tour from Swanage to London Waterloo, via Basingstoke , Woking and Staines. The highlight of these three Christmas tours must be 'The Tynesider', also on 27th November, which is booked to feature two Class A4s, No. 60007 *Sir Nigel Gresley* (making a very welcome main line return) throughout from Newcastle Central to King's Cross, and No. 60019 *Bittern*, which is scheduled to haul the return working as far as York, where a diesel will take over for the last leg back to Newcastle.

Steam Dreams will also be active on the East Coat Main Line on 27th November, with the Kings Cross to York 'Cathedrals Express' hauled by the A1 Steam Locomotive Trust's Peppercorn A1 Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* throughout, subject to the problems encountered on the return working of the 'Christmas Coronation' on 20th November being resolved. This raises the interesting prospect of two steam-hauled charters crossing not once, but twice in the day. No doubt there will be much deliberation by photographers of where *Tornado* and *Bittern* will cross in the morning, and equally where they will cross in the evening.

Building on the great success of 'The Fellsman' summertime workings, Statesman Rail has an equally sold-out 'Christmas Fellsman' featuring 'Jubilee' 4-6-0 No. 5690 *Leander* on the now traditional Lancaster, Preston, Blackburn, Hellifield and Settle & Carlisle route to Carlisle. Vintage Trains will also be using ex-LMS power in the shape of 'Black 5' No. 45305 on the 'Deva Explorer' from Tyseley Warwick Road to Chester, outwards via Walsall, Stafford and Crewe, and now also returning by the same route as far as Bescot, where a diesel will be added for the remainder of the journey to Tyseley, which will entail the 'Black 5' being hauled through Birmingham New Street as the Sutton Park line is reported to be closed for engineering. Deva Victrix, by the way, was the Roman name for the fortified settlement that is now the City of Chester. The remaining steam tour features the Welsh Marches with No. 6024 *King Edward I* booked to work north from Bristol Temple Meads to Ludlow and Shrewsbury and back at the head of a Pathfinder's 'Shropshire Monarch' charter that originated at Paignton.

Retro Railtours is due to head for Oxford on 27th November with the grandly titled 'Retro Oxford Christmas Extravaganza' from Leeds, Dewsbury, Huddersfield, Stalybridge and Stockport, which is booked for haulage by Class 47/4 No. 47580 *County of Essex*. Perhaps the title reflects the presence of a real ale bar aboard with victuals from the Greenfield Real Ale Brewery!

The remaining two modern traction tours both head for the St. Nicholas Fayre at York, with UK Railtours setting out from Guildford and working to the ECML, via East Croydon, Kensington Olympia and Finsbury Park, while Compass Railtours start from Nuneaton and pick up along the Trent Valley to Stafford, and then north via Stoke-on-Trent and the Standedge route. Both trains should have DBS Class 67s for haulage.

Western Courier to return to the main line

The Western Locomotive Association plans to pursue main line certification for its Class 52 No. 1062 *Western Courier*.

A reported unanimous vote at their annual general meeting last Saturday means that fund raising will now commence, with a view of raising £120,000 to put the 'Western' back onto the mainline and join the DTG's No. D1015 *Western Champion*.

The first phase is the most expensive, and will involve lifting the locomotive to refurbish its bogies, which has been costed at £90,000. A further £24,000 is earmarked for other jobs, and £6,000 to cover the cost of main line certification.

The meeting also voted that funds should also be raised for the overhaul of No. D1013 *Western Ranger*, which was withdrawn from traffic on the Severn Valley Railway earlier this year.

▼ **BR Standard 8P Pacific No. 71000** *Duke of Gloucester* **whistles as it approaches Clapham Junction with the VSOE luncheon circular on 5th November, the first time the loco had been used on this working. Ian Docwra**

Classic Traction for Pathfinder in early 2011 with '31s' and '37s' at the helm

Two classic tours from Pathfinder have been announced, commencing with a wander around South Yorkshire on 29th January from Bristol Temple Meads through to Birmingham International.

