Railway Herald

Issue 253 - 24th January 2011

The electronic journal for the railway enthusiast

Railway Herald

Issue 253
24th January 2011

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Through The Camera Lens

An occasional new series looking at the favourite photographs from across the years of a specific photographer. In this first of a two-part instalment, John Whitehouse introduces us to the work of Wolverhampton photographer Brian Robbins

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Light Rail & Metro News
Major work ahead for London Overground, and Nexus announces it is to spend a further £22 million on upgrading the Tyne & Wear Metro.
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Investment in Class 60s
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Essentials

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Including comprehensive listings.

Front Cover Caption:

EMT Class 153 No. 153381 approaches Knabbs Bridge, Melton Ross, on 20th January, with the 11.28 Grimsby Town to Newark Northgate service, passing Class 66/0 No. 66122 working the 11.33 Humber Oil Refinery to Kingsbury loaded petroleum tanks. Richard Tuplin

▲ The first three-car Class 172/3 DMU for London Midland, and the first Turbostar unit to run on the National Network with an end-corridor connection, approaches Melton Mowbray on 6th January, being transferred from Derby Litchurch Lane Works to Old Dalby for testing. **Iain Wright**

First Class 172/3 completes trials at Old Dalby

The first Class 172 three-car Turbostar for London Midland has visited Old Dalby for testing.

The set, No. 172331, moved under its own power on 6th January to Old Dalby, returning to Derby 12 days later. The unit is the first of the 27-strong fleet being constructed for London Midland (LM) that will be used around Birmingham Snow Hill, replacing the Class 150 DMUs.

A total of 12 units will be two-car units, designated Class 172/2s and numbered 172211 to 172222, while a further 15 will be three-car Class 172/3s Nos. 172331 to 172345.

With the testing of the first two London Midland Turbostars underway, Bombardier has commenced work on the four two-car Class 172/1s for Chiltern Railways. The first set, No. 172101 is currently on test at Derby, with the next two sets, Nos. 172102 and 172103 undergoing single car testing, while the final set remains on the production line being completed. Work continues on the London Midland sets.

Thieves steal over 1km of railway track

A total of 70 tonnes of railway track is reported to have been stolen from a valley at Tickhill, near Doncaster.

This amounts to 0.79 route miles (1.28km). It is believed that the disused track was taken over several nights before Christmas to be sold as scrap metal.

British Transport Police said the financial implications were vast for Network Rail, which had been looking at making the line operational. Police are appealing for information.

Competition for WCML and Greater Anglia franchises underway with longer franchise lengths

In a major shake-up of the rail franchising system, the Government proposes that train operators should be more responsive to passenger needs while providing better value for money.

Franchises are to be individually tailored to fit the diversity of different parts of the rail network, but binding obligations on service quality and tackling overcrowding are likely to form part of the new approach on commuter franchises, which will also be longer – normally for around 15 years - to give bidders incentive to invest in the railways. It is planned to set tough outcomes for train operators to achieve, but in return, TOCs will gain more flexibility on how best to deliver improvements and the service.

The Minister of State for Transport, the Rt. Hon Theresa Villiers said: "Recent years have seen too much emphasis on Whitehall trying to micromanage the detail of the way train services are run. We don't believe that is the best way to improve services for passengers. We will protect the passenger by setting demanding outcomes for operators to achieve, but we will give more space to the professionals who run our railways to innovate and decide on the best way to achieve those outcomes. We believe that will ensure the rail industry is able to respond more quickly and flexibly to changing passenger concerns."

The reform will also replace the controversial 'cap and collar' system with an alternative mechanism that will provide better incentives for operators to invest in service improvements. Operators will get more flexibility over the services they run, but the Government will continue to mandate the provision of core levels of service. The Department for Transport (DfT) is also exploring options for measuring operators' performance against 'service quality' standards, based on passenger satisfaction data and 'mystery shopper' visits.

More stations will be passed from Network Rail control to train operators as the customer-facing part of the rail industry with the strongest incentive to respond to passenger concerns.

Theresa Villiers announced on 19th January, that the competition to find a new operator for the InterCity franchise on the West Coast Main Line, which expires in March 2012, had commenced. A public consultation has been started on the shape of the replacement franchise, drawing on the new policy, but adapting it to match the specific characteristics of the West Coast operation. The franchise is proposed to last for at least 14 years, with the end date intended to align with the opening of the Government's proposed new high-speed line, althought there will be the option to extend by up to a year. Expressions of interest are now being sought, and the DfT plans to issue an invitation to tender to shortlisted applicants by this summer. The winning bid will be announced late this year.

The new operator will be expected to put forward proposals for use of new 11-coach Class 390 'Pendolino' sets and will need to build on the successful programme of new services on the line, improving them further while delivering good value for money for passengers and taxpayers. The new operator will also be expected to put forward ideas for improving the passenger experience on board trains, providing better service information for passengers and investing in station facilities.

A notice was placed in the Official Journal of the European Union last week in relation to the Greater Anglia franchise, and a formal accreditation process for bidders has begun. This will be a short-term contract lasting from February 2012 to at least the summer of 2013. A public consultation on this contract will not be undertaken however, as the services that are being offered will be largely the same as those in operation today. There is to be a full public consultation on the long-term franchise before it is let.

New community rail line gives local people more say in rail operations

Passengers on the 'Bishop Line' between Darlington and Bishop Auckland will have more of a say on how local services are run as the line has been designated as a community rail line, enabling train operators to work more closely with community rail partnerships to better design services to meet local needs.

Ian Bevan, Managing Director of Northern Rail, said: "The community rail partnership for the Bishop Line is already doing a great job, and designation will enable it to go from strength to strength. It will also assist in identifying innovative ways of developing the line to the benefit of local people and visitors to the area".

The Community Rail Development Strategy looks at innovative ways of operating local branch lines, through a programme of cost management, a drive to increase passenger numbers and direct community involvement via local authorities, community rail partnerships, and other stakeholder groups. To date, 17 lines with their services have been designated as Community Rail lines, these being the Abbey Line (St Albans Abbey to Watford Junction), Barton Line (Barton-on-Humber to Ulceby), Bittern Line (Norwich to Sheringham), Derwent Valley (Derby to Matlock), East Lancashire Line (Colne to Burnley), Gainsborough Line (Marks Tey to Sudbury), Esk Valley Line (Middlesbrough to Whitby), Island Line (Ryde to Shanklin), Lakes Line (Oxenholme to Windermere), Looe Valley Line (Liskeard to Looe), Lymington Line (Brockenhurst to Lymington), Maritime Line (Falmouth to Truro), Penistone Line (Barnsley to Huddersfield), South Fylde Line (Blackpool South to Preston), St Ives Bay Line (St Erth to St Ives), Tamar Valley Line (Plymouth to Gunnislake) and the Tarka Line (Barnstaple to Exeter).

In addition, 10 services have been designated as community rail services, while not designating the lines on which they run. These are designated when there are reasons why the infrastructure cannot be included in the designation – because it carries non-local traffic or heavy freight, or has previously been designated as part of the Trans European Network. To date the following services have been so designated; the Atlantic Coast Line (Newquay to Par), Clitheroe Line (Manchester to Clitheroe), Cumbrian Coast Line (Carlisle to Barrow-in-Furness), Marston Vale Line (Bletchley to Bedford), Medway Valley Line (Paddock Wood to Strood), North Staffordshire Line (Crewe to Derby, via Stoke–on-Trent), Poacher Line (Grantham to Skegness), Severn Beach Line (Bristol Temple Meads - Severn Beach), and Wherry Lines (Norwich to Yarmouth & Lowestoft, via Berney Arms & Acle (two services)).

Class 379s start testing

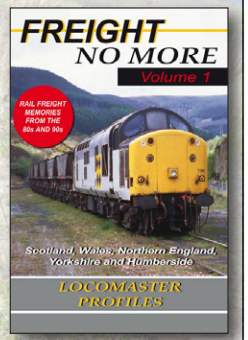
◀ As previously reported the first two Bombardier-built Class 379 EMUs have been delivered to Ilford, with testing to King's Lynn having commenced. Here, No. 379001 stands at Ely prior to departing north on test on 15th January.

Andrew Moore

Rail freight nostalgia from the 1980s and 1990s

FREIGHT NO MORE

Today's rail freight scene is very different from that of 25 years ago. Block trains are the mainstay of the current scene - a far cry from the vast amount of wagonload traffic carried by Speedlink and, more recently, EWS Enterprise services. But it's not only the traffic that has changed - so has the traction. This - the first of two DVDs - looks back at freight trains that no longer run, as well as branch lines and terminals that no longer exist. The first volume covers Scotland, Wales, Northern England, Yorkshire and Humberside. Among the many nostalgic items featured in this 100-minute DVD are.....