A DBS Class 66 will head the 'Rother-Don Rambler' from Temple Meads, and at Birmingham International is scheduled to give way to a pair of Hanson Class 31s, which will then continue north via Bescot, Stafford and Crewe (Independent Lines) before diverging east by way of Sandbach, Middlewich and Northwich to the Hope Valley and Sheffield. Following a reversal at Westhorpe Run Round Loop (where a DBS Class 60 will be attached), the train then visits the old Great Central line through the site of Sheffield Victoria station to Deepcar. Next on the list is the Tinsley Yard Complex and Aldwarke Exchange Sidings, before heading back south through Rotherham Central, Sheffield, Chesterfield and Derby. However, the day's proceedings are not quite over, as after Water Orton, it is routed through Castle Bromwich Down Goods to Washwood Heath Through Siding, where the Class 31s will give way to a DBS Class 66 for the return to Bristol.

In February, Pathfinder, in association with Arriva Trains Wales, will again be running a special train from Swansea to Edinburgh in connection with the Scotland v Wales rugby international on 12th February. The special charter heads north on 11th February, returning on 14th February. Pathfinder, meanwhile, will again take the opportunity to run a charter in Scotland on 12th February. Its 'Galloway Galloper' sets out from Glasgow Central with 'topped and tailed' DRS Class 37s for Stranraer, working outwards via Kilmarnock, Riccarton, Killoch (reverse), Waterside (reverse), Ayr and Girvan. The return will take the route through Kilwinning and Paisley Gilmour Street, to visit Hamilton Central prior to returning to Glasgow Central.

Looking further ahead into 2011, it looks as if Pathfinder will again be using No. 60163 *Tornado*, with workings to Edinburgh and the Settle & Carlisle in May and Canterbury in June. More details of these trains will follow in due course.

Rail-Blue plans for 2011

Rail-Blue Charters has joined the increasing band of operators making an early announcement of 2011 plans, and in this case it is a greatly increased programme of tours commencing with two in three days in February.

Carlisle is the destination of each tour, working north via the S&C and returning around the Cumbrian Coast. Leicester is the departure point on 23rd February, with the train routed via Sheffield and Barnsley, which is followed on 25th February with a departure from Watford Junction, working north over the WCML to reach the S&C by way of Blackburn. Four tours follow in March, to Carlisle again from Lincoln on the 2nd, Llandrindod Wells and Cardiff from St Albans on the 4th, and again from Watford Junction on the 30th. Sandwiched between these two is a Leicester to Whitby train on 25th March. Carlisle features again in April, from Ealing Broadway on the 30th, which is followed by a Watford Junction to Edinburgh, via the WCML, on 6th May. Canterbury from Barnsley on 10th June, Betws-y-Coed and Blaenau Ffestiniog from Lincoln on 7th July and Minehead from Watford Junction two days later complete its first half of 2011 offerings.

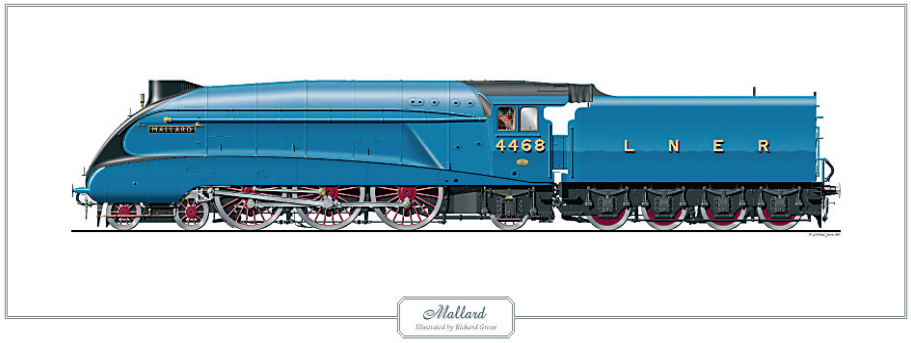
Most tours will feature diesel haulage, which if past precedent applies, will be DBS Class 67s or DRS Class 47s. AC electric power could well feature on the Edinburgh working in May.