Hunterston-Ravenscraig iron ore; Chivas Regal whisky; Larbert-Oakleigh ICI tanks; Clitheroe-Gunnie cement; Scottish coal from Knockshinnoch and Westfield; Dundee and Inverness Speedlink's; grain to Roseisle; coal to Georgemas Junction; Oban fuel tanks; coal from Marine, Pontycymer and Point of Ayr; Trawsfynydd flasks; Maentwrog Road explosives; Holyhead Freightliners; Ellesmere Port-Amlwch chemicals; Burry Port-Coedbach coal; Stanlow-Aberystwyth fuel tanks; domestic coal to Preston Deepdale and Llandudno Junction; Kilnhurst tanks; Eastgate cement; Redmire limestone; salt from Middlewich; coal trains at Westoe, Wearmouth and Easington collieries; Corkickle ICI chemical tanks; coal trains arriving at Blyth and Bates staithes; coal from Bickershaw and Selby Drift Mine; Ebbw Vale steel; Middlewich salt; Broughton Moor MoD....and many, many more!

This nostalgia-packed DVD is available now priced at £19.95 and is available (post free) by calling our Credit Card Hotline 01753 545888 or by sending a cheque or postal order to:

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Metro and Light Rail News

Transport for London holds information sessions to assist with forthcoming week-long closures for signalling works

Transport for London (TfL) has announced that it is to hold 106 in-station information sessions on the London Overground network as it works to help minimise inconvenience to passengers during a week of closures for upgrade work on the Richmond-Stratford line from Saturday 19th February to Saturday 26th February.

The work is part of the multi-million pound project between TfL, Network Rail, the Department for Transport and the Olympic Delivery Authority to increase the capacity and frequency of London Overground services later this year. In addition to the sessions, which will run from 24th January until 15th February, TfL will also operate alternative bus and train services to help passengers avoid disruption to their journeys. The closure will be carried out from 19th to 26th February inclusive, and services suspended will be between Richmond and Camden Road, Euston and South Hampstead, Gospel Oak and Upper Holloway, and between Shepherd's Bush and Willesden Junction. On Sundays 20th and 27th February, trains will run to Euston. However, there will be no service between Richmond-Stratford, Gospel Oak-Upper Holloway and Shepherd's Bush-Willesden Junction.

The upgrade work involves the final commissioning of the signalling equipment that was installed throughout 2010, the installation of further signalling equipment and completing the refurbishment of several stations. Weekend closures on the network will conclude in about five months time, and once the upgrade is finished London Overground services from Richmond and Clapham Junction to Stratford will run four times per hour all day, with at least six trains per hour all day between Willesden Junction and Stratford.

To minimise inconvenience during these weekend closures, passengers will also be able to travel at no extra cost by Tube or national rail services through Zone 1, providing they travel from a Tube or national rail station near their usual London Overground station.

Nexus to spend £22 million on further T&W Metro work

Nexus, which owns and manages the Tyne and Wear Metro, is to spend over £22 million to modernise the route between Byker and Tynemouth.

More than 14,000 passengers a day use the line, most of which was first used as a railway in 1838, making it one of the oldest dedicated commuter railway lines in the world. The upgrading will mean a major line closure of 23 days from 12th March to 3rd April, plus a series of weekend line closures for major building works at other stations such as Meadow Well, Howdon and Chillingham Road. A frequent replacement bus service will operate during the shut down and there will be an information campaign to ensure that passengers have the right travel information.

The project is the biggest on a Metro line since the system opened in 1980, and will take the amount Nexus has invested in modernising Metro in the last year alone to around £40 million, which forms part of the £385 million 'Metro all change' modernisation programme.

North Shields station building is to be demolished and rebuilt, and there will be temporary entrances to platforms created during the building work. The work at North Shields, used by two million passengers a year, is a project costing £3 million alone. The new station will have a bigger and better concourse building, lifts to platforms for the first time, and an eye-catching new look with 'floating wave' canopies above the platforms.

Other stations on the route will be refurbished in stages over the next two years, improving lighting, waiting areas and passenger information. Most of the work during the line closures involves the replacement of tracks, overhead power lines and signal systems, plus the strengthening of bridges and embankments, some more than 160 years old.

LUL 'A' stock moved for scrapping

◀ **The second 'A' Stock train to be scrapped as a consequence of the new 'S' Stock delivery was moved to Northwood siding on 20th January. Units Nos. 5006 & 5178 are pictured on the unelectrified siding where they will be split, prior to being removed by road. The 'A' stock is currently the oldest rolling stock operating on the London Underground and was built in two batches (A60 and A62) by Cravens of Sheffield in the early 1960s. Another pair of 'A' stock units, still in traffic, passes bound for Baker Street. Mark Armstrong**

Station Improvements
Round-Up

Plans to improve Llandudno station have gone on display.

It is proposed to provide a refurbished concourse and waiting area, better wheelchair access and energy efficient technology such as a rainwater harvesting system, ground source heat pumps and solar panels. At the same time, the original Victorian structures of the station would be restored and reused.

West Yorkshire Metro and Wakefield Council have submitted a £14.3 million bid to the Government's Regional Growth fund, which if successful, will allow work on a new Transport Interchange at Castleford to go ahead. The plan is to replace the rail and bus stations with a modern, combined gateway to the town.

East Coast is to add £875,000 to Network Rail's £1.7 million investment to create a new frontage and brighter concourse at Peterborough. The work will increase the seating in an enlarged concourse, provide a new waiting room and toilets and also allow automatic barriers to be introduced. Almost five million people pass through the station every year.

Network Rail and the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation have delivered plans for a new Northampton station building, with a multi-storey car park, new footbridge and platform canopies. Later phases of the scheme, which will be subject to a separate planning application, include a 20,000sq metre commercial development on land surrounding the station

Crossrail is inviting bids for the construction of £950 million worth of stations. The contracts are for the main works at Bond Street, Tottenham Court Road, Liverpool Street and Whitechapel stations. Each one includes building work for ticket halls, architectural fitting-out and the development of lifts and escalators

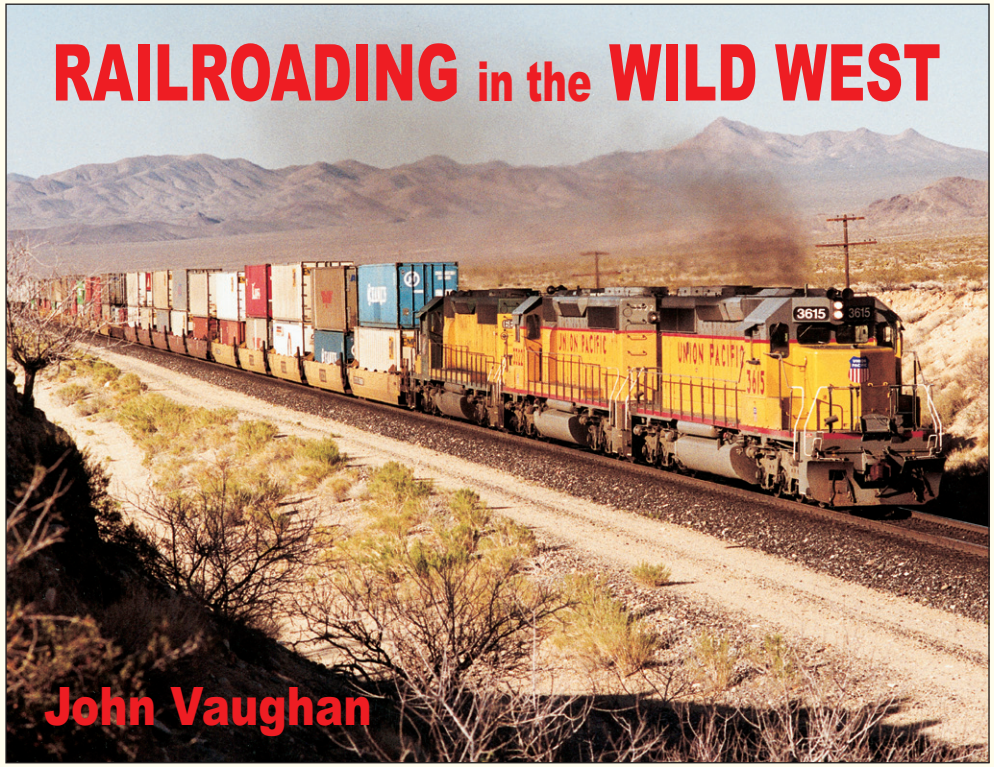
Network Rail has cleared the final planning hurdle, and work has now started, to build a new entrance building for Wandsworth Town station. The single-story, glass fronted building will provide the station with a new ticket office, better security and improved automatic ticket barriers.

Blackfriars station reopened to passengers on 17th January, with services using the Eastern side of the station for the first time in several months. Work is now underway on the western side to allow the station, and two new bay platforms, to accommodate 12-coach trains.

▲ Class 319/4 No. 319457 awaits departure from Blackfriars station on the day it reopened to the public, 17th January, with the 14.07 Thameslink service from Sutton to Luton. **Bill Turvill**

▲ First Great Western has named one of its HST powercars after recently retired Chief Executive Sir Moir Lockhead OBE. The Group Engineering Director, Clive Burrows, honoured Sir Moir Lockhead's retirement by asking the man himself to unveil the nameplate on Class 43 No. 43160 in a surprise ceremony at Paddington station on 19th January. Pictured at the ceremony are (from left to right) Mark Hopwood, FGW Managing Director, Clive Burrows, Sir Moir Lockhead OBE, retiring First Group Chief Executive, and Tim O'Toole, new First Group CEO, with the presentation plate. **Brian Morrison**

▼ Work continues on upgrading the Chiltern route to a 100mph line speed. One of the improvements has been the reinstatment of the through line at Princes Risborough, which will allow non-stop services to pass through the station at speed. Class 121 No. 121020 awaits departure with the 13.15 to Aylesbury, while Class 165 No. 165015 calls with a Birmingham Snow Hill service. The centre road has been reinstated from the London end and awaits the removal of a signal before it can be extended north and connected to the running line. **Ken Brunt**



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DB Schenker confirms investment in Class 60s

DB Schenker Rail (UK) Ltd is to invest £3 million to upgrade seven Class 60 locomotives, creating a new fleet of 'Super 60s'.

During the first half of this year, seven of the locomotives will be overhauled in a programme to improve their reliability and to extend the life of each one by 15 years. A further 14 of the class are also planned to be refurbished, creating a fleet of over 20 'Super 60s'. The work involved in the programme will see power units overhauled and other components improved to enhance reliability, all of which will be undertaken at Toton TMD. The exact locomotives involved in the scheme are still to be decided.

▶ **The weak January sun illuminates Class 60 No. 60011 to good effect as it passes Severn Tunnel Junction on 19th January, with the 05.05 Robeston-Westerleigh tanks. Edward Gleed**

▼ **Class 60 No. 60099 is seen at Liverpool Bulk Terminal on 18th January, drawing HTAs through the loading bunker. Fred Kerr**

The News In Pictures

◀ **The unique DB Schenker-liveried Class 67 No. 67018 *Keith Heller* made what is believed to be, its first appearance on the Aberdeen sleeper service on 20th January, working the northbound train from Edinburgh to Aberdeen. The locomotive, is photographed working back south on the evening of the 21st. Far from being a 'one-off' event, the locomotive was still on the Aberdeen diagram on 22nd January! Jim Ramsey**

◀▼ **Southern Class 377/1 EMU No. 377127 makes a rare sight as it approaches Wandsworth Road station forming the 09.41 London Victoria to London Bridge service on 20th January. These trains are normally a pure Class 456 diagram. Brian Creasey**

▼ **A rare occurrence, but one which is likely to become more frequent with the recent influx of Class 70s. Consecutively numbered examples, No. 70007 is pictured in the stabling sidings at Ipswich on 15th January, while classmate No. 70008 undergoes an 'A' exam. No. 70007 subsequently worked to Crewe Basford Hall that afternoon, while No. 70008 Birmingham Lawley Street two days later. David Richardson**

UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

29th January 2011

Pathfinder Tours	DBS 66 & 2xHanson 31 & DBS 60	Bristol Temple Meads-Cheltenham-Birmingham Intl.-Bescot-Crewe Independent Lines-Sandbach-Altrincham-Chinley-Hope Valley-Sheffield-Westthorpe RR Loop-Deepcar-Tinsley Yard-Chesterfield-Erewash Valley-Derby Chaddesden Sidings-Washwood Heath Through Siding-Birmingham NS-Barnt Green & rtn	

11th February 2011

Pathfinder Tours	tbc	Swansea-Cardiff-Abergavenney-Wrexham General-Chester-Edinburgh Waverley	
Spitfire Railtours	2xDRS 37	Carmarthen-Cardiff-Edinburgh Waverley	**Cancelled**

12th February 2011

Pathfinder Tours	2xDRS 37	Glasgow Central-Kilmarnock-Riccarton-Kilmarnock-Barrassie-Ayr Falkland Yard-Killoch-Falkland DGL-Ayr-Waterside-Ayr-Girvan-Barrhill-Stranraer Harbour-Barrhill-Girvan-Ayr-Barassie-Kilwinning-Johnstone-Paisley Gilmour St-Shields-Terminus Jct-Muirhouse Central Jct-Maxwell Park-Kings Park-Newton-Hamilton Central-Larkhill-Hamilton Central-Newton West Jct-Rutherglen East Jct-Larkfield Jct-Glasgow Central	
Railtourer	2xWCRC 47	Bedford-Market Harborough-Leicester-Derby-Hellifield-S&C-Carlisle-Hexham-Durham-York-Chesterfield & return (in conjunction with WCRC)	
Railway Touring Co.	34067	London Victoria-Bromley South-Swanley-Maidstone East-Appledore-Rye-Hastings-Crowhurst-Battle-Tunbridge Wells-Bat & Ball-Swanley-London Victoria	
Spitfire Railtours	2xDRS 37	Glasgow Central - Inverness	**Cancelled**
Vintage Trains	4965	Tyseley Warwick Road-Sheffield-Tyseley Warwick Road	**Cancelled**
Vintage Trains	4965	Tyseley Warwick Road-Coleshill Parkway-Nuneaton-Leicester-Castle Donnington-Burton Upon Trent-Tamworth-Coleshill Parkway-Tyseley Warwick Road	

13th February 2011

Spitfire Railtours	2xDRS 37	Glasgow Central-Fort William-Oban and return	**Cancelled**

14th February 2011

Steam Dreams	70013	London Victoria-Maidstone-Ashford-Dover-Folkestone-Ashford & return	
Steam Dreams	34067	London Victoria-Brighton & return	
Pathfinder Tours	tbc	Edinburgh Waverley-Chester-Wrexham General-Shrewsbury-Abergavenny-Pontypool & New Inn-Newport-Cardiff-Bridgend-Port Talbot Parkway-Swansea	
Spitfire Railtours	2xDRS 37	Edinburgh Waverley-Carmarthen	**Cancelled**
VSOE	35028	London Victoria-Staines-Woking-Guildford-Redhill-East Croydon-London Victoria	

18th February 2011

VSOE	35028	London Victoria-Staines-Woking-Guildford-Redhill-East Croydon-London Victoria	

19th February 2011

Hastings Diesels Ltd	Hastings 1001	Hastings-Tonbridge-Clapham Jct-St.Albans-Bedford-Bletchley and return	
Spitfire Railtours	DRS Various	Birmingham International-Birmingham New St-Tamworth-Burton upon Trent-Derby-Chesterfield-Sheffield-Shipley-Skipton-Hellifield-S&C-Carlisle-Hexham-Durham-York-Sheffield-Dronfield-Chesterfield & return as outwards	
Statesman Rail	tbc	Derby-Belper(pu)-Chesterfield-Sheffield-Swinton-Shipley-Keighley-Skipton-Settle-S&C-Carlisle-Beattock-Crianlarich-Rannock-Fort William	
UK Railtours	60019	London King's Cross-Spalding-Lincoln-Peterborough & return	**Cancelled**

20th February 2011

Statesman Rail	tbc	Fort William-Rannock-Crianlarich-Beattock-Carlisle-S&C-Settle & 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.

The Week Ahead

by John Whitehouse

The lack of railtours during January continues into February, as between now and 11th February there is just one tour booked to run.

That is Pathfinder's 'Rother-Don Rambler' on 29th January, which picks up from Bristol Temple Meads and stations via Cheltenham Spa to Birmingham International, with a DBS Class 66. The fun starts at Birmingham International when a pair of British-American Rail Services/Hanson Class 31s are due to be attached for the tour around Cheshire and West Yorkshire.

The route north is by way of Bescot, Stafford and the Crewe Down Independent Line to Sandbach and Middlewich, continuing via Altrincham, along the Hope Valley Line to Sheffield and onwards through Woodthorpe Junction to reach Westthorpe run-round loop, where a DBS Class 60 will be attached to the rear. The train then heads via Beighton and Woodburn Junctions onto the old Great Central route to Deepcar, returning after a reversal to Tinsley Yard. The tour then continues south via Chesterfield and the Erewash Valley line to Derby to visit Chaddesden Sidings, where the Class 60 will be detached. The pair of Class 31s will then continue as far as Washwood Heath through sidings (reached by way of Castle Bromwich Down Goods) where a DBS Class 66 will take over for the return to Bristol.

▲ **With main line steam activity being somewhat sparse throughout January and early February, Ian Riley's LMS 'Black 5' No. 44871 has found employment at its home base of the East Lancashire Railway. Here, it prepares to depart from Bury Bolton Street with the 12.15 service to Heywood on 15th January. Frank Lees**

Pathfinder head to the seaside - Portsmouth with a 'West Country' and Cleethorpes with a Class 60

Pathfinder has announced six further tours for the second quarter of the year, which contain a significant steam content.