◀ **While at first glance it could be the 1980s, the use of a Mk1 buffet car among Mk3 stock could give the game away that it is actually 2010! Tyseley-based Class 47/4 No. 47580** *County of Essex* **powers through Colton South Junction on 13th November, with Rail-Blue Charters' 'Edinburgh Explorer' trip from Leicester, which ran via Langley Mill, Barnsley and Normanton, before joining the ECML for the final section from York to Edinburgh Waverley. Ron Cover**

Gresley 'A4' Pacific No. 60019 *Bittern* **steams through Offord Cluney, near Huntingdon, with the Railway Touring Company's 'The White Rose' charter from London King's Cross to York on 13th November. Adrian Perks**

◀ **The Ffestiniog Railway-based 'Double Fairlie'** *Merddin Emrys* **makes a rare, but very welcome appearance on the Welsh Highland Railway on 7th November, as it rounds the curve between Beddgelert and the Aberglaslyn Pass, and runs alongside the Afon Glaslyn while working a Bob Branch-organised photo charter. This is one of the easier photographic locations to get to on a railway that abounds with some of the most stunning scenery in the country. The weather, as can be seen, was perfect, and showed the autumnal hues at their best. Even Mount Snowdon and some of the surrounding Peaks joined in by enhancing the panoramic vistas with snow-capped summits! Issue 248 will be featuring more photographs taken on the charter as well as an update of what is in store for 2011 on the Welsh Highland Railway. John Whitehouse**

Extremely Detailed Limited Edition Prints by Richard Green



LNER 4-6-2 Class A4, No. 4468 *Mallard*

The print portrays the locomotive in the condition it achieved 126 mph on 3rd July 1938

LOCOS IN PROFILE

Further details: www.locos-in-profile.co.uk

- Size: 720mm x 320mm
- Scale: 8mm/ft
- Edition run: 350 – Signed and Numbered
- Print Price: £29·50

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Charting the steam action on the NYMR between 2000 and 2009, this 100 minute long DVD programme features over 35 different steam locomotives hard at work on the line.

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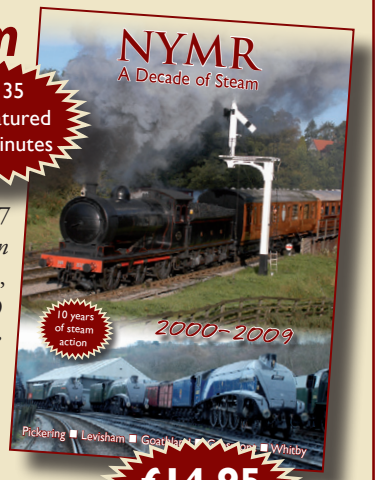
Over 35 locos featured in 100 minutes



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Preservation News In Brief

■ The West Somerset Railway Association's 'Manor' No. 7821 *Ditcheat Manor* has left the railway, and almost moved back to its birthplace at STEAM, the Museum of the Great Western Railway. The museum will provide dry and secure storage for the loco, while funds are raised for its restoration. It is likely to be displayed for up to five years.

■ Not previously reported, the NRMs Southern Railway 'Schools' Class 4-4-0 No. 925 *Cheltenham* moved to Knights Rail Services at Eastleigh Works on 7th October for the removal of the asbestos lagging. While the loco is at Eastleigh, the NRM will take advantage of this work to carry out a full condition check and to enable the development of a full conservation report with a view to returning it to working condition.

■ The Severn Valley Railway has announced a new format to its 1960s weekend for 2011. The event will be known as 'Sounds of the 1960s' and, held over the weekend of 20th-22nd May, will feature a new three-day format with live tribute bands. Providing the passenger service will be a mix of steam and diesel traction. Later in the year, the railway will provide the ability for members of the public to go behind the scenes on 3rd/4th September, with an entire event geared around being able to look at those parts of the railway that are normally out of the public view.

■ The Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway will be operating a one-day special event, entitled 'The Scottish Class 37 Golden Jubilee' on 2nd January 2011. The event will celebrate 50-years of the English Electric Class 37 locomotives and will feature two examples in operation, Nos. 37025 *Inverness TMD* and 37175. Trains will depart from Bo'ness hourly from 09.30 to 18.30 to Manuel.

■ As part of a short-term switch of exhibits, the National Railway Museum has taken delivery of North British 0-6-0 No. 65243 *Maude,* which is now on display in the museum's Great Hall. The 1891-built locomotive is on loan to the NRM from the Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway for three years. In return, the railway is to receive the Duke of Sutherland's saloon and LMS Compound 4-4-0 No. 1000. Elsewhere at the NRM, the last steam locomotive built for British Railways, 9F No. 92220 *Evening Star* has returned to York after a spell at Swindon, its place having been taken by GWR 'Star' 4-6-0 No. 4003 *Lode Star*.

Scanning back to past history at Manchester Museum

A steam locomotive at the Museum of Science & Industry (MOSI) in Manchester has been x-rayed by an innovative new mobile unit, which is normally used for scanning cargo and vehicles for criminal activity.