However, not to be outshone by the steam traction, the company is also visiting some unusual and rare locations, like the Deepcar, Par Harbour and Hindlow branches, as well as Carne Point, Goonbarrow, Plymouth Friary, March Barton and Immingham Docks Tramway. Plus an add-on trip to internal railway within the Tata works at Scunthorpe.

West Country Pacific No. 34046 *Braunton* is lined up for a day out on Monday 30th May, when it is booked for 'The Pompey Pacific' throughout from Bishops Lydeard to Portsmouth Harbour, running via Bristol Temple Meads, Bath, Westbury, Salisbury and Eastleigh. The train picks up at Taunton, Bridgwater, Highbridge and Burnham, Weston-super-Mare, Yatton, Nailsea and Backwell, as well as Temple Meads. Earlier on 1st May, No. 6024 *King Edward I* has charge of the 'Pembroke Coast Express' from Margam Yard through to Carmarthen outwards, via Cockett Bank and Llanelli. The train is diesel-hauled from Bristol Temple Meads. The return, which will use the Carmarthen avoiding line and the Swansea District Line, is booked for No. 6024 throughout to Temple Meads. Sandwiched between these two operations is 'The Lothian Tornado', on Tuesday 17th May, which is booked for 'A1' Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* from York to Edinburgh Waverley and return, which sets out diesel-hauled from Sheffield, also picking up at Doncaster.

Cleethorpes is the destination on 4th April, but the 'Humber Explorer' also offers the major attraction (as an add-on) of a private visit to the internal railways of the massive Tata Steelworks at Scunthorpe, travelling on the Appleby Frodingham Railway Preservation Society's converted DMU vehicles. The charter sets out from Bristol Temple Meads, DBS 66-hauled, and picks up via Birmingham New Street to Burton-upon-Trent then on to Toton Centre, where a DBS Class 60 takes over the train and continues by way of Nottingham and Lincoln. The return working takes in the Immingham Dock Tramway, back to Sheffield, the Doncaster avoiding line and Rotherham Central en route. At Sheffield, a DBS Class 66 will replace the Class 60 for the return south, which Pathfinder says 'takes an unusual route avoiding the platforms at Derby'.

The 'Curnow Irrupter' on 28th May has the attraction of DRS Class 37 haulage throughout from Tame Bridge Parkway to Carne Point and Goonbarrow, plus a short diversion to Marsh Barton in the Exeter City Basin for good measure outwards, and to Plymouth Friary on the return. A DBS Class 66 will be attached at Exeter Riverside on the outward leg to deal with the reversals on route, and will stay with the train until Plymouth Friary on the return. Pick up points are Birmingham New Street, Barnt Green, Cheltenham Spa, Bristol Parkway, Bristol Temple Meads, Taunton and Exeter St Davids. And maybe the best bit has been left until last, as on the way back from Goonbarrow the train will divert through St. Blazey Depot yard for a very rare opportunity to travel along the Par Harbour branch.

Finally on 4th June, Buxton is the destination from Salisbury, Warminster, Westbury, Trowbridge, Chippenham, Swindon, Oxford, Banbury and Leamington Spa. The route north is via Stoke-on-Trent and Macclesfield. Reaching Buxton along the Chapel-en- le-Frith route. The return will be through Peak Forest, the Hope Valley, Chesterfield and Derby, and there is an add-on option for a trip along the freight-only branch to Hindlow.

▼ **Merchant Navy Pacific No. 35028** *Clan Line* **climbs through Abinger Hammer, during the late afternoon of 8th January, while working a VSOE British Pullman circular luncheon train from London Victoria, via Woking, Guildford, Shalford and Redhill. Ken Brunt**

PMR Tours reveal 2011 programme

The absence of No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland* **from the main line due to overhaul has not deterred PMR Tours from operating main line charters, with four tours announced featuring classic LMS traction in the shape of No. 6201** *Princess Elizabeth* **and No. 46115** *Scots Guardsman***.**

The tours are split between late spring and early autumn, commencing on 21st May with No. 6201 working from Derby to York and Scarborough on 'The Yorkshire Coronation', which picks up diesel-hauled from Sheffield, via Chesterfield, Alfreton and Derby, together with Belper on the steam-hauled section.

A week later, and No. 46115 has charge of 'The Citadel Express' from Preston to Carlisle, via Shap, and then back to Preston by way of the S&C. This train originates at Nottingham and is diesel-hauled to Preston, picking up at Uttoxeter, Stoke-on-Trent, Crewe and Wigan North Western.

Looking ahead to the autumn, on 24th September there is 'The Cumbrian Coast Express to Ravenglass' featuring *Scots Guardsman* from Preston, via Ulverston, to Ravenglass and back to Preston, which sets out from Leicester diesel-hauled, picking up at Loughborough, East Midlands Parkway, Uttoxeter, Stoke-on-Trent, Crewe and Preston - and finally, on 15th October, there is the classic PMR schedule of a Stanier Pacific over Shap both ways from Crewe; this time it will be No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* at the sharp end. This tour is WCML all the way, originating at Milton Keynes Central and picking up at Northampton, Rugby, Nuneaton, Lichfield Trent Valley and Crewe.

Proceeds from all the tours will go towards meeting the cost of overhaul for No. 6233.

SRPS head for the Highlands in 2011

A 'Deltic' to the Far North is the feature of the recently announced programme by SRPS for the first half of this year.

The train sets out from Linlithgow during the evening of 17th June with Deltic No. 55022 *Royal Scots Grey* at the helm, bound for Perth, via Edinburgh, ahead of an overnight run to Inverness. It then continues north on 18th June, initially to Wick, before engaging in a return working to Thurso. The train returns south from Wick, running back to Inverness and then continuing via Aviemore to Perth and Edinburgh.

Steam is again featured on the ever-popular 'Fife and Clackmannan Circle' workings with 'A4' Pacific No. 60007 *Sir Nigel Gresley* booked to head the customary two trains on Sunday 28th April. The route is outwards from Linlithgow (morning) or Dalmeny (afternoon), across the Forth Bridge to the Fife Coast, via Kirkcaldy, before returning south at Thornton Junction to head for Stirling by way of Cowdenbeath, Dunfermline, Kincardine and Alloa.

SRPS has two trains planned for May, to Fort William and Mallaig on 7th May from Glenrothes with Thornton, which operates around the Fife Coast, Croy and Westerton, followed by an outing to Kyle of Lochalsh on 28th May from North Berwick, running via the Forth Bridge and the Highland main line. Leeds, Keighley and Skipton are the destinations on 11th June, with the bonus of a trip over the S&C and Beattock on the return. This train originates at Glenrothes with Thornton, and works south via the Forth Bridge and Edinburgh Waverley and the ECML.

▲ **The only steam locomotive with booked work on the main line in January! 'Merchant Navy' Pacific No. 35028** *Clan Line* **climbs away from Chertsey on 21st January with a VSOE circular luncheon charter from London Victoria. Ken Brunt**

Vintage Trains aim to conquer Copy Pit with a 'Castle'

In addition to the newly announced working from Birmingham New Street with 'Castle' class 4-6-0 No. 5043 *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe* **and the two tours with 'Princess Royal' Pacific No. 6201** *Princess Elizabeth* **mentioned in Issue 252, Vintage Trains has a full programme of tours scheduled through to August.**

These begin on 2nd April with Nos. 4965 *Rood Ashton Hall* and 5043 *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe* double-heading on the 'Coronation Express' from Tyseley Warwick Road to Swindon and Didcot, by way of Sapperton.

It must be said that Tyseley does not baulk at providing *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe* with some challenging itineraries, and in fact the suspicion is that Bob Meanley's bedtime reading is his gradient profile manual! Having already flattened Shap, Ais Gill, Sapperton and the South Devon banks to mention but a few, the company head north on 16th April to allow No. 5043 to conquer Copy Pit - always a challenge for a single engine northbound.

'The Red Rose' is quite a day out, involving the 'Castle' working from Tyseley, picking up at Walsall, Wolverhampton, Stafford and Crewe, before heading for Stalybridge for the climb over Standedge to Huddersfield. The train then swings round to head west along the Calder Valley ahead of the assault on Copy Pit, which will be followed by a break at Blackburn and a return south by way of Farington Junction and the WCML.

In a busy programme, Vintage Trains also heads for Scarborough on 4th June, with again No. 5043 throughout, as well as two trips to North Wales, the first being to the Llandudno Victorian Extravaganza on 30th April with Nos. 4965 and 5043 double-heading, and later to Llandudno Junction with No. 5043 alone on 20th August. Note also, that 'The Collett Double', scheduled for 12th March will now run on 18th June with *Rood Ashton Hall*, replacing the previously advertised No. 5029 *Nunney Castle*, and double-heading, again with No. 5043, to Bath and Bristol, via the Berks and Hants route.

Railtour Golden Oldies

Following on from this feature last issue, when a photograph of Class 43 powercars Nos. 43187 and 43022 at Brentwood on 15th June 1996 heading the 06.56 Hertfordshire Railtours charter from Plymouth to Norwich was included, reader Paul Davies has written to say that an HST set was also used on the Great Eastern on Hertfordshire's 'Great Eastern Limited 125 Special' charter of 10th February 1990, which started from Liverpool Street and visited Norwich, Lowestoft, Cromer, Ely & King's Lynn. It is believed there may also have been one further trip made over the route by an HST set - can any reader fill in the blanks?

Second major embankment collapse rocks Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway

The Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway has been rocked by a further major embankment collapse.

This time, the collapse is at 'Chicken Curve' on the Toddington side of Winchcombe station, near to where the railway crosses the Winchcombe to Broadway road. It comes after the railway sustained a £1 million embankment failure at Gotherington last year, the repair of which is progressing well. Malcolm Temple, Chairman of the volunteer-run Gloucestershire Warwickshire, said: "Last year was the worst in the railway's 29-years of preservation history. Not only did we suffer the Gotherington collapse, which is subject to a £1 million emergency appeal, but several days of our busy 'Santa Specials' were also lost because of heavy snow and freezing conditions, costing us between £50,000 and £60,000 in lost revenue. Just when we thought we were putting a terrible year behind us, this happens. Engineers are assessing the extent of the damage but it is thought that repairs will cost up to a further £500,000 and will take several months to complete."

A problem was identified early in January and trains were stopped from passing over the embankment as a precaution. Remedial work was carried out but the embankment failed completely. It is believed that a combination of water accumulating under the embankment and the recent freezing conditions led to fractures deep within the embankment.

The railway's insurers, who are paying for part of the Gotherington collapse are not prepared to meet the cost of this latest disaster. The financial reserves of the operating company have been wiped out by both the Gotherington embankment failure and by loss of the 'Santa Special' income.

Mr Temple continued: "Our initial thought is that for much of this year, we are likely to be running two railways – one between Cheltenham and Winchcombe (once the Gotherington repair is completed) and one between Toddington and Laverton, on a new extension that will open next year. We have had to deal with a lot of problems over recent months and this could hardly be a more awful outcome. But we are a resilient group and we will pull together and come up with an action plan." The appeal launched last year by Pete Waterman, has raised £200,000 and details of how to donate can be found at www.gwsr.com

'Chicken Curve' has historically caused problems for both the Great Western Railway, which built the line, and for British Railways. It was here that a freight train derailed, closing the route in 1976.

Two classic programmes on one DVD

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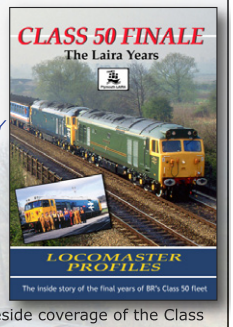

Produced with the co-operation of Laira depot, you can see every aspect of how the Class 50 fleet was maintained and managed - from A exams to overhauls. Covering the period from the summer of 1991 to the final railtours in March 1994, the programme features plenty of 'behind the scenes' footage at Laira as well as lineside coverage of the Class 50s at work on the main line on a variety of service trains, railtours and specials. Never before had the rundown of a BR loco class been filmed at such close quarters and Plymouth's former Area Fleet Manager, Geoff Hudson, tells the story of what is now a chapter in railway history. Among the featured items are....the Adventures of 'Valiant' and 'Thunderer', the final day of Waterloo-Exeter Class 50 haulage, the return of 'Sir Edward Elgar', the remarkable story of 'Glorious', the entire farewell railtour programme, loco examinations, how 50033 was restored for the NRM...and performances of the Laira concerto!

CLASS 50 FINALE - THE LAIRA YEARS is available now on DVD priced at £19.95 (post free) from the address below. Alternatively you can pay by credit or debit card by calling us on our CREDIT CARD HOTLINE on 01753 545888.

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▼ **Now in the final weeks of its visit to the Great Central Railway, LNER K4 2-6-0 No. 61994** *The Great Marquess* **waits with a short freight at Loughborough Central alongside the railway's Metro-Cammell Class 101 DMU during a night shoot on 12th January. Stuart Chapman**

'Duchess' boiler heads to Crewe

The latest news on LMS 'Duchess' Pacific No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland* **is that its boiler was due to be transferred to the LNWR boiler shop at Crewe last week.**

It had been lifted from the frames on 15th December, a few weeks later than planned due to the inconvenient matter of three-foot of snow falling on the Swanwick Junction site, which prevented the crane reaching the West Shed!

At the West Shed, the pony truck and front bogie have been removed and will be stripped down for axle-box and spring maintenance. The driving wheels have also been removed to allow work on the horns and axle-boxes to commence.

The Society's active locomotive, BR Standard 2-6-4T No. 80080 has now been painted and lined-out ahead of a boiler wash out on 4th January. The following day it was despatched to the Severn Valley Railway for some remedial boiler work, prior to commencing a 12-month loan to the East Lancashire Railway.

Class 31 to visit Llangollen Railway for 21 months

The Llangollen Diesel Group has announced that Class 31 No. 5580, owned by A1A Locomotives Limited, is to move to the Llangollen Railway for almost two years.

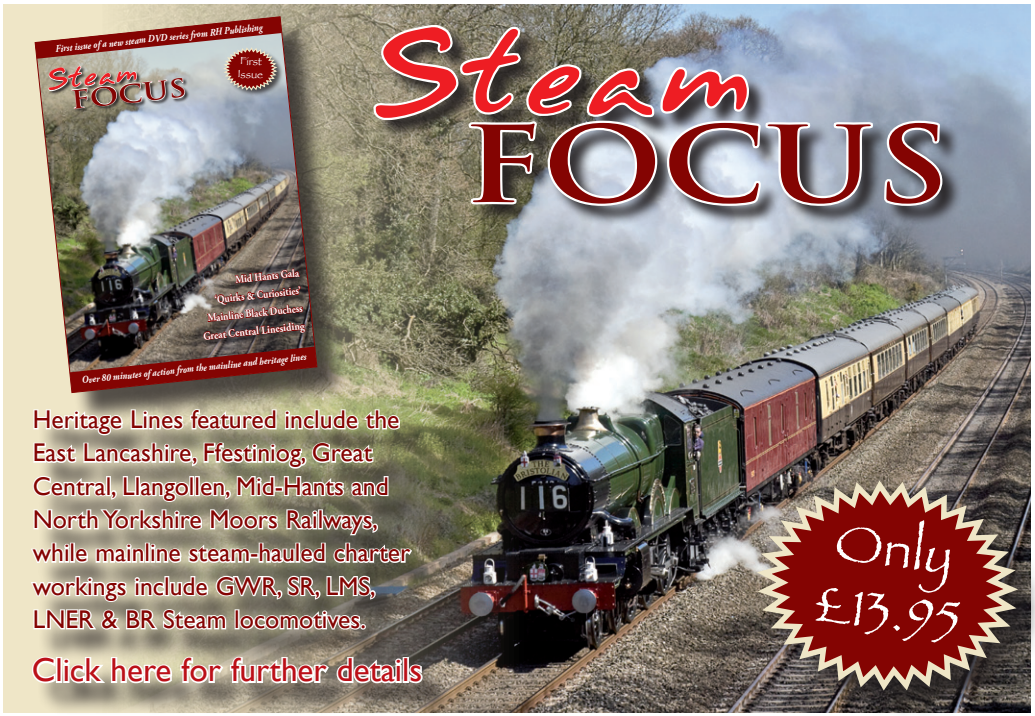
The locomotive has recently been based at the Elsecar Heritage Centre and will move to Llangollen within the next few weeks, prior to the first outing of its 21-month stay on 26th March, at the line's Spring Diesel Day, which will also see Class 26 No. D5310, Class 37 No. 6940 and a DMU set from the Llangollen Railcar Group in action.

Appearance at the Diesel Day is subject to the locomotive passing a 'B' Exam, which is due to take place over the weekend of 22nd-23rd January to check for any adverse effects from winter storage.

The visit will be the first visit of a Class 31 to the railway, although such movements do attract a significant movement cost. Llangollen Diesel Group spokesman Tez Pickthall said: "With transport costs being a major expenditure, we are indebted to the generosity of the guys at A1A, who have offered us 5580 for a lengthy stay so we can make sufficient use of the loco to cover the costs. A1A are also contributing financially to the transport, which has helped make the visit possible".

The '31' will also star at the Llangollen's 1960s weekend on 30th & 31st July, an event that should additionally see the return of Class 47 No. D1566 to traffic. Other appearances for the visitor should be a new Bus Rally event on 27th/28th August and the Autumn Diesel Day on 24th September. As well as being offered for driver experiences and photographic charters, it will also be used on one of the regular diesel mileage accumulation days in 2011 and 2012, which provide four round-trips.