The Museum's replica 1830 *Planet* was x-rayed to test the new Rapiscan Eagle® M60, which has been developed by Rapiscan, a security screening provider, in association with the University of Manchester, before it hits the road to scan cargo and unoccupied passenger vehicles to protect against threats, counter trade fraud and detect contraband such as narcotics.

The insides of the *Planet* locomotive are revealed in an x-ray image taken by the machine, which shows its complicated system of boiler tubes, cylinders, valves and watertank. It is the first time that such an image has been taken of a steam locomotive.

▶ The scanning lorry is pictured next to *Planet* within the grounds of MOSI. Chris Foster/MOSI

▼ The x-rayed image of the replica 1830s locomotive. Unfortunately, the x-ray does not scan right to the bottom of the wheels. MOSI

The Saturday shunt at the Bluebell

▶ The Saturday shunt at the Bluebell Railway on 13th November, needed to access a luggage van buried deep in the sidings at Horsted Keynes. This resulted in some of the railway's older stock, which is not normally visible being moved around. LB&SCR -built 'E4' 0-6-2T No. 473 is pictured during the shunt. Gary Packer

LMS Ivatt 4MT No. 43106 stands at Kidderminster after arriving with the 12.55 service from Highley on 14th November. The headboard and wreath were commemorating Remembrance Sunday.
David Felton

Class 97/3 No. 97304 *John Tilley* **leads the Network Rail inspection train with Class 97/3 No. 97303 on the rear, as it awaits departure from Catchems Corner sidings, near Blythe Bridge, just before sunset on the 15th November. Chris Stevenson**

Class 92 No. 92012 hauls three-car Class 380/0 No. 380004 through Ashford International, working from Dollands Moor to Polmadie on 15th November. **Lewis Smith**

15th November 2010

GCR Society (Spinkhill)
The Angel Hotel, 26 College Road, Spinkhill, Sheffield S21 3YB. 'The Plant at Doncaster 1853-2008' by Hugh Parkin. Starts 19.30. Contact Frank Greaves on 01909 473927.

RCTS (Chester)
The Town Crier, City Road/Station Road, (opposite station entrance), Chester. '60163 Tornado' by Keith Crabtree. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Coventry)
Maudslay Hotel, 190 Allesley Old Road, Coventry. 'Copyright BR' by John Goss. Meeting starts at 19.30.

RCTS (Oxford)
West Oxford Democrats Club, 1 North Street, Osney off Botley Road. 'First Great Western Projects' by Mathew Golton. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Shenfield)
Shenfield Parish Hall, 60 Hutton Road. 'Scandinavian Railways' by Jeremy Harrison. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Wellingborough)
BR Sports and Social Club, Broad Green, Wellingborough. 'The Pennine Journey - Attercliffe to Accrington' by Stephen Gay. Starts 14.00.

16th November 2010

Marlow & District Railway Society
Bourne End Community Centre, Wakeman Road, Bourne End. 'Railways in Australia and NZ' by Ray Schofield. Starts 20.00. £2 admission.

RCTS (Cambridge)
Abbey Meadows Community Wing, Primary School, Galfrid Road, Cambridge. 'Rail Atlas of Britain' by Stuart Baker. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Cheltenham)
The Victory Club, Burlington House, Lypiatt Road, Cheltenham. 'Carry on Up the Khyber' by Mike Burdge. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary at paulandpauling@gearey.fslife.co.uk

Tewkesbury YMCA Railway Sociey
YMCA, Church Street, Tewkesbury. 'Members Slide/Digital Photograph Evening. Starts 19.45.

17th November 2010

RCTS (Eastleigh)/Mid Hants Railway.
Eastleigh Rly Insitutute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'The Hayling Island Branch' by Peter Keat. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact Ted Vaughan on 02380 849533.

18th November 2010

Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society
Roundhouse Lecture Theatre, Barrow Hill, Chesterfield. 'WYSIWYG & How It Was Part 2' by Ken Horan. Meeting starts at 19.30. Admission £2 non members. Contact beardspaul@aol.com for further details.

Breconshire Rly Society
R.A.F.A.Club, The Struet, Brecon. 'Monochrome to Fujichrome' by Peter Skelton. Starts 19.30. Members only. Please contact Arthur Robinson on 01982 560219 for further details and all membership enquiries.

Ffestiniog Rly Society (White Rose)
Oxford Place Methodist Centre, Oxford Place, Leeds LS1 3AX. 'Manchester Museum of Science and Industry' by Matthew Jackson. Starts 19.30. £2 donation. Contact the Secretary on 01904 331973 for further details.

Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend DA12 1BB. 'The History of the TGV' by Michael Bunn. Meeting starts at 19.45. Contact Roger Hart on 01474 833320.

Irish Rly Record Society
The Exmouth Arms, 1 Starcross Street, London NW1 2HR. 'Iarnrod Eireann Developments' by Dick Fearn. Meeting commences at 19.00.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Nth West)
St David's Social Centre, 249 Wargrave Road, Newton-le-Willows, WA12 8EW. 'Woodhead - The Lost Railway' by Stephen Gay. Meeting commences at 19.30. £2 donation. Contact Neville Bond on 01925 226473 or email lcgb.nw@blueyonder.co.uk for further details.

Monmouthshire Railway Society
Room A28, UWCN, Allt-Yr-Yn Avenue, Newport, S.Wales NP20 5DD. 'Up to the End of Steam' by Roger Fletcher. Starts 19.30. Admission £3.

RCTS (Darlington)
The Scout Building, Widdowfield Street, Darlington. 'More about Sir Nigel Gresley' by Chris Nettleton. Meeting commences at 19.00.

RCTS (Shipley)
Saltaire Methodist Chapel, Saltaire Road, Shipley. 'Favourite Lines' by Victor Lee. Meeting starts 19.30.

Welsh Highland Rly Soc. East Anglian Group
Black Bull Pub, High Stteet, Balsham, Cambridge, CB21 4DJ. 'Welsh Highland Bridges' by John Streeves. Starts 19.45. Admission £3. Contact 07971 130829 for further details.

19th November 2010

Great Western Society (Taunton)
Village Hall, Stoke St Mary, Nr Taunton. 'Somerset & Dorset Remembered' by Keith Barret. Starts 19.30. Contact 01923 334188 for details.

20th November 2010

Great Western Society (South West)
Parish Centre, Church End Road, Kingskerswell, Torbay. 'An Evening with Richard Croucher'. Starts 18.30. Contact 01803 336329 for details

22nd November 2010

RCTS (Brighton)
Brighton Railway Model Club Room, London Road Station, Shaftesbury Place, Brighton. AGM & Photo Competition. Meeting starts 19.30.

RCTS (Maidenhead)
Cox Green Community Centre, Highfield Lane, Cox Green. 'Railways of the Isle of Man' by Geoff Brockett. Meeting commences at 19.30

RCTS (Sheffield)
St Mathews Church Rooms, Carver Street, Sheffield. 'The Railway Companies and the Omnibus & Looking for Steam in the 1960's' by Alan Hardman & David Munday. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Northampton)
Weston Favell Parish Hall,Booth Lane South, Weston Favell. 'BR Steam - The Last 8 Months; by Peter Fitton. Meeting commences at 14.00.

23rd November 2010

RCTS (Nottingham)
Nottingham Mechanics, 3 North Sherwood Street, Nottingham. 'On and Off the Footplate' by Bill Davies. Meeting starts at 19.30.

RCTS (Woking)
The Wheatsheaf, Chobham Road, Woking. 'Out and About' by Hugh Gould. Meeting commences at 19.00.

Tewkesbury YMCA Railway Sociey
YMCA, Church Street, Tewkesbury. 'Railways Around Wales' by Michael Clements, Meeting commences at 19.45.

24th November 2010

Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St. Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'Home and Abroad in 2010' by Ian Francis. Meeting starts at 20.00. Contact 01256 819401 for details.

RCTS (Chichester)
Council Meeting Room 2, County Hall, West Sreet, Chichester. '45 Years wandering with a Camera' by David Walker. Starts 19.30.

25th November 2010

RCTS (Preston)
Claremont Hotel, Blackpool Road, Preston. 'The 1980s Revisited' by Martyn Hilbert. Starts19.30.

Stevenage Loco Society
The Community Arts Centre, Roaring Meg Retail Park, London Road, Stevenage SG1 1XN. 'The Celtic Fringe' by David Mitchell. Starts 19.45. Contact 07803 046076.