◀ **The only preserved BR Class 307 vehicle, DTBS No. 75023 from set No. 307123, stands alongside Class 308 BDTC No. 75881 from unit No. 308136 at Walthamstowe Pump House on 23rd December. A further Class 307 vehicle that was converted into one of the parcels PCVs, No. 94320, is preserved on the Mid Norfolk Railway as a stores vehicle. Mark Armstrong**



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GWR 2800 class 2-8-0 No. 3850 departs from Loughborough Central with a Russ Hillier freight charter on 17th January. **Derek Smith**

Class 56/3 No. 56312 *Artemis* **leads the Colas HOBC and Colas Rail Class 47/7 No. 47739** *Robin of Templecombe* **through Taunton, while working from Tavistock Junction, Plymouth, to the Plasser works at West Ealing on 20th January. Steve Yarde**

A location that would qualify for a Forgotten Tracks tour! Class 153 No. 153378 passes Barrow Road Crossing, as it approaches New Holland station on 19th January, with the 11.58 Northern service Barton-on-Humber to Cleethorpes. **Brian Creasey**

Colas Rail Class 47/7s Nos. 47749 *Demelza* **and 47739** *Robin of Templecombe* **power through Beeston on 18th January, bound for Washwood Heath, with the 13.19 steel service from Boston Docks. John Day**

The winter sunlight glints off the bodyside of Army-liveried Class 60 No. 60040 *The Territorial Army Centenary* **as it passes Catholme with the 11.41 Westerleigh-Lindsay discharged tanks on 17th January. John Whitehouse**

The 12.30 Grand Central service from Sunderland to London Kings Cross powers south through Burn on 18th January, with Class 43/4 powercars Nos. 43468 and 43480 providing the motive power. **Richard Tuplin**

Through the camera lens

Brian Robbins

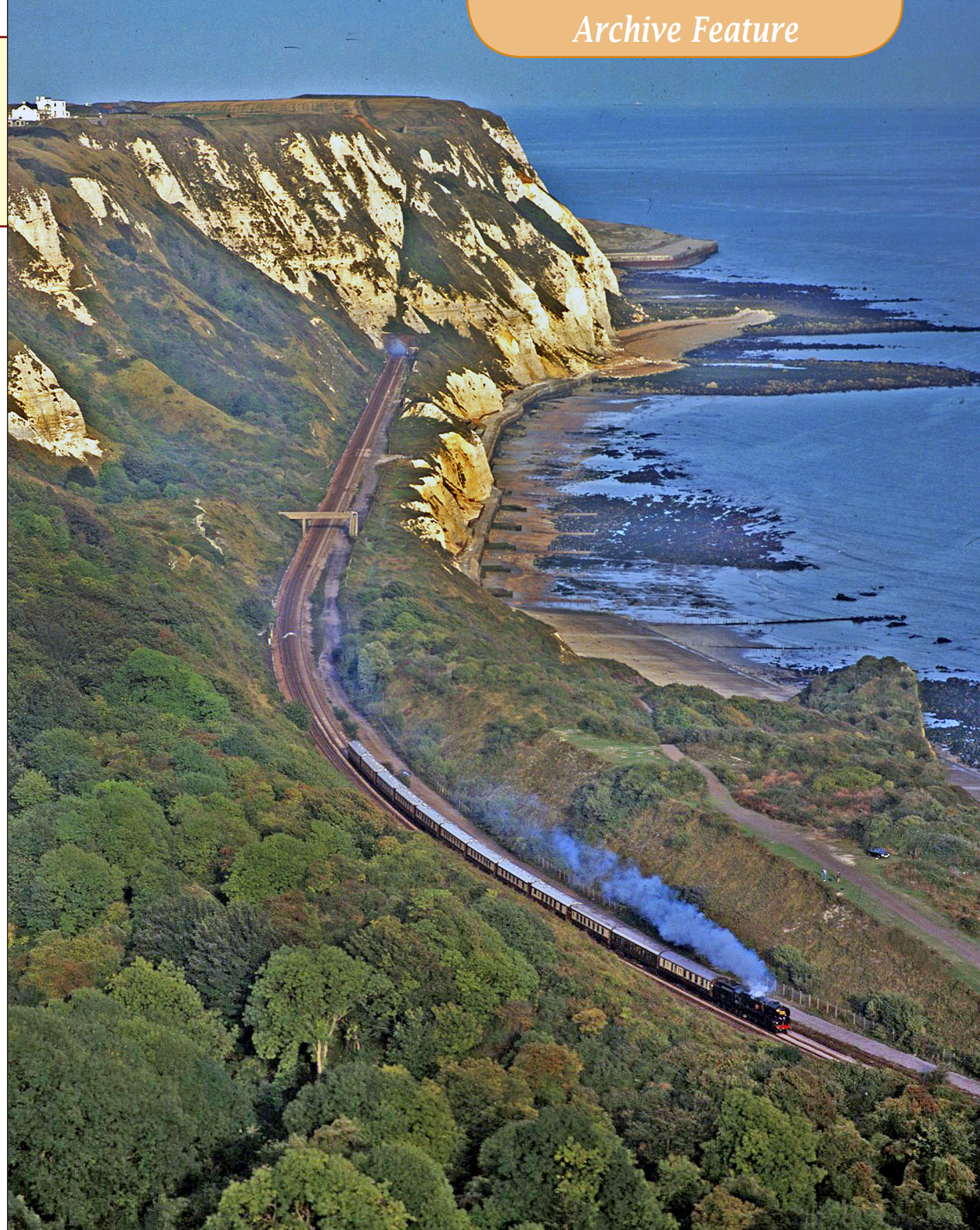
This issue brings the first in a two-part photographic special featuring the work of Wolverhampton-based photographer Brian Robbins, whose imagery has been enjoyed by many over the years. John Whitehouse introduces us to the photographer and discovers that Brian Robbins' extensive portfolio covers both steam and modern traction, having been featured regularly, in magazines and books, over the decades.

Brian has had a fascination with main line steam in the South East of England for several years, and in this first feature he has selected several of his favourite images. Photographing mainline steam is not without its frustrations - on one trip he spent most of the day in a massive traffic jam on the M25, and returned home without pressing the shutter!

However, he is determined, as you will soon find out. Brian is a special person, as despite enduring the crippling effects of motor neurone disease for the past six years he has not been beaten by the muscle wasting illness, despite the associated problems of walking, talking and carrying items that we all take for granted. Indeed, he still gets about thanks to the help of his wife and can still be seen in the remoter areas of the country when steam is about. There is a cherished memory from last year of being well off the beaten track on a remote hillside by the Stranraer line near Barrhill to catch the 'Great Britain III' charter climbing to the remote Chirmorie Summit when he duly turned up, hot-foot from Wolverhampton! His courage and determination is an inspiration to us all. This is his story, in his words.

"I must have been aware of trains from a very early age, as my grandmother used to take my brother and I down the road to see trains as soon as we could walk, but it wasn't until a few years later that I took notice of the railway in general.

I was 12-years-old when I started to take a real interest, and being brought up in the Wolverhampton area, which to me was a trainspotter's paradise, with both the London Midland and Western Regions running into the town. Bushbury Depot was for the London Midland Region locomotives and Oxley and Stafford Road Depots for the Western Region and with two large stations in the town centre there was always somewhere to go. Also there was Stafford Road Works for the Western Region, where if you climbed a steep sandy hillside you could see what was in the works yard, which could be anything from a Pannier Tank



▶ A superb panoramic view looking down on Folkestone Warren from high up on the clifftop, as Merchant Navy No. 35028 *Clan Line* heads for Folkestone with a VSOE British Pullman, which originated at London Victoria and worked south via Canterbury and Dover on 23rd September 1995. In the background, smoke can be seen billowing from the western portal of Abbotscliffe Tunnel. All: Brian Robbins

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◀ On 13th September 1997, Days Out Railtours, which ceased trading several years ago, ran a charter from London Waterloo to Bristol, featuring the Mid-Hants based 'U' Class Mogul No. 31625. The empty coaching stock for the charter passes Clapham Junction, with a full rake of maroon Mk1 coaches in tow. The train worked to Bristol, via Ascot, Reading, Newbury and Westbury.

to a 'Castle' or 'County'.

My first pictures were taken with the family's Box Brownie camera, my first photograph being an LMS 'Black 5' on a southbound goods passing where I then lived, coming from the Stafford direction towards Bushbury in 1961. Since that time I have photographed all over the UK, with my first 35mm camera, a Yashica Minster that served me well for many years, followed in the 1980s with models from Practica and Contax, before ending up with mid-format Mamiyas, which I still use today.

The original reason for taking photographs was purely for my own satisfaction, indeed, it was not until the 1980s when I bought a magazine and saw photographs printed from the 1960s that the thought occurred to me to send mine in. Much to my surprise they were published! After that I submitted images on a regular basis, and my work has been featured in many magazines, books and calendars.

These two features for *Railway Herald*, which I am very pleased to do, have given me the opportunity to look back and choose two of my favourite periods. The first feature covers main line steam workings in the South East of England, followed by a look at Class 37s on coal workings in South Wales. Main line steam operations, unlike chasing coal trains, took place mainly at weekends, when like many other people interested in taking photographs of steam on the main line, I would travel a vast amount of miles just for a good photograph. I still do!

The one photograph

◀ The perfect combination of rebuilt Bullied West Country Pacific No. 34027 *Taw Valley* and the VSOE British Pullman train are seen on 1st November 1998 on Buriton Bank, near Petersfield, with a special working from London Victoria to Portsmouth.

◀ The Classic shot! The one Brian had sought for many years was at last obtained on 18th November 2006 when Battle of Britai' No. 34067 *Tangmere* headed a mid-day departure from London Victoria on a VSOE British Pullman luncheon circular for Whitstable, Margate, Dover and Folkestone. The billowing exhaust neatly hides the green wall, while the chimneys of the long closed Battersea Power Station clearly pinpoint the unique location.

that I really felt I had achieved something special was of 'Battle of Britain' No. 34067 *Tangmere* approaching Wandsworth Road with Battersea Power Station in the background. As a boy, I had been transfixed by a painting of a Bullied in original condition passing the exact spot and thought how tremendous it looked. I cannot remember who the artist was, but it was probably Terence Cuneo or George Heiron. In the late 1980s, the ban on steam over third-rail metals did not provide any opportunity to replicate the painting, so visited Wandsworth Road and photographed the modern day railway. I did get shots, but none that gave a satisfying feeling, despite returning on several occasions. Then, in the early 1990s, everything changed, steam was back on third-rail lines, although my attempt to record the first steam-hauled working for posterity was thwarted by the many EMUs that pass this point!

Further visits failed to get the required shot, including a very near miss on 19th November 2005 when with perfect conditions the train was routed, via the slow lines! However, in November 2006, Battle of Britain Pacific No. 34067 *Tangmere* had charge of an excursion working from London Victoria. I waited on the footbridge at Wandsworth Road station, with the long lens on the Mamiya to exclude a graffiti daubed relay box from the shot, the wind was right, the light was right, and there was a lovely November chill in the air. As *Tangmere* approached with no other trains about, the exhaust blew over and, thankfully, covered the wall that stood in front of the power station and had been painted green some years earlier! I pressed the shutter and at last achieved my dream shot.

◀ **The autumnal colours are enhanced by a gloriously sunny day as 'A3' PacificNo. 4472** *Flying Scotsman* **steams along the racing ground which is the London & South Western main line at Fleet, with Pathfinder's 'Capital King' working from Yeovil Junction to London Victoria on 26th November 1999. The locomotive is carrying LNER-apple green livery, and is deputising for GWR 'King' 4-6-0 No. 6024** *King Edward I*, **which explains the name of the tour.**

▼ **A marvellous atmospheric scene at Guildford on 9th January 1999, as Maunsell 'U' Class 2-6-0 No. 31625 gets to grips with the Daylight Railtours 'West London Explorer' that was a circular tour from Alton to Clapham Junction, outwards via Woking, and returning through East Croydon. The train is seen making a volcanic departure on the outward working.**

17th January 2011

Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill)
The Angel Hote 26 College Road, Spinkhill, Sheffield S21 3YB. 'Members' Evening. Starts 19.30. Contact Frank Greaves on 01909 473927 for further details.

20th January 2011

Ffestiniog Railway Society (White Rose)
Oxford Place Methodist Centre, Oxford Place, Leeds LS1 3AX. 'Members Slide Show'. Starts 19.30. Contact 01904 331973 for details.

Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesent DA12 1BB. '1960s - 1980s Transport Slides' by David Wills. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact Bob Poole on 01474 326232 for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (North West)
St David's Social Centre, 249 Wargrave Road, Newton-le-Willows, WA12 8EW. 'Scandinavian Narrow Gauge' by John Owen. Starts 19.30. Contact 01925 226473 for details.

Marlow & District Railway Society
Bourne End Community Centre, Wakeman Road, Bourne End, SL8 5SX. 'Railways on the Western Front' by Kim Winter. Starts 20.00.

21st January 2011

Cambridge University Railway Club
William Thatcher Room, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. 'Dave Theobald Tribute Evening' by Peter Greatorex and Mike Page. Meeting commences at 20.30. Contact the Secretary by email at secretary@curc.org.uk for further details.

Great Western Society (Taunton)
Village Hall, Stoke St Mary, Nr Taunton TA3 5DE. '1960s Steam' by Steven Rogers. Start 19.30. Contact 01823 334188 for further details.

26th January 2011

Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote Street Club, New Road, Basingstoke RG21 7NG. 'AGM and The Life and Work of Frank Hornby' by John Hollands. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact the secretary on 01256 819401 for further details.

27th January 2011

Mid Hants Railway Preservation Society (Thames Valley)
The Church House, Church Street, Caversham, Reading, RG4 8AX. 'Steam in Cuba' by Ian Clare. Meeting commences at 19.45. Donation of £2 requested.

Stevenage Loco Society
The Community Arts Centre, Roaring Meg Retail Park, London Road, Stevenage SG1 1XN. 'Return to the Big Country' by John Day. Starts 19.45. Admission £2. Contact the Treasurer on 07803 046076 or at alan.pitt@lineone.net for details.

28th January 2011

Cambridge University Railway Club
William Thatcher Room, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. 'The British Railways Locomotive Naming Committee 1948-1958' by Andrew Dow. Meeting commences at 20.30. Contact the Secretary at secretary@curc.org.uk for further details.

Great Central Railway (London)
The Exmouth Arms, 1 Starcross Street, Euston, London NW1 2HR. 'Belgian Trams' by Alan Pearce. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Richard Butler on 01525 372487 for further details.

Great Western Society (North West)
St Hilda's Clubroom, Slater Street, Latchford, Warrington WA4 1DN. 'Vulcan Works' by Keith Naylor. Starts 19.30.

Shropshire Rly Society
The Gateway, Chester Street, Shrewsbury. 'Steam in Africa' by Mike Squire. Starts 19.30. Donation of £3 requested. Contact the secretary on 01743 243295 for details.

1st February 2011

Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesent DA12 1BB. 'Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway' by John Fuller. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact Bob Poole on 01474 326232 for details.

Locomotive & Carriage Institution
55 Broadway, London. 'Rail Vehicle Collection' by Anthony Coulls. Starts 18.00. Contact the Secretary, Stuart Smith at smithstuart@btinternet.com for further details.

North East Essex Railway Association
1st Floor, The Community Centre, The Triangle Centre, Frinton-on-Sea. 'Steam around Cambridge and Elsewhere' by Geoff King. Meeting commences at 19.45. Admission £1.50. Contact Roger Harvey on 01255 677165 for further details.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire)
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'The Railways of Yorkshire' by Steve Bigley. Starts 19.30. Admission £2. Contact John Goodrich on 02380 670028 for details.

Weston super Mare Railway Society
Function Room, Conservative Club, Alexandra Parade, Weston super Mare. 'The Wheels of Industry' by Ian Chancellor. Starts 20.00. Contact the Chairman, Lionel Jones on 01934 628289 for further details.

2nd February 2011

Warwickshire Rly Society
The Lamp Tavern, Barford Street, Highgate, Birmingham. 'Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia' by Roger Crumblehome. Contact Don Taggart on 01746 710676 for further details.

3rd February 2011

SRPS (Edinburgh)
Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL. 'USA - Kansas City Southern Railroad' by Kenny Williamson. Starts 19.30. Contact Dr Peter Howell on 0131 334 5232 for further details.

Great Central Railway Society (Sheffield)
The Harlequin, 108 Nursery Street, Sheffield S3 8GG. 'Manchester to Marylebone by the GCR' by Ken Grainger. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact 01142 540275 for further details.

7th February 2011

North Yorkshire Moors Railway (Northallerton)
Northallerton Town Cricket Club, Farndale Avenue, Northallerton. 'Sugar & Steam' by Roger Darbyshire. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact, Ian McInnes on 01642 767233 for details.

8th February 2011

8E Railway Association
The Gladstone Club, Station Road, Northwich, CW9 5RB. 'Archive 50s & 60s Steam' by Colin White. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact Paul Tench on 07790 486735 for details.

Great Western Society (Bristol)
BAWA, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol BS34 7RG. AGM followed by '50 Years of the Great Western Society' by Frank Dumbleton. Meeting commences at 19.45. Visitors welcome. Contact 01454 324230 for further details

SRPS (Lanarkshire)
Holy Trinity Church, Avon Street, Motherwell, ML1 3AA. 'Isle of Man Revisited' by Ian Hastie. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Fred Landery on 01698 457777 for further details

9th February 2011

Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote Street Club, New Road, Basingstoke RG21 7NG. 'Wanderings in 1960's Yugoslavia' by Blake Paterson. Starts 20.00. Contact 01256 819401 for further details.