26th November 2010

Great Central Railway Society (London)
The Exmouth Arms, 1 Starcross Steet, Euston, London NW12HR. 'European Railways' by Nick Lera. Starts 19.30. Contact 01525 372487 for details.

Great Western Society (North West Group)
St Hilda's Clubroom, Slater Street, Latchford, Warrington. 'Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway' by Noel Coates. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Great Western Society (Oxford)
Pauling Human Sciences Centre, 58 Banbury Road, Oxford. TBA. Starts 19.30.

Shropshire Rly Society
The Gateway, Chester Street, Shrewsbury. 'Chicago, Skips, Sheds and BR' by Mike Hemming. Starts 19.30. £3 Donation. Contact 01743 243295 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.

▼ **Class 37/0 No. 37218 and Class 37/6 No. 37601, together with three FNA flask wagons, pass Kensington Olympia, bound ultimately for Sellafield, on 13th November. Iain Wright**

27th November 2010
Bournemouth Rly Club
'All Purpose Room', Winton Methodis Comminity Centre, Alma Road/ Heron Court Road, Bournemouth. 'Quiz and Query Evening'. Meeting commences at 19.30. Admission £2. Contact Martyn Thresh at martyn.thresh@ntlworld.com for details.

RCTS (Merseyside, Chester & North Wales)
'Basford Hall (provisional)'. Contact Geoff Morris on 01244 376808 or at geoffreymorris@tiscali.co.uk for further details.

29th November 2010
RCTS (Sheffield)
St Mathews Church Rooms, Carver Street, Sheffield. 'An A to Z of Yorkshire's Transport; by John Holroyd. Meeting starts at 14.00.

30th November 2011
Tewkesbury YMCA Railway Sociey
YMCA, Church Street, Tewkesbury. 'Annual Photographic Competition. Meeting commences at 19.45.

1st December 2010
Stephenson Locomotive Society
Hayes Village Hall, Hayes Street, Hayes, Bromley. 'The Hill Railways of India' by Ian Blee. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 0208 289 9935 for further details.

2nd December 2010
Great Central Railway Society (Rotherham)
The Three Horseshoes, Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham S66 2BW. 'Members' Evening with Pie and Pea Supper. Starts 19.00. Contact Mick Hayes on 01709 820544 for details.

RCTS (Milton Keynes)
The Crown Public House, Market Square, Stony Stratford, MK11 1BE. 'Members Christmas Meeting'. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Fixtures Secretary on 01908 563549 for further details.

SRPS (Edinburgh)
Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL. 'Members' Slides Evening'. Meeting commences at 19.30. A donation is requested. Contact Dr Peter Howell on 0131 334 5232 for further details.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
St John Ambulance Centre, Sandes Avenue, Kendal. 'Twixt Tyne and Tees' by J.Young. Meeting starts at 19.15. Contact the Secretary on 01539 720706 for further details.

3rd December 2010
Stephenson Locomotive Society
Settlement Centre, Union Street, Middlesbrough. 'Misc. Local Transport Nostalgia Pt 1 & 2'by Nick Carter. Starts 19.00. Contact 01642 313451 for further details.

4th December 2010
Stephenson Loco Society
The Friends Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester. 'The Clapham Disaster' by Malcolm Roughly. Starts 14.00. Contact 0161 928 2461.

6th December 2010
North Yorkshire Moors Railway (Northallerton)
Northallerton Town Cricket Club, Farndale Avenue, Northallerton. Members' Evening & Christmas Social. Starts 19.30. Admission £1.50. Contact the Secretary, Ian McInnes on 01642 767233 for further details.

York Railway Circle
Archbishop Holgate's School, Hull Road, York YO10 5ZA. 'Main Line Steam in 2010' by Karl Jauncey & Dave Richards. Starts 19.30. Contact Robin Patrick on 01904 412232 or at locopatrick@aol.com for details.

7th December 2010
Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend DA12 1BB. GRES Christmas Social. Starts 19.45. Contact the Secretary, Roger Hart on 01474 833320 for further details.

Locomotive & Carriage Institution
55 Broadway, London. 'First Great Western' by Mark Hopwood. Starts 18.00. Contact Stuart Smith at smithstuart@btinternet.com for details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Bedford)
St John's Church Hall, St John's Street, Bedford. 'Engine Sheds Part A' by Chris Banks. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01525 750149 for further details.