Oxfordshire Railway Society
Seacourt Day Centre, Seacourt Road, Oxford OX2 9LD. 'ORS Photo Competition/AGM/Members' Evening'. Meeting starts at 19.30.

Swiss Railways Society (London)
The Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London N1 9AT. 'Was it really 1997/8?' by Ron and Allan Dawes. Meeting commences at 19.00. Donation of £2 requested. Contact the Secretary, Ron Dawes on 020 8660 3532 for further details.

10th February 2011

Bath Railway Society
Bath Green Park Station Meeting Room, Bath.'Steam on the Hedjaz Railway' by Brian May. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Kevin Plummer (evenings) on 01225 312564 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.

▼ **DCR-liveried Class 31/6 No. 31601 and BR green-liveried Class 31/1 No. 31190 pass Peterborough, in 'top and tail' formation, with a Derby RTC to Bounds Green test train on 16th January. Jonathan Benton**

Continental Rly Circle
St Paul's Church Centre, Rossmore Road, Marylebone, London NW1 6NJ. 'Switzerland' by Brian Stephenson. Meeting commences at 19.15. Admission £2. Contact Adrian Palmer on 01932 850624 or a akpalmer@talktalk.net for details.

Friends of the West Highland Lines
Room 10, Partick Burgh Halls,Burgh Hall Street, Glasgow. 'Heritage Railways-UK' by Mr Charles McCossan. Starts 19.30. Donation of £1 requested. Contact Duncan Wilson at duncanwilson1955@hotmail.com for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (St Albans)
United Reform Church, Watford Road, Chiswell Green, Nr St Albans. '38 Years on Railways in North London & Hertfordshire' by David Cockle. Meeting commences at 19.30. Donation of £2 required.

11th February 2011

Altrincham Electric Railway Preservation Society
Altrincham Methodist Church Hall, Barington Road, Altrincham, Cheshire WA1 1HF. 'Red Sea Railway - the Railways of Eritrea' by Jennie Street. Starts 19.30. Admission £3, Members Free. Contact the Secretary, Andrew Macfarlane on 0161 928 9394 for further details.

Cambridge University Railway Club
William Thatcher Room, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. 'The Franchising Process' by Chris Stokes. Meeting commences at 20.30.Contact the Secretary at secretary@curc.org.uk for further details.

Great Western Society (Swindon)
Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, off Windsor Road, Lawn, Swindon SN3 1JE. AGM followed by 'The Swindon Quiz' compiled by Joe Turner. Starts 19.30. Visitors welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01793 495976 for further details.

Shropshire Railway Society
The Gateway, Chester Street, Shrewsbury. '2010 Slide Show' by Karl Jauncey and Dave Richards. Meeting commences at 19.30. Donation of £3 requested. Contact the General Secretary on 01743 243295 for further details

14th February 2011

Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, Harewood Crescent, North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 8JG.
British Railways Engine Sheds – Part 6 by Chris Banks Meeting commences at 8pm, non members welcome, entrance fee £3. Contact Publicity Member on 01522-705365 or email graham@the-st.fsnet.co.uk for further details.

Southern Electric Group (Sussex)
Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre, Southwick. AGM followed by 'Video Clips' by Derek Osborne. Starts 19.30. £2 Donation requested. Contact Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094 for further details.

York Railway Circle
Archbishop Holgate's School, Hull Road, York YO10 5ZA. 'The Scarborough Spa Express 1981-2010' by Rob Tibbits. Starts 19.30. Contact Robin Patrick on 01904 412232 or at locopatrick@aol.com for details.

15th February 2011

Monmouthshire Railway Society
Room A10, UWCN City Campus, Usk Way, Newport, S.Wales NP20 2BP. 'Railway Cine Films' by Barry Foster. Starts 19.15. Admission £3.

17th February 2011

Ffestiniog Railway Society (White Rose)
Oxford Place Methodist Centre, Oxford Place, Leeds LS1 3AX. TBA. Starts 19.30. £2 donation. Contact the Secretary on 01904 331973 for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Nth West)
St David's Social Centre, 249 Wargrave Road, Newton-le-Willows, WA12 8EW. 'A South American Miscellany' by Geoff Monks. Starts 19.30. £2 donation. Contact Neville Bond on 01925 226473 for details.

Marlow & District Railway Society
Bourne End Community Centre, Wakeman Road, Bourne End, SL8 5SX. AGM followed by 'Preserved and Modern Traction in Europe from 2005' by Adrian Palmer. Meeting commences at 20.00. Admission £3.

18th February 2011

Great Western Society (Taunton)
Village Hall, Stoke St Mary, Nr Taunton TA3 5DE. AGM followed by '50 Years of Kodachrome' by Neville Smale. Meeting commences at 19.30. Visitors welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01823 334188 for further details.

19th February 2011

Great Western Society (South West)
Parish Centre, Church End Road, Kingskerswell, Torbay.
AGM followed by 'The W.R. in Wales' by Amyas Crump. Meeting commences at 18.30. Visitors welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01803 336329 for further details.

Irwell Vale Railway Photographers
Irwell Vale Village Church, Irwell Vale, Rossendale. 'Cine Films of Richard Greenwood'. Meeting commences at 19.30. Admission £3. Contact Mike Taylor on 01282 436653 or at mick.t@btinternet.com for details.

21st February 2011

GCR Society (Spinkhill)
The Angel Hote 26 College Road, Spinkhill, Sheffield S21 3YB. 'Steam Galas in 2010 on DVD' by Chris Jones. Starts 19.30. Contact Frank Greaves on 01909 473927 for details.

23th February 2011

Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote Street Club, New Road, Basingstoke RG21 7NG. 'Cable's Railway Year 2010' by David Cable. Starts 20.00. Contact the Secretary on 01256 819401 for further details.

24th February 2011

Stevenage Loco Society
The Community Arts Centre, Roaring Meg Retail Park, London Road, Stevenage SG1 1XN 'Along more... Byways' by Dave Soggee. Starts 19.45. Admission £2. Contact the Treasurer on 07803 046076 for details.

25th February 2011

GCR (London)
The Exmouth Arms, 1 Starcross Street, Euston, London NW1 2HR. 'The Wensleydale Railway' by Dave Gibson. Starts 19.30. Contact Richard Butler on 01525 372487 for details.

Great Western Society (North West)
St Hilda's Clubroom, Slater Street, Latchford, Warrington WA4 1DN. 'The Cheshire Side of the Cheshire Lines Committee' by Peter Hanson. Starts 19.30. Visitors welcome.

Shropshire Rly Society
The Gateway, Chester Street, Shrewsbury. 'Slide Show' by Mervyn Pritchard. Starts 19.30. Donation of £3 requested. Contact the Secretary on 01743 243295 for details

26th February 2011

Warwickshire Rly Society
Joint Stock, Lower Temple Street, Birmingham City Centre. 'AGM & Annual Film Extraaganza'. Meeting commences at 13.45. Contact Don Taggart on 01746 710676 for details.

1st March 2011

Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesent DA12 1BB. 'Welsh Highland Railway' by Ian King. Starts 19.45. Contact Bob Poole on 01474 326232 for further details.

Locomotive & Carriage Institution
55 Broadway, London. 'Travels by Train Through Europe' by Mark Smith. Starts 18.00. Contact the Secretary, Stuart Smith at smithstuart@btinternet.com for further details.

North East Essex Railway Association
1st Floor, The Community Centre, The Triangle Centre, Frinton-on-Sea. 'Mangapps Museum' by John Jolly. Meeting commences at 19.45. Admission £1.50. Contact Roger Harvey on 01255 677165 for details.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire)
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'HD Tramway Show' by John Laker. Meeting commences at 19.30. Admission £2. Contact the Secretary, John Goodrich on 02380 670028 for further details.

Weston super Mare Railway Society
Function Room, Conservative Club, Alexandra Parade, Weston super Mare. 'Trains in the Countryside' by Peter Triggs. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact the Chairman, Lionel Jones on 01934 628289 or at wsm1977rlysocy@talktalk.net for further details.

3rd March 2011

SRPS (Edinburgh)
Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL. 'The Penmanshiel Tunnel Disaster 1979' by Norman Butcher. Meeting commences at 19.30. A donation is requested from attendees. Contact Dr Peter Howell on 0131 334 5232 for further details.

Great Central Railway Society (Sheffield)
The Harlequin, 108 Nursery Street, Sheffield S3 8GG. 'The Joint Railways of South Yorkshire' by Bob Gellatly. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Ken Grainger on 01142 540275 for further details.

Rear Cover Caption

The 14.03 'Footex' special on 19th January, from King's Cross to Leeds, operated for Arsenal fans to attend an FA Cup replay with Leeds United, was formed of the Virgin Mk3 set, 'topped & tailed' by Class 67s Nos. 67030 and 67021. Here, it passes Alexandra Palace on the outward journey. The match was won 3-1 by Arsenal, delighting fans, although no doubt the return working not due to arrive in London until 03.13 on the following morning did not! Brian Morrison

Magazine Information

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