Monmouthshire Railway Society
Room LL1, UWCN, Allt-Yr-Yn Avenue, Newport, S.Wales NP20 5DD. 'Industrial Steam in S.Wales 1968-78' by Stanley Brow. Starts 19.30. Admission £3 non-members.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire)/ LRTA (Southern)
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'Australia in the 21st Century' by David Cable. Starts 19.30. Admission £2. Contact the SEG Secretary, John Goodrich on 023 8067 0028 for further details.

Tewkesbury YMCA Railway Sociey
YMCA, Church Street, Tewkesbury. "Shorty' A Tribute to the late Derek Short' by Peter Skelton. Starts 19.45.

Weston super Mare Railway Society
Function Room, Conservative Club, Alexandra Parade, Weston super Mare. 'Evercreech to Burnham-on-Sea' by Terry Temlett. Starts 20.00. Contact Lionel Jones on 01934 628289 or at wsm1977rlysocy@talktalk.net for further details.

8th December 2010
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St. Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'Steam in the British Landscape' by Steve Wright. Starts 20.00. Contact the Secretary on 01256 819401 for further details.

Bromsgrove Rly Club
St Godwalds Church Hall, Aston Fields, Bromsgrove. AGM Club Secretary Entertains. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact Dave on 01527 873800 or Gordon on 05127873609 for further details.

Oxfordshire Rly Society
Seacourt Day Centre, Seacourt Road, Oxford OX2 9LD. 'Bumper Annual Film Show' by Alan Wilmott. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
YMCA, Bridge Street, Guildford. 'The Seven and a Quarter Inch GCR Then and Now' by Chris Bishop. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01372 379216 for further details.

Swiss Railways Society (London)
The Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London N1 9AT. 'Christmas Quiz'. Meeting commences at 19.00. Donation of £2 requested. Contact the Secretary, Ron Dawes on 020 8660 3532 for further details.

9th December 2010
Bath Railway Society
Bath Green Park Station Meeting Room, Bath. 'Pre 1968 Railways Around the UK' by Mike Dodd. Starts 19.30. Contact Kevin Plummer (evening) on 01225 312564 for details.

Continental Railway Circle
St Paul's Church Centre, Rossmore Road, Marylebone, London NW1 6NJ. 'Colorado Rails 1989' by Bob Stonehouse. Starts 19.15. Admission £2. Contact Adrian Palmer on 01932 850624 or at akpalmer@talktalk.net for further details.

Friends of the West Highland Lines
Partick United Free Church Hall, Thornwood Terrace, Thornwood, Glasgow. 'Tribute Night to the Late David Morrison' by Stuart Cameron. Starts 19.30. £1 donation.

Irish Railway Record Society
The Exmouth Arms, 1 Starcross Street, London NW1 2HR. 'Government Intervention: Gauge and Achill' by Tom Ferris. Starts 19.00.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (St Albans)
United Reform Church, Watford Road, Chiswell Green, Nr St Albans. 'Forging a Railway: Archaeologists Investigate Stations & Railway Works' by Andrew Westman. Starts 19.30. Donation of £2 required.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
United Reform Church Hall, Mowbray Road, New Barnet. 'Bowling round with Bernie' by Bernie Holland. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 0208 368 6200 for further details.

Stevenage Locomotive Society
The Community Arts Centre, Roaring Meg Retail Park, London Road, Stevenage SG1 1XN 'Members' Photographic Competition 2010'. Starts 19.45. Admission £2. Contact the Treasurer on 07803 046076 or at alan.pitt@lineone.net for details.

10th December 2010
Altrincham Electric Railway Preservation Society
Altrincham Methodist Church Hall, Barington Road, Altrincham, Cheshire WA1 1HF. 'Steam Across the Rockies' by Tony Harrison. Starts 19.30. Admission £3, Members Free. Contact the Secretary, Andrew Macfarlane on 0161 928 9394 for further details.

Great Western Society (Swindon)
Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, off Windsor Road, Lawn. 'Christmas Meeting including Members' Slides'. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01793 495976 for further details.

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
The daily working from Robeston to Westerleigh has seen varied haulage during recent months. On 10th November, Class 60 No. 60063 was in charge of the train, near Miskin, a few miles west of Cardiff. Stuart Warr

Magazine Information

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Telephone: 01904 500175

Railway Herald is produced by Railway Herald Ltd (Registered as company number 05837609 in England).
VAT Registration: 942 6509 14
Registered office: Hobarn House, 12 Brompton Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 1DY

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